

Tournament Regulations 2018

Dates:

Tournament is Saturday, July 14 and begins at 5:30 a.m.; gates open for camping from Friday, July 13 at 5:00 p.m. until Sunday, July 15 at 10:00 a.m. In the event of extreme weather or high water, the tournament will be moved to a future date.

Participation:

Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature. By entering, all participants agree to assume all risks of personal injury, death, damage or loss of property and further agree to indemnify Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc., Montgomery County Parks and Recreation, it's members, agents, and sponsors harmless from and against all claims, liabilities, and causes of action resulting directly or indirectly from participation in the event.

Registration:

For 2018 registration, participants are required to pre-register; registration will not be allowed past the June 22, 2018 11:59:59 p.m. EST deadline. Entries will be limited this year, for enjoyment of all participants. Registration is available by phone to Montgomery County Parks and Recreation – (540) 382-6975, or at Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. in Salem, VA and Blacksburg, VA, or online at www.bcski.com. Again- late registration is not allowed this year. All participants must sign the medical release waiver at check in. Check in will be at Tournament Headquarters only.

Captains Meeting/Check In

There will be no scheduled Captains Meeting this year; any questions can be addressed during check in. Each participant must check in at Tournament Headquarters upon arrival, at which participants will be provided a fish ruler unless providing their own. Check in as at Tournament Headquarters only, and will not be at any other location.

Fishing license:

All participants must have appropriate fishing license. Out of state participants should check with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries for a non-resident freshwater fishing license. All participants must follow rules set by the VDGF. See www.dgif.virginia.gov for state rules and regulations.

Safety:

Virginia law requires a coast guard approved PFD (life jacket) must be in the watercraft at all times and to have an available light source, if on the water before daylight. It is highly advisable

that all participants wear a PFD and a proper form of eye protection. All participants are required to take responsibility for themselves, their actions, and their equipment.

Eligible Watercraft:

Includes canoes, kayaks and inflatable raft. Watercraft may only be powered by a paddle or oar. Electric or combustion motors and the use of sails are prohibited. Hobie, Native Watercraft, or other pedal drive systems are allowed.

Location/Launching:

The 2018 Tournament is open to the entirety of the New River in Virginia. Tournament Headquarters is located off of McCoy Road on private property (2076 Big Falls Rd, Blacksburg, VA 24060, same location as previous years). Be advised, while there are no restrictions to areas participants may fish on the New River in Virginia, the tournament provided shuttle will only run on one section of the New River, deemed Section 1.

Section 1 will be from Whitethorne Public Boat Landing to the Tournament Headquarters. This 5 1/2 mile stretch of the New River is considered an easy section, posing little to no hazards. The tournament provided shuttle will cover this section of the New River only and shuttle service begins Saturday afternoon.

Bass anglers may not launch before 5:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 14 and must complete the check in process prior to launch. Only bass caught after 5:30 a.m. on Saturday will be scored. Anglers are not required to run Section 1 of the New River, participants may fish anywhere on the New River in Virginia.

Fishing:

During competition, contestants must abide by all regulations stated by the VA Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and the state of VA. During the stated fishing time anglers may not receive aid from others in casting, baiting, fighting, or landing fish. Contestants may receive aid with tangled lines, tying knots, removing hooks and photographing their fish. All fish must be caught on rod and reel via hook and line from watercraft. Permitted baits may include natural or artificial so long as they meet the requirements of the VADGF. Prohibited: use of game fish as bait. No snagging, gigging, trout lines, jug-hooks, seine, drift, or other nets are allowed. Nets may be used to land fish. All fish must be released. Anglers competing in the fly division may only have fly fishing equipment on their craft.

Scoring:

All fish will be scored by photos taken via catch-photo-release.

Adult Spinning Category—the total sum in inches of the longest two bass. There must be a difference of 1 inch between fish. Artificial lures only for this category.

Adult Open Category—the total sum in inches of the longest two bass. There must be a difference of 1 inch between fish. Artificial lures and live bait allowed.

Fly Category—the total sum in inches of the two longest bass. There must be a difference of 1 inch between fish. Fly tackle only.

Junior Category (16 and under)—Longest fish, artificial lures and live bait allowed.

All fish must be measured with a tournament-provided measuring device or a Hawg Tough; if providing your own measuring device, please bring it to check in for approval. All photos except for two biggest fish and boat at put-in must be deleted upon weigh in. Multiple category registration (ie. Fly and Adult Open Category) for a single participant is prohibited. Participants in different categories within the same watercraft are allowed.

Weigh-In:

Weigh in will start with first entree, and end at 3:00 p.m. Saturday. Participants may still enter photos after 3:00 p.m. with a deduction of a quarter inch every minute until 4:30 p.m. After 4:30 p.m. no more entrees will be permitted. Tournament officials will use a computer and memory card reader to view pictures of fish for the photo weigh-in. Please make it quick and easy to find photos for judges.

Photo-Release:

Proper photo scoring requires that each contestant take a picture of his or her boat prior to launching. In all pictures, fish must be shown lying flat on the official measuring device with the fish's mouth at the "0" and the tail being in an un-pinched position. Fish must be measured with mouth closed. Scoring and winning photographs remain the sole ownership of Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department and may be used at their discretion. Contestants grant Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department the unconditional right to use their name, and photographic likeness in connection with Back Country Ski and Sport, Inc. and Montgomery County Virginia Parks and Recreation Department tournaments, promotions, articles, and press releases without entitlements to any royalties or other compensation in connection with their use. Tournament officials will use a computer and memory card reader to view pictures of fish for the photo weigh-in.

Sportsmanship:

Contestants are expected to exhibit high levels of conduct prior to, during, and after the event. Use of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited at anytime during or prior to the event.

Camping:

Camping will be allowed with an additional charge at the Tournament Headquarters starting 5:00 p.m. Friday and Ending at 10:00 a.m. Sunday morning. Please designate whether you

wish to camp at the time of registration as there are limited spaces this year. Camping will be in **DESIGNATED AREAS ONLY**. Use of alcohol or illegal substances is prohibited at anytime during or prior to the event. We are sharing space with a separate event this year so we must be respectful of their space and presence. The gate will be closed and locked at 10:00 a.m. Sunday, July 15 so please plan ahead and be ready to leave early.

Protest:

All protests must be made in writing and submitted to a tournament official prior to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Rule Changes and Enforcement:

Tournament officials have exclusive rights to interpretation and enforcement of all rules. All rule changes, infractions, and disqualification decisions will be made solely by the Tournament officials and are not subject to appeal.