



# LET'S TALK FISHIN (Since 2012) OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES Effective September 1 2023

Official tournament rules for LET'S TALK FISHIN events, as listed below, will govern all events. "Lake specific" revisions or exemptions, should any be necessary, will be posted on the LET'S TALK FISHIN Web site. LET'S TALK FISHIN reserves the right to refuse any entry into its tournaments and events at the discretion of the tournament director.

Unless otherwise noted, the rules for all LET'S TALK FISHIN (LTF) Tournaments and Events are as follows:

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**1. Angler of the Year Qualifications:** The team accumulating the most points will become our Anglers-of-The-Year (AOY). They must fish for at least 6 of the 8 tournaments to qualify (Championship not included). If registered for all 8 Tournaments, we will take the best 6 tournaments so there will be two throw outs. All AOY awards will be announced & awarded at the Championship or last event of the season.

- The LTF Angler of the Year team will win \$110 per tournament for a total of \$990, toward the following season. Anglers of the Year must fish with same partner to use the credit voucher.
- The Night Tournaments Angler of the Year team will win \$135 per tournament for a total of \$675, toward the following season. Anglers of the Year must fish with same partner to use the credit voucher.
- The Crappie Angler of the Year team will win \$40.00 per tournament for a total of \$320, toward the following season.

A minimum of 10 teams on average must participate for the Angler of the Year to receive the basic entry paid for the following season. Angler of the Year award will still be awarded.

**2. Awards Ceremony Attendance** — While generally recognized that attendance at presentation of awards ceremonies is an act of respect, it is not always possible for all to attend. Those not attending forfeit any claim to trophies or merchandise earned in competition or lottery drawings. The Tournament official will mail the purse share to such individuals. 1<sup>st</sup> Place will be expected to share how they caught their fish for the Let's Talk Fishin Program. Awards & payouts will be about 1 hour after last angler has completed their weigh-in.

**4. Breakdowns / Emergencies** — Anglers are not permitted to leave their boat or touch another boat, with the exception of emergency or major equipment failure. In the case of a breakdown on the water, the fishing partner may accept assistance in the form of a tow from or a return ride with any other boat on the waters. While in tow, or riding, those contestants accepting assistance, are not permitted to continue fishing. However, other contestants, if rendering assistance, may continue fishing. Should one of the contestants decide to stay with the troubled craft, he may send his catch with his partner to the Weighmaster. The angler who remains with the craft may not continue to fish once he has sent his catch to the Weighmaster. Anglers with fish to be taken to weigh-in may only be transported via another tournament contestant's boat or a method approved by the tournament director.

**5. Cellular Telephones** — Cell phones or other communication devices, including all forms of text messaging are allowed in boats as an emergency tool only; boat-to-boat communication is prohibited except for emergency purposes. Anglers who communicate with others during tournament hours for the purposes of bettering their fishing circumstances will be disqualified by the tournament director.

**6. Championship Pots and Tournament—Championship pot qualifiers** are determined as follows:

1. Fish all 8 tournaments and automatically qualify for the championship option pot.
2. After those who qualify by fishing all 8 tournaments, we will take the top 25% of the remaining season's participation based on their total points. Anglers must fish 6 of the 8 tournaments to qualify in the top 25%.

This is a two-day tournament in May. Day 1 is a regular tournament and is used for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the two-day tournament for those fishing for the championship pot. Biggest Fish for each day will pay 10% of the championship pot. Only first place will be paid. LET'S TALK FISHIN wants to include as many anglers as possible, so fractional numbers are rounded up.

**7. Citations** — Any contestant cited by officers for violation of City, State or Federal fishing or boating regulations jeopardizes his daily catch and may be subject to disqualification by the tournament director.

**8. Cooperation with Media/Promotion** — within the framework of reasonable requests, all contestants in LET'S TALK FISHIN events will cooperate with media representatives covering said event. Likewise, participation in the tournament grants LET'S TALK FISHIN the use of any pictures of contestants, accounts, or interviews with contestants it gathers for the lawful promotion of LET'S TALK FISHIN and its tournament operations.

**9. Culling** — (Replacing a live caught bass with a larger live caught bass) is permitted during the fishing day. No measuring, releasing, or culling of any bass is permitted by contestants inside the no wake zones of the launch ramp. At no time will a contestant cull a "Dead" fish during tournament hours.

**10. Dead Fish Penalty** — It is the goal of LET'S TALK FISHIN to release alive all tournament caught bass following the weigh-in. Contestants, therefore, are required to do everything in their power to preserve their daily catch. Deliberate, rough, or careless handling of fish while culling or handling fish is grounds for disqualification. The amount of .20 (20/100th) of one pound will be deducted for each bass presented "not alive" as judged by the Weighmaster.

