



# 2020 American Crappie Trail ProAm Rules

- 1. MEMBERSHIP:** ACT membership is required to fish all ACT events. Failure to have an active/paid membership is grounds for disqualification. ACT Individual Membership fee is: \$40.00 and Family Membership is: \$75.00. A family membership is for two (2) Contestants that share a family name or residence. ACT 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. ACT may deny tournament entry to a member without cause, reason, explanation or recourse.
- 2. PAIRINGS:** Computer software randomly makes Pro & Co Pairings. Notification of your Day 1 partner will be made at the Tournament Briefing which **MUST BE ATTENDED** by all registered Anglers. It is the responsibility of both the Pro and Co angler to mutually agree upon a location with sufficient time to get through live-well checks and be staged for the National Anthem prior to blast off. These times will be announced at the Briefing. Tournament Officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his/her discretion, may reassign partners prior to morning take-off.
- 3. MINORS:** Minors may only sign up as a Co-Angler. Any minor (under 18 as of Jan 1, 2020, but no younger than 14) who participates, must make arrangements to have a parent or guardian present at the seminar to sign a release form or have the release form signed prior to the tournament, to allow a polygraph examination if required by the tournament director.
- 4. ELIGIBILITY: PRO-**Anyone that is 18 years as of January 1, 2020 that has a boat and appropriate equipment. **CO-**Anyone that has won less than \$2,500 in prize money with ACT and/or is under the age of 18 but older but at least 14. If you sign up as a Pro you will fish as a Pro all season. You cannot jump from Pro to Co or vice-versa.
- 5. WAIVER AND RELEASE:** As a condition of participation in each tournament, each contestant must execute a waiver and release of liability and a name and likeness release. Minors must have a parent or guardian sign the release prior to the event starting.
- 6. INSURANCE:** Liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000 per occurrence is required of all Pros covering the boat being used for the tournament and practice. Proof of insurance must be in the boat being used and cover all passengers in the boat.
- 7. PRIZES/AWARDS:** Prizes will be handed out at the conclusion of the day 2 weigh in. Anglers must be present at the official weigh-in to be eligible for prizes.

- 8. ENTRY FEE:** Pro- \$700 & CO- \$350
- 9. DEPOSIT:** Pro: \$350 & CO \$175. ACT will take deposits to secure your spot according to the priority list below.
- 10. PRIORITY LIST FOR REGISTRATION:**
- 1- PRO & CO Sign up for **ALL THREE EVENTS** together. (Each angler can pay their own deposit/entry fees but they **MUST** be paid on the same day. If not, then you will be bumped down to #2 on priority list)
  - 2- Sign up for **ALL THREE EVENTS** individually as either Pro or CO.
  - 3- Pro & CO sign up together for less than 3 events.
  - 4- Individually sign up for one event on either Pro or CO side.
- 11. REGISTRATION-** Registration will open at 8:00 AM (CST) on December 1, 2019 for the 2020 ProAm Season. You can sign up by calling 317-646-4532.
- 12. BALANCE DEADLINE:** If you signed up by paying a deposit, the remainder of the entry fee is due by 5:00PM (CST) on or before the Monday prior to the lake going off limits to avoid a late fee. **EXAMPLE: Balances are due by 5:00PM on Monday, January 27<sup>th</sup> for AL River, Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup> for Grenada, and Monday, August 10<sup>th</sup> for D'Arbonne.**
- 13. LATE FEE:** A \$50 late fee will be added to your balance or entry fee if it is not paid by the balance deadline (above).
- 14. FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE:** The deadline to have entry paid in full w/ late fee is going to be the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday during the off-limits period by 5:00PM (CST). AL River- Feb. 17<sup>th</sup>, Grenada- April 6<sup>th</sup>, D'Arbonne- Aug 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 15. ENTRY CONFIRMATION:** Confirmations will be sent out as soon as we have a full field either email or phone.
- 16. COMMITMENT:** Once you have committed to fishing the tournament it is MANDTORY that you fish both days. Failure to do so would result in no points towards AOY, not being allowed to fish future ProAM events, and forfeiture of any money paid towards future events. This rule applies to both Pro and CO anglers.
- 17. OFF LIMITS:** TOURNAMENT WATERS WILL BE OFF LIMITS THE **30 DAYS** PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF OFFICIAL PRACTICE. **EXAMPLE:** Tournament is February 29-March 1. Official practice is February 27-28. OFF LIMIT PERIOD ON TOURNAMENT WATER IS JANUARY 28-FEBRUARY 26.
- 18. OFFICIAL PRACTICE:** All ACT Pro/AM events will have two (2) days of official practice. Thursday & Friday will be the designated official practice period for all Pro/AM events. On Official Practice Days Contestants boat may not be launched until 30 minutes prior to posted sunrise. If you are in a slip your boat must stay in the slip until 30 minutes prior to posted sunrise. **On Thursday & Friday you must be off the water or in slip by 5:00PM.** During OFFICIAL PRACTICE days registered and confirmed anglers for the tournament are allowed to fish together (Pro with a CO, Co and Co, etc.). Anglers are also allowed to take out sponsors out on Practice Days if ACT Staff or Tournament Director has been notified.

