

Cincinnati Anglers Club®

2025 Tournament Rules & Regulations

1. PURPOSE

- a. The Tournament Committee (TC), under the direction of the Vice President, is solely responsible to set yearly rules and tournament schedules and to oversee the operations of all tournaments for Cincinnati Anglers Club (CAC).

2. PARTICIPATION

- a. Tournaments are open to all paid club members, immediate family, junior members, or a member's invited guest, provided that all requirements have been met.
- b. All participants must have a valid fishing license issued by the state in which the tournament ramp is located.
- c. All participants must have a current and active liability waiver on file with the CAC and agree to abide by the rules and regulations as set forth.
- d. Unless prior arrangements are made with the TC, non-tournament participants shall not be allowed in the boat during tournament hours.
- e. Participants may not enter multiple tournaments during CAC tournament hours.
- f. Any member can invite immediate family to fish tournaments with them, including spouses/partners and children under 18. These family members are obligated to pay tournament fees if they fish.
- g. Any member can invite a guest angler, who is not immediate family, to fish a tournament with them. The invited angler is allowed to fish one tournament only as a non-member guest.
 - i. Any points that the guest angler accumulates for the tournament are totaled and the angler is entitled to win any cash award if they place.
 - ii. Points will not count toward CAC end-of-year prizes, even if the guest angler becomes a member after competing in the tournament.

3. FEES, ELIGIBILITY AND PAYOUTS

- a. All club tournament entry fees must be paid according to the fee schedule. Fees cover entry to the tournament and all three jackpots.
- b. Tournament Fees
 - i. Charter, Social, Junior Social member, adult non-member immediate family, or adult non-member guest.
 - 1. One-day: \$25
 - 2. Two-day: \$35
 - ii. Free Junior member (under 18, who are not competing for Angler of the Year).
 - 1. One-day: \$15
 - 2. Two-day: \$25
 - 3. Must claim Free Junior membership if using half-price price entry fees.
 - iii. Fees breakdown per angler, per tournament:
 - 1. \$1 for Big Bass
 - 2. \$1 for Big Fish
 - 3. \$1 for Mystery Fish
 - 4. \$2 reserved for end-of-year awards.
 - 5. Remaining amount goes toward tournament payouts.

- c. Tournament participants are eligible to collect any prize money paid at each tournament but are limited to winnings based on their category for end-of-year prizes: Angler of the Year and Junior Angler of the Year.
- d. Tournament Payouts total 100% of fees after Jackpot and end-of-year prize monies are subtracted.
 - i. 40% for first place
 - ii. 30% for second place
 - iii. 20% for third place
 - iv. 10% reserved for end-of-year awards
 - v. Club has special rules for ties and payouts. Please inquire with the TC Director for complete details.

4. END-OF-YEAR PRIZES

- a. To be eligible for end-of-year prizes, adult members must fish a minimum of nine (9) tournaments, and five (5) tournaments for Free Junior Members.
- b. Angler of the Year will pay the Top 10 Anglers amongst eligible Charter, Social and Junior Social members.
- c. Junior Angler of the Year may pay the Top 3 Free Junior members by male and female divisions and age groups.

5. TOURNAMENTS

- a. Time, Dates and Locations
 - i. Check-in and Check-out times will occur at the ramp listed on the CAC Tournament Schedule.
 - ii. Tournament sites can be changed in advance by a vote of the TC if it is known that definite and serious hazardous conditions already exist.
 - 1. If hazards are predicted, the vote to change/cancel will take place at the ramp by all anglers assembled at the launch ramp.
 - 2. If tournaments are changed/canceled in advance, the vote must happen 12 hours prior to the tournament start time.
 - 3. Notices of the decision must be emailed to the members and posted on social media pages.
- b. Check-in and Registration
 - i. Check-in times will be open 30 minutes prior to the starting signal of the tournament.
 - 1. Please try to be registered no later than 10 minutes prior to the tournament start to give TC members time to unload the boat and get started on time.
 - 2. Anyone showing up late must contact a TC member and arrange an on-the-water check-in and livewell inspection.
 - 3. You may launch from another boat ramp but must get prior permission from any TC member.
 - ii. Livewell checks will be performed at the time of registration.
 - 1. If launching from another ramp, you must bring the boat that you intend to fish from to the designated ramp for registration and livewell check.
 - iii. Do not fish until you have registered for a tournament or you will be disqualified.
 - iv. Once registered, there is no travel allowed by land with any boat that has been checked in.
 - v. All participants will receive 5 bonus points for proper check-in.
- c. Check-out and Scoring
 - i. Check-out will be conducted at the same ramp used for launching and starts shortly after the ending time listed on the CAC Tournament Schedule.
 - ii. All eligible fish should be brought to the designated area, measured, recorded, and scored according to the CAC Multispecies Points System.
 - iii. All participants will receive 5 bonus points for proper check-out.
 - 1. You must be at the check-out ramp by the ending time listed on the schedule.

2. Anyone who is late will forfeit the 5 bonus check-out points.
3. No grace periods are allowed, but if ramps are overcrowded and delays are encountered this will be taken into account by the TC.
- iv. All fish must be measured with an official CAC-approved board or crappie cup.
- v. All fish must be separated and turned in by the angler who caught it.
 1. If two or more anglers are sharing a livewell, fish must be labeled to identify ownership.
 2. Do not bring multiple fishermen's stringers, buckets, bags, etc., to be scored.
 3. If fish are scored at your boat, separate each angler's catch to avoid confusion.
 4. If possible, try to give TC scorers the fish by the same species to help eliminate mismarking the score sheets.
- vi. After your fish are scored, it is your responsibility to release them, keep them, or give them away.
 1. If fish are to be released, please make sure fish are alive and healthy and able to swim when returned to the water.
 2. If gifting fish to someone, the donor must fill out the official Cincinnati Anglers Club Fish Transfer form stating the species and the quantity of fish to be transferred. The form will be photographed and forwarded and kept on file by the TC.

