

Fins and Gills Classic

Rules and Regulations 2021

The intent of this tournament is to promote overall good stewardship of the French Broad River and promote fishing. Honesty and fair play are essential to the success and competition in any event and must be followed at all times.

Any disputes before, during, or after the tournament will be brought to the attention of and addressed by the following judges:

- Phil Martin 828-734-0644
- Fins and Gills Classic volunteers

1. REGISTRATION: All participants must register before participating. Registration forms are available online (www.finsandgillsclassic.com). There will be NO pre-registration for the tournament. Registration will be the day of the tournament at the Woodfin Riverside Park. Registration for Bank Fishing and boating will continue throughout the tournament. Each canoe/raft will have each passenger sign the appropriate liability and registration forms and get their tourney stamp. ***The organizers of the event reserve the right to refuse entry of any person, group, or boat.***
2. FORMAT: This is a river tournament. Every participant must pay a \$20 entry fee for adults (16 and older), \$10 entry fee for 13-15, and children 12 and under are free.
 - a. The number of Anglers in a boat cannot exceed the safety capacity of the boat. If you want to rent a boat, Contact the French Broad River Outfitters (505-7371 located at 704 Riverside Drive).
 - b. This is a rod and reel and/or fly fishing tournament only. The tackle is unlimited, other than restrictions defined under state laws, and live bait may be used.
 - c. No motorized engines are permitted, electric or gas, for use with boats in this competition.
 - d. After the tournament begins, two or more boats congregating (close enough to pass fish) will be disqualified at the weigh-in stations. The only exception is in the case of an emergency. All participants are responsible for getting their fish to the zone weigh stations aboard their own boat. This is not a boat tournament, it is an individual tournament.
 - e. All fish must come out of the French Broad River in the designated area. The 2021 designated area is from the Pearson Bridge to the dam just beyond Woodfin Riverside Park. Fish from the trout pond do not count. If there is any possible suspicion of violating or weighing in trout pond fish, then the angler will not be eligible for prizes.
 - f. There is no limit to the number of rods an Angler can have. However, only two lines per Angler can be in the water at the same time.
 - g. Everyone is responsible for their own stringer. **There is no sharing fish.** Anybody caught sharing fish, even within a family, will be disqualified.

3. **TOURNAMENT START/STOP:** The tournament will begin at 8:00 A.M. on the Saturday of the tournament as listed on the registration form. Lines must be out of the water and participants checked in by 2:00 P.M. at the Woodfin Riverside Park. The tournament committee reserves the right to amend the start and finish times of the tournament and will use good faith and judgment to ensure a successful and fair tournament for all participants.
4. **WEIGH-INS:**
 - a. Scales will be positioned at one or more locations along the river route and one final scale will be present at the Woodfin Riverside Park final check in. The final weigh-in will officially close at 2:00 P.M. the day of the tournament. (I.E. you must be at the Woodfin Riverside Park scales or in line to have your remaining fish weighed by 2:00 P.M.).
 - b. **All weigh-in sheets must be handed directly to Phil Martin.** Do NOT give the weigh-in sheet to anyone else. If you catch any fish and have weighed them in and need to leave the tournament early you may turn in your weigh-in sheet to Phil Martin with your name, address, phone number, and note if you are entering the adult or kid division.
 - c. This is a catch and release tournament. There are weigh-in scales located at one or more zones along the river route to maximize participant's ability to quickly weigh-in and then safely release their catch back into the river. Furthermore, any fish caught must be weighed-in within the zone they are caught. This will minimize the displacement of fish population during the tournament. A limit of 5 fish can be weighed-in. Once a fish is weighed-in, you cannot cull that fish. **REMEMBER IF IT HAS FINS AND GILLS YOU CAN WEIGH IT IN!**
 - d. There will be a penalty of 4 ounces taken off of the weight of any fish that dies.
5. **BOUNDARIES:** The boundaries are the Pearson Bridge to the dam nearby the Woodfin Riverside Park. Anyone not fishing at the park or floating the river must give the general location as to where they will be fishing. If they move locations, they need to call or text Phil Martin as to their new location. If the angler is not in the area he/she listed on his/her registration form and no message has been left either by voicemail or by text, the result could be disqualification of the angler.
6. **WEATHER:** All participants are responsible to determine that their craft is river-worthy and are advised and encouraged to be familiar with the current local weather conditions and forecasts to determine if the conditions permit the safety of the anglers, and guests to proceed to float the river and return in a safe and prudent manner. The tournament reserves the right to postpone the tournament and use a back-up date as determined by the organizers.
7. **PRIZE AWARDS:** Prizes will only be awarded to persons with proof of identification using a valid picture ID (such as a Driver's License, Government ID card, Passport, Etc.).
8. **RECREATIONAL DIVISION:** For all divisions there will be a 1st place prize for highest total weight. There will be a 2nd place prize for the second highest weight total. There will be a 3rd place prize for the third highest weight total and so on. There will also be a prize for the biggest fish caught (based on total weight), the smallest fish caught (based off of least weight), and other prizes.

9. FEDERAL AND STATE REGULATIONS: The weight and/or length of the eligible fish submitted for weigh-in is subject to state of North Carolina and/or federal laws. All tournament participants must possess current and valid North Carolina Fishing Licenses and any other permits as required by applicable law at the time of weigh. Any participant without valid permits and/or licensing are in violation of state and/or federal law and may have their fish disqualified at time of weigh-in.
10. WAIVER DISCLAIMER: It is expressly understood that participants in this tournament enter at their own risk and French Broad River Outfitters and the Tournament Directors, Officers, Tournament Sponsors, and Committees and all other persons connected directly or indirectly with the operation of said tournament, shall be exempt from any liability what so ever for liable, slander, loss, damage, negligence, harm, injury, or death suffered by any participant, entrant, vessel, and equipment, companions, and guests, boat captains, mates, crewmembers, which may occur during or in conjunction with this tournament. By signing the official tournament registration form, the boat owner, renter, anglers and guests consent that the tournament may use without payment or restriction and photographs, video footage, in which he or she may appear for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising, commercial or promotional material.
11. PROTEST: Any protest must surface verbally at the time of the incident, at the weigh-in stations. Resolution of such protest will be decided by majority of the three individuals listed at the top of this document.
12. PARTICIPANTS: Any and all participants entering the tournament agree that all decisions made by the tournament committee/rules committee shall be final and binding in any manner requiring their action.
13. TOURNAMENT DAY ACTIVITIES:
- No vendor, participant, spectator, or any individual attending the Fins and Gills Tournament are allowed to buy, sell, or trade goods.
 - Each individual is to respect the property grounds and help keep them clean.
 - Each individual is asked to be respectful of and to all tournament attendees. Each individual is asked to not take extra and/or excessive quantities of drinks, food, and/or items that the tournament is providing and the vendors are giving away.
 - If any of these activities are observed then the tournament volunteers have the right to ask that person or group to stop that behavior or activity and may choose to ask them to leave the tournament grounds and not return.