

TOURNAMENT RULES

RULE CHANGES

Any rule changes will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director, or appointee. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), or disqualification for the day of the tournament. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

PARTICIPATION

Participation is open only to individuals who are 18 years of age or older. Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. All contestants must have a valid fishing license. **GUARANTEED PLACEMENT** in the Boater/Co-Angler Tournament requires that you register with a participant opposite of your own personal registrant status by placing his/her name in the appropriate space provided on the entry form. All entries will be accepted in order of date and time of entry. Entries must be postmarked by July, 10th 2010. The Boater/Co-Angler Tournament will be limited to the first 50 boaters and 50 co-anglers, paired boaters and co-anglers will receive priority. Late entries will be accepted **ONLY** if pre-approved by the tournament director before the cut off on Sunday, July 10th 2010. **CONFIRMED ENTRIES ARE CONTINGENT UPON COMPLETE ENTRY FEE BEING PAID BY THE ENTRY DEADLINE DATE.** Entry fees will not be transferred or refunded after Sunday, July 18th. Each refunded entry fee is subject to a \$10 service charge.

OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE & COMPETITION:

All contestants must be off the water by 5pm the FRIDAY prior to the tournament until the start of the take off the following day unless the participant is fishing in the previous days tournament. Once competition is under way, contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from noncompetitors or follow a noncompetitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

REGISTRATION & PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING:

Each contestant must register in person at the Mazurek's Buffalo Lake Lodge, or send another competitor to represent them at the site. Contestants can represent themselves and one other person. This representative must attend the pretournament meeting to record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size limits, etc; and also attend the partner pairing immediately following the pretournament meeting to receive the contestant's boat number, meet the contestant's partner, and record the partner's lodging information, phone number and exact location for the contestant and partner to meet prior to takeoff. Registration hours for tournament is 6.00 - 7p.m. Saturday, July 24th 2010. Contestants registering more than 15 minutes after 7p.m. may forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament. It is mandatory that all contestants or their representatives attend the pretournament meeting that will be held at 7p.m. the day before the tournament. Contestants not present or represented for partner pairings may forfeit their entry fee and not be entered in the tournament.

PAIRING

Partners will be paired by random drawing taking place prior to the pre-tournament meeting. All contestants or their representatives must meet with their assigned partners during pairings at the pretournament meeting. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place for the following morning's takeoff. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to takeoff. If more boaters than co-anglers are entered in a tournament, excess boaters will be paired together. If the number of co-anglers exceeds the number of boaters, excess co-anglers may choose to change to boater status by entering into the boater category and pay an additional \$50 or have their entry refunded with no service charge. The selection of co-anglers in this situation will be determined by date and time of entry.

SAFETY

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine 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 in operation. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament day may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, and the tournament.

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BOAT OPERATION

Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-anglers will fish from the back deck of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. Boaters may not request that the co-angler not fish. Any boater that, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps their co-angler partner will be disqualified for that day. The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.) or to communicate with the tournament director.

BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

All boats must be propeller-driven, a minimum of 16 feet in length and have a rear deck. All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device 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. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250-horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the lure in the water.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off-limits," by local, state or federal officials or within 25 yards of a competitor's boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the check-in:

- (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or
- (2) by both partners entering the boat of another tournament contestant.

Under these two conditions the contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until the weigh-in verification is signed. Bathroom breaks are permitted.

LATE PENALTY

Contestants who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight, including any weight to be counted toward the Big Bass Award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified.

LIVE FISH

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. 1/4 pound will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

SCORING

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and hundredths of each contestant's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass are accepted species. The limit will be five fish per angler. All fish will be measured closed mouth, closed tail. Any short fish brought to the scale will result in a disqualification from the tournament and forfeiture of entry fee. Contestants possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch to that point disqualified. The minimum length limit for bass will be 14 inches. Any fish that measure under 14 inches will result in disqualification from tournament. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by the signature of their partner. Failure to have a verified partner signature will result in disqualification. In the event of a tie the winner will be determined by heaviest fish in the individuals limit. If still tied, the "winner" will split the 1st and 2nd place prize money equally. Trophy, if applicable, will be determined by a coin toss.

INSURANCE

Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required.

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