**11. Decisions** — All decisions of the Tournament Director shall be final.

**12. Encroachment** — a "25" yard rule is always in effect during competition. No contestants boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing unless initial party has granted permission. A boat moving from one area to another may not "tie-up," "claim," or "protect" more than a single dock or location at one time regardless of the distance involved. Pictures or video should be taken and given to the tournament director. Encroachments can be grounds for DQ. Left up to the tournament director.

**13. Equipment/Tackle/Technique Restrictions** — Each tournament entered:

**BOAT:** must be a minimum of 14 feet in length and be equipped with a minimum ten (10) horsepower outboard motor.

**ENGINES:** may not exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat hull and to be permitted in a LET'S TALK FISHIN event. Dual engine outboard vessels are also prohibited. "Stick" steering boats are prohibited as well.

**LIVE WELL:** Each boat must be equipped with a functioning, aerated live well.

**ARTIFICIAL LURES:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait cut or prepared baits other than pork rind or mammal hide may be used. Fish "attractants and scents" may be utilized.

**ROD/REEL:** All fishing must be accomplished with one rod and reel combination used at one time, meaning each cast must be made and line retrieved before another cast may be made with another outfit. A contestant may have an unlimited number of rods and reels on the boat rigged and ready to fish.

**TROLLING:** (the act of manipulating the lure solely by maneuvering the boat under any type of power) is prohibited.

**SNAGGING FISH:** The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited.

**LANDING NETS:** are permitted in LET'S TALK FISHIN events, but may not have an overall length (handle and hoop combined) longer than eight (8) feet.

**CHUMMING:** Chumming is prohibited.

**14. Fish Transport** — Transporting live fish taken in one area and releasing them in another for the purpose of "seeding" or establishing a population in the new area during the tournament, or 30 days prior to a tournament is strictly prohibited and grounds for disqualification.

**15. Fishable Waters/Off Limits** — Fishable waters in LET'S TALK FISHIN ABA, LTF and Crappie tournaments include any water reachable by boat which is open to all contestants, and which is not otherwise restricted by local, state, or federal regulations. All fishing and landing of fish must be done from the boat. No contestants are permitted to leave their boat in an effort to propel or float their boat to or from fishing waters they could not otherwise reach; however, the use of push poles is permitted. The host marina boat ramp including the area inside the "no-wake" buoys is always off limits to fishing. Other marinas or areas may also be designated as "off limits" due to specific lake rules and regulations. All off limits areas will be noted at the morning take off.

**16. Insurance & Liability** — It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to carry and have proof of public liability insurance covering them and their passengers. All contestants are required to sign a waiver absolving the tournament staff, sponsors, co-sponsors, tournament venues, and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have in their possession and upon request provide proof of insurance to the tournament director. Failure or refusal to provide proof of insurance upon demand may result in disqualification from the event.

**17. Late weigh-in** — There is no excuse for being late to the weigh in. Any contestants (and respective partners) caught returning to the check in point after the official tournament deadline for their flight, may be disqualified for that day.

**18. Licenses & Registration** — Each contestant must have in possession a valid and current fishing license with the appropriate stamps governing the fishable waters of the event. Penalty for such an offense is subject to disqualification for that day's catch. Additionally, contestants must have current, valid registration for their boats to be eligible to fish the event.

**19. Lie Detector Testing** — All contestants, by virtue of entry into a LET’S TALK FISHIN event, are subject to testing by a lie detection apparatus by the Tournament Director. Should the person selected for a polygraph test decline to submit for such test, or fail the test, there will be no appeal and he will forfeit any awards due.

**20. Live Well Checks** – Live well checks are drive by. After registering you will be given your boat number, then proceed to the coned area and have your live wells checked.

**21. LTF Tournament Payouts** - The payouts are determined using the following method:

All in \$300 (w/o Couples) with a payback as follows:

Basic Entry (Pays 1 in 3)	\$110.00	Big Fish	\$30.00 (Pays 1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,3 <sup>rd</sup> )
Trophies, Execution costs	\$ 20.00	Championship Pot	\$10.00
Insurance/Permit	\$ 20.00	Gas Raffle	\$5.00 (Raffle 1 per boat)
Goon Fish (1 place)	\$ 5.00	Mini T 1 *	\$25.00
Couples Option	\$50.00	Mini T 2 *	\$25.00
		Mini T 3 *	\$25.00
		Mini T 4 *	\$25.00

\*Mini T is 5 to 6 teams randomly drawn to be in a Mini tournament with 100% payback.

