

TOURNAMENT RULES

RULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE PRIOR TO TOURNAMENT START.

ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL FISHING AND BOATING LAWS SHALL BE FOLLOWED.

Participants. A “team” consists of not more than two contestants per boat. A team member must be 16 years of age or older, unless their teammate is a parent or legal guardian.

Entry Fee(s). Entry fee(s) are as stated on entry form for each specific tournament. All contestants must read the tournament rules, pay the entry fee(s), and complete the entry form. Pre-entry is appreciated, by hand-delivery or mail, to arrive no later than the Friday before the tournament at 5:00 p.m. to *The Bait Hut*, 715 NE US 24 Hwy, Topeka, KS 66608. Day of tournament entry is available at Check-In, and you will be patient. **No late fee** for day of tournament entry. **Entry fees refunded if tournament is cancelled.**

Payback. 80% payback **MINIMUM**. Payback total may include cash, prizes, and/or trophies.

Tournament Hours. Tournament start commences at time listed on entry form, or safe light at Tournament Committee’s discretion, and **deadline is 3:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated on entry form.** Boats may be trailered during tournament hours if weather, physical limitations, or comfort is an issue. *It’s Just for Fun*, remember?

Check-In. Check-in begins one-half hour before start of tournament, and closes at 8:00 a.m., unless otherwise stated on entry form. Each boat is issued a numbered card during check-in. This card must be turned over at weigh-in.

Weigh-In. Boats must turn their numbered card by tournament deadline. Late penalty of one pound per minute will be used after tournament end deadline. Ten minutes after tournament deadline, any late team is disqualified, no exceptions. You may cull fish for weigh-in after tournament deadline, as long as you turn in your numbered card timely.

Tournament Committee. The tournament committee will consist of a *Bait Hut* official, and two contestants randomly selected by *Bait Hut* official. The committee shall resolve any protest or disputes that may arise during the tournament. The rules are interpreted by the tournament committee and all decisions are final.

Take-off. The take-off order is determined by random pick of number. It is a staggered start and under the control of a *Bait Hut* official. Live wells will be checked prior to entering water.

Scoring & Limits. Allowable tournament fish are crappie. Each crappie weighed must be of legal length. **Seven (7) fish weigh-in limit** per boat. Each boat may have its legal limit, but only seven fish will be weighed. All fish measured with closed mouth. Total weight of fish per team determines place of finish. Big fish breaks any ties, first by weight, and if equal, then by length. Frozen, iced, or mangled fish will result in the team being disqualified.

Permitted Fishing Locations & Courtesy. No restrictions on pre-tournament practice. All areas of the lake that may be legally fished are open to contestants. All current federal, state, and local laws shall be followed. Team members must not leave the boat to catch or land fish. Contestants must use common courtesy and judgment when approaching other boats.

Tackle & Equipment. Fish must be caught on rod and reel, using artificial or live bait. Dip nets may be used to assist landing the fish.

Safety. Life jackets should be worn when the boat is on plane. **NO ALCOHOL** shall be permitted during tournament hours. Kill switches are highly recommended. We also recommend fish be kept in an aerated live well. All tournaments are subject to weather conditions. *The Bait Hut* reserves the right to cancel or reschedule.