



145, boul. Springer, C. P. 898
Chapais (Québec) G0W 1H)
T : 418 745-2020
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info@festivaldudore.com

Official rules: **PROFESSIONALS** Component 2025 EDITION

* The FDDBJ reserves the right to change the rules without notice until the first day of the derby
Last updated: July 3 2025

NOTE :

No violent language and lack of respect will be tolerated towards volunteers.
It is the immediate disqualification and for the rest of the derby.
No dogs on the docks at all time!

- The board of Directors of the FDDBJ reserves the right to accept or refuse a participant for reasons deemed important. The registration fees will be refunded.
- Inscription fees is \$850 (taxes included) per team. Half of this fees (\$425) is payable upon purchase of ticket and is non-refundable, unless the event should be cancelled by the WFDJB Board of Directors. The second half (\$425) is payable by cheque, credit card, money order or in cash, before Thursday, July 3th, 2025, deadline; 21:00 hours.
- Two days of competition, seven consecutive hours per day.
- Only the top 10 positions of the previous edition (in 2024) will have a regular observer in their boat.
- Here are the 3 major aspects to check on your record chart before signing: 1) time stamp; 2) registered weight; 3) registered length.
- Calculating method which will determine the final points: Addition of all points granted for weight, length and time.
- Limit of 4 live walleye in boat at all times.
- As soon as the boat crosses the buoys and docks at the dock, the participant must record his catch within an average of 15 minutes.
- One capture measuring more than 53 cm (20.86 inches) **per team, per day**, may be recorded. All walleye measuring less than 15 inches (38 cm) will be refused registration, but will be accounted as 0 points.
- All fish held in the boat's live well when passing buoys shall be obligatorily registered.
- It is strictly forbidden to spear the fish under penalty of sanction.
- The Technical Inspector will assure the team's supervisors' seating comfort in each boat. If the seat given is not approved at time of inspection, the supervisor will be seated in the front passenger seat throughout the competition. At any time, failing to provide a suitable seat to a supervisor or/and disrespect of him, will immediately disqualify the team from the competition.
- On the 2nd day, Saturday, July 5th, 2025, a Pro-Vip 2025 ticket will be awarded to the winning team, for best comeback by accumulated points.
- No boat or Pro-Vip participant will be allowed access to the stretches of water on Lake Opemisca, Friday, July 4th, and Saturday, July 5th, 2025, from 21:00 p.m. to the next morning, at 7:00 a.m., with the exception of all individuals who must travel on the water to get to their residences, cottage or leased surrounding(s).
- As of 4:00 a.m, participants will be allowed to put their boat in the water to dock at the James Bay Walleye Festival site, for the Pro-Vip category. During these two days, several ghost supervisors will be assigned on the lake and shores, to ensure compliance with the fishing competition regulations.
- Any kind of approach goggles, (binoculars, etc.) are not allowed in the boat, at the risk of disqualification.
- No cellars, radio, or others means of communication will be permitted within the participants and, among all other persons who are likely to transmit any information to them.
- No alcoholic beverages or drugs will be tolerated in the boat under penalty of disqualification.
- The participant must respect the festival facilities. It is strictly forbidden to use the docks to stop the boat.
- Respect the speed limit when passing through the buoys, under penalty of penalty.
- If a second measure is requested, it is the second measure that will be entered without the possibility of returning to the first.



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1. **HOW TO OBTAIN TICKETS :**

