

2025 Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament

Each 4-H family participating in the tournament is responsible for ensuring the safety of their own youth anglers during all fishing activities related to the tournament.

1. Wear your 4-H shirt or cap in your hero pics for a weekly chance to have your pic showcased on the **Oklahoma 4-H** Facebook page.
2. Location to access educational videos.
Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation [Fishing Tips | Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation](#)
3. No pre-survey. Youth must complete the **post survey** to receive any prizes. Optional adult post survey to get your feedback on the program.
4. Use of 3-digit decimal place for measuring fish.
5. All fish must be caught using rod and reel.



Part I: Learn to Earn Skills – Educational Opportunities All Year

Short, informative videos in which youth participants and adults can gain knowledge on fishing tips and techniques for freshwater species. No fee to participate.

Educational Videos: [Fishing Tips | Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation](#)

Responsible Handling of Fish

Not every fish is a "keeper." You may catch a fish that's under legal size or too big to fit in your cooler. You may land a magnificent trophy and decide to return it to the water so that you — or some other lucky angler — will have a chance to catch that fish again. Whatever your reasons for choosing live release, you want to give your fish the best possible chance of survival.

How to Begin

- Set the hook quickly to reduce likelihood that fish will swallow the bait.
- Play and land fish as quickly as possible. Playing fish to exhaustion can harm the fish.
- When fishing in deep water, bring fish in slowly to help it adjust to changing pressure.
- Consider using barbless hooks.
- Keep your release tools close by.

Handling Your Catch

Proper handling protects both you and the fish. Some fishes have sharp fins or teeth that can cut you. See Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation [Fishing Tips](#) for tips on how to handle different species.

- Minimize the time fish is out of the water (no longer than you can hold your breath.)
- Leave fish in the water if you can and use a tool to remove the hook.
- If possible, keep the fish from thrashing without using a net. If a net is required, use a rubber-mesh landing net instead of abrasive nylon.
- Avoid removing the slime/mucus layer, which protects fish from parasites and infections.
 - Try to keep fish off the ground or floor of a boat.

- Use a wet rag or glove, or wet hands before handling fish.
- Turn fish on its back and cover its eyes to calm it.
- Don't put your fingers in the eyes or gills.
- Smaller fish (< 5 pounds) can be vertically held by the lower jaw, either by hand or with grippers. Hold larger fish horizontally and support with two hands.

Removing the Hook

- Use needle-nose pliers, hemostats, or a hook remover to remove the hook and protect your hands.
- Back the hook out the opposite way it went in.
- For a larger fish in the water, slip a gaff around the leader and slide it to the hook. Lift the gaff upward while pulling downward on the leader.
- Do not jerk or pop a leader to break it. This can injure vital organs in the fish.

Letting it Go

- Place fish in the water, gently supporting the mid-section and tail until it swims away.
- Resuscitate an exhausted fish by moving it or facing it into the current, gently forcing water into the mouth and over the gills.
- Watch the fish when released. If it doesn't swim away, recover it and try again.

Part II: Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament Information

Follow the 5 steps below in numerical order to participate in the tournament

Step 1: 4-H Enrollment

- Be enrolled in 4-H as a youth member (3rd – 12th grades) or Cloverbud (K – 2nd grades) for the 2024-2025 year.
- If you are not in 4-H, join by setting up your family profile on ZSuites at 4h.zsuite.org or contact your local county Extension office for assistance with enrollment in your county 4-H program.
- Not sure who is your county Educator? Click this link to enter your county name and find contact information: [Extension county map | Oklahoma State University](#)

Step 2: Event Registration

Event Dates

March 10	Regular registration opens
April 1	Regular registration closes (Late Registration will be open from April 2-April 30)
April 1	Check-it Stiks mailed to County Extension office for pickup
April 1	Tournament Begins
June 1	Tournament Ends – post survey link opens
July 1	Official placings released; prizes mailed

