

1. Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Rules will apply in all events unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. We reserve the right to refuse tournament entry fees or entry forms for any reason. We reserve the right to make needed changes to these rules in order to ensure the safety, welfare of the anglers, and/or the public and preserve the integrity of the Event. Any rule changes will immediately supersede all previously published copies of these rules. Officials and directors decisions and interpretation will be final in all matters.

2. INSURANCE: All boats used in tournaments must have a mandatory minimum of \$100,000.00 liability insurance. This is the user/owners responsibility.

3. ELIGIBILITY: Participation is open only to any person age 17 or under must be a team partner with a parent or a person age 18 or older. Persons under 18 must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the tournament entry form. You may fish alone but are required to pay full tournament entry fees.

4. PRE-REGISTRATION & SIGN UP: Teams will take off in the order in which entry fees are received. Teams may sign up and pay at any check or money order must be received SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO TOURNAMENT DATE. You may pay cash at the ramp the morning of the tournament. Cash only at ramp **NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT RAMP SIGN-UP.**

5 FISH LIMITS & PENALTY: All contestants must use care in handling and keeping fish alive for release after weigh-in. All fish will be brought to the weigh master in plastic bags with enough water to keep the fish covered until weigh-in.. We will be pulling size permits for all events. There will be no minimum length. **No culling of dead fish. No culling at ramp or in host marina. No retaining bass in live well and not weighing those fish, this is the same as culling at the ramp.** Dead fish penalty will be .50 pounds per dead fish. Teams should not have more than (5) fish in the live well at any time. **ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN WEIGH BAGS FOR TRANSPORTING FISH TO WEIGH-IN.** Any team that brings more than 5 fish to the scales will forfeit the largest fish. Some tournaments may require the use of tournament bags to reduce back up at scales.

6. LIFE JACKETS & KILL SWITCH: Life Jackets or Vest will be worn by both team members any time the outboard motor is in gear and running above IDLE. Kill switch will be connected to boat operator any time the outboard motor is running and in gear.

7. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: You may not fish on or from any structure above the deck. All fishing must be done from boat deck. Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork products. No wading or trolling is allowed. All fish must be caught from the boat. All traditional rods & reels are allowed including fly rods and flipping poles. Only one rod and reel may be used at any given time by each angler. No rod may be left unattended with line or lure in water. No netting of free swimming bass or snagging is allowed. Any fish that "free jumps" into the boat must be immediately returned to the water and may not be weighed in. Any fish caught by "sight fishing" (bedding fish) must be hooked inside the mouth.

8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Anglers may not leave their boat except in an emergency. You must fish water that is available to all competitors. No fishing within 50 yards of any boat anchored, with trolling motor up. Common courtesy should be used between unanchored boats and generally a distance of two cast lengths should be maintained between tournament competitors. No fishing in areas designated off limits by governmental agencies or areas designated by tournament director at least two days before day of tournament, including **3 PRIVATE CANALS AT PONDEROSA, WEST SIDE OF GEORGE.** No fishing within 50 yards of Launch Site. No fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump.

9. TEAM CHECK-IN: Any team checking in after his announced check-in time will be assessed a one pound per minute penalty until 10 minutes at which time they will be disqualified. If you will be late due to the rescue of a stranded boater, your fish will be weighed provided you have notified the director prior to the rescue and the director has been kept abreast of the rescue in progress.

10. TOURNAMENT HOURS: Safe light until 3:00pm, this may be adjusted by tournament director. Each team will be assigned a boat number at sign-up the morning of each tournament.

11. EMERGENCY OR BREAK DOWN: One or both anglers must identify their fish with some sort of marker or separation system before entering the rescue boat with fish, to return to launch site. The "rescuee" may not fish from "rescuer" boat and their (rescuee's) fishing day is over. Rescuer may continue to fish (both teams may be subjected to a polygraph test). One or both parties shall notify the T D prior to rescue and during the rescue if it will result in the boat returning to the dock late. You may have a backup boat brought to you but no "trailer" of fish is permitted. You must contact TD prior to changing boats.

12. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain a live limit catch of bass. All boats must have an operating kill switch that must be attached to the operator at all times when the outboard motor is running and in gear. Violation of any of the above rules may be cause for disqualification. If running lights are not working you may be held at take off. Event officials or directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any **boats that** does not meet tournament standards. No airboats, canoes, or pontoon boats are permitted.

13. SPORTSMANSHIP: Each team is expected to follow high standards of **sportsmanship, safety, courtesy, and conservation**. Any team found in violation of these rules or any federal, state, or local laws may be disqualified. The use of a non-competitor for "spot sitting" or spot blocking is not acceptable and is forbidden. The use, possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages during tournament hours, which conclude upon the completion of payout, is discouraged. Anyone found to be intoxicated prior to awards presentation shall be cause for disqualification from current and future events. The use of any illegal nonprescription drugs will not be permitted or tolerated.

14. PROTEST & POLYGRAPH TEST: Anyone may submit a protest during the tournament morning prior to launch or immediately following the weigh-in of the last team's catch, but before the start of the awards presentation. Protests shall be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit. The burden of proof of a rules infraction will be the responsibility of the angler filling the protest. This deposit will be refunded providing the protest be upheld, otherwise, the deposit shall be forfeited to Event. Any member may be required to submit to a Polygraph or truth verification test. Failure to submit to either of these tests will result in disqualification from this tournament and will not be eligible to fish in any future tournaments. Any angler making an accusation against another contestant without submitting a written protest accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit may be subject to disqualification from current and future events.

15. CELLULAR PHONES AND RADIOS: Cellular phones and radios are encouraged for safety reasons but are prohibited during tournament hours unless of an emergency or communications with the tournament director. You may not receive information concerning fish location from non-competitors during fishing tournament hours.

16. BIG BASS -TOURNAMENT paying out four big bass, each team only eligible for one payout.

6-12-2023 Mike Meredith Tournament Director 386-546-5288. Becky Williams Event Coordinator 352-213-4200