



2017 OFFICIAL RULES

Official Rules / Changes

Participation in the 2017 Texas Collegiate Challenge presented by Abu Garcia constitutes each contestant's understanding of and full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. Contestants must obey all State, Federal and local fishing and safety laws. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any contestant that is determined to be in violation of any term contained in these Official Rules. The Tournament Director's decision not to enforce a specific provision of the Official Rules does not constitute a waiver of that provision or of the Official Rules generally. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, entry may be refused to any individual or university fishing club/team. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight.

Captions

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

Texas Collegiate Challenge Format

The Texas Collegiate Challenge presented by Abu Garcia is a one-day, two-angler team format. A team consists of no more than two anglers fishing from the same boat. **No angler will be allowed to fish alone.** The full field will compete both days. Winners will be determined by the heaviest accumulated weight per team. The two highest finishing teams at the event per school will earn Cabela's School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia points for their respective schools.

Texas Collegiate Challenge Registration

Registration opens Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 at 10:00am and closes at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

****Students wishing to register in person at the event location will need to notify staff in advance.**

Registration & Pre-Tournament Meeting

Each contestant **must check-in** in person at the designated site during the official on-site registration by 6:00pm. All contestants must be present during the pre-tournament meeting unless authorized otherwise by the Tournament Director.

Participation / Eligibility

Participation is open to college students who are **enrolled full-time** in an accredited college or university and are members in good standing of that college or university's institutionally recognized fishing club. Participants must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher. Students who graduated within **5 months** of the tournament date are eligible to compete. **All participants will be required to show a current student ID and a state issued photo ID at registration.**

Each team must provide its own equipment including, without limitation, fishing equipment, and a boat, all subject to the restrictions contained in these Official Rules.

All contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the specified tournament waters being fished.

Off-Limits / Pre-Tournament Practice

Tournament Waters will be off-limits for four (4) days prior to the first official practice day; which will be Friday, April 28th, 2017, the week of the tournament. The tournament lake goes off-limits at 12:00 am Monday, April 24th, 2017. The last legal day for fishing will be Sunday, April 23rd, 2017, no later than 11:59 pm.

A valid Texas license is required for this event and it is honored in Texas waters. There is a specific Texoma license that will allow you to fish in both Texas and Oklahoma waters and is strongly recommended for this tournament.

Reciprocal License Information

Official practice days will be Friday, April 28th and Saturday, April 29th. Teams are encouraged to participate in the Texas Team Trail event happening on Lake Texoma on Saturday, April 29th. If teams are interested in fishing the Texas Team Trail, they **must** register over the phone no later than Thursday, April 27th, 2017, with Amanda at 210-281-1752.

Membership fees will be waived for the event, but a team entry fee of \$250 must be paid. If teams choose to fish the Texas Team Trail event, they must have entry fees paid in full by midnight, Thursday, April 27th. Teams are not allowed to register for the Texas Team Trail on Friday, meaning if you do not register for the Texas Team Trail event BY THURSDAY, you cannot compete in the Texas Team Trail event. You must be off the water by 3:00pm on Saturday, April 29th.

No contestant may be on the tournament waters after the start of the mandatory tournament registration, except during tournament hours or unless a team is participating in the Texas Team Trail event. No angler may be on the water for other events during this period.

Restrictions

During the official practice days and competition day, contestants may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone except other contestants. Non-competitors (family, coaches, etc.) are not allowed on-the-water during practice hours. Beginning with official practice and extending through competition, non-competitors are not allowed to be in the boat with contestants except in the event of an emergency (rescue, mechanical breakdown, etc.). GPS waypoints may not be provided to contestants by anyone except other contestants. Contestants may not follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

The purchasing or bartering for information or the hiring of services is not permitted after the start of the official practice period.

The use of cellular phones will be allowed during tournament hours and used for social media purposes only.

Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants must observe "no wake" areas including **posted** bridges and other areas identified by the Tournament Director. **Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard**

approved, personal flotation device at all times when the combustion engine is in operation, during official practice days and during the tournament days. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

Any anglers caught in violation of the rules above, will result in a penalty to be administered by the Tournament Director.

Sportsmanship

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their school, event sponsors, the sport of fishing and the Association of Collegiate Anglers. 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 for the Tournament.
- Consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in are strictly prohibited.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification from any fishing tournament or organization.

In other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in this paragraph.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the registration of a previously accepted application to disqualify a contestant.

Boat and Horsepower Regulations

All boats must be jet propelled, and be a minimum of 16 feet in length.

All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted.

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard requires safety equipment.

Boats must contain a properly aerated live-well capable of maintaining alive a limit of bass.

Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in the Tournament may not to exceed the horsepower set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below.

- Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on the boat placard. By registering for the Tournament, each contestant agrees to submit his or her boat and/or motor to an inspection by the Tournament Director.

Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or "Maximum Capacities" placard will be cause for disqualification from the Tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future events.

Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in Tournament competition.

Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

Permitted Fishing Methods

All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.

When sight fishing, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth.

Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rinds.

Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at a time.

Trolling, defined as moving the bait with the assistance of the combustion engine, as a method of fishing is not allowed.

Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestant's may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off-Limits", "No Fishing", "No Boats", "Boats Keep Out", etc. by local, state or federal officials. Contestants are prohibited from casting into these areas or having their boat in these areas at any time. Contestant's may not fish within 50 yards of a competitor's boat that was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or a Power Pole anchor with the trolling motor in the up position). At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat.

The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day.

No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official checkpoint:

By the team members remaining in their boat and being towed in by water, by any other boat.

By one or both team members boarding another competitor's boat to be brought to shore.

Under these conditions the team catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, fish care penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official checkpoint by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time in the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the Tournament Director or his designated Tournament Official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the Tournament Director to request a restart.

Official Checkpoints

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the official checkpoint in the afternoon will result in losing credit for that day's catch. All competitors and their boats must be in full compliance with tournament rules before they can depart from the official checkpoint in the morning. All contestants MUST check-in in the afternoon even if they don't have any fish to weigh. All fishing must cease upon check-in in the afternoon.

Late Penalty

Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. The use of livewell additives is encouraged to promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. A half pound (.50 pounds) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Contestants are not allowed to cull dead fish for any reason.

Scoring

Scoring will be determined by the weight of each team's catch, including any penalty assessments.

Only Largemouth, Spotted, Smallmouth, Red Eye and Shoal bass are accepted species.

The limit will be five (5) bass per team. Teams may not have more than five (5) bass in the live-well at any time unless actively culling. Culling must be done immediately.

The official minimum length limit for bass will be fourteen (14) inches for Largemouth, Spotted, and Red Eye, or Shoal Bass. Any fish which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length, will not be weighed and will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each short fish presented.

All bass brought to weigh-in site must be in a bag with water.

Cabela's School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia points will be based off each angler's catch in relation to the final standings. Anglers/teams must weigh a fish to earn points. (For example, the heaviest bag weighed in will earn the maximum amount of points available, the smallest bag weighed in will earn the least amount of points available, but it will still earn points.

Ties

In the event of a tie, the heaviest one-day catch will break ties on the final day. Ties for all other places will be determined by a coin flip.

Television Coverage

During all televised events, competitors may not fish while using tobacco products when the camera is filming them. Smoking or the use of tobacco products is also not allowed in weigh-in lines.

All contestants must allow camera boats to follow, at all times, upon request from the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series. Refusal will be grounds for disqualification.

Truth verification test

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the release form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification. Truth verification tests will be used at the Tournament Director's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the Tournament Director.

Insurance

Watercraft liability insurance will be the responsibility of each angler. It must have the minimum coverage that the state requires, and is mandatory of all contestants participating in the tournament.