

Team Supreme Outdoors Tournament Rules

A complete knowledge of these rules will be the team's responsibility. Any violation of these rules will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament and from future Team Supreme Outdoors events.

The following rules apply to the 2008 Team Supreme Outdoors Tournaments. These rules are final and will be interpreted solely by the tournament board and their decision is final.

- 1. Eligibility:** An entry form is mandatory for each event fished and must be completed in full and signed by both the boater and partner (or substitute).
- 2. Age Requirement:** Anglers under the age of 16 may compete as long as their partner is at least 18 years old and has a valid drivers license.
- 3. Membership:** Team Supreme Outdoors tournaments are open to all Team Supreme members. Membership fee is \$30.00 per angler a year and runs from Jan.1, 2008 – Dec. 31, 2008.
- 4. License :** BOTH team members must hold a valid fishing license for the water where the tournament is being held **REGARDLESS OF AGE.**
- 5. Entry Fee:** The entry fee per tournament for each division will be \$110.00 per team. There is an optional fee of \$20.00 for teams that wish to enter Big Bass.
- 6. Entry Fee Deadline:** All entry forms must be received in the office on the Wednesday prior to the tournament date by 3:00 p.m. EST.
- 7. Late Fee:** There will be a late fee of \$10.00 for any entry received after the deadline. All entries paid at the ramp will be **CASH ONLY.**
- 8. Credit Card Payment:** Payment by credit card may be made by phone or fax for an additional fee of \$10.00 and must be received by the deadline.
- 9. Refund:** A refund or transfer to another tournament date may be requested in the event a team cannot participate in a tournament it has entered; however the request must be made before the Wed. 3:00 p.m. deadline. There is a \$20.00 fee assessed to any refunds.
- 10. Substitutes:** Any team may use a substitute if one of its members cannot fish a given tournament. A substitute must be a Team Supreme member. Two substitutes will be allowed per team, per division, per year. If the same individual is used as a substitute in more than one tournament in the same division the individual is then declared to be the 2nd substitute. Substitutes are based upon tournaments, not individuals. In an extreme circumstance an observer may be appointed by the tournament director. If an observer cannot be found, the individual will not be allowed to fish.
- 11. Family Member:** An immediate family member of the tournament participant may be used as a substitute. An immediate family member includes a spouse, son, daughter, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, brother, or sister. If an immediate family member substitutes he/she does not have to pay a membership fee unless used more than once. Only two immediate family members may be used during a tournament year.
- 12. Boat Numbers:** Only those teams that have prepaid prior to the deadline are eligible to draw for take-off position. Late entries will take-off after the drawn numbers, in the order in which they were received.
- 13. Fishing Hours:** Tournaments will run from safe light (the ability to run a watercraft safely under power with visibility of 1 mile or more) until 3:00 p.m. unless regulated by a local, state, or federal government agency. Tournament hours are from take-off to official check-in.
- 14. Pre-Tournament Inspection:** All teams must check-in at the official checkpoint for live well and kill switch inspection prior to take-off.
- 15. Type of Fish Eligible:** Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Kentucky Spotted Bass will be counted.
- 16. Live Well:** All boats must be equipped with a live well capable of re-circulating and/or aerating the live well water.
- 17. Tournament Limit:** No more than a tournament limit of six bass will be allowed in a team's live well at any time (unless or state and local restrictions apply). Frozen, mangled, or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate disqualification.
- 18. Official Tournament Length:** The official Team Supreme Outdoors tournament length is 14". The tournament length is only subject to change if not in accordance with state and local length limits.
- 19. Dead Fish Penalty:** It is the team's responsibility to make every effort to keep its bass alive. A one-pound penalty will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. **A DEAD BASS WILL NOT BE ELIGIBLE FOR BIG BASS AWARDS.**
- 20. Short Fish Penalty:** If the tournament length limit is more than the stated state or local limit for a particular tournament's waters, there will be a two pound penalty plus the weight of the short fish taken from the total bag weight. However, if the tournament length limit is the same as stated legal length on a particular tournament's waters, the result is immediate disqualification.
- 21. Check-In For Weigh-In:** There will be a designated check in the area. The penalty for late check-in will be disqualification.
- 22. Official Weigh-In:** The tournament director will announce when fish may be taken from the live well. Team Supreme will supply weigh-in bags. No team is allowed to use their own bags. At least one team member must be present during weigh-in to verify weight and to SIGN, NOT INITIAL the weigh slip. Once the team has presented their fish for weigh-in and have deposited the fish in the "bump tub", no one will be allowed to handle the fish except for a Team Supreme staff member.
- 23. Weigh-In Slips:** Weigh-in slips are the responsibility of the team. You will not be allowed to weigh your fish if you do not have your weigh-in slip.
- 24. Scoring:** Points, which will qualify a team to fish the year-end, will be awarded to all teams weighing fish. 100 points for 1st place, 99 points for 2nd, 98 for 3rd, etc. Bonus points are added based upon weight of fish, (i.e. 1st place gets 100 points plus weight of 22.34 lbs equals total points of 122.34). Anglers in attendance who do not weigh-in fish but turn in their signed weigh slips will receive 5 points for attending the tournament.
- 25. Ties:** All ties will be broken by largest fish, then by number of fish caught, and finally by the lowest boat position. (lowest boat being #1)

