



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

GENERAL INFORMATION

The eTournament Fishing app is **REQUIRED** for all AFC events. The app is available for iPhone and Android users. At least one team member must download and install the app on your mobile device. It is **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** that **BOTH** team members install the app on each of their own separate mobile devices to act as a backup in case either device has any problems.

AMERICAN FISHING CLUB (AFC)

American Fishing Club is a 501c7 nonprofit organization that promotes and supports sport fishing. All AFC fishing tournaments will be permitted and promoted through the AFC. Membership fees of \$3 will be part of each event's entry fee. The membership fees collected will be used to promote competitive fishing and AFC members. For further information concerning AFC, please visit the website at:

www.AmericanFishingClub.com

PARTICIPATION

Participants must enter as A TWO PERSON TEAM with a single boat/watercraft. Any angler under 18 years of age must be teamed with a parent or guardian. Watercraft is defined as any boat that is not a personal watercraft (Jet Ski), that is able to hold two people and is 12ft or more in length and is motorized. The minimum size motor attached to or is a part of the boat being used will be 10hp. Kayaks, float tubes and other non-motorized single occupant watercraft **ARE NOT** permitted in AFC tournaments.

CPVR FORMAT

All CWT events are CPVR (Catch, photo, and video release), unless otherwise directed by AFC Staff. **AT NO TIME** during tournament hours are participants allowed to catch and hold the fish on a stringer, or in a basket, cooler, or livewell, or be in possession any species of fish, other than minnow-type bait. For all AFC tournaments, the documentation of fish will be quickly captured digitally, and the fish will be immediately returned to the water. The CPVR format is used to promote conservation and to eliminate the harvest of any fish out of a body of water during AFC tournaments. At no time is a livewell or portable container allowed to hold fish **OF ANY SPECIES**, except for minnow-type bait.

EVENT REGISTRATION

Event registration will be completed in the eTournament Fishing app. Search in the app for the AFC tournament you wish to enter and tap on that event. Only one team member is required to register the team for an event. **BE SURE** to list the cell phone number **CORRECTLY** as this is how the app recognizes your team and the devices authorized to submit fish in the event for your team. Tournament registration must be completed by the advertised close date and time through the eTournament Fishing app. Any change of team members can be done through the eTournament Fishing app prior to the tournament entry deadline. If a partner change needs to be made after the deadline a member of that team needs to contact Mitch Petersen, the AFC Tournament Director.

ENTRY FEE

The entry fee for each team is \$400 per event, plus a \$30 administrative, insurance, AFC membership and team of the year fees. Payment is required at the time of registration. Electronic payment is the only form of payment accepted. Payments will be processed securely in the eTournament Fishing app using Stripe.

REFUNDS

Entry fee refunds will be made only if AFC Staff receives a written cancellation notice at least 7 days prior to the tournament date. A withdraw fee of \$125 will be assessed for each team's tournament withdraw.

PIN SYSTEM

(Personal Identification Number)

Once you have completed the registration process through the eTournament Fishing app, your team number and a PIN will automatically be generated by the app. Your PIN will be used for the eTournament Fishing live leaderboard. Other than AFC Staff and yourself, nobody will know your PIN until after the completion of the event. This is for your anonymity to alleviate "tail-piping" and to create a neutral field. Do not share your PIN unless you want others to know your identity. **AT NO TIME WILL AFC STAFF SHARE YOUR PIN WITH OTHER PARTICIPANTS UNTIL AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE TOURNAMENT.**

OFFICIAL AFC MEASURING BOARDS

Official AFC measuring boards are required for all AFC tournaments and are the only measuring boards allowed unless otherwise directed by the Tournament Director. Each team will be given an official AFC measuring board and boat number on the morning of day 1 prior to the start of the event. The official AFC measuring board **MUST** be returned to AFC Staff at the end of the event. Failure to return the board will result in a \$100 replacement fee.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION

In the event there are less than 15 teams registered for a tournament, the event will be cancelled and rescheduled. Rescheduled events / cancellations can happen at any time, up until the start of the event. In the event of extreme weather, unsafe travel conditions or unsafe lake conditions, the event will be rescheduled. All registrations will automatically be transferred to the rescheduled date/location. Should a team not be able to fish a rescheduled event, the refund policy as listed above will be enforced. Should an event be partially cancelled or fishing time limited, the event will be counted as completed.