Event Details

- **March 10, 2025 – 8:00 a.m.** - Registration will open on ZSuites 4h.zsuite.org
- Select **2025 Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament** from the event list
 - Register and compete as an individual angler (4-H member or Cloverbud) (no team entries).
 - 4-H youth anglers (grades 3rd – 12th): The entry fee is per 4-H angler.
 - \$40 Regular Registration
 - \$50 Late Registration**Note:** We are unable to issue any refunds once your payment has been submitted.
 - **Cloverbuds (grades K-2nd)** participate for bragging rights and a certificate.
 - Photos of Cloverbuds with their “big fish” could be posted to the **Oklahoma 4-H** Facebook page. Cloverbuds do not earn a place on the FishDonkey leaderboard and **DO NOT** set-up a profile on the FishDonkey app.
 - There is no fee cloverbud participation, however, they must be registered on ZSuites.
- **April 1, 2025** – Last date to enroll in 4-H to participate in the tournament. Only those registered on ZSuites by the deadline will be eligible to participate.

Registration Gift

*The first 50 4-H Youth registered for the tournament will receive a FREE Check-it-Stik!

Cloverbuds will receive a FREE 4-H Fishing Lure for participating

*ZSuites registration submitted, payment received and cleared, and FishDonkey judging app profile set-up.

If you are a **Cloverbud**, SKIP TO STEP 4.

Step 3: Download Judging App

- After your payment has been accepted in ZSuites go to [FishDonkey](#) to download the app to your mobile device and/or computer.
- There is no fee for participants to use this app.
- Set up your profile in FishDonkey.
 - 2025 Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament
- When setting up your profile, in the “Street 2” box, list the county of your 4-H club.
- On the app, use the tutorial to practice how to measure and upload pics.
- **Questions? See FishDonkey App Tip sheets on the last page for additional information.**

Step 4: Fish the Tournament – Judging Criteria under Rules & Guidelines

- On April 1, 2025, at 5:00 a.m. the app will open for you to begin uploading your pictures of your fish to be judged and posted to the official leaderboard.
- The tournament closes on June 1, 2025 at 10:00 p.m.

Want to WIN? Then Be Sure to Follow ALL Rules below! Violation of any rule listed will result in disqualification of the fish entered.

How to measure and photograph your fish for judging

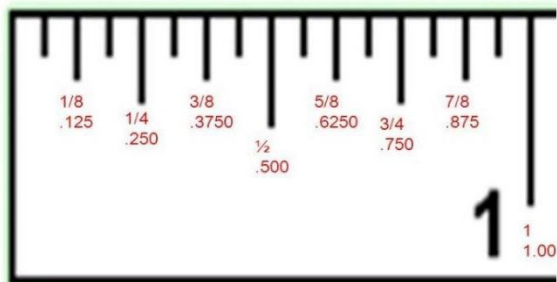
- Fish must be photographed with an iphone, android or tablet, **with the app open**, and fish laying on a **Check-It-Stik®** brand measuring board. Only Check-It-Stik brand is accepted – no exceptions!
- Photograph must be clear and measurement on board must be legible.
- You may hold your fish on the board, just be sure to NOT cover the mouth and tail with anything that blocks these views. Mouth of fish must be closed. Beginning of snout or lower jaw of fish **must** be touching the front of the measuring board.
- Lay the fish on its side and pinch the tail fins together to get accurate length in photograph. If a spiny fin fish (catfish), lay the fish on its belly and turn the tail to the side to get accurate length.



- Fish longer than the length of a Check-it-Stik should be measured on the measurement board in conjunction with a tape measure from the start of the board to the end of the fish. *Do not run the tape measure under the fish – the whole tape from beginning to end of tail must be visible.* **Pictures without a Check-it-Stik used as the starting point for measurement will not be judged.** You must use the **video feature** in FishDonkey to document the measurement of your fish from the nose to tail – move slowly to ensure all is captured in the recording
- Photos must be taken with the FishDonkey app open as this will timestamp the photo when taken. You may upload your pics from FishDonkey to the leaderboard as you take them or at a later date. Don't have internet to upload at your fishing spot? No problem, remember they are timestamped when you take them in the app so you can upload from the app when you have internet or even from a computer. Just make sure they are all uploaded from FishDonkey before close of the tournament. Note: pictures CANNOT be uploaded from your camera file. They MUST be taken within the FishDonkey app. We CANNOT accept photos emailed.
- Each photo submitted must also include a separate “hero” pic that documents the face of the youth participant with the fish caught (examples: posing, on measuring board, holding).