**19. 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 (50 feet) should be maintained when trolling motors are in use. Fishable waters are areas that tournament officials can access the fishing team via a 16-foot boat with a gasoline propelled 90 HP with a 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. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

**20. BOATS/MOTORS:** For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length, propeller driven and equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. All boats must have a 90 HP or larger.

**21. COMPENSATION:** No one can be hired or compensated in any way to fish with you or mark fishing spots for you 60 days prior to any tournament.

**22. INFORMATION SHARING/GATHERING:** ACT tournaments will operate under a NO INFORMATION RULE. Once the 30 day off-limit period starts, contestants cannot purchase, barter, solicit, or receive information from any person who entered official tournament waters during the established off-limits period for all ACT events. Passing of GPS coordinates is not allowed. Talking with Game and Fish officials during off-limits or practice to obtain information is not allowed. Asking bait and tackle stores or guides is not allowed. Any information that is available to the public is fair game in "scouting" a tournament water. Using the internet and or social media is considered public information and is permitted. **Pro Anglers that are confirmed for the tournament are permitted to talk and share information with other confirmed Pros.**

**CO Anglers cannot share any information on fishing location in any manner at any time with other Anglers (Pro or CO) during practice or tournament.**

**23. POLES:** Limit of six (6) poles in total to be used between the pro and co angler during tournament 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. \*\*See Co Anglers permitted Tackle below for more info

**24. BAITS:** A maximum of two baits per pole may be used during tournament hours if in accordance with Local and State laws. Live and artificial bait may be used. STINGER HOOKS are PROHIBITED. TRAILER HOOKS are PROHIBITED. Crankbaits with treble hooks are allowed.

**25. OTHER EQUIPMENT:** Binoculars and other magnifying devices are not allowed during pre-fishing or tournament at any time. Under water cameras 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.

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

- 27. LANDING FISH:** Crappie must be hooked and landed with a rod or pole by either the Pro or Co Angler. Crappie must be hooked through the lip or in the mouth. Landing nets may be used. A fish hooked outside of the mouth must be returned to the lake immediately.
- 28. SCALES:** Scales will be set up and open two hours before the 1<sup>st</sup> flights Check-In time for all tournaments. This time will be announced at the meeting on Friday evening.
- 29. WEIGH IN:** Teams are allowed one (1) weigh in on tournament day.
- 30. FISH:** Pro/AM pairs may weigh in five (5), live crappie each day of the tournament. All five crappie must be kept alive in the weigh in line until your fish are checked by tournament official. Once you enter the weigh in line your fish will be counted and checked by a tournament official. **Dead fish will result in a .25 lb penalty per dead fish with a maximum of 2 dead fish allowed.** Teams presenting more than five fish will be disqualified. During fishing/tournament hours you can have the maximum amount of fish the state law allows. At conclusion of your fishing day when you reach land you may only have 5 fish in the boat.
- 31. TOURNAMENT HOURS:** All crappie brought to the scales for weigh-in must have been caught during the tournament hours that day from tournament waters by the Pro & Co angler bringing them to the scales. Tournament hours begin after you blasted off until the designated check in time. EX: 7:00 AM Blast off. Check-In time 3:00.
- 32. LENGTH:** All crappie brought to the scales for weigh-in must be 10" in length unless the State length requirements is greater. Any team bringing in illegal crappie to the weigh-in line will be disqualified. The official measuring device for length is a B'n'M Fish Checker.
- 33. FINAL WEIGHT:** This will be a shared weight tournament. The combined weight between Pro & Co Anglers pairs from Day 1 will be combined to the weight from the Pro & Co Weight for day 2 to give each angler his/her total for the event. The highest total weight from the 2 days of competition will determine winner for both divisions.
- 34. TIES:** In the case of a tie for first place, largest one day total. Second place and on down, all ties split the combined purse of that prize level.
- 35. SPOTTERS/OBSERVERS:** ACT shall have the right to place a spotter boat and or an observer in the boat with any team at any time during the tournament, from the check-out to the check-in. Any team refusing to comply will be an automatic disqualification.
- 36. VIOLATIONS:** Each contestant agrees to report any violation or infraction of any tournament rules immediately to the tournament director.
- 37. PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE:** All protests must be submitted in writing within (30) minutes of the final weigh-in to the tournament director or designated tournament official. The protestor also agrees that if there is a question with regards to verifying the protest, they may be subject to a polygraph exam and agree to testify in a court of law if necessary,

