



Media Release

Fishing tournament new format encourages novice anglers, youth and families to compete

Saskatchewan Premier's Walleye Cup has created a separate tournament with its own separate prize payout for novice anglers

Nipawin, Saskatchewan – Over the last decade, it has become increasingly intimidating for novice anglers to compete in fishing tournaments – serious tournament anglers have glitzy boats and sophisticated electronics that can cost more than \$100,000. These competitive tournament teams expect large prize payouts which has caused entry fees to skyrocket. As a result, tournaments are seeing fewer entries from novice, youth, family and local teams – putting the future of tournament fishing in jeopardy.

Saskatchewan Premier's Walleye Cup (SPWC), which takes place on August 9th & 10th at the Nipawin Regional Park in Nipawin, Saskatchewan, hopes to reverse the trend and encourage a new generation of anglers and weekend warriors to compete, by creating a fun affordable tournament option with its own separate prize payout.

The Saskatchewan Premier's Walleye Cup is Saskatchewan's longest running walleye fishing tournament. It started in 1988 as a family-friendly community fishing tournament focused on raising money for local projects and encouraging tourism to Nipawin and Tobin Lake area.

"In recent years, we've seen a noticeable drop off in entries from novice, youth, family and local teams. We want to encourage previous teams to come back and reach a new field of anglers to try tournament fishing, so we've created a new dual tournament format that allows everyone to have fun and compete for great prizes," said Landon Larsen, chair of the Saskatchewan Premier's Walleye Cup planning committee.

**Tournament prizes are based on the maximum 160 teams competing*

The new format is essentially two tournaments running simultaneously: The **Major League Category** has a **\$1200** entry fee with a total prize package at **\$92,000**, based on a minimum of 100 teams entered. The **Minor League Category** is an entry fee of **\$500** and has a total prize package valued at **\$20,000**, based on a minimum of 60 teams entered. All teams consist of two (2) anglers. Additional prizes are awarded for a Youth and Mixed Team categories.*

Prior to the new format this year, SPWC offered a lower entry fee option – however this meant you still competed against all the teams in the tournament, just your potential winning prize payout was reduced. In the new format, you only compete against those in your category and each category has a distinct separate prize package.

For bragging rights, the overall tournament champion and Big Fish prizes are shared between both categories –the team with the most weight in the overall tournament be crowned as the 2024 Saskatchewan Premier’s Walleye Cup Champion.

“We’re really excited about the new format. We want to make sure that our tournament returns to its roots and encourages locals and families to participate again, while continuing to offer the top-notch tournament experience our competitive anglers have come to expect over the past 36 years,” said Larsen.

For more information about the 36th Annual Saskatchewan Premier’s Walleye Cup go to www.premierscup.ca

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