How to Read an Inch in Decimals

- Enter the length of your fish in whole number and 3-digit decimal place, i.e. 10.250
- The last black line that the end of the pinched tail touches is the measurement to be recorded.
- When fish are judged, the length you enter will be verified and confirmed. If length entered is more than documented, tournament judges will modify.



Reasons for Disqualification

1. Snout or jaw of fish not touching the front of the measuring board
2. No hero picture submitted
3. Unpinched tail fin (catfish laying on belly can have tail turned to the side and pinched).
4. Front of fish or front of measuring board not in photograph.
5. Blurry picture or cannot see measuring numbers in photo.
6. Not using a Check-It-Stik brand measuring board or using a tape measure only.
7. Any Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation (ODWC) violations noted in pictures. Example: If picture of youth is taken in a boat on the water, the child is required to be wearing a personal flotation device (PFD).
8. Fish lengths posted **less** than their actual length will be verified as that entry length.

Step 5: Complete the Post-Survey

- A link and QR code will be emailed to 4-H participants to complete a short survey to tell us about your tournament participation experience. An optional survey will be provided adults via email to provide feedback on the program.
 - June 1-July 1– tournament survey will be open for completion.
- Note: Awards and prizes will only be provided 4-H members in which fee has been received and post-survey completed (a reminder will be sent to you).

Supplies Needed for Participation

- Rod and reel
- Bait and/or lure
- Phone or tablet to take your fish pics in FishDonkey. Or you can take the pics with phone/tablet in FishDonkey and upload through your computer with internet
- Check-it-Stik® measuring board (can be purchased at Academy stores or via online shopping venues). Enroll during regular registration and you will receive one for FREE (limited to first 50)!
- Fish net (optional)

Safety and State Fishing Regulations

- There are bag limits and length requirements for most fish caught in Oklahoma. It is the responsibility of the angler to read and abide by these regulations. Be sure to follow all Oklahoma regulations regarding fishing licenses, bag limits, length requirements and other rules [24-25-Fishing-Hunting-Regulations\(2\).pdf](#)
- If you catch a fish that is shorter than the legal limits to keep, you MAY photograph and use in the tournament. However, as soon as possible after taking the photo, release the fish back into the water so that you are abiding by state fishing regulations.
- Each 4-H family entered is responsible for the safety of youth anglers during the tournaments.

Placings and Contests

- Unofficial individual placings will be posted on the contest leaderboards as fish are caught, posted, and verified by tournament director. You will be able to see your ranking in real time. Official placings will be emailed to participants after the close of the tournament.
- The tournament has individual contests based upon species and judging criteria. See the attached Rules and Guidelines for specific information.
- An Oklahoma 4-H Virtual Fishing Tournament Grand Champion will be announced at the end of the tournament. The winner will be determined on a grand total of inches of longest one fish of each species caught in the Slam contest.
 - Freshwater Slam Grand Champion: longest bass + longest catfish + longest crappie caught in the tournament.

Awards and Prizes

- Awards and prizes will be mailed or emailed to the address listed in ZSuites after completion of the tournament.
- All awards and prizes to be determined by the 4-H Fishing tournament director. Awards are determined by the number of individuals registered for this tournament.
- **Awards and prizes will only be provided to 4-H members in which fee has been received and post-survey completed.**
- Cloverbuds participate for bragging rights and a certificate and fishing lure.
- Entry via ZSuites gives permission to use the participant's name and photograph as needed for marketing and promotion purposes with a signed media release.

Questions

- For ZSuites and registration questions, contact Leah Haxton at leah.g.haxton@okstate.edu or 405-744-8891
- For tournament or FishDonkey questions, contact Ruth Pratt ruth.pratt@okstate.edu or 405-744-8886
Please leave a detailed message.



Freshwater Division Rules & Guidelines

Species

- You may enter fish from any of the 3 species listed below for the Freshwater Division. All fish must be caught by rod and reel (no trotlines, noodles, etc.).
 - Bass: Largemouth, smallmouth, spotted
 - Crappie: black or white
 - Catfish: channel, blue, flathead
- You may enter all of one variety or a combination of varieties for judging.
- See link below to learn how to identify specific fish species in Oklahoma. [24-25-Fishing-Hunting-Regulations\(2\).pdf](#)

Location

- Fish anywhere permitted by law (freshwater, ponds, stock tanks, rivers, lakes, etc.).
- Fishing from a pier, edge of pond/lake/river, or boat is allowed for this event as long as the location is permitted by law. If private land, ensure you have landowner permission to fish.

