



OFFICIAL AFC VIRTUAL TOURNAMENT RULES

PARTICIAPTION MINIMUMS

To hold an in-person event with in-person payments, side pots, big fish, and awards, all AFC events must meet an **advertised minimum number of participants**. If this minimum isn't reached, the event will still take place, but it will be held **virtually**. Virtual event winners will receive winning payments through the mail payable by check. As always winning payouts will be determined by the number of participants.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The eTournament Fishing app is *mandatory* for all AFC events. Available for both iPhone and Android, at least one team member *must* download and install the app. It is *strongly recommended* that *both* team members install the app on separate devices as a backup. WWS events are two-day events unless specifically designated a "shoot out" where it will be a one-day event.

AMERICAN FISHING CLUB (AFC)

The American Fishing Club (AFC), a 501(c)(7) non-profit organization, promotes and supports sport fishing. All AFC tournaments are permitted and promoted through the club. A \$5 membership fee, included in each event's entry, supports competitive fishing and AFC members. Learn more at www.AmericanFishingClub.com.

PARTICIPATION

Teams must consist of two anglers sharing a single motorized watercraft (minimum 12ft in length, 10hp motor). Anglers under 18 must be paired with a parent or guardian. Personal watercraft (Jet Skis), kayaks, float tubes, and other non-motorized single-occupant vessels are *not* permitted.

CPRV FORMAT

All AFC events utilize a Catch, Photo, Release Video (CPRV) format unless otherwise specified by AFC staff. Holding fish on stringers, in baskets, coolers, or livewells is *strictly prohibited* during tournament hours. Possession of any fish species (excluding minnow-type bait) is also forbidden. All fish must be immediately released after digital documentation. This CPRV format promotes conservation and eliminates fish harvest. Livewells and portable containers are *not* permitted to hold any fish species other than minnow-type bait.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Event registration is handled exclusively through the eTournament Fishing app. Locate and select the desired AFC tournament within the app. Only one team member needs to register the team. *Ensure accurate cell phone number entry* as this is crucial for team recognition and authorized fish submission. Registration must be completed by the advertised deadline via the app. Team member changes are permitted within the app before the deadline. Post-deadline partner changes require contacting AFC Tournament Director, Mitch Petersen

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

All participants are responsible for reading and understanding the tournament rules. Participants must have a functional cell phone with sufficient power and storage for the eTournament Fishing app. ***Watching the eTournament Fishing app tutorials before Day 1 is strongly encouraged.***

PRE-TOURNAMENT OFF THE WATER RULE

All AFC tournament participants must have their boats trailered and be off the water by 6:00 PM on the Friday before the tournament. Plan accordingly. In emergencies or unforeseen circumstances preventing compliance, contact AFC staff *before* 6:00 PM at 970-227-0401 or 303-514-1078 for guidance. Teams violating this rule will be limited to weighing four fish per day during the tournament.

TOURNAMENT FISHING HOURS

Tournament hours are listed for each event in the app. Official time will be based on GPS/cellular device time; no other timekeeping methods will be accepted. The app prevents fish submissions before the start time or after the end time each day. *Fishing outside scheduled tournament hours is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification.*

MANDATORY ANS INSPECTIONS (Where required)

All watercraft used in AFC tournaments must undergo a mandatory Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) inspection and comply with regulations for the specific body of water. Participants are solely responsible for following ANS procedures and being ready by the official start time. Teams without a pre-event inspection or those failing inspection will forfeit their launch order and launch *only* after successfully passing the required ANS inspection, going to the end of the launch line. *Pre-event ANS tagging is strongly recommended.*

PRE-LAUNCH VIRTUAL BOAT INSPECTION

Each morning, before the tournament begins, a mandatory virtual boat tour will be conducted at the designated launch location(s). Your GPS location, submitted through your daily boat tour, will verify your presence at the correct launch point. Ten minutes before the tournament starts, the ET fishing app will activate. You'll then use one of your daily fish submissions to confirm your livewells are empty and dry by sending a measurement picture of the livewell. Additionally, your release video will serve as a brief boat tour of all baitwells and livewells, showing they are dry and empty. These submissions will go directly to the AFC tournament directors and will be rejected, ensuring they don't count against your daily livewell limit.

BOAT LAUNCHING PROCESS

As soon as the anglers have completed their virtual boat tour has been completed and submitted they are free to launch.

TEAM CHECK-IN

After the day's event concludes, each team needs to open their apps and **confirm there are no red highlighted fish entries that are still "being uploaded."** Once all their fish submissions are successfully in the **"pending review" phase** and are no longer highlighted in red, each angler must verify this status and then **notify the tournament directors they are off the water** using the app's chat feature.

LENGTH TO WEIGHT CONVERSION

The eTournament Fishing app automatically converts fish length (in quarter-inch increments) to weight. When submitting fish, teams select the length, which is then converted to weight for calculating all results. **ALL ANGLERS WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR USING A PROFESSIONALLY MANUFACTURED BUMP BOARD FOR MEASUREMENT PHOTOS.**

DAILY VIRTUAL LIVEWELL LIMIT

Teams may submit a maximum of 13 fish per day (one of the submissions will be for the prelaunch boat tour). Each submission counts toward the daily virtual livewell limit. The app will prevent submissions exceeding this limit.

DAILY BASKET

Of the 12 submitted fish, the team's 5 longest will comprise their daily basket. The app automatically selects the 5 longest for calculating the daily total weight. Final standings are determined by the combined total weight from Day 1 and Day 2 (if applicable).

