

2018 Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce White River Open Trout Tournament Rules and Procedures

1. The following rules shall be in effect; Violation or non-compliance in any respect may cause disqualification of contestants. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules rests solely with the tournament committee whose decisions are final and binding.
2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in this tournament is open to any type or make of boat paying the required entry fee and signing a completed official entry form. Entry forms will be limited to two-person teams. Persons under 18 years of age must enter with a parent or other responsible adult. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse or withdraw the entry of any person if there is reason to believe such entry might endanger the safety of any person or cause unrest, confusion or disruption of the tournament. Entry fee money will be refunded if entry is refused or withdrawn by tournament committee.
3. **ENTRY FEE:** The entry fee of \$100 per team. The Big Fish Pot fee (optional) is \$25 per team. First 125 boats only, checks to be made payable to Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce. Entry fee covers two (2) meal tickets and two (2) door prize tickets. Payment: **Check or money order payment** – Deadline: March 30, 2018. Mail to Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 489, Cotter, AR 72626 or drop off at following businesses. **Cash payment** – Deadline: April 5th, 2018. Deliver cash payments to Cotter Trout Dock, Natural State Fly Shop, White Sands Café or Warrior Cafe. Additional entrée forms are available at the Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce website: www.cotterarkansas.com
4. **Big Fish Pot:** This is a separate event from the tournament. Entrants are eligible to enter big fish pot. Entry fee at this time of application will be \$25.00 per team. The team weighing in the largest fish and having the biggest fish will win all the money the pot has collected. **Sample-** If we have 100 teams enter the big fish pot the total winnings would be \$2500.00. If there is a tie the pot will be divided evenly. **Big Fish pot winners big fish will also be deducted from the total placement weight. If the team with the big fish decides not win the big pot, the big fish pot will be given to the next team with the biggest fish. This must be decided at the weight table before 2pm.**
5. **Major Changes to the 2018 Tournament are as follows**
 - : There will NOT be a boat drawing this year as in previous years
 - : The team with the big fish in the big fish pot will have the option of declining their big fish if they wish to do so in order to place in top 10 for a bigger prize.

: The Big fish in the big fish pot will have the big fish weight deducted from their total weight.

: There is no fly fishing only bonus.

: If there is a dead fish in the weight bag this year your team will automatically be disqualified

- 6. EQUIPMENT AND FISHING METHODS:** All safe boating rules and regulations and AG&FC Trout Regulations must be observed at all times. No CB, two way radios, cell phones or similar communication devices will be used to communicate between tournament entrants.
- 7. PERMITTED FISHING & BOAT LAUNCH LOCATIONS:** Fishing area will be from the lower boundary of the Bull Shoals Dam Catch and Release to the upper boundary of the Rim Shoals Catch and Release. No fishing within 50 yards of another contestant without permission. Any boat seen in any Catch and Release Areas will be disqualified. Boat launch locations are limited to AGFC Access at Cotter, Wildcat, White Hole and Bull Shoals State Park. Failure to launch at one of these designated locations will be cause for disqualification. Fishing from land or any other structure is not permitted.
- 8. TOURNAMENT DAY REGISTRATION:** One team member must register & pick up registration packet at Warrior Café in Cotter between 6:30 am & 8:00 am. No team will be allowed to start at any other qualified access point with the exception of Cotter Big Spring Park after 8:00 am. You must take-off and return to weigh-in in the same boat. Once you have picked up your entry packet at Cotter, you may leave for designated locations only: AGFC Access at Cotter, Wildcat, White Hole and Bull Shoals State Park. All fish to be weighed in must be returned to Cotter weigh-in by boat on river only. All live fish will be returned to the water after weigh-in in compliance with AGFC regulations and rulings.
- 9. STARTING TIME AND TAKE-OFF PROCEDURES:** Starting time is 7:00 am. Any boat starting before 7:00 am will be disqualified. Start times may be delayed in the event the river, weather or other conditions may cause safety problems. Each team must be registered at the check-in at the Warrior Café before proceeding to the starting area. Only those boats and contestants in compliance with safety standards and tournament rules will be started. All live wells and cooler must be examined prior to launching by members of the tournament committee.
- 10. ELIGIBLE FISH:** Brown Trout min. 24", Cutthroat Trout min. 24", Brook Trout min. 14" and Rainbow Trout
- 11. LIMIT:** This tournament limit shall be (4) four fish per boat. Only one brown trout or one cutthroat per fisherman is allowed. Also this year you are only allowed to have 2 total fish over 14" according to Game & Fish Regulations.

- 12.PENALTIES:** Official time will be kept at the tournament headquarters. Entrants are responsible to synchronize their watches with the official clock. For each minute contestants are late, a two pound penalty will be deducted from total weight. Any team more than fifteen minutes late will lose all scores for the day. **All live fish must be released. Any dead fish brought to weight table will be an automatic disqualification.**
- 13.SCORING AND TIES:** Scoring will be by pounds and ounces. The combined weight of both team members will be recorded as a single score. **TIES:** In the event the combined weight of two or more teams are equal, the team weighing in first will be the winner. **ALL** team captains must sign the form for weight in order for weights to be recorded.
- 14.PROTESTS:** Any contestant wishing to protest the conduct or score of another contestant must do so in writing and file the protest with the tournament committee within (30) thirty minutes from final weigh-in. The tournament committee may however, at any time and at its own discretion, take up and decide questions relating to any contestants conduct or score.
- 15.QUALITY ASSURANCE TEST:** By his or her signature on this entry form and/or participation in this tournament, contestants agree to submit to quality assurance tests. These may include all or part of the following: Polygraph tests and observer, in or out of boat. Refusal of either or both anglers to submit will result in immediate disqualification. If the angler is unsuccessful with any or all of the above test, the angler's partner may submit to the test, at the team's expense, within the next 7 working days, subject to examiner's schedule. If still unsuccessful, the team's weight shall be 0.00 lbs. The observer portion does not apply to the partner.
- 16.POLYGRAPH TEST:** All winning entrants are subject to an independent polygraph test. Failure to pass polygraph will result in disqualification, loss of entry fee, and any winnings.
- 17.WINNINGS:** Published prize fund is based upon 100 entries. Final entries less or greater will generate a revised prize fund pro-rated based upon 100 entries.
- 18.NO REFUNDS.** Except as described in Paragraph 2.
- 19.FISHING LICENSE:** Valid Arkansas fishing license and trout stamp are required by each fishing team member.