PRIZES AND AWARDS

Prizes and awards per tournament are based on the number of entries for that tournament. Prizes will be distributed at the conclusion of the tournament during an awards ceremony if time and circumstances permit. AFC prize money checks will be mailed to the winning teams within 7-10 business days following the conclusion of the event. Each participant that receives prize money agrees to cash their prize money check within 60 days from the issuance of the prize money check or the check will be canceled, and the prize monies will be forfeited to AFC.

TIES AND TIEBREAKERS

In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be determined by the team with the highest total weight on day one of the tournament. If the tied teams continue to be tied after comparison of the day one total weights, the second tiebreaker will be the team with the biggest single fish caught during the tournament. If a winner cannot be determined at that point, the teams will be considered a tie and the prizes for the tied position will be combined with the place below and will be split equally between the tied teams.

RANGER CUP

AFC tournaments are Ranger Cup sponsored events. Ranger will pay additional monies to top finishing Ranger boat owners who have registered with Ranger Boats through their Ranger Cup program. If you are a Ranger Boat owner and participate in Ranger Cup, must select Ranger Cup when you register in the app. Participants must comply with Ranger Cup apparel guidelines outlined in Ranger Cup rules to be eligible.

SAFETY

Each participant must always observe safe boating and follow the rules of the governing body of water and state laws. Consumption or possession of alcoholic beverages, marijuana products or illegal drugs are not allowed in the tournament boats and vehicles during tournament fishing hours. Participants must

abide by all state laws and park regulations. Any participant cited for breaking any game and fish or state park regulation from 6:00 pm Friday until 6:00 pm Sunday could be disqualified. Disqualification from the event is at the discretion of AFC Staff. All tournament boats have the responsibility to carry all Coast Guard required safety equipment, to include a type IV throwable cushion, a fire extinguisher, and distress horn, flag, or whistle. It is recommended that all boats be equipped with a marine radio. Boats will be permitted to launch only from the predetermined launch location. There will be no off site or on the water inspections for any tournament unless directed by the AFC Staff. Each contestant must wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device when the main motor is operating above idle, and a wake is made (TBF requirement). Contestants in violation of this rule will be disqualified for the day. This is in accordance with regulations and insurance riders for the event. All Coast Guard safety rules apply, including local liability insurance requirements.

SEVERE WEATHER

In the event of severe weather conditions such as a thunderstorm, lightning, high winds, etc., participants may pull into the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except when severe weather forces them to shore or upon permission of the AFC Staff or designee. If forecasted weather appears to be severe enough to warrant a cancellation of that day's event, AFC Staff will travel the lake and sound an airhorn. All participants will immediately stop fishing and return to load their boats. At that time, the tournament is officially over for that day.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Participants should also stay a minimum of 75 feet away from a marker buoy being used by a tournament boat. At no time is a team allowed to drop a marker buoy if they are not actively fishing within 75 feet of the buoy they dropped. If this is a protested topic, AFC Staff has the authority to penalize the violating team ranging from a verbal warning, reducing daily catch limit, or resulting in a disqualification for the day. No fishing information may be given to participants during tournament fishing hours by anyone in any capacity. Cellular phones are allowed for safety purposes, documenting participant violations and for the use of the eTournament Fishing app. No cellular phone contact such as phone calls, texts or messages between participants or non-participants is allowed during tournament hours. No binoculars/monocular are allowed during tournament hours. No internet access, text messaging, paging, or walkie-talkies allowed during tournament hours. Participating boats should be respectful when fishing next to each other and stay approximately 75 feet away from each other.

PARTICIPANTS RESPONSIBILITIES

It is the responsibility of all participants to read and understand all the rules for this event. It is also the responsibility of the participants to have an operating cell phone that has enough power and storage to meet the minimum operating requirements of the eTournament Fishing app. **IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS WATCH THE eTournament Fishing app TUTORIALS PRIOR TO DAY ONE OF THE TOURNAMENT.**

PRE-TOURNAMENT OFF THE WATER RULE

All participants fishing in the AFC tournament must be off the water with boats trailered by 6:00 pm on the Friday prior to the tournament. Participants must plan to be off the water on time. In case of an emergency or unforeseen situation that would prevent a team from being able to comply with this rule, a member from the AFC Staff must be contacted for guidance at 970-227-0401 or 303-514-1078 prior to 6:00 pm. Violations of this rule will result in that team only being able to weigh four fish per day for the tournament.

