

Crappie Anglers of Texas (CAT)

Tournament Rules

(updated 4/1/09)

1. Entry Fees

- a. Entry fees for each tournament will be determined by the Board of Directors
- b. The amount or percentage of the entry fees that will be paid out at each tournament will be determined by the Board of Directors
- c. Entry fees for the entire Team must be received by the Tournament Director at least twelve hours prior to the official start of the tournament
- d. Entry fees will not be refunded unless a tournament is cancelled or postponed by the Tournament Director

2. Teams

- a. All tournaments will be a competition among fishing Teams in two separate Divisions fishing against Teams that are in the same Division
- b. A Team must be made up of at least one CAT Member and not more than (i) two CAT Members, or (ii) one CAT Member and his or her spouse or minor child or other minor whose parent or legal guardian (that is a CAT Member) has authorized such minor to fish with the CAT Member and has signed the appropriate releases, as determined by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion
- c. A CAT Member cannot be on more than one Team in any tournament
- d. If a Team is composed of two Team members:
 - i. Both Team members must be in the same Boat if either Team member is fishing
 - ii. Both Team members must stop fishing if one Team member leaves the Boat
 - iii. Any change to the composition of a Team in Division 1 that has qualified to fish in the Texas State Championship must be approved by the Board of Directors
- e. Teams must fish from the same Boat
 - i. A Boat is any vessel propelled by oars, paddles, sails or a motor
- f. Team members must have valid applicable fishing and boating licenses when participating in any tournament

- g. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary set forth in this Section 2, a Team may be composed of two Team members that fish in two separate kayaks. Either Team member may fish (line in the water) only if both Team members are less than 30 feet away from each other

3. Divisions

- a. Each CAT tournament will be made up of two Divisions: Division 1 and Division 2
- b. Any Team may compete in Division 1 in any Tournament
- c. The following Teams will be prohibited from competing in Division 2
 - i. Teams whose members collectively won a total of \$1000 or more in Crappie tournaments the previous year
 - ii. Teams with a member that is a fishing guide
 - iii. Any other Team specifically prohibited from competing in a Division 2 Tournament by the Tournament Director, in his/her sole discretion

4. CAT Texas State Championship

- a. The five highest finishing Teams at a CAT Sanctioned Tournament or a CAT Qualifier Tournament that are not already qualified to fish in the CAT Texas State Championship will automatically qualify to fish in the CAT Texas State Championship. Additionally, each Team that fishes in 4 or more CAT Qualifier Tournaments will qualify to fish in the CAT Texas State Championship in a division in which they fished one or more of the CAT Qualifier Tournaments
 - i. Teams that qualify through a CAT Sanctioned Tournament will fish in the CAT Texas State Championship in the Division designated by the Tournament Director, in his/her sole discretion
 - ii. Teams that qualify through a CAT Qualifier Tournament will fish in the CAT Texas State Championship in the Division they competed in during the CAT Qualifier Tournament in which they qualified
- b. A "CAT Sanctioned Tournament" is any tournament sanctioned in writing by the Board prior to the date of such event, other than a CAT Qualifier Tournament.
- c. A "CAT Qualifier Tournament" is any tournament run in accordance with CAT's tournament rules, administered by CAT members and designated by the Board as a CAT Qualifier Tournament prior to the date of such event
- d. The CAT Texas State Championship will be a two-day tournament and special pre-fishing days and off-limits rules may be set by the Board prior to the tournament
- e. All Teams must present their Boats (either by water or on a trailer) to the Tournament Director or an official designated by the

Tournament Director for a safety check prior to the CAT Texas State Championship at a place and time determined by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. All Teams will draw for take off numbers and leave from the same ramp (on the water or by trailer)

- f. A coin flip by the Tournament Director will determine whether the Team receiving the highest number or lowest number gets to leave first

5. Anglers of the Year Competition—The Points Race

- a. The top Team in Division 1 in the Points Race at the end of the season will be named Anglers of the Year in Division 1
- b. The top individual(s) in Division 2 in the Points Race at the end of the season will be named Angler(s) of the Year in Division 2
- c. Prizes and awards will be determined by the Board of Directors
- d. The Points Race in Division 1
 - i. Points will be awarded to Teams in CAT Qualifier Tournaments only as follows:
 1. 100 points to the 1st place Team in each CAT Qualifier Tournament
 2. Each Team beginning with the 2nd place Team and ending with the 11th place Team receives 5 points fewer than received by the Team finishing ahead of them
 3. Each Team finishing in 12th place or lower will receive 0 points
 4. Each Team that does not weigh in at least one Legal Crappie in a tournament will receive 0 points, regardless of their finishing position
 5. Each Team's best 4 point totals received in a CAT Qualifier Tournament will be totaled at the end of the season
- e. The Points Race in Division 2
 - i. Points will be awarded to individuals in CAT Qualifier Tournaments only as follows:
 1. 100 points to each member of the 1st place Team in each CAT Qualifier Tournament
 2. Each Team member beginning with the 2nd place Team and ending with the 11th place Team receives 5 points fewer than received by the Team members finishing ahead of them
 3. Members of a Team finishing in 12th place or lower will receive 0 points

