

FISHING FOR SCHOOLS BASS TOURNAMENT

Article I: Rules and Regulations

1.01 These Rules and Regulations are the Official Rules (“Rules”) of the Fishing for Schools Bass Tournament (“Event”).

1.02 Participant(s) acknowledge and agree that they have reviewed, understand, and will abide by the Rules as posted. Participants willingly agree to comply with the Rules for participation in the Event.

1.03 All local, state & federal laws shall apply at all times including, without limitation, the penal code.

1.04 All local, state, U.S. Coast Guard, and federal boating and fishing regulations shall apply at all times.

1.05 The interpretation and enforcement of the Rules will be the sole responsibility of the Event Director and, if protested, the Event Staff.

Article II: Event Participation and Eligibility

2.01 Each person in the boat must be a paid contestant of the Event and abide by the Rules. Maximum of two (2) anglers per boat.

2.02 The Event is an “open” amateur event.

2.03 Participants less than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult with parental permission signed on the registration form.

2.04 Event officials reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone in their sole discretion.

2.05 Anyone who has failed a polygraph examination and/or been disqualified for fraudulent actions in connection with any fishing tournament is not eligible to compete.

Article III: Registration and Entry Fee

3.01 Each participant shall pay an entry fee of \$100.00 for a one-day entry (hereinafter “Entry Fee”) per boat to participate in the Event. Payment shall be made by cash, check or credit card. This includes two (2) anglers per boat. The Entry Fee shall be paid (in full) prior to participation in the Event.

3.02 Registration for the Event closes at 7 p.m. on April 6, 2018. There will be no registration on Saturday of the Event. Participants may register with one of the Event Staff early or on Friday, April 6, 2018 at Dayton Boat Dock from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Participants can send registration forms to bmduckett@tva.gov or Beverly Duckett WBN-ADMIN 1-L in inter-office mail.

3.03 There will be no refunds of the Entry Fee unless the event is cancelled.

3.04 There is no meeting to attend prior to the Event.

3.05 Payment of the Entry Fee constitutes a representation by each Participant that he/she has read and understands the Rules and the Participant will abide by such Rules and the decisions of the Event Director and/or Event Staff.

3.06 Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes including those involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with Event Rules, shall be grounds for

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rejecting any application for registration and/or for disqualification, suspension from the Event, and/or other disciplinary action.

Article IV: Interpretation and Discipline

4.01 Participants agree to abide by the Rules and any decisions of the Event Director and/or Event Staff.

4.02 Interpretation and enforcement of the Rules shall be left to the sole and exclusive discretion of the Event Director and/or his/her designee at the Event and Event Staff. In the event a Participant(s) violates any rule set forth in the Rules or, at the discretion of the Event Director, other rule not specifically codified herein, the Event Director may disqualify the Participant (including but not limited to any other participant competing from the same boat).

4.03 Each Participant agrees to report to the Event Director immediately any violation or infraction of the Rules. Failure to report violations, suggestions that another Participant violated these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification.

Article V: Safety

5.01 Participants are aware he/she/they are participating in a physical activity in the sport of fishing that may be dangerous and can cause injury. These activities may involve severe cardiovascular stress and possible violent contact. Participants understand and acknowledge the activities involve certain risks including, but not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries resulting in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, and/or serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, muscles and internal organs, and property damage. Although particular Rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with participating in the Event, the risk of serious injury does exist and cannot be completely eliminated.

5.02 During Event hours no alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) are to be consumed by Participants or allowed in Participants' boat until the Event weigh-in is complete.

5.03 All boats must be equipped with some type of emergency ignition cut-off device (kill switch) on any remote steered outboard while main engine is in use. Ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must operate properly, which means when the kill switch is activated the outboard main engine must stop running immediately. The ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must be attached to the boat operator at all times while the outboard main engine is in use.

5.04 U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are required for each person on board a boat during official competition. Life jackets must be worn and strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or shut off. Participants shall check inflatable life vest indicators during the Event. Any Participant in violation of this rule will receive one (1) warning and may be prohibited from weighing bass. (Any subsequent violation of this rule will result in the participant(s) being disqualified for the remainder of that day of competition)

5.05 If Participants observe any significant hazard, condition or activity during his/her presence or participation in the Event, Participants shall remove himself/herself from participation and bring it to the attention of a representative of the Event immediately.

5.06 Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by Participants.

5.07 No boat shall have a motor of higher horsepower than approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and/or the lake authority.