TOURNAMENT FISHING HOURS

The tournament hours will be listed for each event in the app. The official time will be considered GPS / cellular device time, no other measurements of time will be considered. The app will not allow fish submissions prior to the start time or after the end time each day. NOTE: There will be no fishing, on the days of the tournament, outside the scheduled tournament times. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification for the tournament.

MANDATORY ANS INPSECTIONS

Any watercraft that will be used for the AFC tournament is required to undergo a mandatory ANS inspection and abide the regulations set forth for the body of water the AFC is fishing. It is the sole responsibility of the participants registered to follow the ANS procedures and be ready for the tournament at the official start time. If the participating team does not have their boat inspected prior to the event or fails the inspection, that team will forfeit their order of boat launch and will go to the end of the line and can only launch after successfully passing the required ANS inspection. IT IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL TOURNAMENT BOATS BE TAGGED BY ANS PRIOR TO ARRIVING ON DAY ONE.

MANDATORY RULES MEETING

A mandatory rules meeting will be held at 5:30 am on the first day of the event. The location of the rules meeting will be announced after the conclusion of the registration period. At least one member of the team must be present to check in and receive their tournament bag that will include an official AFC measuring board and laminated boat number.

PRE-LAUNCH CWT BOAT INSPECTION

Each morning prior to launching, a mandatory boat inspection will be held starting at 6:00am. This typically takes place while participants are in line waiting to launch their boats. NOTE: Please have all livewells open and ready to be inspected to complete the inspections quickly.

BOAT LAUNCHING PROCESS

After the rules meeting, participants will begin to line up to launch. Any boat not checked in, inspected, and tagged by 6:30 am will be required to wait until all boats have launched and will lose their boat launching position for that day and will go out after all boats have left the starting area.

TRICKLE START PROCESS

The official start time will be listed for each tournament in the app, however, there may be circumstances when all boats are launched quickly, and the field is ready to start the tournament early. If the launching of boats is slower than anticipated, the start time could be delayed. Once all boats have launched, an air horn will sound. The air horn will indicate boats will need to start lining up according to their boat number (example 1-50). On day two the order will be reversed (example 50-1). The start boat will then be launched and will head out to the starting location on the lake. Tournament boats are to follow the start boat in the appropriate starting order in a single line. NOTE: Stay close to the boat in front of you, do not leave large gaps between boats. The start boat will move towards the middle of the lake far away from shore with the tournament boats following. When safe, the start boat will turn 180 degrees and drive back towards the field, parallel to the tournament boats. The start boat will signal each boat to take off as they pass each tournament boat.

BOAT CHECK-IN

The check in location and times will be communicated prior to the tournament. The check in location / boat will be at the designated location 30 minutes prior to the end of the first listed finish time for that day. Each team must be within clear visual sight and acknowledged by AFC staff to officially be checked in for the day 30 minutes after the completion of that day through the eTournament Fishing app. Using their laminated team number card provided in their angler's participation packet to signal the check in person. If a team wants to check in earlier than 30 minutes prior to the end of the days fishing, they will need to call the AFC tournament director or designee and arrange a place to meet by the loading ramps to be officially checked in. Failure to check in or check in on time will result in you being disqualified for the day. Check in is mandatory and is for your safety so AFC Staff can ensure everyone has returned safely for the day.

ON THE WATER CWT INSPECTIONS

AFC Tournament Staff boats may come alongside and board a boat to conduct livewell inspections at any time during the event.

LENGTH TO WEIGHT CONVERSION

The eTournament Fishing app will automatically convert the length of each of your fish to weight in quarter inch increments. When submitting fish, the team will select the length of each fish and that length will be converted to weight. Weight will be used for calculating all results.

DAILY VIRTUAL LIVEWELL LIMIT

Teams are allowed to submit up to a maximum of 8 fish each day. Once a fish has been submitted, that spot has been taken, and is part of your daily virtual livewell limit. The app will only allow up to 8 fish submission each day.

DAILY BASKET

The team's longest 5 fish in their virtual livewell will be considered their daily basket. The app will automatically use the longest 5 fish out of the 8 fish submissions each day for calculating that day's total weight. Final tournament standings will be determined by adding the team's day one total weight and the day two total weight together.

