



2018 Grand Challenge Official Tournament Rules

Entry may be limited to first 600 teams.

1. **GRAND CHALLENGE:** Grand Challenge directors and/or Rules Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone at any time. Entry may be limited to first 600 teams.

2. **ELIGIBILITY:** At least one member of each team must be a minimum of 18 years of age. Under age contestants must have written consent, available upon request of tournament officials, from parent or legal guardian. Each contestant must have a valid Oklahoma Fishing License or proof of exemption, and another form of identification as required by law, on their person.

3. **DEADLINE:** Entry deadline for receiving T-Shirts, is April 19th, 2018. Each contestant is guaranteed a Falcon Rod. Lure packs will be issued upon availability to teams in entry assigned order. Deadline for entry refunds is April 27th, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

4. **FEES:** Tournament fees are \$200.00 per team. Each team must submit their entry fees along with a COMPLETED Grand Challenge entry form and waiver. Participant may fish alone at the full entry fee. A \$30.00 fee will be assessed on all returned checks.

5. **ENTRY VERIFICATION:** Once entry is received and processed, it will be assigned a Take-Off number, and will be updated weekly via, www.falcongrandchallenge.com. Entrants are responsible for verifying and notifying us of any needed corrections, in T-Shirt sizes prior to deadline.

6. **SAFETY:** Coast Guard approved life jackets, kill switch, working bow and stern running lights are mandatory. Life jackets and kill switch must be worn when the boat is on plane. Breaking any state or federal boating law may be cause for disqualification.

7. **BOATS:** Any safe outboard or inboard powered boat with working aerated live wells is allowed. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations.

8. **TACKLE:** Tackle brand use will be restricted in the following categories:
• Rods - Falcon (only)
* All bass must be caught using a Falcon rod with any reel attached in a legal, sporting manner. Only one rod/reel per contestant is allowed in use at any one time. No trolling, snagging, or live bait is allowed. Use of Dip nets, pork style baits, commercial scents, Dip-N-Dye, and Alabama rig style baits are all allowed.

9. **SCORING:** A maximum of four (4) bass per team may be weighed. Only large-mouth/black bass, Kentucky/spotted bass or smallmouth bass are allowed. Any team bringing more than 4 fish to the weigh-in will have their catch disqualified. Once fish have been turned over to tournament officials, they become the property of the tournament and no fish may be added to the catch. Bass in a relaxed manner, must measure a minimum of 14 inches or more on flat board, mouth closed, in any way to get tail to touch. Total stringer weight will determine winners. Each short fish is a 1 lb. penalty and loss of that fish. A ½ lb. penalty per dead bass will be deducted from the total weight of stringer. Director and/or Rules Committee reserve the right to refuse the weighing of any dead bass.

10. **CULLING:** Contestants must cull on the water prior to arriving at check-in.

11. **LATE PENALTY:** Contestants late to weigh-in will be assessed a 1 lb. per minute penalty with a maximum of 5 minutes allowed. Contestants will be disqualified after 5 minutes.

12. **PERMITTED FISHING AREAS:** Fishing is allowed from boat only and confined to waters specified in the tournament. Contestants must not depart the boat to fish or land fish. No fishing or casting within 25 yards of another contestant's anchored boat providing the anchored boat arrived first. Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of an emergency. In case of Mechanical breakdown, one or both contestants with fish, may be transported back to weigh-in by means of any other boat, provided it is equipped with a operating live-well. Fish must remain separated from any emergency boats fish. Tournament Director must be notified prior to weighing in.

13. **RESTRICTING BASS:** Restricting bass by any method which disallows its natural movement or travel throughout the entire impoundment is prohibited.

14. **SEEDING BASS:** Seeding bass captured from another impoundment is prohibited and is cause for disqualification.

15. **DEADWATER TIME:** None

16. **CHECK-IN:** Entrants must check in at MARTIN LANDING, on May 3rd or May 4th, 2018, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm to receive rods, tacklepacks, ribbons, tournament procedures and mapping.