- 1.1. Registration fees of \$ 850 (tax included) per team. Half the cost (\$425) is payable upon purchase of the ticket. This amount is non-refundable, unless the event is cancelled by the WFDJB's Board of Directors. The second half (\$425) is payable by cheque, credit card, money or in cash, **before Thursday, July 3th, 2025, deadline; 19:00 hours.**
- 1.2. Registration from April 1st, 2025 to July 3th, 2025. **As of July 3th, 2025: total payment for inscription will be requires in 1 remittance.** Register by phone at 418-745-2020, or through our website at www.fddbji.com. Visa and Master Cards accepted.
- 1.3. If ever, on June 1st, 2025, fewer than 45 teams have registered, the WFTJB Board of Directors reserves the right to cancel the Derby in the PROFESSIONALS category. Entry fees will then be reimbursed.
- 1.4. No refunds after May 31st, 2025. In the event of cancellation for justifiable reasons, the management reserves the right to issue a credit to the same value as the amount disbursed (valid for one year only, and applicable to the following edition).
- 1.5. **Disqualification** from the fishing competition for any reason whatsoever will result in the total loss of the purchased ticket.
- 1.6. The team must have paid all registration fees before Thursday, July 3th, 2025 before 9:00 p.m.
- 1.7. One or more participants from each team must attend the official Pro VIP meeting to be held on Thursday, July 3th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. under the marquee of the Festival du Doré Baie-James, and as a result, the starting order for the 1st day will be revealed to you.
 - 1.7.1. ONE BONUS POINT WILL BE AWARDED PER TEAM and this will be confirmed by signing the attendance sheet
- 1.8. **The board of Directors of the FDDBJ reserves the right to accept or refuse a participant for reasons deemed important. The registration fee will be refunded.**

2. **RULES AND OBLIGATIONS :**

- 2.1. The Pro-Vip Professional Category requires two days of competition; at seven consecutive hours per day, (for a total of fourteen hours), and taking place throughout the Opémiska Lake area, Friday and Saturday, July 4 and 6th, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. maximum. The order of entries registered from April 1st, 2025, to 7:00 a.m. on July 4th, 2025, will determine the departure order of the teams on the first day.
 - 2.1.1. FIRST PRO VIP DEPARTURE: 8:00 A.M.
For Friday, July 4, 2025, the starting order shall be as follows: The **22th Edition "1st Place Winning Team"** will start from VIP position number 1. Subsequently, there will be departure in line determined by date of priority, among all purchased tickets.
For Saturday, July 5th, 2025, the starting order will be made according to the classification of the first day. (Last position = first line of departure / First position = last line of departure).
- 2.2. **No violent language and lack of respect will be tolerated towards volunteers under penalty of disqualification.**
- 2.3. **No dogs on the docks or in the check-in station at all times.**
- 2.4. Participants must be registered as teams. A team is composed of One to Three people (maximum), within the same boat, and the team must be identified by a name. (If the team's name was not specified when the ticket was purchased, a responsible team mate's name shall be entered on the record board). No one under twelve (12) years old will be allowed to participate in the fishing competition. **Each participant must hold a valid fishing license on the day of fishing.**
- 2.5. The Technical Inspector will ensure that the supervisor is comfortable seated in each vessel. If the proposed seat is not approved at the time of the inspection, the invigilator will be seated in the co-fisherman's seat for the duration of the competition. At any time, failure to provide a suitable seat to a proctor and/or disrespect the invigilator will result in the team being immediately disqualified from the competition.
- 2.6. It is mandatory to comply with all Quebec Sportfishing regulations prescribed by the Regulations of the Quebec Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Parks. (MFFP) (Ministère de la Forêt, de la Faune et des Parcs) in application for the summer of 2025, unless the Walleye Fishing Derby James Bay, (WFTJB)'s decisional committee specifies more restrictive regulations. If ever in doubt, any walleye may be refused by the WFTJB's decisional committee. Opémiska lake is located in the fishing area Zone 17. Within this region, alive or dead minnows are strictly prohibited. Fresh earthworms and leeches are allowed.
- 2.7. We equally encourage you to read and comply with the procedures to be followed to prevent spreading of zebra mussels and other aquatic nuisance species in Quebec (<https://environnement.gouv.qc.ca/biodiversite/especes-exotiques-envahissantes/index.asp>); see leaflet inside your fisherman's info kit.
- 2.8. All regulations concerning navigation on lakes must be respected.
- 2.9. Comments, photos or images of competitors can be used to promote the event without permission or other requests to participants.
- 2.10. On the morning of the derby, the team leader must present him or herself at the reception desk on the festival site, near the landing dock at Lake Opémiska, at 7:00 a.m the team leader must present the purchased ticket to receive the vest number, and the capture registration card.
- 2.11. It is **mandatory** for the team leader to sign the participants list, on the morning of the derby. By signing, you confirm to have read, understood and accept personally, and on behalf of your team to comply, and abide by the established regulations within the framework of the derby. It also waives any claim, or any legal procedures to be undertaken towards the derby organization and its administrators, agents, employees and directors, for any loss of material, property damage and/or bodily injury, or even causing death while participating in the derby. Young people under 18 years of age cannot sign this consent. It is the responsibility of each competitor to abide by of the derby rules.
- 2.12. **It is mandatory that the participant bears its given number vest, fully and visibly at all times, for the purpose of monitoring and security.**
- 2.13. **As soon as the boat crosses the buoys and docks at the dock, the participant must record his catch within an average of 15 minutes.**
- 2.14. On grounds of security and control, the given number vest **MUST** be submitted to the reception desk at the end of the fishing day. A fee of \$ 30.00 will be charged to the offending participant in failure to comply with this regulation.
- 2.15. Boats will be verified before, during, and at the end of the fishing day by your assigned supervisor. A participant who refuses a search of the boat by an official will result in disqualification of all participants in the boat.



