



F.T.C. Rules Effective 2019/2020 Season

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. It is at the FTC Tournament Committee's discretion to make a change where safety of the contestants is a concern if it be weather or water conditions. In the event of a rule violation, the Committee may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Committee shall be final in all matters. All Federal, State and local laws must be obeyed and it is the contestant's responsibility to know these laws.

1. Participation in each tournament is open to all members. Members may select two tournaments per season (schedule) to take a guest fishing with guest paying a membership fee. Guides cannot be hired to fish with you or for you during tournament hours. There is NO CELL PHONE use during tournament hours for fishing purposes. NO radios, walkie talkies or other communication device may be used to relay fishing information. This includes texting and or emailing.
2. Permitted fishing waters shall be defined as areas open to all participants of the event and accessible by normal navigational means only. Fishing within 25 feet of a marina gas pump or within 25 feet of a competitor's boat, which was first anchored is prohibited. (Trolling motor must be in the up position to be considered anchored.) A safe and courteous distance should be maintained when trolling motors are in use. Any violation of off limit water will result in disqualification.

3. Teams may start fishing (line in water) anywhere on the permitted fishing waters at 7:00 A.M. and may continue until 3:00 P.M. Any fishing by a team member before 7:00 A.M. or after 3:00 P.M. on the day of the tournament will disqualify the team.
4. Two-person team (one boat per team) must stay within 25 feet of each other while fishing and must fish out of a boat or pontoon. The only exception is if a team member must leave boat for emergency situation and is not fishing while absent from boat. Boats less than ten (10) feet in length are not allowed. Teams may use rod and reel combos, handheld pole and reel combos or hand held poles. Twelve (12) pole limit per team applies except where state limits are set at lesser number. Live and artificial bait may be used. **2 baits per pole maximum.**
5. Crappie must be hooked and landed with rod or pole by team member(s). Crappie must be hooked through the lip or in the mouth.
6. All boats must meet US Coast Guard and State regulations. Teams must comply with all state fishing and boating regulations, including the use of P.F.D.'s. Fishing and boating licenses are the responsibility of team members. While on plane P.F.D.'s must be worn.
7. Crappie must be weighed in at the official F.T.C. weigh in site. Both team members are to be present at the time of weigh in to be eligible for prizes. One team member must sign weigh in voucher for weight to be final and for points. **BY THE ANGLER, FOR THE ANGLER**
8. No team member will be allowed to join the weigh in line after 4:30 PM. Anglers must be in line with fish by 4:30 PM.
9. A team can weigh in a total of 7 crappie and those 7 crappie must be live when entering the official weigh in line. All dead crappie will be removed from your creel and only those fish that are alive will be allowed. Any team presenting more than 7 crappie will be disqualified. The Tournament Committee has sole responsibility for the declaration of dead or alive crappie. Any fish put into basket with any foreign object attached to fish

with result in disqualification. The ONLY exception is a team may designate their big fish with a big fish marker that must be removed before that fish is weighed. All Crappie presented for weigh in must have been caught during tournament hours and meet F.T.C. eight (8) inch minimum limit and State length requirements and must not have any weight enhancements. Any team bringing an illegal crappie to the weigh in line will be disqualified.

10. All contestants, winners and non-winners are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test in connection with any F.T.C. approved tournament or whose results are found to be inconclusive will not be eligible to compete in any future F.T.C. sponsored tournaments. Any minor who participates must make arrangements to have a parent or guardian present at the weigh in to sign a release form to allow a polygraph test if required by the Tournament Committee.
11. All protest must be given to a member of the Committee within 30 minutes following the end of the official weigh in. All protest must cite the rule number(s) allegedly broken.
12. Alcoholic beverages and drugs, other than prescription drugs, are not allowed in the boat or to be consumed during tournament hours.
13. 160.00 entry (includes big fish entry) if paid 14 days prior to tournament day. \$25 late fee after 14 days prior. No entries will be accepted after the Wednesday before the tournament. Classic Entry is \$200. \$5 additional charge if paid online for all entries to cover processing.
14. 25.00 membership fees must be paid prior to first tournament fished.
15. Checks or money orders must be received by Wednesday prior to tournament or paid online on Wednesday prior of tournament.
16. Big fish entry fee is \$10 of \$150 entry per team with 100% of big fish monies paid back. Only one big fish entry per team. Team must designate

entry at time of weigh in. Big fish will be used as tie breaker. In the case of a tie for qualifying position, teams will equally divide the earnings for tied positions. Teams will be awarded equal points for the position tied.

17. Live well checks will be mandatory. Locations and times will be determined before tournament weekend. Locations and times will be announced on FTC website and social media. It is the anglers' responsibility to be certain their live wells have been checked by FTC Board Member.
18. All tournaments will be subject to live well checks before start of tournament. (6:00 am until 6:30 am typically) at predetermined location(s). Location(s) and times will be determined before tournament weekend. Location(s) and times will be announced on FTC website and social media. It is the anglers' responsibility to be certain their live wells have been checked by FTC Board Member.
19. Teams entered into Angler **Team** of the Year points race must purchase boat entry of \$50.00 per boat per season and results are based on best 5 tournament finishes. In the event there is a tie in the AOY standings the yearly total weight of best 6 events will serve as tie breaker.
20. Weigh in line will open at 3:30 pm. Must be in weigh in line by 4:30 pm.
21. Must fish minimum 3 events (live well checked and boat put in water to be counted as fished) and pay for a minimum of 4 events to qualify for Classic (1 additional to the 3 minimum fished).
22. If weigh in is at ramp or close to water all 7 fish weighed in must be returned to tournament waters. This is to help keep our lakes stocked with quality fish and to keep these big tournament fish for another day. If fish is dead after weigh in it may be kept. Let's try our best to return as many fish as possible.
23. By purchasing membership and entry into any FTC competition all anglers and co-anglers release FTC of all liability either personal or physical damage to one's person or property.

24. Children 12 and under can fish as a 3rd man on a boat. Participants 16 and under are exempt from membership fees as long as they are fishing with a member in good standing - Must be member – No charge. Adult fishing with youth assumes all liability for youth. P.F.D.'s must be worn at all times by youth.

25. It is the anglers responsibility to read, understand and follow all rules by FTC and the governing wildlife agency. Failure to follow any rules is subject to disqualification of team.

26. FTC is 100% Transparent. To all paid members in good standing, financial statements are available at the end of every year upon request. The payout schedule will be available online and at request.