Length Limits by Species

[24-25-Fishing-Hunting-Regulations\(2\).pdf](#)

Freshwater Judging Contests – More Ways to Win!

- Each of the pictures entered have multiple ways to qualify to win prizes. Each of the four contests have a separate leaderboard on FishDonkey. When you post the picture of your fish, it will automatically be entered into the contest in which it is eligible based upon species.
- The best part of FishDonkey is the app's ability to AUTO CULL your catches. Enter all your pictures and the system only adds your longest catch to the individual contest leaderboard.
- No need to upload your pictures for each individual contest.

Leaderboard Contests

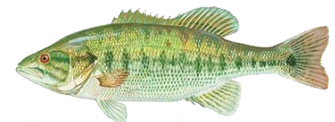
1. Longest Catfish
2. Stringer
3. Freshwater Slam
4. Wild Card
5. Big Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Largemouth Bass



Spotted Bass



Black Crappie



White Crappie



Channel Catfish



Flathead Catfish



Blue Catfish



1. Longest

Species eligible: Catfish

Judging criteria: Length on Check-it-Stik
See *How to Measure Your Fish for Judging* on page 4&5.



2. Stringer

Species eligible: Crappie

Judging criteria: Longest 5 crappie (black, white or combination). Enter all your crappie pictures and the app will AUTO CULL your stringer for you, leaving the top 5 cumulative lengths as your entry.



3. Freshwater Slam

Species eligible: Bass, Catfish, Crappie

Judging criteria: Must enter at least one of **each** species to qualify to win in this contest (1 bass, 1 catfish and 1 crappie). Again, the app does the work for you. Just take the picture of the fish, enter its length and the program will select your longest bass, catfish and crappie to be entered into the Freshwater Slam contest.

4. Wild Card

Species: Bass, Catfish, Crappie

Judging criteria: Size does not matter for this contest! This is a random monthly drawing from ALL pictures uploaded and verified.



5. Big Bass

Species: Bass

Judging criteria: Longest bass caught will be named 4-H Big Bass Winner.

Want to WIN? Then Be Sure to Follow ALL Rules on page 4 & 5! Violation of any rule listed will result in disqualification of the fish entered

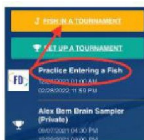
FISHDONKEY TIP SHEET



How to Join in the FishDonkey App

1. Download the FishDonkey App
2. Tap Fish in A Tournament
3. JOIN: Spring Texas 4-H

Practice



Join PRACTICEENTERING A FISH. Get familiar with the app's camera. This will ensure you've given the app proper camera permissions too.

Watch a 1 minute tutorial:
youtu.be/zuxh7FNukbA



PIC-COLLAG

HOW TO ENTER A FISH

1. Tap the button ENTER A FISH/ LEADERBOARD
2. That will open up your camera. Take your required photos by tapping on the camera icon.
3. When you are finished taking your photos, tap the checkmark.
4. Enter the species and the length of your fish.
5. Tap SUBMIT.

Don't panic if you cannot see your name or photos on the leaderboard. Often times, they come later. The Digital Livewell (fish icon) will show a record of your fish entries waiting to post.

We need your county Name!

Please tap on the profile icon in the top right corner of the app and fill in ADDRESS LINE 2 with your County name. Also add it to your LAST NAME, For example: Bryant - Bexar

Digital Livewell / Photos

The fish icon is your Digital Livewell. It will show fish that are waiting to get on the leaderboard.

When you return to good reception, tap your livewell and leave it open. Tap the screen to keep it awake. Do this until all fish are RECEIVED.

What do I do at the start?

Open the FishDonkey App Home Screen

Tap on the event name. Tap on Leaderboard.

No Internet

Open the app before you head out. Tap on the name of your tournament on your FD home screen. That's it. Don't log out. Enter fish as normal. Your entries are held for safe keeping in your Digital Livewell.

Required Documentation

1. Photo of fish on the measure board
2. Photo of you holding the fish

Support Number

Support@FishDonkey.com
 218.249.0847