

## **2 Chicks In A Boat Team Tournament Trail Rules and Regulations 2023**

### **I. Participants and Eligibility**

- A. Any female with a minimum age of 18 with current membership is eligible to participate in the 2 Chicks in a Boat Team Tournament Trail.
- B. Any female angler under 18 years of age is eligible to participate if they are partnered with their mother, grandmother, or aunt.

### **II. Membership Requirements, Registration and Entry Fees**

- A. To be eligible to participate in any 2 Chicks in a Boat event, each participant must fully and legibly complete a 2 Chicks In A Boat Team Tournament Trail Membership Form and pay the mandatory yearly membership fee.
- B. Membership fees = \$35.00 per person (\$25 for team alternates)**
- C. Registration will open on January 1, 2023.
- D. EACH PARTICIPANT IS REQUIRED TO READ AND SIGN THE 2 CHICKS IN A BOAT TEAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK FORM. A copy of these forms can be obtained by visiting the 2 Chicks In A Boat website at [www.2chicksinaboat.com](http://www.2chicksinaboat.com). 2 Chicks in a Boat TTT must have an original signed copy of this form before any participant is eligible to participate in any event. Forms will be available at all events.
- E. Tournament Entry Fees: **Entry fees are \$200 per event.** All entry fees include the Big Bass pot.
- F. Teams and Substitutes: Each team event will consist of a one or two-person team. **If you need a teammate for any of our events, we will try our best to connect you with someone looking for a partner.**
  - 1. Each team is allowed to use one additional person as an alternate to take the place of a team member during the tournament season.
  - 2. Teams may only use an alternate for up to two (2) events during the season and must be acknowledged to the director of the event at registration.
  - 3. Substitutes/Alternates must read and sign the 2 Chicks in a Boat Waiver of Liability and Assumption of Risk Form and pay a \$25 membership fee.
  - 4. Substitutes are not eligible to participate in events alone.
  - 5. If your team qualifies to fish the LBAA Classic, the team members that fished the first team event are the two qualified for the Classic.
- G. Teams/Anglers can register for a single event or all four tournaments.
- H. All participants that pay for the entire season before the first event will receive "Double Draw status" and the better of the two numbers drawn will be their starting position. Drawing for boat positions will be held during the tournament meeting.
- I. Registration for any single event must be received two weeks before the event. Teams registering on tournament day will have an additional \$25 late registration fee and be given a boat position number by the tournament director.
- J. Payments may be made in one of the following manners:
  - 1. Cashier's Check, Money Order, or Personal Check written out and mailed to **2 Chicks In A Boat, LLC**. 269 Belle Haven Pkwy. Westerville, Ohio 43082
  - 2. Credit Card/Debit Card Payment on 2 Chicks in a Boat Website. Online registration fees apply.
- K. The top finishing team for the year will be qualified to fish in the Lady Bass Classic, sponsored by the Lady Bass Anglers Association. A registration fee of \$600 is required to enter the Classic and is the responsibility of the qualifying team. The Classic is run in a boater/co-angler format; therefore, you will not be fishing as a team. Should the top team of our events forgo competing in the Classic, the 2nd place finishing team will be given the chance to compete in the LBAA Classic.

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### **III. Insurance**

- A. During official practice and competition days, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability covering the boat being used in the tournament.
- B. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitors using that boat. *(Specifically, the Declaration Page)*
- C. Tournament officials will conduct random insurance checks with the boat numbers identified at the tournament briefing.
- D. Failure to provide the appropriate insurance documentation prior to take-off will result in the angler being detained until appropriate insurance documentation is provided.

### **IV. Tournament Rules**

Interpretation of the following 2 Chicks in a Boat Team Tournament rules will be left exclusively to the tournament officials. The decision of the tournament officials will be final in all that matters, with infractions on any rule that can potentially result in disqualification.

#### **A. PRACTICE/PRE-FISHING:**

- 1. Competitors can practice/pre-fish on tournament waters anytime prior to the tournament meeting, which will be held at 5:00 pm the evening before the tournament. The only exception will be to test an engine due to repairs which the tournament director must approve in advance.
- 2. No licensed or paid guides may be used one week before the tournament.

