

# 2017 COTTER-GASSVILLE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 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 rest 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 Entry fee money will be refunded if entry is refused or withdrawn by tournament committee.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:** An entry fee of \$100 per team, Big Fish Pot (optional) \$25 per team. First 125 boats only, made payable to Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce. Entry fee covers two (2) meal tickets and two (2) door prize tickets. **Check or money order payment** – Deadline: March 13, 2017. Mail to Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 489, Cotter, AR 72626. **Cash payment** – Deadline: March 17, 2017. Deliver cash payments to Cotter Trout Dock, Gassville First Security Bank, White Sands Café, or Warrior Cafe. Additional entry forms are available at Cotter-Gassville Chamber of Commerce website: [www.cotterarkansas.com](http://www.cotterarkansas.com)
4. **BIG FISH POT:** This is a separate event from the tournament. Entrants are eligible to enter in the Big Fish Pot. Entry fee at the time of application will be \$25 per team. The team weighing in the largest fish and having entered the Big Fish Pot will win the total amount of money in the pot. SAMPLE – if we have 100 entries in the pot, the winner will receive \$2500. If there is a tie the pot will be equally divided. **Big Fish Pot winners big fish weight will be deducted from the team's total placement weight.**

## **5. MAJOR CHANGES:**

- 1) There will not be a boat draw as in previous years.**
- 2) Big Fish Pot winners big fish weight will be deducted from the team's total placement weight.**
- 3) There will be no fly fishing only bonus.**

**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 will be 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 Big Spring Park 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 Big Spring Park 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. 16", Brook Trout min. 14" and Rainbow Trout (no min. length requirement).

**11. LIMIT:** This tournament limit shall be (4) four fish per boat. Only one brown trout per fisherman is allowed.

- 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. Dead fish cannot be weighed in. **All live fish must be released.**
- 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, 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 to submit by either or both anglers will result in immediate disqualification. If the angler is unsuccessful with any or all the above tests, 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:** ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL TAXES ARE THE WINNERS RESPONSIBILITY. 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.
- 20.LODGING:** See Cotter Gassville-Chamber of Commerce website for discounts for out of town entrants: [www.cotterarkansas.com/members/home/27](http://www.cotterarkansas.com/members/home/27) .