

Boat and Safety Requirements

Watercraft and Anglers

Vessels may consist of Boats, Skiffs and Kayaks of various materials and powered by paddle, electric, propane, or gasoline motors. Length may not exceed 17 feet (as stated by the manufacture) and horsepower may not exceed 50hp (measured at the prop or jet). SoloSkiffs, Ultraskiffs, Kayaks, Inflatables, Fiberglass, Rotomolded, Wooden, and other materials will all be allowed. If any watercraft is in question of qualification, it is at the event officials sole discretion to allow or reject the vessel.

Watercraft that will be used during the tournament must be listed on the registration form.

The vessels must be legally registered. Vessels must meet minimum state, federal, and Coast Guard requirements for operation.

All participants are expected to obey all applicable Tennessee boating or fishing and wildlife statutes, laws, and rules. Boats must carry proper safety equipment as required for their vessel.

All anglers participating in tournaments will have Coast Guard approved life vests at the start of the tournaments, before they can proceed out to fish. All children 12 years of age and younger are required to wear life jackets at all times while in a boat fishing tournament.

All anglers are required to have a fishing license.

All participants will follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.

The use of alcohol or illegal drugs is prohibited during all tournaments.

Tackle and Equipment

Participants may use only artificial lures as bait. No “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted. If your boat or person is found with “live bait” that boat/team will be disqualified.

Only one rod and one reel may be used by an angler at a time. Other similar types of rigs may be in the boat, ready for use, however only one (1) rig is permitted to be used at a time.

There is no “Strolling”, “Trolling”, or “Long Lining” permitted in any tournaments. Any team using this method will be disqualified.

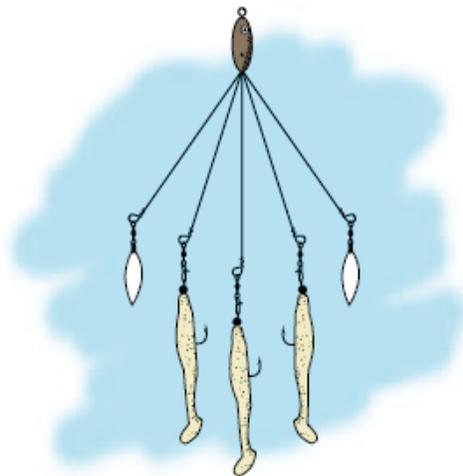
The use of “grippers” to land a fish is prohibited.

The use of landing nets is permitted.

Tennessee regulations state that lures may only contain up to three hooks.

Statewide Hook Restriction

Unless otherwise restricted in this proclamation, anglers are restricted to a maximum of 3 hooks per rod, pole or hand-held line. Single, double or treble hooks each count as one hook. The statewide hook restriction does not apply when using a sabiki rig (also known as piscatore rig) to take shad or herring. A sabiki rig is a set of small lures attached to a single line typically used to catch baitfish.



Example of a legal multi-arm array with three hooks.

Tournaments

General:

Tournament entry fees are \$50.00 per team or solo angler. Kayaks, Ultraskiff and Solo skiff anglers may choose a teammate in a like one-man vessel to form a team but must fish together (within 100 yards of the teammates boat) throughout the day. Payouts are determined by number of entrants. No money shall be held back for personal profit or gain. The entry fee will include an overall spinning/baitcaster winner, overall fly fishing winner, and big fish pot which will be paid back 100% at each tournament.

No more than two anglers per boat.

If a team shows up late for a tournament, they must adhere to all starting rules.

All fishing must be done from the registered watercraft. Areas that are posted off limit and areas closed to the public will be deemed off limits to all participants.

Snagging fish is not allowed.

All live wells will be checked at the beginning of the tournament. All boats are subject to random compartmental searches throughout the tournament.

All outboard powered boats will leave from the same TBD launch ramp. Traditional electric powered and paddle powered Ultraskiffs, Solo skiffs and Kayaks may launch from additional points that will be supplied during the team meeting.

The tournament is limited to Tellico Lake/Reservoir only. Any Anglers found fishing on the Fort Loudon Lake side of the 321 Bridge will be subject to disqualification. During App based tournaments, your phones GPS must be enabled during upload to show location. Note that the uppermost waters of Tellico near Chilhowee Dam may not have cell coverage.

These rules may be revised at any time prior to tournament start and those changes will be posted.

