

# **Rules & Regulations: OHIO CRAPPIE CLUB 2026**



**[www.ohiocrappieclub.com](http://www.ohiocrappieclub.com)**

**Summary:** See full rules for complete detail

**Must be a member to participate** - \$60 annual fee per boat.

**Registration-** \$75/Boat (regular event), \$100 entry with qualifying (Classic)

\*Registration fees include Big Crappie pot entry (Classic, \$100 covers both days entry and big crappie pot)

**Start times** – 7:30am (spring) 7:30am (fall)

**End times** – 3:30 pm (spring) 3:30pm (fall)

**Weigh-in** – Begin – 4:15pm

**Weigh-in cut off time to be in line** – 4:30pm

**Number of Fish** – 7 crappies (fish must be alive to be weighed)

**Payback** – 100%

85% each event to 25% of the field

15% to Classic pot – 100% to Classic payout

**Big Crappie Pot – Included in registration fee**

\$10 per team Registration goes to Big Fish pot. Pot will pay out 65%/35% to the two heaviest crappies.

**Off Species Pot** – Optional entry \$5 per team.

**Yearly Points race** – Determined by best 7 tournaments total points

**Classic** – Must fish seven (7) tournaments to qualify to fish. (Participation in Hoover youth event can count towards one event. Participation is volunteering and/or fishing with a youth.)

**Pre-fishing** - Each lake/reservoir, where there is an Ohio Crappie event, is off limits to all participants the evening before the tournament starting at 8:00pm until the morning of tournament. Anyone caught still in the water at 8:00pm will be disqualified from the next day's tournament.

## **REGISTRATION / START TIMES**

1. The member fee is due prior to fishing your first tournament. Membership is a one-time \$60 fee per boat captain that can be paid at the dock before your first tournament.
2. Registration for an Ohio Crappie Club Fishing Tournament is in person at the ramp the morning of the tournament. Cash only, no checks or credit cards. No online registration. Must be present to pay registration.
3. Every participant must be paid in full and sign a waiver before they will be granted permission to participate in Ohio Crappie Club tournaments.
4. Registration fees are \$75.00 per boat. Maximum of two adults per boat. The registration fee includes \$5 boat entry into the big fish pot.
5. Any child that is 17 or younger can be on a boat free of charge regardless of if there are 1 or 2 adults on the boat, however teams can only fish with 6 poles per team.
6. Check-in and weigh-in will be at a specific ramp for each tournament. Please visit the club website [www.ohiorappieclub.com](http://www.ohiorappieclub.com) to find out which ramp we will be at on each lake. Any public, no fee, ramp may be used unless a list is determined prior to the tournament by the committee. Once you have registered and had a boat check, you can proceed to your desired boat ramp. You will wait at the buoy line until 7:15, at which time you can proceed to your fishing spot. You cannot start fishing until 7:30.
7. All boats must receive a boat check and ribbon prior to launching their boat or you may be subject to disqualification.
8. Tournament hours are from 7:30am-3:30pm. **Check-in will begin when a check-in official opens registration, no later than 6:30am. Registration will end at 7:00am.**

## FISHING

1. No fishing lines may be in the water until the start of the tournament. **7:30am** Likewise all lines must be out of the water at the end of the tournament. **3:30pm**
2. You may fish in any part of the lake/reservoir that is fully accessible and connected to the main part of the lake/reservoir. If you can get there floating in your boat, without getting out, that is permitted. If you have questions regarding fishing location, please consult with the rules committee.
3. Each participant may use up to 3 fishing rods at one time (see rules for minors) and can use artificial or live bait. (Ohio law for number of hooks permitted applies)
4. Fish may only be hooked in the mouth. Any fish snagged, netted, or caught in any way other than by a hook in the mouth that is brought to the weigh-in line will result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all money paid into and for the Ohio Crappie Club.
5. Personal flotation devices should be worn at all times while the vessel's motor is running above idle speed.
6. All vessel/boating regulations should be followed according to site-specific regulations. Violations may be subject to disqualification.
7. The use of alcohol and/or drugs may result in disqualification and forfeiture of any, and all money paid in to, and for the Ohio Crappie Club.
8. Be respectful of your competitors and keep a safe and courteous distance from each other (50 ft minimum).
9. Using cell phones or other communication devices to gain an advantage by alerting other members to a fishing location is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification by both the party making and the party receiving the call.

