

Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail Tournament Rules

Last update: September 28, 2025

1. Team members must be a member of Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail in good standing to fish a tournament event. The annual membership payment is due before fishing any tournament and is \$50 per person with youth under 16 years old free.
2. One team member must be present for the pre-tournament meeting. The anglers are responsible to know any changes announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Registration for the tournament event will take place the morning of tournament day. Cost is \$250.00 per team to be paid in cash.
3. Payouts: From that \$250 team entry fee, \$20 goes to the Arizona Mule Deer Association for insurance, \$20 goes to the C.A.S.T. for Kids Arizona event, and \$10 goes to the Mudshark Marine Veteran's tournament for payouts and raffle prizes. The remaining \$200 is fully paid out 100% back to the tournament winners as follows:
 - a. 1st Place: 45% (\$90)
 - b. 2nd Place: 25% (\$50)
 - c. 3rd Place: 17.5% (\$35)
 - d. Big Fish: 12.5% (\$25)
4. Teams may enter an optional side pot for the biggest crappie. Entry fee for this optional side pot is \$20.
5. Teams may enter an optional side pot for the biggest goon fish (not crappie). Entry fee for this optional side pot is \$10.
6. A tournament tie for first place will be decided by the team's biggest crappie. Ties for other places will split the purse for those places.
7. The tournament director may change the start or end due to weather and safety issues at his discretion and any changes will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. The normal start time is safelight and stop time is 3pm.
8. Waters are off limits at 4 p.m. the day before the tournament.
9. Teams must pay the entry fee for at least 4 of the 5 tournament events to be able to compete and qualify in the championship weekend tournament event.
10. A point system is used to determine the winner at each tournament and total points accumulated for all tournament events including the Championship weekend events is used to determine Angler Team of the Year. 1st place earns 100 points, 2nd place earns 99 points, 3rd place earns 98 points, 4th place earns 97 points, 5th place earns 96 points, etc. The biggest crappie earns 1 point, and if there is a tie then both teams earn 1 point. If a team does not weigh in any fish, they receive 1 point less than the points earned by the last place team that caught fish. If a team does not attend but paid the tournament entry fee, they receive 5 points less than the points earned by the last place team that caught fish. If teams tie for total weight, then each team's biggest fish is used to break the tie.

11. Teams may consist of 1 or 2 anglers. A team may have a 3rd angler if the person is under the age of 16. Pole limits a team with a youth third member, are the same as a two partner team.
12. Teams may weigh in up to 5 live crappie 10" or longer and hold up to 7 live crappie in their livewell.
13. If a team presents a dead crappie or a crappie under 10" in length, it will be removed and the team may weigh the remaining fish. If fish have been checked by the tournament official and any fish dies after the check, the fish will still be weighed.
14. Teams may keep extra crappie beyond the 7 in their livewell, but those extra crappie must not be held in their livewell at weigh-in and must be in a separate cooler or container and not counted.
15. Crappie must be caught during tournament hours, on the legal tournament waters, by the team presenting the crappie.
16. Crappie must be hooked in the lip or through the mouth.
17. Crappie must be legal in length if stated in any state or local regulations.
18. Tournament waters are defined as areas open to all participants of the event and accessible by normal navigational means only. Fishing within 50 feet of a marina gas pump or within 50 feet of a competitor's boat is prohibited. Any violation of off limits water will result in disqualification.
19. In the case of extreme weather/water conditions, the tournament director reserves the right to postpone or delay the start of a tournament. Cancelled tournaments due to weather will have teams entry fee refunded.
20. Tournament start and stop times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. No team will be able to enter the weigh in line after the announced weigh in line "closed" time that is announced at the pre-tournament meeting.
21. Teams must comply with all state fishing and boating regulations.
22. Fishing and boating licenses and insurance are the responsibility of team members.
23. Scales will be set up and open one hour before the stop time of each tournament. The tournament director reserves the right to open the scales earlier if conditions are such that fish are stressed.
24. Only 1 boat may be used by a team at one time during practice.
25. For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be propeller driven and equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. Rubber Rafts, Canoes and Go-Devils are not allowed in practice or during official competition. Two-person teams (one boat per team) must stay within 25 feet of each other while fishing. Official practice time is defined as up to 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled tournament.
26. Teams may use rod and reel combos, hand-held pole and reel combos or hand-held poles. There is no limit on the poles per team in the boat during the tournament, however teams must follow local and state laws and regulations regarding number of poles being fished with and number of people fishing.
27. A maximum of two baits per pole may be used during tournament hours if in accordance with local and state laws and regulations. Live and/or artificial bait may be used. Stinger hooks and trailer hooks are prohibited. Crankbaits with treble hooks are allowed.

28. Binoculars and other magnifying devices are not allowed during pre-fishing or tournament at any time. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine, radios, walkie-talkies, CB'S, etc. to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is prohibited, unless for an emergency.
29. During tournament hours no one may spot fish for you or mark fishing spots for you.
30. There is no sharing information in any way including sharing of waypoints, coordinates, or any other method for locating fish.
31. A team may transfer fish to another boat to get to the weigh in on time, only in the case of boat or motor damage.
32. Beverages, drugs, or substances that can impair anglers are not allowed in the boat or during competition hours and until polygraphs are given.
33. Refunds will only be made in a life-threatening emergency or death in the family.
34. Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail reserves the right to have a spotter and/or observer and/or a tournament film crew staff member on any team's boat at any time during the tournament phases.
35. Any protest must be made in writing to the tournament director within 30 minutes following the end of the official weigh-in. All protests must cite the rule number(s) allegedly broken.
36. Instances of poor sportsmanship during the tournament or using social media posts in a negative way towards the trail, its competitors, or its sponsors may be grounds for disqualification or banned from competition if circumstances require.
37. Participants agree to release the Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail and its sponsors of these events from any liability.
38. Participants agree to release the Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail and its sponsors from any obligation for using names and photo likeness in promotional materials and/or video productions.
39. All decisions regarding compliance with these rules and the interpretation of these rules will be made by the tournament director and Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail which reserves the right to make additional reasonable rules for the conduct of its tournaments if circumstances require.
40. The Mudshark Marine Arizona Team Crappie Trail tournaments do not discriminate for reasons of race, creed, color, national origin, and we abide by all rules set forth in the American Disabilities Act.