Why isn't our sweepstakes open to people outside the U.S.?

Every time we run a sweepstakes or giveaway on the Fly Fishing blog, it kills us to have to include this disclaimer: *The sweepstakes is open only to legal residents of the USA who are 18 or older.* We know that we have loyal customers and fans who live outside our borders, and we wish that we could include them.

The reasons that we have to do this are legal in nature. The problem is that each country has its own sweepstakes laws. For instance, if you Google "Canada sweepstakes rules," you'll see a dizzying array of stories, as well as ads for law firms whose sole business seems to be to help American companies run contests in Canada. Here's an example of how complicated these issues can be.

Even a company as large as Wal Mart, for example, runs its Canadian sweepstakes through its Canadian subsidiary so as to avoid legal conflicts. And they've got lawyers up the wazoo.

So we apologize that we can't include all our international customers and friends in these giveaways.