## **WEIGH - IN.** Weigh-in will begin when:

1. The weigh-in station is set up and ready to begin. Weigh-in will begin no earlier than **4:15 pm and no later than 4:30pm pm. All teams must be in line with your fish ready to weigh-in by 4:30pm.** If you are not in line ready to weigh your fish by 4:30 pm you will not be permitted to weigh your fish. The rules committee reserves the right to extend the weigh-in cut off time, through majority rules committee vote, if a situation occurs during the tournament that deems the extension appropriate (see General Rules, #11)
2. To promote fish conservation and a good image for the Ohio Crappie Club, we encourage the release of all fish after weigh-in in order to preserve the lake of the bigger fish.
3. Tournament winners will be decided by the weight of their 7 heaviest crappies. Teams must determine which fish they are going to weigh prior to checking in for the weigh-in. Any team having more than 7 crappies in possession while in the weigh-in line will be disqualified. Any team bringing a fish that is short of the legal length limit as defined by Ohio fishing regulations will be disqualified.
4. All fish must be alive in order to be weighed. Any dead fish will be removed prior to official weigh-in. The Rules Committee has the final judgment on whether a fish is deemed dead or alive. If you have fish that are struggling, please ask a rules committee member to check your fish immediately.
5. Once your fish are weighed that is your official weight for the tournament. We will not re-weigh any fish at any time.
6. **Big Crappie Pot** – FEE INCLUDED in team registration fee. You may select only one fish to be weighed.
7. **Big Non-Crappie Pot** – 100% payback -Pays one spot to heaviest non crappie species weighed.

## **PAYOUTS**

1. 100% of tournament registration fees will be paid back to the anglers. 85% will be paid back at each tournament to 25% of the field, with the remaining 15% from each tournament going into the pot for the Classic.
2. In the case of all ties, participants will split the prize money 50-50. If 2 teams tie for 1st, they will split 1st and 2nd place money. If 2 teams tie for 2nd, they will split 2nd and 3rd place money, etc.
3. The Classic pot will be Paid out to 25%of the qualifying field. This will be 100% of all withheld season tournament money and any membership money not used to run the club.

## TEAMS / POINTS RACE

1. Teams must declare at the first tournament of the year whether they are fishing individually or as a team and include who their partner for the year will be. At the first tournament of the year that the individual or teams' fish, you will be assigned a boat number. Points always stay with the boat. If one person on the team is unable to fish, there will be an exception for 2 tournaments every year where you can use a substitute partner for your boat.
2. 7 total tournaments will count towards the point's race. This means that if you fish 10 tournaments you can drop your 3 lowest tournaments. Points race prizes will be sponsored. No tournament money will be collected for the points payouts.
3. In the case of all ties, participants will split the points 50-50. If 2 teams tie for 1st, they will split 1st and 2nd place points. If 2 teams tie for 2nd, they will split 2nd and 3rd points, etc.
4. In the event two teams end up tied at the end of the year in the points race the heaviest bag (single tournament) of crappie caught during the year between the two teams tied will be the tie breaker. The same follows if 3, 4, 5, teams etc... are tied for the year end points race.
5. Points will stay with boat captain if the team splits up.
6. Points will be awarded to boat number and captain assigned to season – Year end - top 5 places will be paid cash and prizes.

Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	50	15th	33
2nd	48	16th	32
3rd	46	17th	31
4th	44	18th	30
5th	43	19th	29
6th	42	20th	28
7th	41	21st	27
8th	40	22nd	26
9th	39	23rd	25
10th	38	24th	24
11th	37	25th	23
12th	36	26th	22
13th	35	27th	21
14th	34		
28th and below		20	
Do not weigh fish		15	

## Classic

1. The Classic will be a two-day tournament with the winners determined by the best combined weights of both days.
2. **There is more than 1 way for the team captain to qualify to fish the Ohio Crappie Club Classic.**
  - A. You (team captain) must fish a minimum of 7 of the 10 tournaments.
  - B. You can buy in for up to 2 tournaments at \$75.00 a tournament (all money to be used as if you are there.) The buy-in must be paid before the start of the tournament your buying in for.

### **There is 1 way for a partner to qualify to fish with their qualifying captain during the Ohio Crappie Club Classic**

- C. The partners for the team captains that qualify to fish the Ohio Crappie Club Classic must be the partner the captain declared at the beginning of the season or at the captain's first event fished during the year. The captains originally declared partner must have fished a minimum of 3 of the 10 tournaments with the original boat captain to be eligible to fish the Classic with the same original boat captain.

In the event of unforeseen circumstances that are unavoidable, death, illness, work transfer, military call up, etc. that impact the teams and partners you may appeal for a rules deviation to be considered. The rules committee will rule on any such request within 7 days.

3. Entry fee for the Classic will be \$100 per boat. Entry fee includes \$30 buy-in for both days, and \$20 big crappie buy-in for both days. Payouts are defined in the payout section of these rules.

## SUPER EVENT

4. **The Super Event will be a two-day tournament with the winners determined by the best combined weights of both days.**
5. **This is a regular season event and does require a \$60 membership fee for entry.**
6. **Entry fee is \$100 per boat, and this includes big fish.**