CHECK-IN TO THE EVENT

Participants MUST CHECK-IN to the event prior to the start while you have a good cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. This allows the app to function in on-line mode when good cellular service is available or in the off-line mode when you are in areas with poor or no cellular service. When you have a good cellular data or Wi-Fi connection, open the eTournament Fishing app and go to the event that you registered for and tap the "Check-In" box. Watch eTournament Fishing's PARTICIPANT TUTORIAL VIDEOS for more information.

SUBMITTING FISH

IT IS HIGHLY RECOMENED to watch eTournament Fishing's PARTICIPANT TUTORIAL VIDEOS and become familiar with the Submitting Fish Process in the app. In addition, we also recommend entering the FREE practice tournament in the app to practice the fish submission process prior to any event.

CPVR REQUIRED FISH SUBMISSION ELEMENTS

For the CPVR Format, a measurement photo and release video are required to submit each fish into your Virtual Livewell.

MEASUREMENT PHOTO

Immediately after catching a fish that you wish to submit; the participant must take the measurement photo.

- The measurement photo must be taken from the "straight down perspective" with no angle. Avoid shadows.
- The measurement photo must show the entire fish and be clear and in focus. It is solely the participants responsibility to provide a clear measurement photo so the Tournament Director can accurately confirm the submission.
- The measurement photo MUST SHOW THE MOUTH OF THE FISH (open or closed), TOUCHING the "bump end" of the measuring board. If the measurement photo does not clearly show the mouth touching, a ½ (one half) inch will be deducted from the participants submitted length of the fish.
- The measurement photo MUST CLEARLY SHOW the tail of the fish, (pinched or not) on the measuring board so an accurate length measurement can be taken. If the fish's tail touches or crosses a graduation line, the team is allowed to round up to the next closest ¼ (quarter) inch.
- The minimum length required for submission is 14". If a participant catches a walleye and the tail touches the 13.3/4" graduation line, the participant is allowed the ¼" round up, so they would select 14" and are allowed to submit that fish. If the fish is smaller, and the tail does not touch the

13.3/4" graduation line, that fish does not meet the minimum length requirement and may not be submitted.

RELEASE VIDEO

After taking the measurement photo, the participant will take the release video.

- The release video **MUST SHOW** the fish being lifted off the measuring board and released completely back into the water.
- **VERY IMPORTANT - MAKE SURE YOUR TIMER ON YOUR VIDEO RECORDER IS COUNTING** after you tap the record button to ensure the video is being captured.
- If the release video does not show the fish being released back into the water, the submission will be rejected, and it will still count towards your virtual livewell daily limit.

TAP THE SUBMIT BUTTON

After the participant has taken the measurement photo and release video, **TAP THE GREEN SUBMIT BUTTON** and then **TAP OK**. This will start the process of uploading your fish submission to the tournament director.

FISH SUBMISSION STATUS

You can monitor the status of your fish submission. When it is in the "Being Uploaded" status, it is currently being uploaded to the tournament director, this typically takes 1-2 minutes. However, cellular service can affect how long this process takes. When it switches to "Pending Review", the upload has been completed and the tournament director has your fish submission.

AT THE END OF THE DAY

At the end of the day or after your final fish submission, make sure that all your fish submissions are in the "PENDING REVIEW" status. IF ANY fish submissions are still in the "Being Uploaded" status, log off of the app and back in. This will re-start uploading process. Once all your fish submissions are in the "PENDING REVIEW" status, they have been uploaded to the tournament director for review.

ATTENTION ALL PARTICIPANTS

It is the responsibility of the participant to ensure all required fish submission elements conform to the guidelines set forth. Visit our website: www.eTournamentFishing.com to view participant tutorials to help you become familiar with the functionality of the app and the fish submission process.

APP USE IN AREA WITH POOR OR NO CELLULAR SERVICE

The eTournament Fishing app will record your catch with or without a cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. However, you **MUST CHECK-IN** prior to the start of the event while you have a cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. Open the eTournament Fishing app and go to the event that you registered for and tap the "Check-In" box. Go to our website www.eTournamentFishing.com and view the User Tutorials for more information.

