

# BIG CRAPPIE BONANZA

## Tournament Rules

### Lake Lavon - May 13, 2023



#### 1. Entry Fees, Registration, Payouts

- a. Entry Fees are \$50 per person. Juniors 17 and under fish free and must fish in the junior division.
- 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 **Little Ridge Park**, Lake Lavon from 6:00am until 7:00am on the day of the tournament.; (ii) registering in person at **Little Ridge Park**, Lake Lavon on May 12, 2023 between 5pm and 6pm; (iii) completing a Tournament Entry Form and mailing the form and entry fees to: Crappie Anglers of Texas, P.O. Box 922, Royse City, TX 75189 (Mailed entries must be received by May 12, 2023); (iv) registering in person at a CAT meeting or event prior to the date of the tournament. **For Entry Forms, go to [www.crappieanglersoftexas.com](http://www.crappieanglersoftexas.com)**

#### 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 May 13, 2023. Bonuses paid to winning participants that are members.
- b. Junior Anglers may fish in this tournament **ONLY** in a Special Junior Angler Division. There is no entry fee for the Special Junior Angler Divisions. 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 CAT Board of Directors.
- c. 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 13-17 will be in one Special Junior Angler Division and Junior Anglers ages 12 and under will be in a separate Special Junior Angler Division. (Tournament Director may adjust age range for divisions based on participation.)
- d. There is no limit on the number of participants in a boat (please follow the boat manufacturer's load restrictions).
- e. Participants may fish from the bank, a boat, canoes, kayaks, rubber rafts and float tubes.
- f. Participants must have valid applicable fishing and boating licenses (when required by state law) when participating in the tournament.

**\*\*\*Persons who hold a guide license per TPW definition or have guided on any lake in the past year are not allowed to participate in this tournament\*\*\*.**

**3. Tournament Hours, Weigh-In, Safety**

- a. Participants may start fishing (line in the water) anywhere on the lake at 7:00am. The weigh in line will open at 7:10 am. Participants may weigh in one fish per hour and must be in the weigh in line by 0:59 of any hour. The first weigh in hour will close at 7:59 am. Each hourly weigh in period will close at 0:59 of that hour. The last weigh in hour will close at 12:59 pm. 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 **Little Ridge Park**, Lake Lavon, Texas. All fish weighed in will be kept by the Tournament Director and returned to the lake.
- b. Not more than **ONE** legal crappie that is caught and landed by a Participant on permissible fishing tackle, bait or lures may be weighed-in each hour, 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. **ALL FISH MUST BE ALIVE AT TIME OF WEIGH IN.**
- c. A “legal crappie” is any crappie that 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. The Tournament Director may refuse to weigh-in any crappie presented for weigh-in if the Tournament Director believes, in his or her sole discretion, that the crappie does not satisfy the definition of Section 3C above.
- e. Presenting any fish to be weighed-in that is not a legal crappie will result in the disqualification of the Participant.
- f. 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.
- g. The Tournament Director may cancel, postpone, delay or shorten the tournament in his sole discretion due to extreme weather or water conditions.
- h. Participants must comply with all applicable State and Federal fishing and boating regulations during Tournament Hours, including the use of a kill switch.
- i. 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.
- j. Participants members may not use or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during Tournament Hours.
- 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.

#### **4. Prize Categories**

Adult division: Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 10<sup>th</sup> biggest fish for each hour. Prizes will also be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest fish for the overall tournament.

Junior divisions: Prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> biggest fish for each hour. Prizes will also be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, biggest fish for the overall tournament.

#### **5. Permitted Fishing Areas**

- a. All areas of Lake Lavon accessible to the public. Private docks or boat slips are off limits.

#### **6. 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.

#### **7. Sportsmanship**

- a. Unsportsmanlike conduct during Tournament Hours may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament.

#### **8. Violations**

- a. A violation of any of these Rules may result in disqualification from the tournament and the forfeiture of any prizes received.
- b. Protests alleging a violation of any of these rules 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