- 38. POLYGRAPH:** By signature on the ACT Waiver/Release-each contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph examination and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The ACT Tournament Director or rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a polygraph examination. The ACT Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the polygraph examination.
- 39. REGISTRATION/BRIEFING:** Each contestant must register in person with official ACT staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Any contestant who has not contacted the ACT Tournament Director 15 minutes after the closing of registration, shall receive a 1lb penalty for every minute late. It shall be each contestant's responsibility to check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times from the ACT tournament department.
- 40. SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants. During competition, each boat passenger must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Boaters are encouraged to carry two Coast Guard approved chest type life preservers per boat. Manufacturer's lanyard must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.
- 41. LIVE WELL CHECKS:** Livewells will be checked at launch. Coolers and Livewell lids must be open as you idle by blast off boat. Tournament staff will give you the ok to lock down lids then once you are beyond the idle zone you may put boat on plane. Failure to go have lids open and ready might send you to the end of your flight for blast off.
- 42. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning and check-in at the conclusion of your fishing day. This location will be designated by the Tournament Director at the meeting. Failure to check out or check in will result in disqualification.
- 43. BOAT LAUNCH:** There will be a blast-off start utilized on all Pro-Am events. There will be flights assigned to groups of anglers and you will be given check in times. The computer randomly assigns boat numbers for Pro anglers and that will be your boat number both days of the tournament. EX: Day 1- We will blast off from number 1 to 50. On Day 2 we will invert the field and blast off from boat number 50 down to 1.
- 44. BUOYS:** All teams must return the buoy they received at blast off to the designated tournament official at the official checkpoint. All buoys must be returned to a tournament official even if you are not going to weigh in any fish. We have to make sure all anglers are accounted for.
- 45. RULE OF TIME KEEPING:** The official time is kept by the Tournament Director at all times once open practice has begun. Time checks will be provided during tournament

briefings and announced again at blast-off. For the rule of time keeping until the official clock reads the following minute contestants are not considered late for that minute in question, i.e., 3:00:59 is not considered late. 3:01 is considered one minute late. It is the angler's responsibility to keep track of time and safely return to the checkpoint.

- 46. LATE PENALTY:** Contestants who are not checked in at the official checkpoint by the end of his/her tournament hours shall be penalized .50 lbs. per minute late. This penalty will be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch of that day. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch.
- 47. WEATHER:** Tournament Director reserves the right to change fishing hours and/or Tournament Days in the event of severe weather.
- 48. ADVISORY BOARD:** An Advisory Board will be established by ACT, which shall be comprised of a minimum of 8 anglers. ACT will look to this board for their input on various items regarding tournaments and the contestants. This Advisory Board may be asked to help resolve appeals/protests with regard to rules violations.
- 49. PAIRINGS:** Tournament program will randomly pair CO anglers with Pros. You will be fishing with a different partner on Day 2.
- 50. EXITING WATER DURING TOURNAMENT:** Trailering to a different location during tournament hours is prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, if you need to exit tournament waters during tournament hours you need to contact the Tournament Director.
- 51. RESTROOM BREAK:** In the event of a needed restroom break anglers are allowed to leave the boat. At that point all fishing must cease until both anglers are back together in the boat.
- 52. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** During the competition days, contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Contestants must leave from and return to official checkpoint by boat. Contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency.
- 53. REPORT EMERGENCY OR BREAKDOWN:** To report an emergency or breakdown contact the Tournament Director or Official by phone. At this point contestants must cease fishing and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the contestants to resume fishing, a RESTART may be allowed, and the contestants will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee. There are then two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Boats must be properly secured and stationary. Contestants must notify the tournament director as soon as possible. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided that the broke down Pro/CO's fish kept separate so as to provide clear distinction

of the two pairs catch to the tournament director

- 54. DISQUALIFICATION:** Pro & CO pairings are a “team” for the day. If there is a rule violation by either angler both will be disqualified and lose that day’s weight. However, they are expected to fish the following day of the tournament. It is the Pro & CO anglers’ responsibility to make sure both are abiding by all ACT rules along with state fish & game laws.
- 55. CULL TAGS:** All cull tags/markers must be removed prior to getting in the line to have fish checked by tournament official. Failure to do so could result in sending you to the back of the line.
- 56. CO-ANGLER BOAT OPERATION:** CO-ANGLERS ARE ALLOWED TO DRIVE BOATS ONLY IN CASES OF EMERGENCY OR WITH PERMISSION FROM TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS with exception of loading and unloading boats from trailers.
- 57. CO-ANGLER GPS:** Co-Anglers are not allowed to carry GPS systems. They may not use cell phones during competition unless in an emergency situation. Co-Anglers will articulate to the Pro and then call the Tournament Director in such emergency.
- 58. CO-ANGLER EQUIPMENT:** Co-Anglers are allowed to bring: (\*\*Mandatory Items)  
2- jig rods  
Small carry-on tackle box  
Life Jacket\*\*  
Fishing License\*\*  
NO TROLLING RODS ALLOWED- Pro will provide
- 59. ANGLER OF THE YEAR:** We will be awarding a Pro AOY and a CO AOY at the conclusion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> event. AOY will be determined by point system.