## GENERAL

1. Each lake/reservoir, where there is an Ohio Crappie Club event is off limits to all participants the evening before the tournament starting at 8:00pm until the morning of tournament. Anyone caught still in the water at 8:00pm may be subject to disqualification from the next day's tournament.
2. All participants must have a valid Ohio fishing license and may be asked to show proof of license at any time during the tournament. All ODNR, State of Ohio, local and site-specific fishing laws and regulations should be followed. Anyone found breaking any laws or regulations may be subject to disqualification and may forfeit any and all money paid into and for Ohio Crappie Club if disqualified.
3. Professional guiding service shall not be used on a lake within 2 weeks of an event date. Guides may fish the circuit but are not allowed to be utilized by any members within 2 weeks of an event date. Utilized means paying a guide with cash or goods for their services on the water.
4. No participant shall pay or compensate another person for their fish or to fish with/for you during the tournament. Fish caught for weigh-in at the tournament must be caught yourself or caught by your team member. Anyone found to break that rule may be disqualified; membership revoked and may forfeit any and all money paid into and for the Ohio Crappie Club.
5. No participant shall fish another lake on the tournament schedule the same day as a scheduled tournament.
6. There shall be no "hole sitting" or "spot saving" by anyone before or during the tournament
7. The tournament can be cancelled by the Rules Committee due to weather or another unforeseen occurrence. The tournament may be rescheduled, however if it is not rescheduled, registration can be transferred to another Ohio Crappie Club event in the same calendar year. It is the responsibility of each participant to know if the tournament is cancelled. Please check the Ohio Crappie Facebook group for updates and to see if the tournament has been cancelled.
8. No refunds will be permitted for any tournament.
9. Please present extenuating circumstances to the rules committee prior to weigh-in. If you're unable to locate anyone on the rules committee, please call any of the numbers below.
10. The Rules Committee, (through majority vote) has the final say regarding enforcement of rules and disqualifications during any tournament. No disqualification will be enacted without a vote by the Rules Committee. (See General Rules #11)
11. All decisions regarding rules, rules enforcement, rule amendments, disqualifications, code of conduct, and all other matters will be decided by a majority vote of the Rules Committee. In the event that all of the full Rules Committee are not present at a tournament, the majority vote decision will be determined by a majority vote of the Rules Committee members present. If any members of the Rules Committee have a personal conflict of interest in a subject vote, the suitability of those Rules Committee members voting will be determined by a majority vote of the remaining Rules Committee members free of conflict on the subject vote. In the event of a tie vote, the tie will be broken by the votes of 3 randomly selected members of the club that are present.
12. The Ohio Crappie Club reserves the right to refuse membership or tournament participation to anyone at any time for any reason as the Rules Committee, through majority vote, deems is in the best interest of the Ohio Crappie Club and its members.

## MISCONDUCT

1. All vessel/boating regulations should be followed according to site-specific regulations. Any violations may be subject to disqualification.
2. Anyone found cheating in any way during the tournament may be disqualified by the rules committee and may forfeit any and all money paid into and for the Ohio Crappie Club
3. All anglers are subject to a polygraph exam and any failure or refusal to take the test may result in disqualification and forfeiture of any and all money paid into and for the Ohio Crappie Club. Protests must be made in writing to any member of the rules committee within 10 minutes after the official weigh-in has concluded. One half of a polygraph fee (\$200.00) must accompany the written protest. Whoever is wrong based on the outcome of the polygraph test, whether it is the accuser or the accused, will be responsible for the full polygraph fee (\$400.00). Refusal to take or failure of a polygraph, that competitors' membership may be terminated with no refund, also the individual(s) may be banned from all future Ohio Crappie Club events and may forfeit the right to any cash, bonus, and/or prizes allegedly won. Anyone caught in the wrong may be subject to criminal charges.
4. Any members who are disqualified at a tournament for a minor infraction may be given a warning. A second minor infraction or any major infraction or cheating may result in revocation of membership and forfeiture of any and all money paid for previous or future tournaments. Any disqualified member of a tournament in any of the Ohio Crappie Club previous years may be subject to a one strike and you're out membership ban. Anyone found to break any rules and receive a disqualification from any tournament may be subject to a membership ban from the rules committee.
5. The Rules Committee has final say in all matters and reserves the right to accompany or follow any team during the tournament.
6. If any participant suspects or sees another participant cheating in any way, it should be reported to the rules committee in person or by a number at the bottom of the rules sheet no later than the weigh-in time (60 minutes after tournament fishing hours end).

## YOUTH TOURNAMENT

1. The following refers specifically to the Hoover July 13th Youth/Adult Cookout Tournament. The Hoover Tournament is free. Participation (volunteer and/or fish with a youth) during the Hoover Youth tournament will be counted as one event towards your Ohio Crappie Classic qualification goal of a minimum of 7 events.
2. The Hoover Youth/Adult tournament is an open tournament and does not require membership with the Ohio Crappie Club to participate for any team that has a youth on the team. Any first-time teams without a youth on the team must become a member to fish the tournament.
3. This tournament will allow any team to fish with up to 2 team members and as many kids 17 years of age or younger. A team is permitted 3 poles per adult and 3 poles per child 17 and under (most follow all state laws). A team with two adults and two children would be permitted 12 poles. A team with two adults and one child would be 9 poles. A team with one adult and one child would be 6 poles.
4. During the Youth/Adult Cookout Tournament at Hoover Reservoir you can fish from a boat, kayak, canoe, wade or fish from shore as long it is public fishing property and you obey posted signs and/or warnings. If you plan to wade or shore fish, you must register individually for the Hoover Tournament.
5. Fishing from a kayak or canoe is permitted at any tournament, however you must register individually unless both team members are in the same kayak/canoe.

## **Tournament Day Contact Information:**

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