

All American Catfish Tournaments™

~ Tournament rules ~

Safety First

- No use of alcohol or intoxicating drugs during the tournament
- Weather delays can be made day of the tournament – ideally teams will be informed of rescheduling of events prior to tournament day.
- Assistance from others – Help other boaters that are in trouble!
- It is every person's responsibility to stop, or report, unsafe acts taking place.
- Contact the Tournament Director regarding all unsafe acts
 - Tim Berger – 913-486-4462

Sportsmanlike conduct:

Although this is self-explanatory, it is important to cover a few things.

Everyone is expected to treat others professionally during the fishing event, that event timeframe covers from the time you arrive until the time you leave the vicinity of the event. At no time is it acceptable to have a physical confrontation, or to have arguments where other people feel the need to separate individuals.

At no time will any tournament participant get into another person's property, boat or vehicle without the owner's permission.

Vulgar or inappropriate acts, or attire, will not be allowed during the tournament.

Any conflicts with other individuals outside of the event, needs to remain outside the event.

** Teams being questioned by, or under investigation by the any law enforcement entity for fishing related situations, will not be allowed to enter the tournament until that agency clears them of any wrong doing.

Local, State and Federal law adherence:

Teams must always comply with state fishing and boating regulations, including the use of PFDs and kill switches.

Fishing and boating licenses, and boat insurance are the responsibility of team members.

- Bait and Baiting – All local laws apply when using bait.
- No chumming or baiting of fishing holes, or areas, is allowed in preparation of, or during tournaments
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Off water hours:

- For daytime tournaments – teams will need to stay off the water from midnight the night before, until they sign in the morning of the event.
- For Night tournaments – teams will need to stay off the water from noon the day of the tournament, until they sign in the afternoon of the event.
- Once you put your boat in the water, you must remain in line of site of the ramp – you cannot take off (out of site) to go get bait and come back.
- **Sign In/Registration:**
- **Cash only the day of event** – Pre-registration is available at AllAmericanCatfish.com
- You must be signed in prior to the captains/safety briefing in order to participate in the initial launch.
 - If you do not make that time, you are still eligible for the late launch once you have been briefed.

Boat Inspections:

- Boat captains must be willing to allow tournament staff to inspect their entire boat prior to launching.
- All boats are required to have a livewell, livewells will not be checked as part of registration, until there is a problem.
 - The boat livewell must be large enough to safely support the life of the fish – example a 20 gallon ice chest is not a livewell.

Safety Briefing:

- Boat captains must be present at the Safety briefing
- Briefings will be held approximately 15 to 30 minutes prior to the boat launch intervals start.
- You must be signed in prior to the captains/safety briefing in order to participate in the initial launch.
 - If you do not make that time, you are still eligible for the late launch

Launching:

- Each launching order will be in 5 boat groups and with approximately 1-minute interval between launches, unless the tournament director says otherwise

- Late Launch – Anglers will have an option of launching late if they are not able to start the tournament with the other anglers.
- Personal flotation devices (PFD's) will be worn at all launches

Launching continued

- No trailering – unless specifically stated for a special event
- Teams may only use tournament designated ramps for loading and unloading

Fishing Start Time:

- Fishing start time is the time posted for the event – it will also be reiterated during the safety brief.
 - Example: Event time is listed as 7am to 4pm, fishing start time is **7am**
- All Tournament times will be posted, these may be adjusted due to weather/safety concerns on the day of the tournament
- Tournament starting times will be clearly stated for each event online
- No lines in the water prior to fishing start time

Fishing during the tournament:

- **A fishing team is 1 to 3 adult anglers per boat – 6 poles max in use at any time unless otherwise stated during the captains meeting.**
 - 3 adults in the boat, but additional family members can be in the boat if they are 15 and younger, and your boat capacity allows for it.
- Rod and reel fishing only!
 - Example: No limb lines, jug lines, electrical devices, dynamite or sorcery can be used to catch fish during a tournament
- 6-pole usage limit per boat
 - If local laws restrict the number of poles that can be used, the lower amount is what will be used
- All fishing activity must be made from the boat - all casting, fishing, netting, and storing of fish must be made from the boat that was entered in the tournament.
- No moving fish from one boat to another.
- Boat captains will not fish closer than **100 yards** of another boat
 - The boat who is anchored first has the “right of way”
- Boats cannot block the route of other traveling boats, if they need to pass, they can, just stay the furthest distance from the anchored boat.
- Speed – all boat captains must follow local water speed laws
 - Coming back to the ramp for the weigh in – low speeds must be used when coming into a group of boats waiting to load, meaning approximately 100 yards out from the group of boats waiting at the ramp, boat captains need to reduce speeds and limit the wake of their boats. Flying in to the ramp and zig zagging around other boats to run your marker up to the weigh in bucket at the last second is a safety hazard to you and others.
 - When passing drifting or anchored boats, give them a wide berth so you do not cause unnecessary risk or movement of their boats.
- All Boats are required to have a livewell
 - No Stringers, no hoop nets, no baskets, must have a livewell in the boat.

Weigh In:

- Paddles must be turned into the correct can no later than the posted, and briefed, return time – this time will be explained in detail at briefing
 - Example: Event time is listed as 7am to 4pm, return time is **4pm** -The paddle must be in a bucket no later than 4pm.
- Weigh in of your fish will be available throughout the event – you will initial next to each weight to confirm accuracy.
- Blue, channel and Flathead catfish are the only fish allowed to be weighed in.
 - 5 fish limit per tournament
 - In case of a tie, the biggest fish of the two tying teams will be the deciding factor of who wins that position.
- All fish must remain alive during weigh in and release
- Anglers and tournament staff will be the only ones allowed to handle their fish for the weigh in
 - Assistance is allowed for releasing the fish
- Once a fish is weighed in, it is added to your maximum amount of fish you can weigh during the tournament
- Local laws, or regulations may apply for catching and weighing in – example: some locations have restrictions on sizes of fish that can be kept

Polygraph:

- This tournament trail does polygraph
- Any team that will not, or cannot, participate in a polygraph test will be immediately disqualified and then banned from fishing any future events with All **American Catfish Tournaments**
 - If you're in the money, do not start drinking or using intoxicating drugs after weigh-in, in order to be able to participate in the polygraph

**** Teams being questioned by, or under investigation by the any law enforcement entity for fishing related situations, will not be allowed to enter the tournament until that agency clears them of any wrong doing**

Prize dispersal:

- Boat captains will let the tournament director know how they would like their winnings divided up for their team.
 - Some teams may have a different agreement on how they intend to split the winnings; we just need to know that in order to keep the paperwork strait.
- All individuals that win money will be required to fill out a W-9

Disqualifications:

- No refunds for any team disqualified from a tournament
- Protesting a decision – Keep it professional and fact based
 - Some form of a written complaint needs to be made to the tournament director within 15 minutes of the ending of the tournament.
 - All complaints will be reviewed, and the tournament director will make the final decision
 - Example of key facts that need to be addressed – which rule was not followed or enforced?

Special note: If another tournament director provides evidence of someone cheating in their tournament, and that person has been disqualified or banned from their functions, All American Catfish Tournaments will honor that ban.

Early Check out:

- Anglers are welcome to leave the tournament at any time, but they are all required to “check out” with the tournament staff for accountability purposes
 - Authorities will be called for all unaccounted-for anglers if the tournament director is not able to quickly contact them.
- **Tournament ends at the end of weigh-in – unless you have been selected to be polygraphed.**

Future Tournaments:

- Tournament of Champions – each team that lands “in the money” will automatically qualify to have the option of entering in the “**Tournament of Champions**” yearend tournament.
 - There is still an entry fee
 - Pay out to the top 3 teams only
 - Sponsor items will be distributed to the top 3 teams
- On 2-day tournaments, you must use the boat you checked in with for that day – meaning, if your boat broke down on day 1, you can use another boat the next day.

Payouts:

- Payouts will be made in cash the day of the events when ever possible.
- All paperwork must be filled out correctly if you receive any money from All American Catfish Tournaments
 - **Tax records must reflect the correct information**

Rules may be adjusted at any time – priority will be to making rules adjustments for safety reason. If there is something that we have not factored, we may make an update with some additional verbiage or a entire new rule.