17. **TAKE-OFF:** Boat launch permitted one time only, from any ramp accessible by water from the host ramp (Grove City Ramp in Wolf Creek). The designated, colored ribbon each team receives at check-in, must be tied to the trolling motor in plain view. No team has claim to any given water until their assigned start time. Boat launching

early is permitted, however no team is allowed to depart immediate area no earlier than 10 minutes prior to their assigned take-off.

18. **WEIGH-IN:** Wolf Creek City Ramp. Detailed procedures and mapping provided at Thursday or Friday check-in at Martin Landing.

• Return by water must check-in at check-in boat, and must weigh-in before loading boat. Official weigh-bag will be issued at immediate pavilion area.

• Trailing back to weigh-in. Trailing teams will be delivered a bag at designated arrival area only. Weigh-in will begin with first flight at 2:00 pm. Each team must check in prior to the weigh-in time or be assessed a late penalty. Official tournament weigh bags will be provided. Contestant's fish will not be accepted in any other bag.

19. **OFFICIAL TIME:** Satellite time.

20. **TIES:** All ties shall be decided by the total number of fish. If still tied, awards will be combined and divided equally among the affected ties. Tournament Director has complete discretion to resolve any tie or conflict by any means the Tournament Director deems necessary.

21. **PROTESTS:** Any protest must be presented in writing and prior to the events' closing of the scales.

22. **WAIVER:** All contestants must sign a Waiver Form releasing all tournament officials, contestants, hosts, and sponsors from any and all claims, injuries and/or damages incurred with The Grand Challenge before participation is allowed..

23. **POLYGRAPH:** By signing the Waiver Form, contestants agree to a polygraph test by a qualified examiner. Refusal to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Failure of the polygraph test or refusal to submit to the polygraph test will result in forfeiture of all monies and the contestant(s) will be banned from future Grand Challenge events.

24. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or any state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified.

25. **CHEATING:** Anyone who has been convicted of cheating in any other tournament or is under investigation or legal proceedings concerning other tournaments or fishing contests is not eligible to fish the Challenge.

26. **RULES AND LAWS:** It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to know and follow all applicable tournament rules and governmental laws and regulations. Such governmental laws and regulations include those enacted or promulgated by Federal, State, or local governments, and the Grand River Dam Authority (GRDA). Regardless of your understanding concerning the law about running under bridges, the rule in this tournament is ALL BRIDGES ARE NO WAKE. Running under ANY bridge is grounds for disqualification. Duck Creek on Grand: Contestants must not exceed 30 mph while on plane within the traffic lanes in Duck Creek. Idle only outside the traffic lanes.

27. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs or illegal use of prescription drugs are not allowed during tournament hours and/or prior to taking polygraph.

28. **PAYOUT DEFINITION.** All payout checks will be issued only to the registered Designated Captain. Teams will be responsible for handling the division of payment concerning any tax liability.

29. **DRAWINGS/PRIZES:** Potential drawing winners will be selected in a random drawing from the aggregate of all qualified entries. By their entry, participants are agreeing to these rules and the decision of the Tournament Director, which is final and binding in all respects. Potential drawing winners must be present to win. Noncompliance with the rules or aforementioned forms may result in disqualification of the winner at any time. WINNER AGREES TO ACCEPT PRIZE "AS IS" AND SPONSOR MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS OR WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND, EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ANY WARRANTY OF TITLE, MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR ANY KIND CONCERNING THE APPEARANCE, SAFETY OR PERFORMANCE OF ANY PRIZE. Cash awards are determined by the number of qualified entries received. "Cash" awards will be paid by check. Federal, state, and local taxes on all prizes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

Any public announcement or written notice made by the Tournament Director at the tournament site takes precedence over these written rules. By participating in this event, each person agrees that all decisions made by the Tournament Director are final and not subject to legal challenge. Prize and tackle pack specifications are subject to change without notice and subject to availability. All tax, title, and license expenses are the responsibility of each prize winner. Nothing in these rules supersedes your common sense actions and precautions for the safety of yourself, your partner, and others. Safety is your first priority.