#### **B. STATE GAME REGULATIONS - All competitors must abide by all state game regulations and be in possession of a valid fishing license during practice and through the day of the tournament.**

#### **C. SAFETY - Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times while engaged in 2 Chicks in a Boat sanctioned events and all boats must have a full complement of safety gear as required by USCG regulation.**

- 1. Any time the internal combustion motor is on, both participants must have a USCG-approved PFD on and securely fastened; the only exception is when idling.
- 2. Operators must have the kill switch armed with a lanyard firmly secured to the operator.
- 3. Tournament officials reserve the right to make any necessary adjustments to the rules due to safety considerations such as dangerous weather/water conditions. This adjustment includes the decision to shorten, postpone or cancel a tournament.

#### **D. BOATS AND MOTORS:**

- 1. All boats must be propeller-driven, at least 15 feet in length, and equipped with an aerated livewell or aerated container. No cumbersome craft allowed.
- 2. Motor size must not to exceed 250 HP and must match the US Coast Guard maximum horsepower rating.
- 3. Boats must be equipped with some operable ignition cut-off/kill switch and lanyard, which must be attached to the driver any time the combustion engine is running; the only exception is when idling.
- 4. Running lights must be operational and on at launch and be used during all times that visibility is reduced; official practice and competition included.

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### **E. TOURNAMENT HOURS:**

1. Tournament hours are safe light until 3 pm.
2. All events will be a minimum of 8 hours. The only exception is if the tournament director changes tournament hours if dangerous weather or other circumstances do not allow for a safe launch or being too hot in the summer.
3. The tournament director will make all decisions regarding start and end times due to weather conditions.

### **F. MORNING OF THE TOURNAMENT - A registration area will be set up at the tournament site starting approximately one hour before the tournament's scheduled launch time. **There is a \$25 late fee for registering on the day of the tournament.****

1. All participating teams must check in at the registration table before each event. Registration will close fifteen minutes before each event's scheduled start time.
2. All livewells will be checked by the tournament committee before the start of each tournament at the boat ramp or on the water by idling past the dock with livewells empty and lids open.
3. It is the responsibility of each participant to read and understand all Rules and Regulations governing the 2 Chicks In A Boat tournaments, and to understand all tournament briefing information before the start of each tournament.

### **G. OFF LIMITS AND ANGLING ETHICS:**

1. All tournament waters are off limits after 5 pm the day before the event.
2. Anglers are not to enter areas posted off-limits by the state or local agencies.
3. The weigh-in area and any area designated a "no fishing" area by the governing body of the lake or river or the Tournament Director.
4. No fishing within 50 feet of a marine gas pump.
5. No fishing within 50-yards of another competitor's boat REGARDLESS if it is anchored or tied, with its trolling motor stowed out of the water, without the other boat's permission. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a "Power-Pole" or similar device, with the trolling motor in the up or down position.
6. Anchored boats cannot block access to entering any area (creek, cove, etc.) and must allow access to the area for all competitors.
7. Participants may only leave their boats for brief restroom breaks or dangerous weather.
8. **The tournament director will also announce all other off-limit areas before the blast-off at the event.**

### **H. TAKE-OFF:**

1. Take-off position will be assigned by draw during the tournament meeting.
2. Teams registering the day of the tournament will be assigned take-off positions by the tournament director.
3. There will be no shotgun starts.
4. Participants must be in line and prepared to take off when their number is called or the next starting position will be called.

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### **I. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

1. All fish must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner using one rod, which may not exceed eight (8) feet in length (measured butt to tip).
2. Intentionally snagging fish is not permitted.
3. Only artificial lures may be used, live and/or prepared bait is not allowed, the only exception being "pork rinds" or its equivalent.
4. THE USE OF THE "ALABAMA RIG" OR SIMILAR DEVICE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED IN ALL OF OUR EVENTS.
5. Trolling with the aid of the internal combustion or electric trolling motor is not permitted.
6. Communication devices such as cell phones, marine radios or CB's may only be used for emergency purposes or contacting the Directors for rule clarification.
7. After checking in and near the weigh in location, a courtesy board will be provided which will be the same as the official board used for the event.

