■ WALLEYE CHEAT SHEET

The Ultimate Midwest Fishing Reference

■ BEST BAITS BY SEASON

Season	Live Bait	Lures	Depth	Technique
Spring	Nightcrawlers Minnows (3-4")	Jigs (1/4-3/8 oz) Crankbaits	6-16 ft	Jigging rocky points Live bait on Lindy rigs
Summer	Leeches Minnows (2-3")	Spinners Soft plastics	20-35 ft	Drop-shot Vertical jigging
Fall	Nightcrawlers Shad minnows	Jerkbaits Spoons	10-20 ft	Shoreline casting Subsurface structure
Ice	Minnows (small) Shrimpies	Ice jigs (1/16-1/8 oz) Spoons	15-25 ft	Vertical jigging Tip-ups in weeds

■■ WATER TEMP → DEPTH CHART

Water Temp	Walleye Behavior	Best Depth	Prime Technique
< 40°F	Sluggish, deep	20-40 ft	Vertical jigs, light action
40-46°F	Pre-spawn, moving	12-20 ft	Jigs on structure, slow
46-52°F	Aggressive feeding	8-16 ft	Jigs, live bait, active
52-62°F	Peak bite season	6-12 ft	Crankbaits, spinners, jigs
62-68°F	Begin to settle deep	15-25 ft	Soft plastics, drop-shots
68-75°F	Deep, inactive days	25-40 ft	Vertical jigging only
> 75°F	Deep, nocturnal	30-50 ft	Night fishing essential

■ BAROMETRIC PRESSURE GUIDE

Pressure	Trend	Bite Quality	Strategy
> 1025 hPa	High & rising	Poor	Fish deep, early/late hours
1020-1025	Stable high	Fair	Structural fishing, slower pace
1013-1020	Stable normal	Excellent	All-day opportunity, any method
1010-1013	Falling	Excellent	Peak pre-storm activity
< 1010 hPa	Low & falling	Good	Fish structure, use larger lures
Rising	Any level	Fair→Good	Getting better as it rises
Dropping	Any level	Good→Fair	Best just before drop starts

■ TOP 5 JIG COLORS & WHEN TO USE

Color	Best Conditions	Water Type	Season	Target
White/Silver	Clear, high light	Clear lakes	Spring/Fall	Aggressive walleye
Black/Purple	Cloudy, low light	Dark/stained	Spring/Summer	Low visibility
Green/Brown	Moderate light	Mixed	Summer	Match forage color
Yellow/Chartreuse	Murky, dusk/dawn	Weedy/stained	All season	Maximum visibility
Orange/Red	Sunny, offshore	Clear deep	Spring	Deep water contrast

■ MOON PHASE FISHING GUIDE

Phase	Days Duration	Bite Quality	Best Times	Tip
New Moon ■	~3 days	Excellent	All day	Darkest nights - peak solunar
Waxing Crescent ■	~7 days	Good	Dusk to dawn	Light improving, expect good evening
First Quarter ■	~3 days	Fair	Early/late	Moon rises at noon, sets midnight
Waxing Gibbous ■	~7 days	Fair	Pre-dawn only	Moon up all day, fish before light
Full Moon ■	~3 days	Good	Dusk-midnight	Brightest - fish deep or at night
Waning Gibbous ■	~7 days	Fair	After midnight	Moon rises after sunset, good deep water
Last Quarter ■	~3 days	Fair	Midnight-dawn	Moon up 2nd half of night
Waning Crescent ■	~7 days	Good	Pre-dawn only	Fading light before new moon

■ QUICK KNOT GUIDE

Knot	Best For	Strength	Steps	Pro Tip
Palomar	All lures	95%	1. Loop line through eye 2. Tie loose knot 3. Slip lure through 4. Pull tight	Easiest, most reliable
Improved Clinch	Jigs/spinners	90%	1. Wrap line 5-7x around 2. Thread end through first loop 3. Then through outer loop 4. Pull tight	Classic tournament knot
Uni Knot	Leader/line	92%	1. Overlap lines 2. Tie overhand knot 3. Leave loop open 4. Wrap 4-5 times & pull	Best for line-to-line
Arbor Knot	Reel spool	100%	1. Wrap around spool 2. Tie overhand knot 3. Tie another overhand above 4. Tighten firmly	Won't slip on reel
Surgeon's Knot	Splicing lines	98%	1. Overlap leader/main line 2. Tie loose double overhand 3. Tighten slowly	Strongest line join

■ QUICK REFERENCE RULES

- Line weight: Use 10-15 lb monofilament for live bait, 6-8 lb for finesse
- Hook size: #1-#4 for live bait, #2-#6 for jigs (smaller = lighter presentations)
- Jig head weight: 1/16 oz (shallow), 1/8 oz (medium), 3/8 oz+ (deep/current)
- Spawn time: Early April (40-46°F) in Minnesota, peaks at 50-52°F water
- Solunar peaks: Major feeding 5-7 hours around moonrise/moonset daily
- Structure: Fish drop-offs, reefs, rocky points, weed edges, current breaks
- Seasonal move: Spring (shallow rocks) → Summer (deep flats) → Fall (transition zones)
- Lure speed: Slow retrieves 1-3 ft/sec for walleye (vs. bass at 3-5 ft/sec)

• Catch & release: Keep hands wet, support belly, return to water quickly

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