 If the fish are transferred again, the current donor shall have the recipient also sign a form, photograph it and forward it to the TC.
 - a. Indiana possession limit is double the daily bag limit. No sale of fish or restocking allowed. Form required to transfer fish from angler to angler.
 - b. Ohio possession limit is equal to the daily bag limit. No sale or restocking of fish allowed. No form needed to transfer fish from angler to angler.
- d. On-the-water Check-out
 - i. On-the-water Check-out is permitted to prevent large fish and multiple fish from being distressed and/or perishing during a tournament. Participants can also use this check-out method if leaving a tournament early.
 1. Every effort should be made by the participant to travel to a TC member.
 2. Each fish must be measured using an approved TC board/cup.
 3. Each fish must be photographed on an approved TC board/cup.
 4. Transferring fish between boats can be risky. Any fish that escapes before being measured and recorded will not be added to creel.
 5. Any fish that is measured and scored for an early check-out must have its right pectoral fin clipped or have a 1/8" hole punched in its dorsal fin.
 - ii. There are three options for On-the-water Check-out:
 1. Contact a TC member to meet and check in your fish on the water. Once counted, photograph the fish. Please release the fish or tag it so it can be easily identified at the end of the day.
 2. If you are unable to locate or meet with a TC member, you must take a picture or video of your fish and forward it to that TC member for proof of catch and size. After confirming your catch with the TC member, release the fish or tag it so it can be easily identified at the end of the day.
 3. If your livewell is full and the safety of the fish is in question for the remainder of the tournament: Contact a TC member to check out the fish you intend to release before the end of the day. Once counted, photograph the fish. The remainder of your catch shall be checked out at the designated area.
- e. Leaving a Tournament Early
 - i. If you leave a tournament early, you must notify any member of the CAC, preferably a TC member. A 10-point penalty will be assessed for failure to do so.

6. GENERAL RULES

- a. All Federal, State, Local and CAC rules for fishing and boating shall be followed during CAC tournaments.

- b. Federal, State, and Local rules will supersede any CAC rules, but some CAC rules exceed the above. CAC rules are adjusted to try to create a balance between different governmental agency rules and regulations.
- c. DNR rules differ from state to state as well as bodies of water. Ohio River rules are different from inland lake rules, so every effort should be made by each angler to have a basic knowledge of these rules and carry a copy of all regulations set forth for each body of water that we fish.
- d. All laws regarding boating are to be observed at all times.
- e. All State fishing laws set by the DNR of each said State shall be the dominant regulations that we follow.
 - i. Some bodies of water such as the Ohio River may involve multiple state regulations. Therefore, the designated ramp is the determining factor for which regulations will be followed. Creel and size limits in one state and or county may differ greatly in the bordering state or county.
- f. The Check-in and Check-out ramp determines what set of rules that we use for each tournament. The TC will make every effort to let anglers know which regulations are in effect and any special rules that may apply. It is up to each angler to know the laws.
- g. Regulations
 - i. Fishing tournament waters is prohibited 10 hours before tournament starting time.
 - ii. No fishing in non-tournament waters.
 - iii. No fishing in areas that are marked by restriction buoys, beach areas that are restricted, above or below the dam of the targeted allowed pool, above the first non-navigable riffle in the pool, and etc.
 - iv. Fish must be caught with a hook, line, and fishing pole. No trotlines, jug fishing, noodling, bow fishing, bush lines, spearing, cast or dip netting, hand grenades, etc.
- h. Fishing Limits and Creel Sizes
 - i. Over limit and, or undersized/oversized fish are grounds for loss of points and, or disqualifications.
 - 1. Over limit: Anglers that bring over limit fish to scorers table and submit to judges shall be penalized 10 points per over limit fish. Said angler shall also lose all points for that tourney and receive a disqualification.
 - 2. Undersize/Oversize: Anglers that submit undersize fish or fish out of slot requirements shall be penalized 10 points per fish but still receive any other points provided no other infractions have occurred.
 - ii. Any fish that does not measure up to minimum size regulations must be immediately removed from judges table and placed in a bucket for release.
 - 1. The angler who brought said fish to table is responsible for releasing it as quickly as possible.
 - 2. The angler will be issued a warning and recorded by TC. Any repeat offense will be grounds for disqualification (DQ) from the tournament.
 - iii. DNR will issue citations to anyone who has undersized/oversize or over limit fish in their possession. Anyone who receives a citation will be automatically DQ'd from the tournament.
- i. Junior Members + Life Jackets
 - i. Indiana law requires kids under 13 years old to wear a life jacket in a boat when underway.
 - ii. Ohio law requires kids under 10 years old to wear a life jacket in a boat that is under 18-feet long.
 - iii. Federal law requires kids 12 years and younger to wear a life jacket when underway.
- j. Conduct
 - i. Any member caught cheating will be disqualified from the tournament and points for that tournament will be null and void. If caught a second time, the member will be suspended from tournaments the rest of the season.
 - ii. Any member is entitled to appeal any actions taken against them for violation of tournament rules or unsportsmanlike activities. All matters appealed will be settled by the TC.