

Baitmaster's Outdoors

Open Crappie Tournament

Official Rules

- 1. Rule Interpretation:** - Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Protests to any rule must be made in writing prior to the official closing of the scales at each tournament.
- 2. Participation/Eligibility:** Baitmaster's Outdoors Crappie Tournament is open to all anglers. All entrants must sign a waiver to participate. Any angler under the age of 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the waiver form. All contestants are required to have a valid fishing license.
- 3. Teams:** Each Team may consist of a maximum 3 anglers. If a team has 3 anglers one of three must be a minor under the age of 16, or a military veteran (military id required).
- 4. Pre-Tournament Practice:** There will have no off-limits period prior to the tournament day. Tournament day officially begins at 12:00 AM.
- 5. Registration/Pre-Tournament Meetings:** Registrations will be accepted until the time of launch on the day of the event. All mailed registrations must be received prior to the day of competition. Late mailed in registration will not be accepted.
- 6. Fees:** Entry Fee is paid per team. A \$50 fee will be assessed on all returned checks. Any contestant with a returned check on file (un-paid) will not be allowed to enter the event, without first paying for that returned check (and fee) in cash prior to the current event.
- 7. Safety:** Safe boating must always be observed. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the boat is on plane. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the boat is on plane. Tournament day may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors. The decision to shorten or cancel tournament days will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- 8. Permitted Fishing Methods:** All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Live Bait from Baitmaster's Outdoors and artificial lures may be used to catch fish. Only 3 fishing rods per team are allowed at one time. may be used at any one time. All angling must be conducted from the boat, fishing from the shore is not allowed. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters
- 9. Sportsmanship and Conduct:** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, Baitmasters Outdoors, Angler Nation, sponsors and the sport of fishing. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - 1) Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours
 - 2) Abuse of, or addiction to, mind altering substances
 - 3) Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably on Baitmasters Outdoors, Angler Nation, or the sponsors of this tournament.
 - 4) Reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules.

If conduct does not comply with the standards set forth, Baitmasters Outdoors, and its director shall have the right to refuse any registration, or to deny a confirmed registration the opportunity to compete. Baitmasters Outdoors reserves the right to refuse registration to anyone.

10. **Sharing Information:** During hours of competition, contestants may not receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat, participate in the practice of "hole sitting", or the placing of markers by non-competitors. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.
11. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat from the host ramp, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler.
12. **Off-Limit Areas:** Areas marked by the Oklahoma Wildlife Department, or the Army Corp of Engineers, or the Fort Gibson Lake office will be considered off limits. Contestants fishing inside the established off-limits area will be immediately disqualified.
13. **Launch / Trailing:** This is a trailering event. If you prepay by the Thursday before the event, you may launch from any ramp that is accessible by water from the host ramp. If you do not prepay, you must launch from the host ramp only. When trailering, you may unload and load one time for each event. Trailering restrictions may be modified for "Special" situations and will be announced by the tournament director.
14. **Official Checkpoints:** It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to know and understand their flight number, and to arrive at the designated check-in location on time, regardless of what they are told. Once you are checked in you will be permitted to weigh your fish
15. **Bag Limits:** Each team will be allowed to weigh a maximum limit of 7 fish that reach a minimum length of 10". Official length and limits may be adjusted the legal length and limit for the lake on which the event is being hosted and will be adjusted by the director.
16. **Scoring:** Will be determined by the pounds and hundredths of pounds of each angler's catch during the tournament. Only white and black crappie accepted species. Any team who presents more than the tournament limit for weigh-in will have their catch for that day disqualified. Fish presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed length limit, or determined by the tournament director to be dead, will result in a ½ lb penalty for each offending fish and will be applied to the days catch. If more than one fish fails to meet the minimum length limit the entire days catch will be disqualified. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official Angler Nation Series weigh-in bag and verified by the acceptance of the weigh-slip. The Golden-Rule measuring board is the official measuring board of the Baitmaster's Outdoor Open Crappie Tournament.
17. **Measurement of Fish:** All fish will be measured closed mouth and sweeping of the tail. Each fish may be flipped a maximum of 2 times in order meet the minimum length requirement.
18. **Late Penalty:** Contestants who are not officially checked-in at the appointed time will be assessed a one pound per minute penalty from the total weight. Any contestant more than 10 minutes late will be disqualified. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, a contestant may return to the check-in location with their catch by receiving a ride from another registered contestant or tournament official only after talking with the tournament director first. The contestants must return to the official check-in location by their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty.
19. **Closing of the Scales:** Scales will close 20 minutes after the last flight is due in. Due to certain weigh-in locations this time may be lengthened or shortened at the tournament director's sole discretion. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time policy will be announced. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by that time.
20. **Ties:** All ties will be decided by:

- 1) total number of fish caught
- 2) Big fish
- 3) Coin toss.

All ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money. Every team has the option to weigh a big bass in their catch regardless of its size.

21. **Payout Definition:** All payout checks will be made payable to the registered team captain. Teams will be responsible for handling the division of monies won and payment concerning 1099's. Any member that receives a check must have a completed w9 on file before payment can be dispersed. Checks must be cashed within 90 days of issuance and will be considered void after the 90 days has expired.

22. **Restricting, Seeding or Baiting:** No restricting fish by any method which disallows natural movement throughout the entire impoundments area. Seeding fish from one impoundment area to another tournament impoundments area, or any coordinated effort in the use of live bait, in baiting holes for the means of attracting or maintaining fish is prohibited. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake is not permitted.