

## RULES 2010

### GENERAL:

- 1. TEAMS:** You may enter alone or with a partner of your choice. No more than two (2) persons will be allowed in a participating boat during TOURNAMENT hours.
- 2. SEMINAR:** One TEAM member must be present at Seminar and remain until the seminar is dismissed unless approved by TOURNAMENT director for emergency reasons.
- 3. WEATHER:** In the case of extreme weather/water conditions or National emergencies, Crappie Masters shall have the right to postpone or cancel any TOURNAMENTS with the return of entry fees by mail.
- 4. FISHING HOURS:** Fishing Hours are posted on the TOURNAMENT Information Page.
- 5. ENTRY FEES/REFUNDS:** TOURNAMENT entry can be done by mail, phone, internet or at registration/seminar except the Ultimate Championship. Late fees do apply if received after 14 days prior to TOURNAMENT date except the Ultimate Challenge. Late fees are 25.00 for one day qualifiers and 50.00 for two day events. Crappie Masters will not refund or forward entry fees for lake conditions, fishing condition or bite. TEAM must request forward-refund for personal, family or work emergencies in writing or electronic mail stating the reason for the request. A 20.00 admin fee for refunds and forwarding entries will be charged.
- 6. STATE LAW:** TEAMS must comply with all STATE FISHING AND BOATING REGULATIONS through out the entire year, including the use of P.F.D.'s and kill switches. Fishing and boating regulations and licenses are the responsibility of TEAM members.  
State fishing law and boating regulations supersede TOURNAMENT rules. Violation of laws are grounds for disqualification.
- 7. MINORS:** Any minor (under 18) who participates must make arrangements to have a parent of guardian present at the weigh-in to sign a release form or have the release on the entry form signed prior to the TOURNAMENT to allow a poly-graph examination if required by the TOURNAMENT director.
- 8. BIG FISH:** Big fish entries are optional at \$10.00 per TEAM. Only one Big Fish entry per TEAM. Only one (1) big fish will be weighed in and contestants will have that fish marked and designated as his/her big fish at weigh-in. It is the anglers responsibility to know if they are signed up for big fish.
- 9. MEMBERSHIP:** Crappie Masters membership is required to fish all Crappie Masters events. Failure to have a an active/paid membership is grounds for disqualification. Crappie Masters reserves the right to refuse and/or revoke memberships without cause, reason and/or explanation and without recourse at our own discretion. Membership does not guarantee the ability to enter a tournament. Crappie Masters may deny tournament entry to a member without cause, reason, explanation or recourse.
- 10. PRIZES:** Prizes will be given after the TOURNAMENT. Angler/s must be present to receive prize. Both TEAM members in the Adult/youth and Male/Female group must have fished the TOURNAMENT to qualify for the adult/youth and male/female prize. A TEAM member fishing alone can qualify both for the championship and for points and for placement in the overall TOURNAMENT.
- 11. OFF LIMITS:** TOURNAMENT waters are off limits at 4:00 pm the day prior to the start of the competition day unless otherwise stated on the TOURNAMENT information page. Anglers must stop fishing at 4:00 pm the day prior to the start of competition.
- 12. FISHABLE WATERS:** Fishing within 50 feet of a marina gas pump or within 50 feet of a competitor's boat, which is first anchored, is prohibited (Trolling motors must be in up position and anchor rope visible to be considered anchored). A safe and courteous distance should be maintained when trolling motors are in use. Fishable waters are areas that TOURNAMENT officials can access the fishing TEAM via a John boat with a gasoline propelled tiller handle with lower unit. Boats may fish anywhere except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state or federal officials or as posted on the TOURNAMENT information page or announced at the seminar. Any violation of off-limits water will result in disqualification.
- 13. ALCOHOL:** Alcohol beverages are not allowed during the seminar or TOURNAMENT. Use of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs during TOURNAMENT hours is prohibited.
- 14. COMPENSATION:** No one can be hired or compensated in any way to fish with you or mark fishing spots for you prior to any TOURNAMENT at any time.

### FISHING

- 15. BOATS:** You must fish from a boat. Rubber Rafts, Canoes and Go-Devils are not allowed. Two-person TEAMS (one boat per TEAM) must stay within 25 feet of each other while fishing.
- 16. POLES:** Eight (8) pole limit per TEAM applies except where a state limit is set at a lesser number. TEAMS may

use rod and reel combos, hand-held pole and reel combos or hand-held poles.