26. **Tackle:** Only artificial lures may be used. Pork style baits are allowed.
27. **Rods:** All bass must be caught by the use of rod and reel. Only one rod may be used at a time per angler. Rods exceeding 8 feet in length are prohibited. Hooking and landing of fish must be done from the boat. The use of landing nets is permissible.
28. **Mandatory Equipment:** All boating equipment, standard or optional, must be operational including bow and stern light, live well, and kill switches. Kill switch must be attached to life jacket which must worn while combustion engine is operating.
29. **Boat & Motors:** A participant may use his/her own boat and motor or rental equipment. Rentals are the responsibility of the participants involved. Any boat 15 feet or longer, if powered by a motor of 25 horsepower or more, may be used. All boats must meet B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements. No over-powered boats allowed. Both participants must fish from the same boat.
30. **Safety:** Safe boating practices must be observed.
31. **Life Jackets:** LIFE JACKETS MUST BE ZIPPED, BUCKLED OR CLASPED AND BE WORN AT ALL TIMES WHILE COMBUSTION ENGINE IS IN OPERATION WITH KILL SWITCH ATTACHED. Appropriate Coast Guard approved life jackets, including inflatable's, are mandatory. This includes Coast Guard approved throwable life saving devices. Approved life jacket and wearable life saving shall be compatible with physical size of participant. Life jacket violations will result in immediate disqualification.
32. **Sportsmanship:** Each team is expected to follow high standards of fairness, courtesy, safety, and conservation. No alcoholic beverages, stimulates, or firearms of any kind are allowed in the boat during official tournament hours.
33. **Trolling/Hole Sitting:** Trolling is prohibited. Anyone participating in an effort to restrict fishing in an area due to their boat positioning is expressly prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification.
34. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** These locations are anywhere on the tournament waters except within 50yds of an operational gas pump, 50yds of another participants boat that is anchored with the trolling motor up or in any area designated to be off limits by the tournament director. Any announcements of off limits at the tournament site takes precedence over written rules.
35. **Trailer:** Trailering of boats during tournament hours is not allowed unless a breakdown or accident occurs. The tournament director must be notified immediately and approval is at his/her discretion.
36. **Locking:** Unlimited lock through for all river events is permissible.
37. **Official Boat:** Officials may be on the water during contest hours and can approach, observe, or inspect a participant's boat.
38. **Truth Verification Test:** By signing the entry form all participants agree to submit to a polygraph test if deemed necessary by the tournament director. Refusal to submit a polygraph will result in disqualification from the tournament and all future Team Supreme events.
39. **Citations:** Tournament participants violating a law and receiving a citation from any law enforcement agency while on the water will be disqualified for that days event.
40. **Verification of Liability Insurance:** By signing the entry form, teams verify they are current members of Team Supreme and that they have purchased personal liability insurance that is in force on the specific boat being used in the tournament.
41. **Liability:** Damages of any kind to a team's boat, tackle or equipment are the responsibility of the individuals involved.
42. **Release Waiver:** By signing the entry forms, participants waive and release Team Supreme Outdoors and all other contestants, host sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of injury/damage in connection with the tournaments. They further understand that they must abide by the official rules of Team Supreme Outdoors. BOTH participants must sign the release waiver on the entry form prior to take-off.
43. **Protests:** All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within 15 minutes of the official scale closing. The tournament director, including staff boats, and a random selection of participants shall consider the protest and render a decision. Decisions are final on site.
44. **Cell Phones:** Cell phone are to used for emergencies only! Any abuse will result in disqualification.
45. **Qualifications For Championship:** There are several ways to qualify for the Nation Championship.
A: Team Supreme will average the number of boats per division and invite the top 45% per division.
B: Any team that fishes six tournaments in one division as long as no more than two substitutes are used during the qualifying year.
C: Any team that wins one tournament and has fished a total of four tournaments(with original partner) in any combination of divisions
D: Any team that's fishes a total of seven tournaments in any combination of divisions as long as no more than two substitutes were used during the qualifying year.
46. **Buy-In for Year End:** There is one buy-in per qualifying year for a missed tournament, regardless of how many divisions are fished. **This rule does not apply to 45C.**
47. **Year End Substitute:** Substitutes for the year-end tournament must be a Team Supreme member during the qualifying year, and has fished at least one qualifying tournament for the National Championship. Those teams that have won their specific division must use qualifying partner or a designated substitute that their team used during qualifying year in order to compete for Angler of the Year award.
48. **Refusal of Participation:**
A: Team Supreme Outdoors retains the right to refuse participation to any team or participant that is not a member in good standing.
B: If a team splits up or if an angler fishes with a different partner in different divisions, it is at the sole discretion of the tournament committee to invite individual to the National Championship.
C: If a person represents themselves or performs services as a guide within the last two years on the body of water in which the National Championship is being held, he/she will be deemed ineligible from National Championship participation.