

# 2016/2017 Original Winter Trail Rules

*Registration for this event may be denied at the sole discretion of the Original Winter Trail Committee.*

*Fee(s) paid will be refunded promptly should registration be denied*

1. **RULES INTERPRETATIONS:** The tournament rules committee (Tournament Committee) shall be solely responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of tournament rules. The rules committee will rule on any unusual situations which may occur. Its decision will be final in all instances.
2. **ELIGIBILITY OF PARTICIPANTS:** Participation in tournaments is open to anglers 16 years of age or older (unless accompanied by a parent or guardian). Proof of age is the responsibility of participants. A \$25.00 membership is required for all contestants. Fee covers both trails.
3. **REGISTRATION:** Mail completed application with payment (checks payable to Mike Chronister) to 6956 Ingleside Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC, 28673. Registrations will also be accepted the morning of the tournament. One member of each team must register their team prior to starting time. Both participants must sign release completely to be eligible to fish. Please enclose tournament fees. No same day late fees.
4. A maximum of five (5) fish per team will be weighed in. Fish must be weighed in alive. Dead fish, 8oz. penalty and cannot be weighed for big fish. Teams bringing fish to scales must be caught by that team in tournament waters during tournament hours.
5. **BOATS & MOTORS:** There shall be no restriction on size or type of boat used or the size of the motor used, with the stipulation that all boats must be judged seaworthy by the tournament committee and must be equipped with at least one aerated live well. However, boats should not be overpowered by their rating plate.
6. **TACKLE PERMITTED:** Fly, spinning, casting, or spin-casting reels and rods are approved. All bass must be caught in a sporting manner on artificial lures only (except pork chunks are allowed). A participant may only use one rod at a time. No trolling or live bait. Chumming not allowed.
7. **TOURNAMENT IDENTIFICATION:** Prior to each day's start all boats will be inspected. Each boat will be assigned a start number.
8. **DISQUALIFICATION:** Any boat not in weigh in area promptly at the appointed check in time will be disqualified for that event. Fees will not be refunded for any boat that has been disqualified for any reason at any event.
9. **FISH LIMIT 5 PER BOAT:** Largemouth & spotted bass only. All fish 14" minimum except 2 fish per boat may be weighed in less than 14". All fish must be returned immediately to the water of Lake Norman after completion of weigh in.
10. **PENALTY:** Violation of any of these rules may be cause of suspension or disqualification from this or all future tournaments.
11. **FISHING CONDITIONS:** Tournament will be held regardless of weather conditions. However, the tournament officials may cancel the tournament or change starting times or location as it is deemed necessary for the safety of the anglers.
12. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All tournament participants are expected to behave as professional sportsmen demonstrating good fellowship, integrity and respect for their fellow participants. Poor conduct will not be tolerated by the Tournament Director.
13. **STARTING POSITIONS:** Starting positions will be in the order that applications are received.
14. **POLYGRAPH:** A polygraph will be given at selected events. Individual participants may undergo a polygraph test at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Failure to pass will forfeit all winnings and disqualify the participant or team from any Original Winter Trail event(s).
15. **FISH OFF QUALIFICATIONS:** Fish 5 out of 6 events on Saturday, or 5 out of 6 events on Sunday to be eligible for **Fish Off. No points system.**
16. **TEAM TOURNAMENT:** 2 persons per boat; however, a member may fish this trail solo at the tournament directors discretion. Entry fee for **Fish Off** is \$100 per team, including Big Fish.
17. **CHAMPIONSHIP: Fish Off** will be held on February 4th & 5th, 2017, for contestants who qualify (at Tournament Director's discretion).
18. Any area that is not accessible by boat is off limits. This includes cables, no boat areas, fishing over skimmer wall and dam areas.
19. No Cell Phones or Communication Devices may be used during tournament hours except for emergency purposes.
20. Tournament Director's decision is final except on a case by case basis where the Tournament Committee may be asked to rule by the Director.
21. **Entry Fees:** \$80 total, per boat, per team, includes Big Fish. \$5 per team goes in Big Fish pot, \$15 per team goes towards **Fish Off**, and \$60 per team goes towards weekly payouts (100% + Payback).

*\*Rules subject to change at the discretion of the Original Winter Trail Committee or the Tournament Director, Mike Chronister.*

## Team Entry Form 2016/2017 Original Winter Trail (Print Clearly)

NAME		NAME	
ADDRESS		ADDRESS	
CITY, STATE, ZIP		CITY, STATE, ZIP	
PHONE		PHONE	
EMAIL		EMAIL	

### READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING

Having read the rules, I waive and release all other contestants, sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of injury and/or damages incurred in connection with this tournament. I understand and agree that the tournament rules committee reserves the right if it so elects, for any reason, to reject this application. I also agree to take a polygraph exam if it should be requested.

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail or bring completed application & entry fee payment (make checks payable to Mike Chronister) to 6956 Ingleside Drive, Sherrills Ford, NC, 28673. For more information, call Mike Chronister at (704) 634-1157. Entry fee payments (in cash) will also be accepted at the landing on the morning of the tournament, prior to start time.*