

## FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

**Participation and Eligibility:** Any person under the age of 18 who wants to participate in the fishing tournament must be paired with an adult. All anglers must have a valid fishing license. And fish from a boat.

**Safety:** All state, federal, and local laws must be obeyed. The driver of each vessel must have an emergency kill switch connected to his life vest anytime the outboard is running. Safe boating must be observed at all times. The provisions of this rule apply during practice and from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. Each contestant and any person practicing with a contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running. All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other.

**Permitted Fishing Methods:** Only artificial lures may be used. Only 1 fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the board and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these which will result in immediate disqualification. All Bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. All angling must be conducted from the boat. When sight fishing, all Bass must be hooked in the mouth to be considered a legal catch.

**Assistance:** During hours of competition, anglers may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participant in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, anglers should call 911 first and then notify officials.

**Boat and Horsepower Regulation:** Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain life for limit catch of fish. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U.S. Coast Guard in such vessel. No boat may have a platform, raised deck, or ladder which is higher than the gunnel. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor will not be allowed. All boats must be propeller-driven, a minimum of 16 feet in length and have a rear deck (with a seat if requested). All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants. Minimum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will 40 horsepower. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250-horsepower maximum set by USA. By signing the entry form, contestants agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future USA tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in contestant boats during tournament hours on all competition days.

**Sportsmanship and Conduct:** All anglers are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Consumption of alcoholic beverages or mind altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in event. 2) Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition. Upon review of the circumstances, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, to deny a confirmed application (by returning the entry fee of a previously accepted application) or to disqualify any participating team for any violations.

**Fish Requirements and Scoring:** Only Largemouth, Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. Only five fish are allowed in the live well at any time. Every effort must be made to keep fish alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. A half-pound penalty will be deducted for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. A dead fish cannot be weighed in for the Big Fish competition. There is a 2-pound penalty and loss of fish for any fish not meeting size requirements. Any fish brought to the scales without being in a bag of water will not be weighed, and the angler will receive a weight of zero. All fish must be returned to the lake as soon as they are weighed.

**Penalty for Late Weigh-In:** Any team more than 10 minutes late to the weigh-in event will receive a 2- pound penalty. Any team more than 20 minutes late to the weigh-in event will forfeit their entire catch and receive a weight of zero.

**Permitted Fishing Locations & Launch:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat and available to the public, except in areas designated as "off limits" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first Anchored, or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other angler. The act of moving fish from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time whether or not during official practice days or competition days, is not permitted. Any areas considered to be "off limits" will be announce and identified during check-in. Contestants may not fish inside the established "off limits" area. Violation of the rule will result in immediate disqualification. Boats must remain in the tournament water during the event. Trailering is not allowed. All boats must leave the official check point buy boat in the order designated at check-in.

**Payouts:** Cash Payout for top 7 spots and big fish, Big Fish at \$500; Top Boat at \$1,000; 2nd boat at \$500; 3rd at \$350; 4th at \$300; 5th at \$225; 6th at \$175; 7th at \$125. Will be paid on site before departure on day of event.

**Launch:** Launching will take place at Safe Light and will be done in order of received registration.

**Ties:** Will be settled by biggest fish