

Ultimate Angler Challenge Rules

These rules have been established to encourage fairness, safety, conservation, and significant care for the fish caught. It is the goal of this event to move our sport forward as an example for all to follow.

These events may be recorded for possible video production and distribution.

1. Each team will be allowed to weigh 1 Catfish, 2 Striped Bass and 3 Crappie. Catfish can be Flathead, Blue or channel cat. Striped Bass can be Hybrid, Sand bass or Striper. Crappie can be Black or White. Wildest Catch can be Gar, Carp, Buffalo, Drum or Walleye. No other fish species will be allowed to be weighed. Each Species will be weighed separately, and your team will be awarded points for how you place in that category. The total combined points winner of the three categories will be the Ultimate Angler Challenge winning team.
2. Boat check and launch will begin at **4:00AM** at Black Dog ramp. Once your boat has been checked you are permitted to launch and proceed. Every boat must go through a boat and live well check line before entering the lake. Please have live well lids open and Navigation lights on. You will not be allowed to fish until **6:00AM**. (You will be allowed to throw a cast net for bait)
3. Tournament Hours will be **6:00AM - 4:00PM**. Lines in the water @ **6:00AM**. You must be checked in at Black Dog Ramp by 4:00 PM.
4. Any decision made by Ultimate Angler Challenge directors and or officials and or administrators will be final and non-negotiable.
5. Nine (**9**) rods maximum in use by the team unless state law is less but teams may have as many rods on board as needed.
6. Teams are limited to a maximum of 3 persons.
7. All children 18 and under **MUST** be accompanied by an adult.
8. Life vests must be worn while underway. (Definition of underway will be boat on plane.)
9. Fish may only be caught by Rod and Reel method only.
10. Any legal bait artificial or natural allowed by the state may be used. Any legal bait that is also a target species for this event must be dead and head removed.
11. Good sportsmanship is expected of all individuals before, during and after the tournament event.
12. Any disorderly conduct will be reason alone for disqualification.
13. Ultimate Angler Challenge directors reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone.
14. No guides allowed to enter the Tournament. (For this event a guide will be defined as any person who has a guide license or has taken people fishing for money anytime during 2023.)
15. No culling of fish once boat has been removed from the water.
16. No snagging will be allowed
17. No fouled hooked fish will be accepted (A fouled hook is any hook located behind the gill plate).
18. No chumming.
19. No fishing intentionally baited holes.
20. All tournament boats must maintain **50** yards between each other while anchored and **50** feet while drifting or spot locked. This includes all boats.
21. Ultimate Angler Challenge will provide a boat that will come pick up a fish and one angler from your team to take back to weigh in during tournament hours. After your team member weighs in your fish the fish will be released, and the angler will **be**

given a ride back to your team boat. Once you have weighed a fish in a category you will no longer be able to upgrade for that category. You will be allowed to continue fishing for the other categories. This is for any team that wants to weigh a fish they believe will not survive all day in their live well. Any team can weigh a fish at anytime during tournament hours but will no longer be able to weigh again for that category.

22. No fishing outside of the boat. At no point may you leave the boat except for emergencies.
23. No alcoholic beverages, marijuana, or illegal substances are allowed onboard or used during tournament hours.
24. Due to possible inclement weather, all boat captains must decide for themselves and their fellow team members if it is safe to launch and proceed. Ultimate Angler Challenge will proceed with the event unless the director(s) along with 5 randomly selected team captains determine the conditions to be unsafe prior to the event.
25. A live well is **REQUIRED**. The tournament director will have the final call on all live wells and reserves the right to remove the team from the tournament if determined the live well is not sufficient to care for fish properly.
26. Dropping of fish at weigh-in is discouraged.
27. Placing of ALL fish into the weigh totes must be completed with care. No throwing or mishandling will be tolerated.
28. Ultimate Angler Challenge reserves the right to amend or change any rule for safety or any other reason we deem necessary.
29. All fishermen are subject to a polygraph exam. Any angler who refuses is automatically disqualified. Failure to pass a polygraph exam will result in disqualification.
30. Ties will be decided by the team with the largest fish. If both teams largest fish was not documented or both teams largest fish weighs the same the tie will go to the team who entered first.
31. All protest must be made in writing before the awards ceremony and must be in writing. We will not accept any protests thereafter.
32. Social Media live feeds are allowed and encouraged.
33. All State and Federal rules must be observed. It is up to the anglers to determine what license or licenses may be needed.
34. Wildest Catch award will be to the individual angler who catches the Fish. Wildest Catch is a separate bonus fish and does not count towards your 6 fish limit and does not count towards overall points for the Ultimate Angler Challenge.
35. Biggest Fish youth division will be largest fish by weight caught by an angler 14 years old or younger. This fish must be hooked and reeled in solely by the youth angler. This fish can be a fish from your tournament limit or a bonus fish. The species allowed are Stripped Bass, Crappie, Catfish, Carp, Drum, Buffalo, Gar, Walleye. No other species will be weighed. Angler must notify Weigh Master of a youth catch before fish are weighed.
36. Weigh in bags will be provided for this event. No other bags will be allowed. This is how we control the length of the weigh in line and manage the amount of time the fish are in the bags. Fish care is a top priority for this event.

WAIVER/RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR Ultimate Angler Challenge

By entering Ultimate Angler Challenge event, I acknowledge that our team has read and understand the rules. I also acknowledge that this is a voluntary event and I assume all risks associated with my voluntary participation in this event, including but not limited to injury, death, weather related incidents, boat traffic and Lake conditions. Acknowledging these risks, I myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, or anyone else who might file a claim on my behalf WAIVE, RELEASE, and DISCHARGE, Ultimate Anglers Challenge, and all sponsors, officials, workers, volunteers, representatives of ANY AND ALL claims or liability, whether foreseen or unforeseen, for death, personal injury or property damage arising from or throughout the course of my participation in this event. I also grant full permission to the above listed sponsors, organizations and agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videos, recordings, or other record of the event for any reasonable purpose.