

OSC Tournament Rules

2026-2027 Tournament Season

***Interpretation of these rules are exclusively up to the Tournament Director and OSC President (as needed).**

General: This is a boating and sporting event. It is limited to fish being caught with a rod and reel only from and aboard a specific team boat that has entered the tournament at specified start times for that day's event. There is no rod and reel limit per boat. All team boats **MUST** have a paid member of the club aboard at the time of catch and during to be a valid weigh in for all events. All participants must follow Ga State Fishing Laws and Regulations. Valid Ga State fishing licenses are required for all participants in the Tournament provided they are of the required age per Ga State Law. Any Team receiving a citation from any law enforcement official during the tournament may be disqualified from the tournament. A decision will be made by the Tournament Director and President of OSC as to the severity of the infraction and the penalties to be imposed.

Waters accepted: Fish entered must only be caught at Lake Lanier and cannot be from any surrounding waters. There is no off-limits pre-fishing period before this event. The boundaries of Lake Lanier shall be defined as navigable waters to include rivers and creeks adjoining the main lake body set forth by the Army Corp of Engineers and the State of Ga. If any waters are in question as to their acceptance an inquiry must be presented to the Tournament Director 48hrs prior to the event or will be subject to disqualification.

Acceptable fish and totals: Any species of the Striped Bass family to include (Striped Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass and White Bass) may be measured. There is no limit to the number of fish you can catch and measure. This is a catch and release Tournament and only the quantity of fish that the Tournament requires for that day's event will be counted (see schedule for fish totals to be considered). (**As of 2025 Mini Season) There will also be an optional Spotted Bass/Largemouth Bass pot that boat captains can elect to buy into.

Boat launching sites: Your Team may launch from any sites or boat dock from the approved navigable waters on Lake Lanier.

Measuring Fish: All valid fish **MUST** be measured in the same approved manner to be an acceptable entry. An approved purchased board bearing measurements to the 1/4" are the only acceptable boards. Oakwood Striper Club prefers Check it Sticks or Oakwood Bait and Tackle boards to be used for better visibility. All homemade boards, retractable boards are prohibited from being used towards a valid entry and will not be acceptable. In the event a fish is longer than your board a secondary tape measure may be used to extend the approved board and must be placed in a manner that begins from 0". In this scenario a decision will be made by the

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Tournament Director and President of OSC to the length accepted based on clear photos and the location of the tail on the added tape measure. Decisions made will be final without bias and will not be changed. When measuring a fish for an acceptable entry the nose of the fish MUST be touching the backboard of the rule while lying flat in clear view with no obstructions along with the visible tournament number issued the day of the tournament. Keep in mind the sun glare!! If a nose contact of the fish cannot be determined or the tournament number is not in the picture, the fish will not be accepted for entry (NO EXCEPTIONS). Once a picture is taken, it is the Captain of the Teams responsibility to determine if the picture is clear and meets the above-mentioned criteria to be an acceptable entry. If the picture in your mind is questionable as to its acceptance a second picture or more should be taken to reach an acceptable outcome. Keep in mind when zooming in, it may restrict viewing of the overall fish which would result in a failed photo entry. Also, if the tail of the fish does not reach the next ¼” rule mark clearly on the photo, the fish length will be rounded down to the previous ¼” marking on the rule. In the event of two or more fish measuring to the same ¼ inch that are contesting for the Big Fish award, the next largest fish between those teams will be deemed the winner of the big fish pot. The same process will be applied in the case of overall total length measured for regular tournament results.

Tournament number: Prior to the Tournament start time (10-15 minutes) a random live generated number will be posted on the Oakwood Facebook group page. It is this post provided by the Tournament Director that all entries must be posted on to be a valid photo entry. The number generated must be displayed in plain sight next to the fish (No Exceptions to this rule). Acceptable forms of visibility are phones with numbers displayed, writing it on your hand or just using a piece of paper or business card with the number next to the fish without obstructing the measuring board. If for some reason that day you do not have access to the generated number, please call the Tournament Director to obtain, or simply call another member you trust participating that day. Keep in mind acceptable photos must be posted as a comment under the same post as the Tournament number shown above.

Time: All Tournaments have unique start times and end times based on time of season and sunrise. It is the responsibility of the captain to make sure that he or she determines the scheduled times for that day. A schedule is posted to the Oakwood group page on Facebook. Any Team starting prior to the scheduled start time will be an automatic disqualification from that day’s event. All entry money provided by such a team will not be returned but will remain in the winnings of that event to be provided to clear winners of the Tournament (No Exceptions). Also, any potential points to be obtained by such a Team will be removed from the standings. CHEATING IS UNACCEPTABLE!!! At the end of the scheduled Tournament time, it is the Captains of each Teams responsibility to post the virtual pictures of that days catch. It is highly recommended that you post at least 15-20 min prior to the end of the Tournament or sooner. This

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will enable you to verify your pic posts prior to the deadline. Any pics received after the deadline will not be accepted and will be removed from the winning pics of the day (NO Exceptions) so as not to cause confusion in the day's event. This decision will be made by the Tournament Director and or President accepting the photos.

Registration & Optional Tournament Entry fees: You must register your team by notifying the Tournament Director prior to Start Time. A "Roll Call" post will appear on our Oakwood group page on Facebook the week before the tournament so that you can confirm your intent to participate in the event prior to start time. Once you register or confirm your participation in the tournament, you are committed to pay the entry fee prior to the start of the next meeting. Tournament fees should be paid to the Tournament Director in cash prior to the start of the meeting following the tournament. You also have the option to pay the next tournaments entry fee the month before if you choose to do so.