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- 2.16. Only individuals forming part of the team (maximum 3 fishermen), and the supervisor will be allowed in the boat, in exception to the authorized media by the WFDJB officials.
- 2.17. All participants must fish from a boat, and it must be held more than 5 meters (15 feet) from another boat or from shore. Watercrafts and pedal boats are excluded from the derby. Turbine well-boats are allowed.
- 2.18. Throughout the fishing days, participants are not to disembark from their boat, (whether at other docks, cottage(s), shore or waterfront), except for the registry landing dock. In the event of severe weather conditions, participants will be able to dock and resume the derby once the weather becomes more favourable. In case of emergency, notify a duly identified official.
- 2.19. No other species of fish other than walleye shall be kept inside the boat during your day of derby competition.
- 2.20. A clearance zone; "no-fishing and limited speed» will be localized where catch and release will be performed.
- 2.21. **Maximum limit of 4 LIVE walleyes, in the boat at all times.** If a third walleye is caught, one fish must obligatorily be returned to the water, following the minute it is captured.
- 2.22. **The participants are not to retain any walleye captured during the competition.** All participants are committed to keeping its catch alive, and to surrender them back to the water on the day of the derby.
- 2.23. Presence of two or more dead walleye within the boat, may lead to the disqualification of all participants within the boat. All dead walleye must be handed over to the derby officials who will then donate all the walleye to charity.
- 2.24. **The team leader must inevitably give his number vest to a derby official at the reception desk, to signify the end of its fishing day,** or if they decide to no longer participate in the derby. At no time will a participant end his day of the derby without having submitted his number vest at the reception desk. No participant can self-disqualify, himself, the decision rests solely within the decision committee.
- 2.25. **The Festival du Doré Baie-James will designate the supervisors for the day of July 4, 2025 from the top 10 positions of the 22nd edition. Subsequently, the teams that have placed in the top 10 positions of the first day will have their supervisors assigned for their 2nd day, Saturday, July 5, 2025..**
- 2.26. **All decisions made by the WFTJB decision committee are final.**
- 2.27. **Any kind of approach goggles, (binoculars, etc.) will not be allowed in the boat, at the risk of disqualification.**