### **J. LIMIT:**

1. There is a five (5) fish limit per team. (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted Bass)
2. All bass must be of legal size.
2. Any participants bringing in more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified.
3. All culling must be done as soon as the sixth fish has been caught.
4. Only non-penetrating cull tags are to be used.
5. **Participants may only possess five (5) fish in their live well at any time.**
6. Once on the trailer, all bass that are in the boat must be brought to the scales. A courtesy board will be available at the weigh-in.
7. Fish that appear to be altered or mangled will only be weighed at the tournament director's discretion. 2 Chicks In A Boat strives to be a 100% catch and release circuit. Therefore, all live fish must be returned to the water from which they took them.

### **K. SHORT FISH PENALTIES:**

1. All fish must be of legal size for the body of water; local/state limit applies.
2. All participants are responsible for checking the length of their fish: mouth closed, tail fanned, or compressed before bringing them to the scales.
3. A courtesy board will be available at the weigh-in. Teams may check only two fish on their own at the courtesy board to keep the weigh-in process manageable
4. Once you give your fish to the tournament official at the weigh-in sink, it is up to their discretion to ensure that they measure to the correct size limit and make a decision.
5. Short fish will be culled from the participant's sack. A one-pound (16oz.) penalty will be assessed for the first short fish. Disqualification will result in 2 or more short fish

### **L. DEAD FISH PENALTIES:**

1. Any bass brought to the scales in which the gills are not working correctly on their own will be considered a dead fish. The directors will make this decision, and it will not be up for discussion.
2. A one-pound (16oz.) penalty will be assessed to a team's total weight for each dead fish brought to the scales by the violating team.
3. A dead fish cannot be considered for the Big Bass Award.

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### **M. LATE CHECK-INS:**

1. A one-pound (16oz) per minute penalty will be assessed to any team that is late to check-in at the end of a tournament.
2. Teams arriving more than five (5) minutes past the check-in time will automatically be disqualified.
3. Check-in time will be announced prior to the launch of each tournament.

### **N. SCORING:**

1. The first-place team will be awarded 150 points.
2. The second-place team will be awarded 149 points and so-forth down the line.
3. Those teams not weighing in a fish will score 20 points less than the last-place team.
4. If there is a total weight tie, the tie will be broken by the following:
  - A. First, by number of fish caught.
  - B. Second, by the weight of the team's biggest bass.
  - C. In cases of a big bass tie, the money will be split.
  - D. If big bass and total weight are the same for two or more teams, then both (all) tied teams shall split the money.

### **O. PROTESTS/DISQUALIFICATION:**

1. Directors must be notified, in writing, of all protests before the close of scales.
2. A "protest committee" consisting of three (3) fellow anglers, randomly drawn by the tournament director, will address all protests.
3. Any angler who witnesses a rule violation must try to capture a video to help support their case.
4. We ask that anglers try to resolve personal on-the-water conflicts pertaining to being cut off etc., on their own but understand that things cannot always be worked out. If they cannot be worked out, file a protest.
5. Teams disqualified from individual events will still receive show-up points UNLESS A CRIMINAL ACT HAS BEEN CITED.

### **P. FISH RELEASE:**

1. All fish caught and weighed in at a 2 Chicks in a Boat event must be released at the official weigh-in location. Failing to release your fish at the official release location will result in an automatic disqualification.

### **Q. CHEATING:**

1. Any participant caught cheating in any tournament event will be immediately barred from all future 2 Chicks in a Boat events.
2. 2 Chicks in a Boat Tournament Director reserves the right to have a random truth verification test (lie detector test) performed at any time.
3. Refusal to take the truth verification test or the failure of such examination is grounds for immediate disqualification.

### **R. UNFAVORABLE CONDUCT AND DRUG OR ALCOHOL USE:**

1. Any act of any participant which reflects unfavorably upon 2 Chicks in a Boat effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and general courtesy to other competing anglers shall be a reason for disqualification.

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2. Participants will refrain from the use of alcohol and or drugs during the tournament event.
3. Participants discovered to be using or under the influence of alcohol and/or recreational drugs during an event shall be immediately disqualified, AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY NOTIFIED.

V. RULES AND REGULATIONS:

1. **Participants should be familiar with these Rules and Regulations and all local and state laws before entering any 2 Chicks in a Boat event. These Rules and Regulations are subject to change (with proper notice to participants) at the tournament director's discretion. Any decision made by the tournament director will be final in all matters.**