**17. BAITS:** A maximum of two baits per pole may be used during TOURNAMENT hours if in accordance with local state laws. Live and artificial bait may be used excluding Ultimate Challenge TOURNAMENTS.

**18. MOTORS:** All TOURNAMENT boats are required to have a minimum 6 HP or greater motor.

**19. OTHER EQUIPMENT:** Binoculars and other magnifying devices are not allowed during pre-fishing or TOURNAMENT at any time. Under water camera's during competition are not allowed. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie talkies, CB'S, etc. to communicate fishing information during TOURNAMENT hours is prohibited.

**20. SPOTTING:** During TOURNAMENT hours no one may spot fish for you or mark fishing spots for you.

**21. LANDING FISH:** Crappie must be hooked and landed with a rod or pole by TEAM member(s). Crappie must be hooked through the lip or in the mouth. Landing net may be used.

**22. HOLE SITTING:** No hole sitting by competitor or non-competitor boat during the TOURNAMENT will be allowed.

## **WEIGH IN**

**23. VOUCHER:** A weigh-in voucher will be issued to each registered TEAM at the registration/seminar signup. That voucher must be presented back to the TOURNAMENT director at the weigh-in.

**24. SCALES:** Scales will be setup at 12:30 pm on the day of the TOURNAMENT.

**25. EARLY WEIGH IN:** TEAMS are allowed only two weigh ins per TOURNAMENT day. TEAMS may weigh in stressed fished early, then TEAMS must weigh their remaining limit on their second weigh in for final weigh in for the day. TOURNAMENT director reserves the right to adjust the scale setup time, such a change will be announced at the seminar.

**26. FISH:** A TEAM cannot weigh-in more than 7 crappie and those crappie must be alive when entering the Official Weigh-In line. Any TEAM presenting more than 7 crappie will be disqualified. Once you have entered the weigh-in line, your fish will be counted (7 crappie) and be verified dead or alive. Dead fish will be removed and you may then continue to the scales for your official weigh-in. Once your fish have been verified alive, and entered on the weigh-in voucher, you will then be allowed to weigh-in those fish, even if one or more die before reaching the scales. The TOURNAMENT director has sole responsibility for the declaration of dead or alive crappie. No mutilated fish may be weighed. Mutilation is defined as any damage that impairs the fish's fighting ability. All decisions regarding mutilation will be made by Crappie Masters TOURNAMENT officials. Crappie Masters has the right to keep weighed in fish for further evaluation at our own discretion without explanation or cause.

**27. WEIGH IN SITE:** Crappie must be weighed at the Official Crappie Masters TOURNAMENT Weigh-In site.

**28. TOURNAMENT HOURS:** All crappie brought to the scales for weigh-in must have been caught during the TOURNAMENT hours from TOURNAMENT waters by the TEAM bringing them to the scales. TOURNAMENT hours are posted on the lake information page and announced at the seminar.

**29. LENGTH:** All crappie brought to the scales for weigh-in must meet state length requirements for state in which they are being weighed and may not have any weight enhancements. Any TEAM bringing in illegal crappie to the weigh-in line will be disqualified.

**30. FINAL WEIGHT:** Combined weight of the days of competition will determine winner on all two day TOURNAMENTS.

**31. TIES:** In the case of a tie for first place, big fish of each TEAM will determine winner. Second place and on down ties will split the combined purse of that prize level.

**32. AWARDS:** Both TEAM members must be present at the Official Weigh-In to be eligible for prizes.

## **ULTIMATE CHALLENGE TOURNAMENTS ONLY**

**33. LATE FEE:** Late fee of 50.0 will apply if entry is post marked after 30 days prior to the TOURNAMENT. March 15, 2010 is the last day to sign up for the Ultimate Challenge. You may not sign up for the Ultimate Challenge at the seminar.

**34. ARTIFICIAL LURES:** Only artificial lures may be used. Scents and biodegradable baits are allowed. Freeze dried baits are not allowed.

**35. ONE POLE:** Only one pole per man, 1 to 2 persons per boat. You may have more than one pole in the boat.

**36. LURES:** A maximum of two lures per pole may be used.

**37. TROLLING:** as a method of fishing is prohibited in the Ultimate Challenge Only.

**38. FINAL WEIGHT:** Combined weight of the days of competition will determine winner on all two day TOURNAMENTS.

## CHAMPIONSHIP

**39. QUALIFYING:** A TEAM can qualify for the National Championship by placing in the top 15 spots at a major one day national qualifier, state championship or Ultimate Challenge TOURNAMENT or by winning the classic ticket drawing at the seminar.

