



## **ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP**

### **Code of Conduct**

Contestants participating in any ACT event shall abide by this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the event in which they are participating.

Contestants shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a professional that will not reflect unfavorably on ACT, its members, events or representatives. The favorable public reputation of ACT as an organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for ACT. It is an obligation of contestants to refrain from comments to the media that unreasonably attacks or disparages the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow contestants or the ACT organization. Responsible expressions of disagreement with ACT policies are acceptable; however, attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials are not tolerated. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of ACT, ACT officials or sponsors shall be considered unacceptable conduct and may result in disciplinary action. Contestants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler who violates any portion of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject sanctions up to disqualification

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Contestants in ACT tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any contestant during the open practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future ACT tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the open practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Any contestant(s) deemed under the influence by the tournament director may be disqualified. The use of any tobacco products or smoking prior/during takeoff, from check-in through weigh-in while cameras are present is prohibited. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contestant which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All contestants are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Contestants are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification suspension from or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in an ACT tournament and/or disqualification from

an ACT tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. A written statement may be accepted by the tournament director from any contestant in question.

## **MEDIA**

All official contestants of an event are required to cooperate with the media personnel that cover the event. Contestants do not have the option of not being filmed or interviewed during the official event days. Any act deemed by ACT officials to have the intention of preventing media coverage will result in disqualification from the event.

## **PUBLIC CONDUCT, SPORTSMANSHIP AND COMPETITIVE INTEGRITY**

Contestant agrees that the integrity and competitive honesty of fishing contests is paramount to any crappie fishing tournament circuit's continued existence and success. Contestants compete in ACT contests at the sole discretion of ACT. The ACT reserves the right to refuse service to any potential contestant and enforce its tournament rules at its discretion. Contestants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of morality, honesty, fair play and sportsmanship. Contestants will not do anything which shall be detrimental to ACT, its sponsors or competitive fishing in general. Contestants agree to conduct themselves, at all times, with regard to public conventions and morals. Contestants agree not to engage in any conduct that will reasonably tend to degrade him/her or bring ACT into public hatred, contempt or ridicule or tend to offend the fishing community or integrity of competitive angling. Contestant agrees that this provision is necessary to protect ACT's goodwill in the community in which the contestant represents it and to protect the profitability and competitive integrity of ACT's business. ACT may ban any member from any contests for a serious or intentional violation of any law, rule, regulation, constitutional provision, bylaw, or any act of dishonesty, theft or misappropriation of ACT property, moral turpitude, insubordination, or any act injuring, abusing, or endangering others. ACT does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, or national origin.

## **PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE**

Contestants are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. ACT may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. which are, in ACT's sole judgment, in poor taste. ACT will provide as much advance notice as possible to the contestants in such instances. Contestants are also encouraged to wear ACT's logo on their tournament jerseys.