The LET’S TALK FISHIN LTF Tournaments do not have membership fees

**22. Morning Take Off / PM Check In**

MORNING TAKE OFF: After the Morning prayer and National Anthem your boat numbers will be called for takeoff. You must signal the take off boat when your number is called. No acknowledgment (horn, waive, ect.) may result in disqualification.

PM CHECK IN: Tournament officials will be in a check in boat just inside the no wake zone or on the dock. The boat will be flying the American Flag and the person on the dock will be wearing an orange vest for identification purposes. Please call out and give them your boat number, at this time fishing is no longer permitted. If you do not notify officials, are not inside the no wake zone or are inside and still fishing by your check in time, you will be disqualified.

**23. Night Tournaments**

Payouts: The payouts are determined using the following method:

Entry Fee \$300.00 (all In) with a payback as follows:

Basic Entry (Pays 1 in 5)	\$135.00	Mini T 1 *	\$25.00
Trophies, Execution costs	\$ 20.00	Mini T 2 *	\$25.00
Insurance/Permit	\$ 20.00	Mini T 3 *	\$25.00
Big Fish (Optional)	\$ 25.00 (Pays 1 <sup>st</sup> ,2 <sup>nd</sup> ,3 <sup>rd</sup> )	Mini T 4 *	\$25.00

\*Mini T is 5 to 6 teams randomly drawn to be in a Mini tournament with 100% payback.

Angler of the year (AOY): Must be registered for All 5 tournaments to qualify for the Night Tournament AOY.

**The LET'S TALK FISHIN Night Tournaments do not have membership fees.**

**24. Off Limits** — There are no off-limits before Let's Talk Fishin Tournaments. However, during tournament hours the launch/boat ramp (host ramp) inside the buoy markers will be off limit.

**25. Participation** — There are no restrictions as to race, gender, creed or color of any LET'S TALK FISHIN participant. Those participating under the age of 18 must have written consent and the release of liability from a parent or guardian.

**26. Points Races**— In the event of a points tie at the end of the year point race, the winner will be determined by the highest aggregate weight total over the course of the season. In the unlikely event that the weights are also a tie, the winner will be determined by the big fish caught during the season. Should this also be a tie, the winner will be determined by cutting a deck of cards with the high card being the winner. Aces are high with suit hierarchy from high to low being spades, hearts, diamonds, clubs. **Any Team that fishes all 8 tournaments will automatically qualify for the championship pot (see championship pots for more information).**

**Points:** Points will be awarded as follows: 100 points to first place, 99 second place and so on. If no fish are caught the angler receives 20 participation points. The team's weight will be added to the point structure as well. Example: 1<sup>st</sup> Place weighing in 12.75lbs would receive 112.75 points for the tournament. All fish must be legally caught and weighed by weigh master minus any penalties.

**27. Protests** — Protests regarding violation of these rules must be declared immediately to the Tournament Director and then submitted in writing, by video or pictures within 15 minutes of the end of weigh-in for that day the alleged violation occurred. The Tournament officials will hear protests and the decision of the Tournament Director will be final. TO AVOID PROTESTS, if you suspect a possible infraction is about to take place, ALERT THE WOULD-BE OFFENDER TO CHECK THE RULES!

**28. Refunds** — There is no provision for refunding tournament entry fees; however, entry fees may be transferred to another like event or to another contestant's entry application if notification is received at LET'S TALK FISHIN prior to the event. A \$40 fee will be charged on all returned checks. Persons with returned checks may enter only with certified funds, cash or credit card. Checks issued are only valid for 6 months. After 6 Months funds are forfeited.

**29. Safety** — Each boat entered in a LET'S TALK FISHIN event must be equipped with a working ignition "Kill" switch, which must be attached to the driver whenever the outboard motor is running. Also, any time the outboard motor is in operation during prescribed tournament hours, the driver and all passengers must wear and secure their Coast Guard approved (Type III PFD) life jackets. Suspenders PFD type that meet Type V PFD performance with Type III or Type II performance are allowed. Drivers are responsible for maintaining, knowing their craft, and operating their boat in a safe and courteous manner. Unsafe or reckless driving, excessive speed, and violation of local laws will not be tolerated. Boat drivers who purposefully endanger their passengers and/or other boats on the water during the official tournament period face the possibility of disqualification from the tournament and potential expulsion from the LET'S TALK FISHIN tournaments trail.