3. **CATCH REGISTRATION :**

- 3.1. Official registration station **at the lake Opémisca landing: Opens at 8:00 a.m. for a total of 7 (seven) hours of competition.**
FIRST PRO-VIP DEPARTURE: 8:00 a.m. – Friday, July 4, 2025 and Saturday, July 5th, 2025.
- 3.2. The vest number wearer will have to stop his fishing time, at the punch clock located at the reception site, **BEFORE THE DEADLINE**, and, without exceeding the 7 hour fishing time.
- 3.3. There will be a timestamp (punch clock) at the landing. A team member will receive a card that will be punched, under the supervision of an official upon return. Presentation of the card will be mandatory for the registration of each catch.
- 3.4. **Maximum of 8 registrations per ticket for the two days; limit of 4 registrations per day.** 4 live captures, or less, may be registered at the same time. **All fish held in the boat's live well, when passing buoys shall be obligatorily registered.** Therefore, each team can **register 4 catches taken during the day.**
- 3.5. Mandatory release of each catch according to the official's instructions. Walleye must leave in its natural swimming position, within one minute of its catch and release, otherwise the score assigned to the participant's registry will be 0. All dead fish are recovered by officials and handed over to charity.
- 3.6. Walleye will be measured overall length (from nose to tail), and the official rule will be that of the FDDBJ:
 - 3.6.1. All walleye measuring less than 15 inches (38 cm) will be refused registration, but will be counted as 0 points.
 - 3.6.2. **One catch measuring more than 53 cm (20,86 inches) may be recorded, per team, per day.**
- 3.7. Each walleye is weighed to a hundredth of a pound (absolute value) and measured to the length of a thousandth of an inch, and weighing must be done with bare hands and raised sleeves.
- 3.8. Each participant will have the responsibility to handle and maintain each capture alive, prior to its registration and its release back into water. **Your signature on the catch registration card implies that you approve and abide by the given information appearing therein.** Here are the **3 (Three) Important Entries** to verify on your catch registration card prior to signing: **1) punch time/hour; 2) registered weight; 3) registered length**
- 3.9. If a second measure is requested, it is the second measure that will be recorded without the possibility of returning to the first.

4. **SCORE POINTS :**

- 4.1. For each walleye, scores (points) are administered, based on: weight; to a hundredth of a pound (absolute value) and measured to the length of a thousandth of an inch, and also, the time clock, and if the capture returns to its natural swimming position, within 1 (One) minute, after its mandatory release into water.
E.G: A walleye weighing 5.62 pounds, and measuring 22 inches, and in a time window, released alive in its natural swimming position, will give a final standing score of 27.62 points, plus other applicable bonus points, depending on fishing time used.
- 4.2. **The Bonus Points will be assigned when registering the last catch. At the beginning, each team will receive 14 bonus points. According to the fishing time use, and recorded time on the punch card, at the moment of departure and arrival; the calculation of time used will be established as follows: 1 point per 30 minutes of fishing time used, will be subtracted from the total of the initial 14 bonus points. The bonus is calculated to the nearest minute; (1/60 X number of minutes used X 2).**
Eg. Total time to fish and record 3 catches = 5 hours 35 min
5 hours 35 mins = 5 + (35/60) = 5.58 hours (5.58 x 2 pts) = 11.17 penalty points; 14 points – 11.17 points = 2.83 bonus points for fishing time.

5. **CASES OF TEAM DISQUALIFICATION :**

- 5.1. The decision-making committee reserves the right to disqualify any registered team, after receiving a sufficient number of public written complaints, or if in reasonable doubt of failure to comply with current rules and regulations from a team member.
- 5.2. Any participant's action or behaviour that may have negative impact or repercussions upon the image of the derby, or on the safety of all participants, will be subject to disqualification by the WFTJB decision committee.
- 5.3. In the event where a violation is reported to the decision-making WFDJB committee, and that an irrevocable decision stipulates that indeed there was violation of the regulations in force, a disqualification will be established by the said committee, and all prizes/awards attached to the winning position will be revoked.



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5.4. A team will be disqualified, if one of its participants within the boat should commit one of the following offenses:

