

By your participation in this tournament, you agree to comply with the following rules.

**RULE CHANGES:** Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament directors. In the event of a rule violation, the tournament directors may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, loss of one or more fish in question, disqualification and/or forfeiture of prizes. The decision of the tournament directors shall be final in all matters. Protests for any rule infraction must be made in writing within 15 minutes after the announcement "The Scales are closed." All contestants may be subject to a random polygraph examination. The top 3 prize winners will be subject to a polygraph examination. Failure to submit or pass this examination will result in immediate disqualification.

**PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** You may enter alone or with the partner of your choice. Anglers must sign the release of liability form and present their entry form to the tournament director prior to the tournament. Participants under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult with written parental permission. Any person's participation in any tournament is at the sole discretion of the tournament director. All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Contestant must have documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance covering the boat being used and the competitors using that boat. Random checks may be used at tournament registration and/or at tournament with-in and any competitor not in compliance may be disqualified.

**PROFESSIONALS/GUIDES:** Anyone who has fished 5 or more tournaments within the past 12 months of this tournament with an entry fee over \$1,000 will not be eligible to compete in this tournament. NO ONE can be hired or compensated in any way to fish with you or for you. **\*\*Please note that the following sentence has officially been deleted from the rules and regulations.** ~~Anyone who has fished a PRO/AM tournament on the PRO side in the past 12 months is not eligible to compete in this tournament.~~

**PRACTICE/OFF-LIMITS/PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** There will be no official practice period before the tournament. Tournament director shall establish tournament waters at the tournament briefing and define any OFF-LIMITS areas. Fishing on tournament waters is not permitted: within 25 yards of a marina gas pump or within 25 yards of other competitor's boat anchored or not or inside the wake buoys at the resort. Competitors invoking the 25-yard rule must hold boats steady. Any competitor who allows any other competitor to fish within 25 yards of their boat has suspended the 25-yard rule and opens the water to all competitors. Any water within tournament boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-

**LIMITS:** No fishing is allowed during official "Off Limits" which begins at 6 pm prior to the tournament day and ends at 7:00 a.m. on tournament day.

**REGISTRATION:** Tournament entry can be done by mail, phone, and internet or at registration Friday night September 7, 2018. Official on-site registration will be held from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. CST on Friday, September 7th. A properly completed and signed official entry form and the entry fee must be received either on-line or at the official on-site registration. Registration is limited to the first 300 boaters and 300 non-boater entry forms. All registrations must be received by 6:00 a.m. September 8, 2018. Entry fees will only be refunded and/or transferred if notification is made prior to THURSDAY 5 pm CST on August 23rd, NO EXCEPTION. There will be a \$50.00 processing fee for refunds. The pre-tournament meeting will take place at 7pm on September 7th. We recommend at least one angler be present as this meeting will give information on record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, and any other relevant tournament rule information.

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** No alcoholic beverages are to be consumed by tournament contestant nor are alcoholic beverages allowed in contestants' boat during official tournament hours.

**SPORTSMANSHIP AND SAFETY:** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. All contestants must adhere to all State, Federal and local laws governing water activities. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the competition, or when in the weigh-in area. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash to the dock for disposal.

Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver (PFD). This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in the condition until the combustion engine is shut off. The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is in gear. During tournament hours, extreme caution must be exercised by boat operator. Weather and water turbulence, as well as congestion, can be extremely hazardous and extreme caution should be exercised at all times. Violation of either the PFD or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification. Also, any time the combustion engine is in operation and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.

Tournament officials may delay, shorten, restrict tournament waters or cancel the start of the tournament because of bad weather or other factors. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 and notify tournament officials. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather when danger may be imminent, at which time all fishing must cease.

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** The use of a landing net and grippers is allowed. Only artificial lures may be used. No "Live Bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready for use. No fly rods or rods over 8 feet are allowed. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All angling must be done from the boat and anglers must stay on tournament waters during tournament hours. Anglers are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament day. Each boat must have properly aerated or re-circulated live wells to maintain a live limit catch of bass by both contestants. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY ANOTHER COMPETITOR, A RESCUE BOAT DESIGNATED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, and OR TO DISLODGE THEIR BOAT FROM A HAZARD. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together, in the boat. Citizen band radios, marine radios, and cellular phones are allowed in the boat for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during tournament hours.

**BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Prior to the start of the tournament, each boat must be given an inspection check by tournament official. Each boat will be given a launch numbered card which must be displayed upon request of tournament official and must remain with the boat until turned in at the check in.

**OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There will be only one official point for check-out/send-off in the morning and check-in in the afternoon, as designated by the tournament director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers assigned during the boat identification/inspection. Competitors will proceed immediately to the designated weigh in area and all fishing must cease. Partner must stay together through the weigh in process. Competitors not at the checkpoint at their designated time for weigh in will be penalized at the rate of one(1) pound per minute, deducted

from their total weight for the day and will be ineligible for any bonus cash prizes, if available. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late for send-off or check-in will be disqualified for the day. Official start and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting and it is the angler's responsibility to confirm these times. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the tournament director will start as they deem necessary for safety. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 4 hours fishing time. In the case of extreme weather/water conditions, For the Children Foundation reserves the right to postpone or cancel a tournament with the return of entry fees by mail.

SCORING: The total weight of each team's catch will determine tournament standings and placement. Only largemouth, spotted, or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The creel limit shall be five (5). At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling must be done immediately upon catching a sixth fish. Minimum length will be 15 inches (measured on a Golden Ruler). A penalty of 1 pound will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish (plus no credit will be given for the short fish) and a penalty of 4 ounces (.25 pounds) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. A contestant who presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately. Mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered fish will be grounds for immediate disqualification. No regurgitated baitfish will be weighed. Fish will not be on a stringer at any time. All fish presented at the weigh-in become the property of tournament officials. All live fish will be returned to the lake and the tournament director will dispose of any dead fish.

All place winners are subject to a polygraph test before prizes are awarded. Receipts for Hotels will be required if incentive money is awarded.

TIE BREAKERS: Ties will be broken using the following criteria: #1 Largest fish of the creel #2Largest Number of legal fish weighed #3Largest number of legal live fish weighed

If the tie is not broken by applying the above criteria, place monies will be split evenly. Merchandise prizes and plaques will be awarded as determined by tournament officials.