

GA Slab Masters Rules 2010 - 2011 Season

V. July 21, 2010. These rules supersede any and all other rules.

1.) Entries:

- A.) **Regular Season Tournament Entry Fees:** \$80.00 per Team/Boat which does include the Big Fish. You must be a paid member of GA Slab Masters prior to entering any GA Slab Masters event of the season. Any participant under the age of 16 does not have to pay the membership fee.
- B.) **Membership fees:** \$40.00 per angler for Oct. 1, 2009 until Dec. 31, 2010. New and renewal memberships will be \$40.00 and will be due Jan. 01, 2011 and will run until May 31, 2011 (end of current season). Membership dues will run season to season in all future seasons. New members and renewal members can submit 2010 - 2011 season memberships at or prior to the first tournament of the current season (Nov. 6, 2010). Total Membership fees for 2010-2011 are \$40.00.
- C.) You may enter tournaments alone, with another member of your choice, or any new member. No more than 2 adults are allowed in participating boats during tournament hours except for youths under the age of 16 can be in competing boats. No other persons are allowed in competing boats during tournament hours. GA Slab Masters reserves the right to place a spotter boat, photographer, and/or observer with any team, and/or to board and inspect any and all boats entered in any GA Slab Masters event, at any time. All Team members must sign entry forms to enter in tournaments and must fish from the same boat during all tournament hours. If one or more team members exit the boat during tournament hours, all lines must be removed from the water and fishing must cease until all team members are back in the boat.
- D.) All persons entering any GA Slab Masters tournament or event are subject to our polygraph tests at any point, at the request of GA Slab Masters Officials. Refusal/failure of a polygraph will result in disqualification in any GA Slab Masters events, revocation of membership(s), forfeiture of any money and/or prize(s). No refund(s) of any kind will be made to any person(s) who refuse or fail a polygraph. All test results and decisions made by GA Slab Masters Officials are final.
- E.) **2011 State Championship Classic Entry Fee:** \$130.00 per Team/Boat which does include the Big Fish.
- F.) **State Championship Classic Qualifications:** All team members must physically compete in **4 different** Regular Current Season Tournaments (RST) **and check-in** with one of the Tournament Officials **at each weigh-in**.
- G.) In case of extreme weather/water conditions, Tournament Officials reserve the right to cancel, postpone and/or to reschedule any tournament or event. All entry fees will be refunded, in the case of tournament cancellation.

2.) On the Water Rules:

- A.) Fishable waters are defined as areas on tournament lakes/reservoirs that can be accessed by boat. Bank fishing is not allowed & all teams must fish from a boat. All ramp, launch and license fees are the responsibility of participants & are not included in any entry fees. All teams must stay a distance of 25 feet from each other while fishing and maintain good sportsman like conduct at all times.
- B.) All teams must use hand held rod/pole & reel combos or hand held poles. A maximum of 8 rod/pole & reel combos or hand held poles are allowed for each team and a maximum of 2 baits/hooks are allowed per rod/pole unless prohibited by State regulations. Artificial or live bait may be used. All crappie must be hooked in the mouth or lips. A landing net may be used and no other type nets are allowed.
- C.) The use of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs during tournament hours is strictly prohibited and failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification. All teams must practice safe boating practices and be respectful of others.
- D.) No one shall be hired or compensated in a professional capacity (guides, etc.) in any way, to fish with or for you, spot for you or physically mark spots for you prior or during any tournament hours. Hole sitting by competitors or non competitors boats will not be allowed and is considered unsportsmanlike like.
- E.) Binoculars/sight magnifying devices are not allowed, for the purpose of spying on other competitors during tournament hours. No communication devices of any kind shall be used to communicate to or receive fishing information from anyone during tournament hours.
- F.) All live wells will be empty at the start of all tournaments & no live bait of any kind shall be put in any live well holding crappie to be weighed in at any tournaments. Weight enhancement of any kind is not permitted.

3.) Tournament Times:

- A.) All references to tournament times by GA Slab Masters are understood to be **Eastern Standard Time (EST)** no matter what time zone the tournament waters are in. **Pre-fishing cut off** is **7:00 PM** the day before any Regular Season Tournament. **Tournament Registration** will begin at **5:30 AM** and end at **7:15 AM**. Seminars will start at **5:45 AM**, one member of each team must be present, unless prior approval has been given by Tournament Officials or an unanticipated emergency arises and a Tournament Official has been contacted by phone.
- B.) After the seminar, if your team has finished registration you may leave by land or water with the Tournament Official's release. **Start fishing time** for all Regular Season Tournaments will be **6:45 AM**. This means you can not be fishing or have any type of lines or baits in the water before this time, in any way shape or form. **Stop fishing time** for all Regular Season tournaments is **3:30 PM**. This means you must stop fishing and have lines and baits out of the water by this time. You must be in the weigh-in line and acknowledged by the Tournament Officials by **4:30 PM** according to Tournament Official's time piece to weigh your crappie. (State Championship Classic times will be announced at a later date.)

