

## CENTRAL ILLINOIS CRAPPIE CLUB **OPEN** TOURNAMENT RULES

The following rules will be used for OPEN tournaments. They will be interpreted and enforced by the members of the tournament committee present at the event and all decisions are final.

### 1. ENTRIES:

- a. **You do not have to be a member** to participate. Anyone over the age of 16 can compete upon paying the appropriate fee.
- b. Entry fees will be clearly marked on the application and will be accepted by mail until 1 week prior to the tournament. Signup after the 1 week deadline and on tournament day will be **CASH ONLY**. You can pay for any tournament by downloading an application from our website at [CentralIllinoisCrappieClub.com](http://CentralIllinoisCrappieClub.com) and mailing it to our post office box or you can enter the morning of the tournament. **Departure will be in the sequence in which entry fees are received. Make sure you get a departure number.**
- c. Team definition:
  - i. Any adult may fish the tournament alone.
  - ii. Two adults fishing out of the same boat. (Additionally, children under 16 can be allowed in the boat as team members but allowable pole limits must remain the same as for a two-man team.) *Example: If 4 poles are allowed on Clinton Lake for a two man team, then allowable poles must remain (4) regardless of the number of children added. Very simply, no pole advantage may be gained by adding children to the boat.*
- d. Entry Rules: All participating teams must sign entry forms to enter the tournament. All team members must fish from the same boat. If one or more participants must exit the boat, all lines must be removed from the water and fishing ceased until the participants return to the boat. **NO KAYAKS, CANOES, OR GO-DEVILS ARE ALLOWED.**

### 2. ON THE WATER RULES:

- a. All contestants must fish from a boat. All ramp, launch, and lake fees are the responsibility of the participating teams and are not included in the entry fee. All boats must stay a minimum of 50' from other tournament boats. **FOR A BOAT TO CLAIM THEIR 50' BUFFER - THEIR TROLLING MOTOR MUST BE UP IN THE STOWED POSITION AND THEIR ANCHOR MUST BE DOWN.** Ethical courtesy and good sportsmanship should be maintained at all times. **Bank fishing is not allowed.**
- b. Fishable Waters: Anywhere on the tournament lake accessible by boat using normal means. Team members cannot exit the boat to portage through shallow areas and canoes, kayaks, and Go Devils are not allowed. All teams must fish from a boat and team mates must stay in sight of each other during the tournament. There is **NO FISHING** allowed within 50 feet of any marina gas pump, bait sales, docking slip, or walkways leading to such areas.
- c. Tackle and Equipment: All participants must use rod and reel combinations or hand held poles. The use of rod holding devices is allowed. Landing nets are permitted for securing your catch. No snagging of fish is allowed and all fish must be hooked in the mouth or lip. You may use artificial and/or live bait. You may not exceed the allowable number of poles and hooks that have been established by the state regulatory agency for each site specific body of water. **IF YOU ARE NOT SURE HOW MANY POLES ARE ALLOWED FOR A PARTICULAR LAKE, ASK THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. YOU WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR FISHING WITH TOO MANY POLES.** No pole advantage may be gained by adding additional youth to the boat. Example: Decatur Lake has a 2 pole per person limit. A two man team will be allowed (4) poles. The rod limit must remain at (4) regardless of the number of anglers in the boat. Lake Shelbyville allows (3) poles per angler so the total allowable poles for the boat is (6). All other Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Corps of Engineers rules and regulations shall apply.
- d. The use of alcohol or non-prescription drugs during fishing hours is prohibited. Failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification. All safe and legal boating laws must be followed. If you receive a citation for violation of these laws, you will be disqualified.
- e. No one shall be hired or compensated in a professional capacity to fish with or for you, spot for you, or physically mark spots for you 30 days prior to or during tournament hours. Spot sitting or holding by competitor or non-competitor boats will not be allowed.
- f. No communication devices (cell phones, CB radios, walkie talkie, etc.) may be used to exchange fishing information during tournament hours. Contact between participants in the tournament by communication device is not allowed during tournament hours except in emergencies.
- g. Boats must meet all legal requirements required by the Department of Natural Resources. Safe boating practices and proper fishing procedures are required and must be observed and kill switches are recommended.
- h. Live wells are required on any culling tournament. Live wells will be empty at the start of the tournament and no loose bait is allowed in any device that will be holding crappie to be weighed at the tournament.