PROTESTS OR ALLEGATIONS OF MISCONDUCT

Protests or allegations of misconduct by another tournament participant must be directed to the AFC Staff within 45 minutes of the boat check in time for the day. A protest must be in writing and explicitly state the alleged violation, identify the other angler, and state what time the alleged violation occurred. The written protest also needs to be accompanied with a cash protest fee of \$100 dollars that will be refunded if the stated allegations are found to be valid. The investigation into the allegation will be composed of staff from AFC. AFC Staff will investigate and will make a ruling which will be final and will NOT be eligible for appeal. If the allegation is unfounded or inconclusive the \$100 dollar protest fee will be forfeited and added to the event payout. The AFC Staff may request phone records during any investigation of an alleged violation. All contestants agree to provide such records if requested to verify phone usage during tournament hours.

LIVE LEADERBOARD

There will be a leaderboard published at the end of day one. The leader board will not have boat numbers, or names. The leaderboard will have the individual weights for each team, but those weights will only be associated with the confidential PIN issued to each team prior to the tournament.

TEAM OF THE YEAR AND NTC INVITATIONS

The AFC is granted four (4) Bass Pro/Cabela's National Team Championship (NTC) invitations to be awarded to the top four teams who have fished three or more of the AFC points tournaments. All four AFC points tournaments will count towards team of the year and NTC spots but only a team's best three finishes will be used to calculate team standings.

- Points will be awarded to teams based on their final placing in each point tournament as follows: 1st place = 100 points, 2nd place = 99 points, 3rd place 98 points and so on.
- Team of the year will be awarded to the team consisting of the same two anglers and finishing with the highest combined points total from their top three events.
- NTC invitations will be offered to the team of the year and the top three (3) CAPTAINS in the final points standings. The person listed as "angler 1" on the entry form is the Captain of the boat and all points follow the Captain (angler #1). For example: If angler #1 fishes all four points tournaments with four different partners (angler #2) and finishes as one of the top four points holders, that Captain will be eligible for one of the NTC spots. That person is not eligible for team of the year considerations.
- Angler #2 has no claim to the points earned during the points tournaments.
- NTC invitations will be offered to the team of the year and the remaining top three Captains. If one of those four spots cannot be filled, the spot will then be offered to the 5th best Captain and down from there until the spot can be filled. Up to the 10th place captain will be contacted and offered the open NTC invitation. If NTC invitations are not filled by a captain up to the 10th place finishing captain, the NTC funds will be used at the discretion of AFC.
- The four teams occupying NTC spots will be given additional money and/or prizes to help with travel expenses. The amount of additional money given to both team of the year and NTC Captains will vary based on the number of participants entered in the four AFC points tournaments.
- Team of the year will be awarded additional money and/or prizes.
- Additional money will not be awarded to any Captain until they have officially entered the NTC.
- The money will be paid to the officially registered captain two weeks prior to the NTC event.
- If at any time a Captain receives money and does not attend the NTC for ANY reason, that Captain will be responsible for reimbursing the AFC within 30 calendar days of the AFC being made aware that Captain will not be attending the NTC. If the Captain fails to return the monies within the 30 days a late fee of \$100 per month will be added until those monies are returned to the AFC. In the event the Captain fails to return the monies, they will be barred from participating in the AFC events until the monies and late fees are paid in full. If legal action is necessary to recover the AFC funds, the Captain is responsible for all legal costs and legal fees incurred during that process.

SIDE POTS

AFC will organize 2 side pot categories. No monies provided by entry fees will be diverted to side pot payouts. Side pots will be entered after the rules meeting or during boat inspections on the morning of the first day. The side pot entry will be in the form of cash by each team wishing to participate. AFC will organize and administer the side pots for each event with a 100% pay out.

BIG FISH SIDE POT

At the end of each day there will be a big fish payout that will be awarded to the team with the biggest fish measured/weighed. In the event of a tie, the tie will be broken by the next biggest fish recorded on the teams score card. If the second fish on each team score card result in a tie, then the third fish and so on will be checked until the tie is broken. In the event both teams result in a 5 fish tie then the winning team will be decided by a coin toss.

OPTIONAL CALCUTTA SIDE POT

Each team entering the Calcutta will pay \$20 to enter and those teams will be randomly split into smaller groups. The team in each group with the biggest weight on day one will win that groups Calcutta and will be paid on the morning of day two.

SPONSOR MONIES/PRODUCT DONATIONS

Individual sponsors will be given the opportunity to add funds/product donations to each side pot. Teams must enter the side pots to be eligible to win. All teams are automatically entered into the big fish side pot. Sponsor monies/product contributions to each side pot will be announced prior to each event.

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