Tournament Rules

TOURNAMENT TIME

Tournaments will start at safe light in the morning and end at 3:00pm. Participants who come in after start of weigh-in will be disqualified.

FISH REGULATIONS:

Allowed Fish: Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, and Redeye Bass.

The official tournament length for bass shall be no less than thirteen (13) inches. Only fish described above that measure thirteen (13) inches or more in length on an official tournament ruler. Any fish under thirteen (13) inches in length will not be considered.

A fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered may, at the Tournament Officials Discretion, not be considered.

Dead fish will not be considered for "weigh-in".

WEATHER CONDITIONS:

Participants are allowed to leave their watercraft and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors

TOURNAMENT WINNERS:

Total length of five (5) longest Bass caught during tournament time will decide tournament winners.

Picture documented tournament:

1. All pictures to clearly show whole fish from overhead (not at an angle), tip to tail. (Aside from your hand, fish must be clear of any devices. Mouth/fins/tail cannot be obstructed in photo.)
2. Photo of fish to clearly show fish laying flat on ruler with tip of the lip at beginning of ruler (open or closed).
3. Fish must be left side up.
4. Measurement markings must be clearly visible.
5. Unique tournament identifier must be clearly visible in measurement photos.
6. Two photos for each fish must be submitted unless otherwise noted. One trophy shot with the angler and one that clearly shows the length of the fish with the official ruler. If the photo is not clear or from an angle, the event official will determine the allowed length.
7. Photos must be texted, emailed or uploaded immediately to the event official.
8. A picture of the fish with the angler is required for each fish to be entered. Solo anglers will be the exception and they can take a picture of him/herself holding up the fish.
9. Texts and emails of fish must include the team name and be from a pre-registered phone number or email account only.
10. Any fish determined unclear will be disqualified. These decisions are at the discretion of the tournament committee and are final.
11. Measurements of each fish rounded to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ " at discretion of tournament committee.
12. Anglers must supply their own phone with camera, be able to download tournament tracking app (if required), and the ability to use the app to upload each catch. Photos received after the tournament end time will not be considered.

How to properly Catch, Photo and Release

1. Must use an official tournament measuring device.
2. Wet anything that the fish will touch (hands, net, measuring device).
3. Land your fish properly using a net. Avoid handling fish by their gills.
4. Place your fish on measuring device and photograph. Make sure identifier is clearly visible and you meet all requirements.
5. Release your fish as quickly as possible (Shoot for under one minute).

6. Make sure your fish is completely revived before release.
7. Mark on your scorecard (if applicable) the length of the fish and the number of photos taken. Repeat for each eligible fish.
8. Circle and total your top 5 fish on scorecard.

TOURNAMENT ETIQUETTE

The goal of the tournament is to be a fun, interesting and exciting. We understand that it is a competition but we ask the participants to please be courteous and treat other anglers as you would want to be treated.

TIE BREAKERS:

Big fish breaks all ties.

In the event of a tie a coin toss will decide the winner and monies will be distributed appropriately

CONSERVATION:

Do not kill your catch! A competitor should make every effort to maintain the welfare of their catch.

All bass must be caught alive, and in a conventional sporting manner. A competitor who is guilty of “snatching” or “snagging” fish on spawning bed will have their days catch disqualified. Bass must be hooked inside of the mouth to be counted as a legal fish.

VIOLATIONS:

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

Disqualification from the tournament in question

Disqualification from future events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period, or may be a lifetime disqualification.

Liability/Responsibility

All participants are responsible for their safety and well-being.

As a participant, I completely understand and agree that any injuries (physical or emotional). Any lost or damaged property is my sole responsibility and completely and unequivocally release Big Frank's Outdoors LLC, its members, officers, sponsors and any others associated from any liability legally, financially or otherwise.

I also join the event as an amateur fishing person and do not fish in a structured professional club or organization, nor do I fish or guide for money, prizes, and things that would categorize me as a professional. I understand that I will be eliminated from event and any money, prizes, club dues, donations, entry fees, etc. will be forfeited.

Anglers release all rights of photos submitted to Big Frank's Outdoors as well as any photos that are taken of persons before, during, and after the event to be used for marketing, social Media, and other event promotion.

Date _____

I _____, have read
(print name)
and understand all rules and regulations and agree to comply fully.

Participant _____
(signature)

Director _____
(signature)

Watercraft _____

Team name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Only the email or text numbers supplied here will be allowed for fish entry.