CHECK-IN TO THE EVENT

Participants *must* check in to the event via the eTournament Fishing app *before* the start, while a strong cellular or Wi-Fi connection is available. This enables the app's online functionality when service is good and offline mode when service is poor or nonexistent. To check in, open the app, navigate to your registered event, and tap the "Check-In" box. Refer to the eTournament Fishing participant tutorial videos for detailed instructions.

SUBMITTING FISH

It is *strongly recommended* to watch the eTournament Fishing participant tutorial videos and familiarize yourself with the fish submission process. Participating in the free practice tournament within the app is also recommended to practice submitting fish before any live event.

CPRV REQUIRED FISH SUBMISSION ELEMENTS

For the CPRV format, a measurement photo *and* a release video are required for each fish submission.

MEASUREMENT PHOTO

Immediately after catching a fish to be submitted, the participant *must* take the measurement photo.

- The measurement photo *must* be taken from directly overhead ("straight down perspective") with no angle. Avoid casting shadows on the fish.
- The measurement photo *must* clearly show the entire fish and be in focus. Providing a clear photo for accurate verification is the participant's sole responsibility.
- The measurement photo *must* show the fish's mouth (open or closed) touching the "bump end" of the measuring board. Failure to clearly show the mouth touching will result in a 1/2-inch deduction from the submitted length.
- Your hand *must* be placed behind the fish's eye, holding the fish flat against the measuring board.
- The measurement photo *must* clearly show the fish's tail (pinched or un-pinched) on the measuring board for accurate length measurement. If the tail touches or crosses a graduation line, rounding up to the nearest 1/4 inch is permitted.
- The minimum length for fish submission is 14 inches. If a fish's tail touches the 13 3/4-inch mark, rounding up to 14 inches is allowed for submission. Fish not reaching the 13 3/4-inch mark does not meet the minimum length requirement and cannot be submitted.

TROPHY PHOTO

If a trophy photo is required, follow the sequence shown in the eTournament Fishing app. The trophy photo should clearly showcase the fish, emphasize its size and clearly identify the angler who caught it. Trophy photos may be used for promoting future events and by anglers in their in-app profiles. Clear, professional-quality photos are highly encouraged.

RELEASE VIDEO

After taking the measurement photo and/or trophy photo, the participant will take the release video.

- When no trophy photo is necessary, the **release video needs to capture the fish on the measuring board** (matching the measurement photo's position), being removed from the board, and then released. This ensures we have a video backup if there's an unforeseen problem with your measurement photo. If a trophy photo is required, the release video may begin immediately after the photo is taken.
- **CRITICAL: Verify your video recorder's timer is actively running *after* pressing record to guarantee the video is capturing.**

- Failure to clearly show the fish's release in the video will result in the submission being rejected, but the fish will still count towards your daily virtual livewell limit.
- If a legal fish cannot be released due to its condition, the team must retrieve the fish and remove a significant portion of its tail fin. This marks the fish as already submitted and accounted for. Anglers *must* immediately notify tournament officials, providing the corresponding fish number from their app submission.

TAP THE SUBMIT BUTTON

FISH SUBMISSION STATUS

Here's how to understand your fish submission status:

1. **Being Uploaded (Highlighted in Red):** This means your submission is currently uploading. It's crucial to **keep the app open** until this status changes to ensure the upload completes successfully.
2. Once uploaded, the status will change to **Pending Review (White/Green)**. This confirms the tournament director has received your submission and is waiting for their approval.
3. Finally, your submission will move to either **Approved** or **Rejected** after the review.

Look for a **green box** around your fish species picture; this indicates a note from the tournament director. Tap the picture to read it.

ATTENTION ALL PARTICIPANTS

Participants are responsible for ensuring all fish submission elements comply with the guidelines. Visit www.eTournamentFishing.com for information on app functionality and the fish submission process.

APP USE IN AREA WITH POOR OR NO CELLULAR SERVICE

The eTournament Fishing app records your catch with or without a cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. However, you *must* check in before the event starts while connected to cellular data or Wi-Fi. Open the app, go to your registered event, and tap the "Check-In" box. See the user tutorials at www.eTournamentFishing.com for more information.

PROTESTS OR ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

Protests must be submitted to AFC staff in writing within 45 minutes of the boat check-in time. The written protest must detail the alleged violation, identify the angler involved, and state the time of the violation. A \$100 cash protest fee is required, refundable if the protest is upheld. AFC staff will investigate and make a final, non-appealable ruling. Unfounded or inconclusive protests forfeit the \$100 fee, which will be added to the event payout. Contestants agree to provide phone records if requested by AFC staff during an investigation.

LIVE LEADERBOARD

The live leader board will not have boat numbers, or names that are visible to the field or participants. The leaderboard will have individual weights for each team, but those weights will only be associated with the confidential PIN issued to each team prior to the tournament.

SIDE POTS

A progressive side pot will be in play, growing with each event. This building prize will be awarded to the angler or team who holds the lead for both Day One and Day Two of the competition. All other side pots will be reserved for **in-person events ONLY**.

SPONSOR MONIES/PRODUCT DONATIONS

Individual sponsors may contribute funds or products to each side pot. Teams must enter side pots to be eligible to win (all teams are automatically entered into the big fish side pot). Sponsor contributions to each side pot will be announced before each event.

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