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4.) Pay Outs:

- A.) Regular Season Tournament (RST) pay outs will be based on 70% of total entry fees, including Big Fish, plus prizes and bonuses if available:
- 1st - 5th place + Big Fish will be paid if 27 or more teams/boats enter.
 - 1st - 4th place + Big Fish will be paid if 20 to 26 teams/boats enter.
 - 1st - 3rd place + Big Fish will be paid if 13 to 19 teams/boats enter.
 - 1st & 2nd place + Big Fish will be paid if 7 to 12 teams/boats enter.
 - 1st & Big Fish will be paid if less than 6 or less teams/boats enter.
- B.) The State Championship Classic pay outs will be based on 80% of total entry fees including Big Fish, plus prizes and bonuses if available. Pay out schedule will be the same as regular season tournaments as per number of teams/boats entered.
- C.) In case of a tie on the seven (7) crappie total weight for any places, the tie will be broken by the team with the single heaviest weighing crappie in their 7 crappie limit. It is important for each team to weigh their heaviest crappie in case this occurs. There is no tie breaker in the big crappie pot and a split pot will be awarded to tied teams if this occurs.
- D.) Winners of any GA Slab Masters event agree to provide Officials with any requested info or verification in writing or verbally at any time. Payouts may be in the form of (or a combination of) cash, prizes or checks. Teams or individuals must be present to claim winnings or prizes of any kind.

5.) Weigh-In:

- A.) Your team can weigh a maximum of seven (7) crappie and all crappie must be alive. All crappie presented at weigh-in must have been caught during tournament hours by the team weighing them. The only fish accepted for weigh-in are crappie and any references made by GA Slab Masters to "fish" or "slabs" is understood to be crappie.
- B.) Scales will be set up and opened no earlier than 2:00 PM and the weigh-in line will close at 4:30 PM. You must be in line by 4:30 PM and you must be acknowledged by Officials in order to weigh your crappie. **If a team is unable to return to the weigh-in site by the closing of the scales, at least one of the team members must reach one of the Tournament Officials by phone prior to the closing of the scales in order to use any tournament as a qualifying tournament for the State Championship Classic.** Tournament officials reserve the right to adjust scale set up and closure times in case of extreme weather conditions and/or any other reasons. In the event this should occur, participating members will be notified at the appropriate time using the information provided by the member's registration form.
- C.) Upon arrival at the weigh-in line, the team will present the weigh-in voucher to the Tournament Official at the check-in station. Once the number of crappie and whether any crappie are dead, are verified and entered on weigh-in voucher, you will proceed to the weigh-in scales, when the Weigh Master is ready. After your crappie have been verified by Officials, you can still weigh those crappie even if one or more die while waiting in line to weigh-in. Any crappie brought to scales that are determined dead by Officials will be removed and will not be allowed to be weighed. Determining whether a crappie is dead or alive is the sole responsibility of GA Slab Masters Officials and all decisions are final.
- D.) All teams bare the responsibility to and should weigh their biggest crappie in case of a tie. Any jig heads left in crappie must be declared to Tournament Official at weigh-in/check-in station. All crappie brought to weigh-in scales for weigh-in must meet State length requirements and will be checked if questionable. If any crappie is not legal, they will not be allowed to be weighed. We do not require catch and release, but please observe State creel and size limits.
- E.) Pictures, interviews, and etc. will/may be taken by GA Slab Masters during the tournaments and weigh-in for miscellaneous purposes and all teams will be expected to be available for them.
- F.) Protests must be made in writing to Tournament Officials within 10 minutes after the official weigh-in has concluded. All protests must cite the number/letter(s) that were allegedly broken. One half of our polygraph fee (\$200.00) must accompany the written protest. Whoever is wrong based on the outcome of the polygraph test, whether it is the accuser or the accused, will be responsible for the full polygraph fee (\$400.00). Once again, if refusal to take or failure of our polygraph, that team's membership(s) will be terminated with no refund, also the individual(s) will be banned from any future GA Slab Masters events and forfeit the right to any cash, bonus, and/or prize(s) allegedly won. Anyone caught in the wrong may be subject to criminal charges. (Cheating in any event is the same as stealing.) We also reserve the right to make this information available and public. We do not tolerate any type of cheating and are serious about this.

6.) Other:

- A.) By your participation in these tournaments or events, you agree to comply with and uphold the rules set forth by GA Slab Masters and any State regulations that apply to fish-able tournament waters and anyone is subject to disqualification for violations. The interpretation of these rules will be solely at the discretion GA Slab Masters Officials. Decisions of the Tournament Officials are final in all matters concerning these tournaments & are not subject to appeal. GA Slab Masters is not liable or responsible in any way, for any injury, death, or damages of any kind that might occur to persons or real property that engage in any GA Slab Masters tournaments or events.