3. TOURNAMENT TIMES:

- a. Sign up dates, times and areas will be clearly marked on the tournament applications.
- b. **LIVWELL CHECKS ARE MANDATORY IN OPEN TOURNAMENTS.** Make sure you receive a participant ribbon attached to your boat after your livewell is checked and again be sure you are assigned a takeoff number.
- c. Departing Procedure and Start Time will be clearly marked on the application and will be in the sequence that entry fees are received. **THERE WILL BE NO TRAILERING ALLOWED IN OPEN TOURNAMENTS.**
- d. Official Time shall be kept by the Tournament Director using a normal cell phone or GPS.
- e. We urge all competitors to check in whether you are weighing fish or not. Please notify officials if you are leaving early or not weighing in. This helps us make sure all teams are back safely.
- f. All times may be adjusted occasionally due to weather (wind, fog, etc.) Also, we may adjust during daylight savings times to take advantage of the best sunlight hours, clearly marking the applications.

4. WEIGH IN:

- a. The highest total weight of a team's five (5) best crappie will determine the winner. Crappie must be in good condition and satisfy the length limit for the tournament lake being fished. Fish must be caught from the tournament lake being fished on the day of the tournament by the team that is weighing the fish. Any team bringing more than 5 crappie to the weigh in scale or bringing a crappie to the scales that is less than the lake's legal limit will be disqualified without exception. **A COURTESY BUMP BOARD WILL BE AVAILABLE BEFORE APPROACHING THE SCALE.**
- b. **BIG CRAPPIE WILL BE DETERMINED BY WEIGHT.** A team's entry for Big Crappie should be decided and marked before approaching the weigh in line. We will weigh only one crappie per team for Big Crappie.
- c. Based on Illinois Department of Natural Resources' rules governing tournament permits, all fish that are weighed in during tournaments must be returned to the water as soon as possible. The organization holding the tournament is responsible for the maintenance of these fish, consequently, **THE FISH THAT ARE PRESENTED AT THE WEIGH-IN WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE TOURNAMENT PARTICIPANTS.**
- d. No weight enhancements are allowed. Any jig head, minnow weight, or similar enhancement found in a crappies' throat or gullet will result in disqualification. You must declare any such situation to the tournament director before weighing your fish. The tournament committee can elect at any time to select a crappie for more extensive investigation.
- e. Contestants shall be available for pictures and the club reserves the right to use these pictures for informational and promotional purposes. A complete summary of the tournament results will be placed on our website.
- f. All protests must be made in writing to the tournament committee within 10 minutes of the conclusion of the weigh in. Any protest must cite the rule number/letter that has been broken. Tournament committee will rule on the protest after an investigation is completed. All tournament committee findings are final.

5. PAYOUT:

- a. Ties for positional payouts will be determined by adding the payout for each position and dividing by two.  
Example: 2nd place and 3rd place are tied, 2nd place pays \$100.00 and 3rd place pays \$50.00.  $\$100.00 + \$50.00 = \$150.00$  divided by 2 = \$75.00 to each position.
- b. Ties for Big Crappie will split the pot.
- c. Big Crappie will always be included in the entry fee and paid back at 100%
- d. Payout amounts and percentages will be included on tournament applications. Our complete payout schedule is always available for viewing on our website.

6. CANCELLATIONS:

- a. In the event of extreme weather conditions, (wind, lightning, heat), the tournament committee reserves the right to adjust fishing times for the safety of all competitors. Should the tournament have to be cancelled, entry fees will be refunded. **NO REFUNDS WILL BE MADE FOR ANY OTHER REASON.**

7. OTHER:

- a. The Central Illinois Crappie Club reserves the right to deny entry to any individual or team that has ever been disqualified from any fishing tournament because of non-compliance with a tournament rule.
- b. By your participation in these tournaments or events, you agree to abide by and comply with all the rules and regulations set forth by the CICC. The interpretation of these rules is the sole responsibility of the Tournament Committee and all decisions are final and without appeal. The CICC is not responsible in any way for injury or death or damages of any kind that may occur to persons or property while engaging in a CICC event. It is highly recommended that each participant have boat insurance to cover their personal property as well as liability insurance to cover any accident or incident that may occur.