

Official Rules for Daniel Boone Council Fontana Classic

1. **Rule Changes:** These rules will remain unchanged for 2023 after March 1, 2023. The decisions of the tournament director are final. It is the responsibility of each contestant to familiarize themselves with and abide by all rules.
2. **Eligibility of Competitors:** The tournament will not be open to a competitor who has:
 - a. Declined or failed a polygraph screening in a previous tournament or refused to allow a tournament appointed observer or media boat in a tournament trail or previous tournament.
 - b. Been barred from a tournament trail or a previous tournament.
 - c. Conviction of a felony in the last 36 months or still on probation. In case of any miss conduct or not complying with the standards set forth above in rule #2, DBCFC shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application by returning the entire entry fee of a previously accepted application or to disqualify a contestant.
3. **Participation and Entry Fees:** Pick your partner or fish alone. Participation In tournament is open to all. At least one team member must be 18 years in age or older. Entry Fee is \$200.00 per boat, including tournament Big Bass.
4. **Registration:** A properly completed entry form and entry fee must be paid no later than safe light day of tournament. Boat number will be decided by order of entries received. If conditions arise which preclude participation in a tournament where you have paid an entry fee, you may transfer or request a refund of your entry, if DBCFC is notified in writing by 6 pm local time the Monday before the tournament. The burden of notification lies solely with contestants.
5. **Pre-tournament practice:** No off-limits.
6. **Safety:** Safe boating will be always observed during competition hours. Each contestant is required to wear a chest like life preserver any time the combustion engine is in operation. All boats must be equipped with an emergency shut off device, which must be attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. During the official tournament hours, a competitor may not use communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie talkies, etc. for the purpose of gathering or relaying information concerning fishing locations, techniques, lures, etc. Mobile communication devices can be used in emergency situations. There will be a mandatory safety briefing each morning at 6:30 am, before the launch for the day. Fishermen must check-in after they return to the marina for the day (even if they don't have fish to weigh).
7. **Sportsmanship:** All teams are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages, drugs, other than prescriptions. allowed in the boat or consumed. Any violation of this rule (7) may be deemed cause for disqualification.
8. **Boat and Horsepower regulations:** All boats must be a minimum of 15ft. in length. All boats must be equipped with an emergency shut-off device. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain a live limit catch. Each boat must have a U.S. Coastguard Horse-power rating plate attached by manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. By signing the entry form, each contestant agrees to submit his boat and/or to a motor inspection by factory trained personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms will be cause for disqualification and loss of entry fee.
9. **Permitted Fishing Methods:** No trolling, no long lining with either the combustion engine or trolling motor. All state and local laws, concerning lures, must be followed. All bass must be caught live in a conventional manner. Only one rod per contestant may be used at a time. Sight fish must be caught inside the mouth, no snagging.
10. **Permitted fishing locations:** Locking is not permitted. Contestants may fish any where on tournament waters accessible by boat except areas designated as off-limits or no fishing by local, state, federal, or tournament officials. There will be no fishing within fifty yards of another contestant's anchored boat (trolling motor up). During competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance or follow a non-competitor's boat for purpose of locating fish.
11. **Equipment Failure or Emergency:** In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in. Under these two conditions, catches may be counted (normal penalties apply, dead fish. late penalty, etc.) No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weighing of fish, except first gaining permission from the tournament director. If a team must violate any part of this rule due to emergency, or for any reason, their catch for that day will not be counted.
 - a. Both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water
 - b. By one partner entering the boat of another DBCFC tournament contestant.
12. **Official Checkpoints:** There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and check-out that afternoon, Failure to go through either will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. No culling after check-in.
13. **Scoring:** Scoring will be determined by the pounds to two decimal places of each team's catch. Only largemouth, spoiled, or smallmouth bass are accepted species. The limit will be five (5) unless the state or lake limit is less, in which case, the state or lake limit will prevail. At no time should contestants possess more than the tournament limit. Any team who possesses more than the tournament limit will have their catch culled to the tournament limit beginning with the largest fish. The official length limit for bass will be set at tournament director's discretion (most likely 14"). Penalty for short fish will be toss of fish plus one pound penalty off total weight for each short fish. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. Bass may not be stringed or placed in cull nets at any time during the tournament. Weigh-in is set for 3:00 PM. At the Mandatory safety briefing at 6:30 AM the tournament director will determine if there needs to be a time extension due to a start time delay (weather, or any other reason).
14. **Live Fish:** .25lbs (1/4 lbs) will be deducted from total weight only for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Only one dead fish per boat to be weighed.
15. **Late Penalty:** Teams that are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight. including any weight to be counted toward big bass award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose credit for that day's catch.
16. **Ties:** In case of ties, positions will be resolved by combining the awards and dividing equally.
17. **Polygraph:** All contestants. winners and non-winners are subject to a polygraph test. Penalties resulting from polygraph will be determined by tournament director. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in Immediate disqualification. All participants are subject to observer or media personnel at any time for any reason. No Exceptions!
18. **Payout:** Checks for tournament winners will be mailed out the following week after the tournament. Please give our accounting department up to fourteen (14) days to have the checks postmarked. Top 5 places are Guaranteed after 36 boats registered.
 - a. 1st place boat will receive \$3,000 (can be divided into two (2) checks).
 - b. 2nd Place: \$2,000, can be divided into two (2) checks.
 - c. 3rd Place: \$1,000, can be divided into two (2) checks.
 - d. 4th Place: \$500, can be divided into two (2) checks.
 - e. 5th Place: \$300, can be divided into two (2) checks.
 - f. Other finishes: \$200 to one in six boats registered after 40 boats have registered.
 - g. \$300 for the Tournament Big Fish
 - h. We award money (\$35,000) towards a new F-150 truck if anyone can catch the state record Smallmouth (the current record is over ten (10) lbs.) Awarded by Andy Shaw Ford.