**40. PRE FISHING:** 30 Days prior to the National Championship, TEAMS may fish with anyone except professional paid guides. Professional guides from any state can only fish with team member or/and family member and from only one boat per TEAM. 30 days prior to championship ALL TEAMS may only pre fish lake with only one boat per TEAM.

**41. BUMP DOWN:** Bump downs will be done during awards to anglers/TEAMS **that are present at the weigh in.** There is no bump down from individual tournaments after the weigh in. The bump downs will occur from the points race placement. Teams must have their Championship entry fee paid within 30 days of qualifying.

**42. TEAM CHANGE:** If a qualified TEAM member has sickness, loss of death or other reasonable personal tragedy, he may fish the classic with someone that has qualified for the classic at the same event he qualified for. This must be approved by TOURNAMENT director.

## SPORTSMANSHIP

TEAM members/Crappie Masters members are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, honesty, courtesy, safety, conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to Crappie Masters, Crappie Masters sponsors, the sport of fishing and Crappie Masters efforts to promote the sport. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: • Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the official rules. • Consumption of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or during TOURNAMENT hours. • Conviction of a felony. • Suspension/disqualification from any TOURNAMENT or fishing organization for cheating, refusing or failing a polygraph. • Any other words, conduct or actions (including and not limited to discussion forums and internet sites) reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with the TOURNAMENT rules, or which fail to comply with these standards set forth in the first sentence of this paragraph.

**43. CONDUCT:** In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, Crappie Masters shall have the right to refuse any entry application, or to deny a paid entry application or to revoke a membership, by returning the entry fee/membership fee of a previously accepted application, or to disqualify a TEAM.

**44. UNSPORTSMANLIKE CONDUCT:** Unsportsmanlike conduct can be grounds for disqualification if circumstances require. Unsportsmanlike conduct can be grounds for membership revocation.

**45. PROTEST:** Protest must be made in writing to the TOURNAMENT director within 30 minutes following the end of the Official Weigh-In. Protests must cite the rule allegedly broken. Protests must be given to the TOURNAMENT director. Protest must be deemed a legitimate protest by Tournament Director. Both parties may be subjected to a polygraph. All parties involved and all grievances, protest and complaints shall be handled in house with confidentiality. The tournament director/s decision is final in all matters.

**46. COMPLAINTS:** Complaints about TEAMS/anglers outside of protest times should be made directly to Crappie Masters, Inc. Board of Directors. Complaints must be in written format. Crappie Masters decisions in handling complaints is final in all matters.

**47. SPOTTERS/OBSERVERS:** Crappie Masters shall have the right to place a spotter boat/s and/or an observer in the boat with any competitive TEAM at any time during the competition from the start of competition to the finish. Any refusal will be grounds for disqualification.

**48. BOAT/LIVEWELL/STORAGE:** Crappie Masters TOURNAMENT officials shall have the right to at random, board and inspect a boat or boats for fishing license, fish bags, storage lockers, live wells at anytime from registration time until the end of the TOURNAMENT of any competing member. Crappie Masters and TOURNAMENT officials reserve the right to board any boat entered into the TOURNAMENT at any time from registration to the end of the TOURNAMENT. Refusal to allow inspection is grounds for disqualification.

**49. POLYGRAPH:** By your participation in this TOURNAMENT, you agree to comply with the rules, and agree to submit to and pass a POLYGRAPH TEST or similar truth test in order to qualify for the receipt of any prize. Crappie Masters shall have the right to polygraph any competing TEAM at Crappie Masters discretion. Any TEAM having a member who has failed or refused to take a polygraph test or was a TEAM that was disqualified or denied a prize because either member of that TEAM failed or refused to take a polygraph or who has ever been denied a prize because he or she misrepresented compliance with a TOURNAMENT rule or because of unsportsmanlike conduct will be

disqualified. A contestant who failed to pass a polygraph or whose condition does not permit the administration of a test because of contestant's use of alcohol or drugs will be disqualified. The use of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs during TOURNAMENT hours is prohibited.

**50. INTERPRETATION** of these rules will be left exclusively to the TOURNAMENT officials. Decisions of the TOURNAMENT director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.