**30. Schedule** — All tournament schedules are posted on our website: [www.letstalkfishin.com](http://www.letstalkfishin.com). If you would like one emailed just email us and request a schedule. [letstalkfishin@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkfishin@gmail.com)

**31. Short Fish** — Contestants are required to do everything in their power to release fish that are less than 12 inch or less alive back into the water. If the fish dies the contestant must count this fish as one of their 5 fish bringing to the scales. Fish that are weighed in that are less the 12 inches will receive a 1 lb penalty and the loss of the short fish.

**32. Sight Fishing** — The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited.

**33. Size & Bag Limits** — Qualifying fish (Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Black Bass) must be a **minimum of 12" in length**, measured laying flat with the mouth closed on a flat board. The daily tournament limit will be five (5) bass per boat. Tournament boats inside the check-in area must not possess more than the tournament limit of 5 fish. Night Tournament is 3 fish limit. Anglers in violation are subject to disqualification for the day, at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Should local or state regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length or a different bag limit than the LET'S TALK FISHIN tournament standard, the more stringent standard will be utilized in the tournament. Short fish will be assessed a one-pound penalty plus the loss of the short fish.

**34. Solo Anglers/Buy Ins** — No Team/Angler may fish more than 3 tournaments solo without a partner. Anglers fishing more than 3 solo events in a season will not have their points counted towards the year end points race. All solo anglers may be subject to FULL boat inspection, and or asked to fish with an observer, at the discretion of the tournament director. Anglers may have 2 Buy in events to qualify for championship.

**35. Sportsmanship** — The laws of sportsmanship and good judgment as well as courtesy towards others on and off the water will be adhered to at all times. Specifically, the use of obscene language or gestures is specifically forbidden at any time prior to, during, or after the event in the immediate area of the host marina, weigh-in area, lodging facilities, or tournament headquarters.

**36. Standings/Ties** — Final standings in any LET'S TALK FISHIN event will be determined by the heaviest cumulative weight for the prescribed tournament period. The cumulative total will reflect the actual weight of the fish caught, less assessed penalties, if any. In the case of a tie, the prize money and points will be awarded in the following manner: For cash awards, the designated prizes will be added together and split among those tied for a given place. (Example: A two-way tie for fifth place would split the cash awards designated for both 5th and 6th place and each would receive 5<sup>th</sup> place points). This applies to option awards as well.

**37. Tournament Check-In** — All anglers are required to check-in with the tournament registration staff the morning of the tournament. Tournament check-in times are set and announced by the Tournament officials, this is normally an hour before safe light.

**38. Tournament Protection Rule** — Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, is detrimental to the tournament, damaging to organized fishing, to LET'S TALK FISHIN, or any of its staff, sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as park rangers, fisheries biologists, or other officials), during the tournament, may result in the temporary or permanent suspension from all future LET'S TALK FISHIN events. IT IS THE

RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH CONTESTANT to know these rules. A rules violation compromises the entire tournament field.

**39. Under the Influence/Alcoholic Beverages/Narcotics** — Any contestant under the influence of, or in possession of, alcohol, barbiturates, marijuana, or any other controlled substance in his or her boat maybe disqualified at the tournament director’s discretion.

**40. Weigh-In** — When approaching the scales for weighing please have fish bagged and big fish tagged. When presenting fish to be weighed, they immediately become the “official catch” of the contest, and they become the possession of the Weighmaster to measure, weigh and record as such. Big fish should be tagged to help identify the big fish quickly. In the case a Big fish is caught early in the day it may be weighed in anytime and recorded as part of the anglers catch of the day. It will become the responsibility of the weighmaster at that time to take care of the fish. This is for a better survival rate of the Big fish. Requests for a re-weigh will be granted however the 2<sup>nd</sup> weight will be the final weight..



## COUPLES OPTION RULES & GUIDELINES

**Couples Tournament Payouts** - The payouts are determined using the following method:

- Option (winner takes all) \$ 50.00 each registration with an %100 payback.
- Let’s Talk Fishin rules apply to the couple’s entered.
- A Couple is defined as one male and one female.

**Final decisions made by the tournament director are final.**



### CRAPPIE RULES:

1. **All State of Arizona, Arizona Game & Fish Department, Tonto National Forest, and Roosevelt Lake laws and regulations must be followed.**  
Let’s Talk Fishin rules will apply unless noted below. Failure to comply with said



laws and regulations along with the rules of this event might result in forfeiture of any money paid and disqualification from the event.