Tournament fees per boat - \$50. There is also an additional spot pot that can be joined for \$5 and is separate from normal tournament payouts.

***All tournament entry fees must be paid prior to the start of the meeting following the tournament **(If you commit to fish in the tournament for the payout, you must pay the fee).** Entry fees need to be paid in cash, and payments can be made in advance (i.e. November tournament fees can be paid at the October meeting).

*****All tournament fees are optional.** Club members can fish in the club tournament without paying the tournament fee and will be awarded points toward the yearly Points Race. However, they would not be eligible for any to receive any of the tournament payout pots that were not paid into prior to the start of the tournament. If a team places in a tournament or qualifies for a big fish pot that did not pay into the tournament/pot, then the winnings are paid out to the next team in position that did pay into the tournament/pot. **If a team is electing to only fish a tournament for the points, they must declare they are only fishing for points in the role call leading up to the tournament.**

*****In case of emergency,** if you are sick or have any circumstance that prevents you from participation in the tournament prior to start time, you can contact the Club President or Tournament Director and they will hold your registration until the next tournament.

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Tournament points awarded after 1st Tournament entry: The Point Race is an accumulation of team points earned through tournament results and meeting activities for the complete club year. The standard club year will run from April through February with the Club “Classic” Tournament falling in March (For teams that qualify). The points race is used to award the team with the most accumulated points at the end of the club year with the “Team of the Year” status. Points are earned each month as defined below:

20 – Participation points are earned for each team that fishes in the monthly club tournament.

1 – Weigh-in points are earned for each inch of a team’s total fish (weigh-in total for each monthly club tournament – ex. 60 inches in a tournament would equal 60 pts). Only the 9 best monthly weigh-in fish point scores are summed to calculate Point Race Year End Standings, dropping to 2 lowest.

20 – Big Fish points are earned for the team winning the Big Fish pot in the monthly tournament.

10 - Meeting points are earned for each team that has one or more team members in attendance at the monthly club meeting. (Note: a team can earn meeting points in any month after the first initial tournament entry, even if they do not fish in the following tournaments. Also, be sure to sign into the tournament directors “Team Sign-Up Sheet” provided at the meeting to be awarded the meeting points even if your team is not fishing).

20 – Bonus fish points for any team catching a 40” or better fish in length for season 2025-2026.

5 – Co-Angler program points. As of the 2025 mini season: Captains willing to participate in the club’s co-angler program will qualify for an additional 5 participation points for each tournament they elect to participate in the program. Captains must declare their intent at the previous month’s meeting so that captains and co-anglers can be assigned well in advance to the next tournament. Pairings will be determined by drawing a captain and co-angler out of a hat. Captains who are willing to participate but do not draw a co-angler will still be awarded the 5 additional points for that month. In an effort to help co-anglers become familiar with multiple club captains, once a co-angler fishes with a captain in a tournament, they are not able to draw that captain again for a period of 3 months. Co-Anglers are limited to a 12 month program period, and at that point will either need to join an existing team, or start one of their own.

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Tournament drops - Standard season tournament drops will be 2 lowest using 9 best totals to count towards the end of the year point race.

“Classic Tournament” – The “Classic” is a tournament that teams qualify for by paying to fish in a certain number of tournaments throughout the season. If a boat buys into at least 8 of the 11 regular season tournaments, they will qualify to fish in the Classic tournament which will fall in March. The club will sponsor additional funds for the payouts in this tournament (in addition to the standard club entry fees), and the payouts will be determined based on the amount of fundraisers/sponsorships accumulated by the club over the course of the season.

Cancellation of Tournaments: Cancellations will be decided jointly by the President and the Tournament Director. If a Tournament must be cancelled, even at the last minute or during a Tournament in Progress due to dangerous weather or other hazards, Members should check their e-mail and look for a message from the Tournament Director. If e-mail is not available, contact the Tournament Director or Club President for information or check our club Facebook Group page.

Tournament Payouts: Payouts will be made to the captain of the team/boat. The captain may then distribute Payout funds (at his or her discretion) to other crew members. The number of places paid out and the distribution of the tournament pot is determined by the number of boats. (\$40 of the entry fee will go to the tournament pot, and \$10 of the entry fee will go to the tournament big fish pot)

Tournament Big Fish 100% of the Tournament Big Fish Pot
Optional \$5 Tournament Spot Pot 100% of the Tournament Big Spot Pot

1 to 5 Paid Boats	1st place 100% of Tournament Pot
6 to 10 Paid Boats	1st place 60% of Tournament Pot
	2nd place 40% of Tournament Pot
11 to 20 Paid Boats	1st place 50% of Tournament Pot
	2nd place 30% of Tournament Pot
	3rd place 20% of Tournament Pot
More than 20 Paid Boats	1st place 48% of Tournament Pot
	2nd place 27% of Tournament Pot
	3rd place 15% of Tournament Pot
	4th place 10% of Tournament Pot

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Disqualifications:

- 1) Any Team caught participating in fraudulent fish catches for the event, such as staging fish, trot lines or accepting fish from individuals not on the boat that day.
- 2) Also, clearly visible dead fish are not accepted for entry and will be disqualified and resulting in a 50-point reduction penalty. Decision made by Tournament Director and President.
- 3) Any Team starting earlier than the posted start time, meaning there are lines in the water prior to Tournament time is not acceptable.
- 4) Any Team that receives a citation from Law Enforcement during Tournament times (This will be a case-by-case bases on the severity and reviewed by the Tournament Director and OSC President and a decision will be made as to the re-percussions and if there are any warranted for the infraction. This decision could be disqualification and or a reduction of year end points.

*****Members must be in good standing with no dues in the rears as of the Start of each tournament or they will be disqualified, and no points given.**