4. Members of a Team that does not weigh in at least one Legal Crappie in a tournament will receive 0 points, regardless of the Team's finishing position
 5. Each individual's best 4 point totals received in a CAT Qualifier Tournament will be totaled at the end of the season
 - f. In case of a tie for Anglers of the Year in either division, the tie breaker will be the weight of the largest Legal Crappie weighed in at a CAT Qualifier Tournament during the year (i) by a Team, if the tie is in Division 1 or (ii) by a Team of which an individual was a member at that time, if the tie is in Division 2
- 6. Tournament Lakes**
 - a. All tournament lakes will be determined by the Board of Directors
 - b. All tournament lakes will be off-limits to all Teams from Monday through safe light on Friday immediately prior to each tournament
- 7. Safety**
 - a. Tournament Hours will be set and announced by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion
 - i. "Tournament Hours" is the time period beginning at the start of a tournament and ending when the weigh-in is concluded, as determined by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion
 - b. No spectators are allowed in a boat with a Team during Tournament Hours
 - c. Teams may start fishing (line in the water) anywhere on the lake at the starting time announced by the Tournament Director
 - d. The Tournament Director may cancel, postpone, delay or shorten any tournament in his sole discretion due to extreme weather or water conditions
 - e. Team members must comply with all applicable State and Federal fishing and boating regulations during tournament hours
 - f. PFDs must be worn by Team members during Tournament Hours when their Boat's gasoline powered engine is running
 - g. The use of Boat kill switches is highly recommended
 - h. Team members may not use or be under the influence of alcohol or drugs during Tournament Hours
 - i. Team members must operate their Boats in a safe and courteous manner at all times during Tournament Hours
 - j. All Team members must sign a release form prior to participation in any tournament.
- 8. Weigh-Ins**
 - a. The site for each tournament weigh-in will be determined by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion

- b. The Tournament Director will determine the time of closure of the weigh-in line in his sole discretion
- c. At the time the weigh-in line is closed, all Team members must be in the weigh-in line
 - i. If a Team member is also the Tournament Director or is assisting the Tournament Director with the weigh-in, this rule will not apply
- d. Once the Tournament Director announces that the weigh-in line is closed no Team or Team member will be allowed to enter the weigh-in line
 - i. If a Team member is also the Tournament Director or is assisting the Tournament Director with the weigh-in, this rule will not apply
- e. Not more than 7 Legal Crappie that are caught and landed by Team members on permissible Fishing Tackle, Bait or Lures may be weighed-in and the total weight of the Legal Crappie weighed-in by each Team will determine the order of finish
 - i. A Legal Crappie is any crappie that is alive when entering the weigh-in line, is caught from a Permitted Fishing Area during the applicable Tournament Hours, was hooked through the lip or in the mouth, does not have any weight enhancements, and is legal to be caught and kept by the Team under applicable state law
 - ii. Presenting more than 7 Legal Crappie to be weighed-in will result in the disqualification of the Team
 - iii. Presenting any fish to be weighed-in that is not a Legal Crappie will result in the disqualification of the Team
 - 1. Exception--If an otherwise Legal Crappie is dead when entering the weigh-in line, the dead crappie will be removed and the Team may continue to the scales for the weigh-in without replacing the dead crappie
- f. The first tie breaker after total weight will be the weight of the Teams' biggest Legal Crappie

9. Permitted Fishing Areas

- a. All areas of the designated tournament lake during tournament hours that are open to all Teams and accessible by Boat
 - i. Fishing within 50 feet of a marina gas pump is prohibited
 - ii. Fishing within 50 feet of another Team's first anchored boat is prohibited
 - iii. Fishing under a dock that another team is already fishing underneath is prohibited
 - iv. Fishing within 50 feet of another Team's marker buoy, if such team has only tossed out one buoy, is prohibited

10. Permissible Fishing Tackle, Bait and Lures

- a. Team Members must use rod and reel combos, hand-held pole and reel combos or hand-held poles
- b. Each Team is limited to not more than 8 poles with not more than 2 baits on each pole in the water at any one time
- c. Live and artificial baits and lures are permitted
- d. Landing Nets may be used

11. Sportsmanship

- a. Team members may not hire or compensate any person in any way to fish with or for a Team Member during any tournament
 - i. This rule does not restrict Team members 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 Team) by any Team, Team member or any non-competitor on behalf of a Team or Team member is prohibited
- d. Unsportsmanlike conduct during Tournament Hours may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament

12. Violations

- a. Unless otherwise specifically state in these Rules, a violation of any of these Rules will result in disqualification from the tournament in which the violation occurred 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.
- c. Each Team whose Team member or members fail to pass a polygraph test or whose condition does not permit the administration of a polygraph test will result in the disqualification of the Team from the tournament and the forfeiture of any prizes received.