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Article VI: Permitted Fishing Areas, Practice, Off Limits, and Hours

6.01 All fish must be caught on and within the official designated Event waters during official Event hours. Participants may fish anywhere on Event waters accessible to the public by boat, except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by private ownership or local, state and federal officials. Jumping dikes, landmasses or any other object, natural or manmade to enter an area is prohibited.

6.02 The official launch site will be at Dayton Boat Dock. The boats will then progress to the Blue Water Marina where the live wells will be inspected. At the direction of the Event Director or Event Staff will determine the Safe Light time and will notify the boats of the blast off. The boats will single file out of Blue Water Marina to Chickamauga River where you then may pass and begin fishing.

6.03 No one may leave his or her boat to fish or land a fish.

6.04 Participants are limited to use of a primary motorized boat only. No canoes, kayaks, rafts, or flotation apparatuses.

6.05 No fishing is allowed within twenty-five (25) yards of a non-anchored boat or fifty (50) yards of an anchored boat without that boat's permission.

6.06 No Participant may buy, barter or hold a fishing location from any other Participant or Non-Participant for use during any Event day.

Article VII: Methods, Tackle and Equipment

7.01 All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting only, no foul hooking of bedding fish. A foul hooked “bedding” fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. No trolling with big motor. Participants may use only one rod at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.

7.02 No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) may be used to locate fish for Event purposes (depth-finders, sound mimicking devices (such as Hydrowave) and graph charts are the only exception).

Article VIII: Sportsmanship

8.01 Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and bass conservation are required from every Participant. Participants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. This includes any and all social media content that may be shared now or in the future. Any Participant found compromising the integrity of the sport and/or the Event may be subject to disqualification.

8.02 The favorable public reputation of the Event, the sport of fishing, the Event Director, the Event Staff, sponsors, partners and officials is of paramount importance. Accordingly, Participants shall refrain from making unreasonable attacks, accusations, and comments that disparage the integrity of the Event, the sport of fishing, the Event Director, the Event Staff, sponsors, partners and officials. This includes but is not limited to the Participants social media accounts and digital sites.

8.03 Participants shall act in a courteous manner at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-participants who may be on Event waters.

8.04 Any Participants attempting to manipulate the outcome of the Event or defraud the Fishing for Schools Bass Tour will be disqualified.

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Article IX: Weigh-in and Penalties

9.01 All bass weighed-in will become the property of the Event and will be released back into the lake alive, if possible.

9.02 Trailering a bass to a weigh-in site during Event hours is not permissible. Any Participant, whether trailering or not, shall be required to bring their boat and respective partner, if any, with them to the official weigh-in site for a boat inspection when weighing bass.

9.03 Bass must be weighed-in by the Participant who originally caught the bass and it must be in said Participant's actual physical possession in the weigh-in line. (The only exception to this rule would be if one of the tournament participants is disabled, in this case we will allow another Participant to bring the fish to the scales for the disabled angler.)

9.04 Each Participant's fish total weight will be calculated for the rankings of the Event. First prize will be \$1000, Second prize will be \$500 and Third prize will be \$250.

9.05 Big Bass will have a guarantee of \$200. Each participant may enter the Big Bass with an additional \$10 entry fee on the morning of the Event. All funds entered above and beyond the \$200, will be part of the winnings for the Big Bass.

9.06 Every effort must be made to keep bass alive including proper live-well aeration, treatment and temperature management.

9.07 Any alteration of length or weight of bass is prohibited and the Participant will be disqualified.

Article X: Communications

10.01 Participant's entry into an Event via mail or onsite represents your express consent to receive email, phone, and text message communication from the Fish for Schools and any of its successors, directors, members, officers, agents, contractors, affiliates, employees, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers before, during, and after an Event.

10.02 Cell phones and other communication devices may NOT be used for the purposes of locating or finding fish and/or communicating with other Participants or Non-Participants regarding such.

Article XI: Boat Inspection

11.01 All Participants, by entering this Event, hereby agree to allow their boat to be boarded and inspected by Event Officials at any time prior to, during, or following the Event, to include, but not limited to, their boat registration, U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate, live-well, rod boxes, closed storage compartments, tackle boxes, life jackets, personal floatation devices, and safety equipment.

11.02 All live-wells will be inspected prior to blast-off.

11.03 The Event cooperates with local law enforcement, park rangers and fish/wildlife officers during the Event. If any Participant is found to be in violation of local, state or federal law during Event hours, he/she/they will immediately be disqualified.