- 5.4.1. Refusing to have the boat verification by a derby official.
- 5.4.2. Deliberate breakage of a line or fishing rod on the approach of a derby official.
- 5.4.3. Non-compliance in Sports fishing, or of the Recreational Fishing Regulations of the Quebec Ministry of Forest, Wildlife and Parks. (MFFP) Ministère de la Forêt, de la Faune et des Parcs (MFFP).
- 5.4.4. Registration of walleye not retrieved from Lake Opémisca.
- 5.4.5. Approaches a boat less than 5 meters (15 feet) for boating safety.
- 5.4.6. Disembarkation or lowering the boat elsewhere, other than the official landing registry station without permission. (Unless weather conditions compromise your safety)
- 5.4.7. A person is within the boat, other than team members, and the supervisor.
- 5.4.8. An abnormally high number of dead walleye within the boat.
- 5.4.9. If a boat contains more than 4 live walleyes.
- 5.4.10. No cellular, radio or other form of communication is allowed between the participants or to anyone likely to transmit them information.
- 5.4.11. No boat, or Pro-Vip participant will be allowed access to the lake Opémisca stretches of water, on Thursday, June 29th, and Friday, July 1st, 2025, from 21:00 hours to the next morning at 7:00 a.m., in exception to all those who must travel on water to get to their homes, cottage(s) or leased surrounding(s).
- 5.4.12. As of 4:00 a.m, all participants will be allowed to lower their boat in the water, at the official landing dock of the James Bay festival site, for the Pro-Vip Derby. During these 2(Two) days, several phantom supervisors will be assigned onto the lake and shores, to ensure compliance with the regulations.
- 5.4.13. Voluntary speeding approaching the docks et non respect of the speed limit near the docks.
- 5.4.14. It is strictly forbidden to fish under penalty of disqualification and a ban from participating in the festival for several years

6. PROTEST :

- 6.1. The person in charge of a participating team may raise a protest. The protest must be filed on the same day of the alleged act and in writing, addressed, to the decision committee before 16:30 hours. The protest must be accompanied by a \$200 cash deposit, which will be refunded if the protest is found valid. Following a closed meeting with stakeholders, an irrevocable decision will be made by the WFDBJ committee

7. PRIZES AND AWARDS :

- 7.1. Prizes and Awards will be handed out at the official festival site, under the tent at the Gala ceremony closing, held July 5th, 2025.
- 7.2. Costs for travel expenses to institutions offering packages are excluded in these awards.
- 7.3. The awards will be presented in the names of those responsible, among the ten (10) teams cumulating the highest final score.
- 7.4. Points will be calculated as follows: Cumulative of 8 catches (maximum).
Method of calculation for the final score(s): Addition of points granted for weight, length and time.
- 7.5. Winning positions will be based on the highest final score, in decreasing order
- 7.6. In case of a tie, time of departure and arrival recorded by the timestamp will determine the team that used the least amount of fishing time, and thereby, decide the winner. If the tie persists, it will be the first team who purchased their ticket that will be proclaimed the winner
- 7.7. Prizes Distribution will be as follows :
 - 1st Place: \$ 20 000
 - 2nd Place: \$ 10 000
 - 3rd Place: \$ 5 000
 - 4th Place: \$ 2 500
 - 5th Place: \$ 1 500
 - 6th Place: \$ 1 000
 - 7th Place: \$ 1 000
 - 8th Place: \$ 1 000
 - 9th Place: \$ 1 000
 - 10th Place: \$ 1 000
- 7.8. Each fishing day, the team that has registered the biggest walleye will win \$ 1,000 in cash, regardless of the team's final position. In case of a tie, (please refer to section 7.6.).
- 7.9. For each prize claim, the fishing license will be mandatory and has to be valid.
- 7.10. **SPRINT: Friday, July 4 and Saturday, July 5th 2025 :**
 - Open to all teams;
 - This catch will be part of your record of the day. The shortest fishing time used to register a catch measuring more than 15 inches (38 cm) will determine the winning team.
 - The team that has registered a walleye in the least amount of time possible from the time of its departure. 1000 \$ per day of sprint will be awarded for each day regardless of the final position of the team.
- 7.11. For every prize claimed, each participant within the team must detain a valid fishing license for that day.



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8. **CIVIL LIABILITY :**

The Festival will not be held responsible for accidents, injuries, breakage of all kinds or causing death, theft or vandalism perpetrated on the person or visitors' property and participants present at the event.

9. **OFFICIAL RESULTS :**

Official results will be announced at the closing gala held Saturday, July 5th, 2025 at 7 pm., under the tent of the official derby site.