



**“Crappie Fest” Tournament Rules
Lake Fork, April 2, 2016**

1. Entry Fees, Registration, Payouts

- a. Entry Fees are \$50 per person.
- b. Entry fees must be received by the Tournament Director no later than 7:00 AM on the day of the tournament.
- c. Entry fees will not be refunded unless the tournament is cancelled or postponed by the Tournament Director.
- d. Anglers may register by (i) registering in person at a CAT monthly meeting prior to the date of the tournament (go to www.crappieanglersoftexas.com for details on the CAT monthly meetings); (ii) registering in person at The Minnow Bucket Pavilion on April 1, 2016 between 5pm and 6pm; (iii) completing a Tournament Entry Form and sending the form and entry fees to: Crappie Anglers of Texas, P.O. Box 118081, Carrollton, TX 75011 (Mailed entries must be received by March 30, 2016); or (iv) registering in person at the Minnow Bucket Pavilion from 6:00am until 7:00am on the day of the tournament. **THERE IS NO ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR THIS TOURNAMENT!**

2. Participants

- a. This is an individual tournament, not a team tournament. **YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF CAT TO FISH IN THIS TOURNAMENT!** If you want to join CAT before this tournament, you must do so no later than 7:00am on April 2, 2016.
- b. Junior Anglers may fish in this tournament ONLY in a Special Junior Angler Division. There is no entry fee for either Special Junior Angler Division.
- c. A “Junior Angler” is any angler that is not yet 18 years old whose parent or legal guardian has authorized such minor to fish in the tournament and has signed the appropriate releases, as determined by the Board of Directors.
- d. There will be two “Special Junior Angler Divisions” that will compete for prizes only and will not participate in the payout from this tournament. Junior Anglers ages 11-17 will be in one Special Junior Angler Division and Junior Anglers ages 10 and under will be in a separate Special Junior Angler Division.
- e. This is no limit on the number of participants in a boat (please follow the boat manufacturer’s load restrictions).
- f. Participants may fish from the bank, a dock, a boat, canoes, kayaks, rubber rafts and float tubes.
- g. Participants must have valid applicable fishing and boating licenses (when required by state law) when participating in the tournament

3. CAT Texas State Championship

- a. The ten highest finishing adult Participants at the tournament will automatically qualify to fish in the CAT Texas State Crappie Championship. Participants qualifying to fish in the CAT Texas State Crappie Championship at this tournament will fish in the Division designated by the Board of Directors and must be a CAT member.

4. Weigh-In, Safety

- a. Participants may start fishing (line in the water) anywhere on the lake at 7:00am and must stop fishing (line out of the water) at 1:00pm. All Participants must be in the weigh-in line by 2:00pm. Once the Tournament Director announces that the weigh-in line is closed no Participant will be allowed to enter the weigh-in line. The weigh-in will be held at The Minnow Bucket Pavilion.
- b. Not more than 1 Legal Crappie that is caught and landed by a Participant on permissible Fishing Tackle, Bait or Lures may be weighed-in and the total weight of the Legal Crappie will determine the order of finish. **PARTICIPANTS MAY NOT SHARE FISH.** You may only weigh in a fish that you caught.
- c. A Legal Crappie is any crappie that is alive when entering the weigh-in line, is caught by the Participant from a Permitted Fishing Area during the Tournament Hours, does not have any weight enhancements, was caught in a legal manner, and is legal to be kept by the Participant under applicable state law.
- d. Presenting any fish to be weighed-in that is not a Legal Crappie will result in the disqualification of the Participant.
- e. There will be no tie breakers. Ties for awards will be cumulated and split. For example, if there is a tie for 2nd place, the cash prize for second and 3rd place will be combined and split evenly between the Participants. If more than one angler weighs-in a 3lb+ crappie, the bonus amounts for a 3lb crappie will be split evenly.
- f. The Tournament Director may cancel, postpone, delay or shorten the tournament in his sole discretion due to extreme weather or water conditions.
- g. Participants must comply with all applicable State and Federal fishing and boating regulations during Tournament Hours.
- h. PFDs must be worn by adult Participants during Tournament Hours when their Boat is on plane. All Junior Anglers must wear an approved life jacket as required by applicable state laws.
- i. The use of Boat kill switches is highly recommended.
- j. Participants members may not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during Tournament Hours or during the weigh-in.
- k. Participants must operate their boats in a safe and courteous manner at all times during Tournament Hours.
- l. All Participants must sign a release form prior to participation in the tournament.

6. Permitted Fishing Areas

- a. All areas of Lake Fork.

7. Permissible Fishing Tackle, Bait and Lures

- a. Participants must use rod and reel combos, hand-held pole and reel combos or hand-held poles.
- b. Each Participant is limited to not more than 4 poles with not more than 2 baits on each pole in the water at any one time.
- c. Artificial baits and lures are permitted; live bait is permitted.
- d. Landing Nets may be used.

8. Sportsmanship

- a. Participants may not (i) hire or compensate any person in any way to fish with or for a Participant during the tournament, or (ii) hire or compensate any person in any way to fish with a Participant on Lake Fork 30 days prior to such tournament. This rule does not restrict Participants from agreeing to share tournament expenses.
- b. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB's or the like to communicate fishing information during Tournament Hours is prohibited.
- c. Hole sitting (holding a spot for a Participant) by any Participant or any non-competitor on behalf of a Participant is prohibited.
- d. Participants are urged to release any Crappie following the weigh-in that are likely to survive.
- e. Participants are urged not to release any Crappie following the weigh-in that are not likely to survive.
- f. Unsportsmanlike conduct during Tournament Hours may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament.

9. Violations

- a. Unless otherwise specifically stated in these Rules, a violation of any of these Rules will result in disqualification from the tournament and the forfeiture of any prizes received.
- b. Protests alleging a violation of any of these rules during a tournament must be made in writing to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes following the end of the weigh-in. All protests must cite the rule number allegedly broken and must be signed by the person making the protest. The person making the protest and the person against whom the protest is being made may be required to submit to and pass a polygraph test or other truth test.
- c. At the request of the Tournament Director, Participants that qualified for a prize at a tournament must submit to and pass a polygraph test or any other truth test deemed necessary to determine compliance with these rules. If a Participant fails to pass a polygraph test or other truth test, the Participant will be disqualified from the tournament and forfeit any prizes received. By participating in this tournament, Participants agree to release Crappie Anglers of Texas, its Board of Directors and its sponsors from any liability arising from the administration of the test and/or the decisions made as a result of the test.
- d. The interpretation of the rules shall be at the sole discretion of the Board of Directors