2. This event does not include **parking and camping fees**. Everyone is responsible for obtaining the appropriate pass.
3. **Registration** can be done one of two ways:
  - a. By going online at [www.letstalkfishin.com](http://www.letstalkfishin.com) selecting tournaments, Crappie and registration. Payment is via PayPal. And a boat number will be assigned. If registering online check in at AM registration is mandatory.
4. **Heaviest bag** of 7 Crappie per team wins.
  - a. You are allowed to keep as many fish as you want but only 7 can be weighed in.
  - b. All Crappie weighed and/or kept at this tournament must be at least 10 inches in length.
  - c. Any Crappie caught smaller than 10 inches must be immediately released.
5. A **4-pole limit** per team, you can have up to **4 people on your team** and only 4 poles in the water at a time. One team per boat.
6. Hook and Line, live **bait and trolling** permitted.
7. **Weigh-in** starts at 3:00 pm, when you arrive at weigh-in you must have your big Crappie tagged.
  - a. Any team checking in 15 minutes after their designated time cannot weigh in fish.
8. **Big Fish:** Pays 2 places

**Crappie Tournament Payouts** - The payouts are determined using the following method:

Entry Fee \$100 with a payback as follows:

Basic Entry (Pays 1 in 3)	\$ 40.00	Gas raffle	\$ 5.00
Championship	\$ 10.00	Goon Fish	\$ 5.00
Insurance/Permit	\$ 20.00		
Big Fish	\$ 20.00 (Pays 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> )		



## LITTLE ANGLER TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

**LITTLE ANGLER (13 and under):** To follow all Arizona Game & fish Laws

Little Angler Tournaments TBD.

**1. Prizes** - The top three largest Bass, Carp, Crappie, Catfish and Blue Gill will determine the Little Angler winners. No child may win more than one place. For example: If a child has 2nd largest

Catfish and the 3rd largest Bass, he/she would be awarded the 2nd Place in the Catfish category only. This allows more children opportunities to win awards. All Little Anglers will receive something for fishing even if fish are not caught.

2. Schedule on web site: [www.letstalkfishin.com](http://www.letstalkfishin.com)

**Final decisions made by the tournament director are final.**



## TROUT TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

Trout Tournaments are held in Fall and Spring.

Unless specifically noted below, all of the rules listed above apply to all LET'S TALK FISHIN events.

**1. Size Limits/Bag Limits** — Qualifying fish: Largemouth, Smallmouth no minimum length. Trout must be a minimum of 8" in length, all measured laying flat with the mouth closed on a flat board. The daily tournament limit will be four (4) trout per boat & no limit on Bass. Tournament anglers inside the check-in area must not possess more than the tournament limit of 6 Trout. Anglers in violation are subject to disqualification for the day, at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Should local or state regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length or a different bag limit than the LET'S TALK FISHIN standard, the more stringent standard will be utilized in the tournament. Short fish will not be included in total weight.

**2. License:** A valid fishing license is required with a limit of 4 trout in possession. (Children 9 or younger are limited to 3 trout, unless they have a license). Children 10-17 must have a youth license and their limit of trout are 2 per day.

## COVID Guidelines

We will need to follow all the necessary precautions to keep everyone safe.

We will be running our tournament according to the COVID-19 guidelines:

### Registration

We will have tables with registration forms on them 6 feet from each other and 6 ft from the registration table.

If you feel safer feel free to wear gloves while handling the clip boards.

Live well's will be checked as normal however a buoy marker will not be given. We will have a checklist to verify all live wells are checked.

### Weigh In

We will have a drive by weigh in. Once you are out of the water and ready to weigh in

please form a line in front of the stage trailer. STAY IN YOUR BOAT & HAVE YOUR FISH READY!

You may hold you fish up while removing from the live well for pictures.

Tag your big fish

Hand your bag to weigh master

Weigh master will weigh your fish

No weigh slips will be given so feel free to take a picture from your boat of the weigh screen.

After fish are weighed you are free to leave. Verify mailing address with Teresa if you think you might get a check.

#### NO FOOD

#### After Weigh In

Results will be calculated, and awards created

If you choose to stay for your award

Please remain at your boat

Names will be called to come up to receive your award.

If you choose to leave Check's will be mailed. Verify mailing address with Teresa if you think you might get a check.

Plaques will be held till next event.

Gas Raffle will be picked and checks ready. It will be drawn according to boat number. Results and Standings will be posted to the letstalkfishin.com website.

### **Contact Information**

For Tournament Schedules or Entry forms, contact:

**LET'S TALK FISHIN**

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Payson, AZ 85541

(928) 978-3659

Email: [letstalkfishin@gmail.com](mailto:letstalkfishin@gmail.com)

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