**2023 Troutcast Official Rules**

**PLEASE READ THESE RULES CAREFULLY AS THEY APPLY TO ALL CONTESTANTS**

1. Contestants may fish from shore, float tube, canoe, kayak, boat, or any other legally permissible vessel provided they meet all local, state, and federal regulations. All vessels are subject to a quagga inspection prior to launching.
2. All boats, including float tubes, canoes, and kayaks used during the Spring Troutcast must be properly outfitted with the USCG vests, signal devices, oars, and bailing devices. All vessels must also possess current state registration stickers if required.
3. Contestants using their own vessels are subject to a Quagga Mussel inspection prior to launch on Lake Cuyamaca. Please see their website for regulations at <http://lakecuyamaca.org/>
4. All participants under 13 years of age fishing from a vessel 26 feet or less are required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life vest (PFD) during on the water tournament hours. See [dbw.ca.gov](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) for details concerning life vests.
5. All Spring Troutcast contestants will be issued a wristband with their raffle number on it via mail prior to the event start date. These wristbands must be worn for the duration of the event and should not be removed until the close of the contest at 5:00 pm on April 16th, 2023.
6. Pre-fishing with a licensed guide is permitted up until 5 pm on April 11th, 2023. The lake will be closed 3 days prior to the event.  Other than providing emergency assistance, no fishing guides licensed on Lake Cuyamaca may participate, or in any way assist other Winter Troutcast participants during the contest period.
7. All California Department of Fish and Wildlife regulations will apply to the Spring Troutcast. All contestants 16 years of age or older will be required to possess and carry a valid California Fishing license. Any angler cited as being in violation of California or Federal Fish and Game laws will be disqualified from the Spring Troutcast tournament.
8. All fish submitted for weight during the Spring Troutcast must be taken from the waters of Lake Cuyamaca during the official contest hours. Fish brought in from outside of Lake Cuyamaca as judged by the tournament staff will result in angler disqualification. All fish must be caught live, with rod and reel, fair game hooked, per California Department of Fish & Wildlife regulations. No snagged fish will be accepted. CA Fish and Wildlife regulations may be viewed online at **wildlife.ca.gov.**
9. All California Department of Boating & Waterways and all local Lake Cuyamaca boating regulations must be observed during the tournament. Any boat operator cited by local, state, or federal agencies for violating boating laws during the tournament will be disqualified.
10. **Lake Closures** – Lake Cuyamaca will be closed to Spring Troutcast contestant fishing from 6 pm on April 11th to sunup on April 15th.  The lake will again close to Spring Troutcast contestant fishing on April 15th at 4 pm and reopen on April 16th at sunup. It will close again on April 16th at 4 pm. Contestants may be on the water during off-limits times but are not allowed to have lines in the water. Anglers found fishing during the off-limits period will be disqualified from the Spring Troutcast event.
11. **Official Contest Hours** – The Spring Troutcast will start at sunup on Saturday, April 15th and cease at 4 pm on April 15th. Scales will open Saturday at 8:00 am in three locations around the lake and will close at 4 pm each day.  On Sunday, April 16th, the contest will start at sunup and cease at 4:00 pm.  Scales will open at 8:00 am and close at 4:00 pm.  The tournament director is the keeper of the official event time.  There is NO setting up of chairs or pole holders prior to sunup or the evening before.
12. **Limits/Size** – Trout submitted for weight during the Spring Troutcast must be a minimum of 10 inches in overall length (from tip of nose to tip of tail). All fish under **10** inches as determined by our weigh staff will not be included. You may weigh multiple big fish during any weigh-in segment, **IF** your second fish is bigger than your first and is also bigger than the current big fish for that segment. Once you weigh your fish in any of the weigh segments, that fish will be clipped, and you can then continue to fish for additional fish.
13. Unless cooperating jointly, all boats must maintain a distance of 50 feet between them when anchored or drift fishing. Boats which are trolling are exempt from this rule. There is no minimum distance for shoreline anglers. Official Promotion Rules: The parties hereto acknowledge that Sponsor must prepare and post Sponsor's Official Promotion Rules which must be readily available to all potential contestants and must reflect the terms and conditions of this contract, including specifically the following terms:a. Employees, agents, successors, and assignees of Sponsor, its advertising agencies and promotional companies involved in this Promotion, as well as family and household members of same, shall be ineligible to participate in the Promotion and shall be ineligible for any prize covered herein.b. Names and likenesses of Promotion winner(s) may be used by Sponsor and Sponsor's designee(s) for promotional purposes without further compensation to Sponsor or the Promotion winner(s).Where Sponsor's Official Promotion Rules conflict in any way with the terms of this contract, the conflict shall be resolved according to the terms in this contract. Sponsor is responsible for any and all prizes payable under the terms of Sponsor's Official Promotion Rules which are not in compliance with or payable under the terms of this contract. Sponsor warrants that Sponsor's Official Promotion Rules comply with federal, state and local laws and regulations.
14. The Tournament Director has the sole discretion to disqualify any catch for any reason deemed to violate any tournament rules or the spirit of the competition. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and may not be appealed. All anglers are responsible for weighing in their **OWN** fish and may not pass or hand off any fish to anyone else. Handing off fish to junior anglers will not be accepted, and if you are caught handing off a fish, both anglers are subject to immediate disqualification. Protests must be filed in writing with the Tournament Director no later than 4:30 pm on Sunday, April 16th to be considered.
15. **Divisional Prizes** ─ Merchandise prizes will be awarded to the top 8 weigh-in segment winning biggest fish on both the adult and junior sides. The largest trout of the tournament will also receive a grand prize package courtesy of Daiwa. Junior divisions consist of anglers under the age of **15**. All divisional winners must be present to receive their prizes, or the merchandise portion of their prizes will be donated to the general raffle.
16. **Ties** ─ In case of a tie based upon weight, the greater number of fish caught over the course of the two-day event will determine the winner. In case the anglers each caught the same number of fish, the winner will be determined by their entry date. The earliest entry date will win the tie breaker, so sign up early!
17. **Raffle Prizes** – All anglers as a part of their entry will have their raffle number (from their wristband) placed into a raffle bin if raffle items are part of the event.  Any Contestants who are not present will forfeit their prize.
18. **Prize Money** ─  $5 of each entry fee is allocated towards our Big Fish Prize Money. WON will split this money into 8 equal parts, to be awarded to the 8 segment adult winners during the 2 day event. WON will also provide $7.50 from each entry to be used solely for restocking Lake Cuyamaca with trout.
19. **All anglers and family members attending the 2023 Lake Cuyamaca Spring Troutcast will adhere to county social distancing guidelines in effect at the time if any of the event.**