

Support our Veterans
“Freedom ain’t Free”
Annual Fishing Tournament
Saturday, August 19th, 2017

RULES

1. **Rules and Interpretation:** Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Director will be final in all matters. Infractions of any rule can result in disqualifications.
2. **Participants:** The entry fee is \$110.00 per boat the day of the tournament, an early registration discount of \$10.00 per boat for registrations on or prior to August 5th, 2017. The Big Fish Pot is \$20.00 per boat. Must be 18 years of age or older unless fishing with a parent or guardian. A parent/guardian must sign the registration and release of liability form. A properly completed and signed Official Entry Application form with the proper entry fee will hold your place. There will be a \$25.00 charge on all returned checks. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his/her signature on the application form, to a polygraph examination should he/she be so asked by an official. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Directors.
3. **Registration:** Competitors must read and sign Release Form. Entries postmarked by midnight Friday August 11th with payment by check will earn an early registration discount of \$10.00 per boat. Registration the day of the tournament is by CASH only. Registration for the Biggest Bass Contest can be made with early tournament registration or on August 19th at Flippers. Entry fee is \$20.00 per boat and all Biggest Bass Contest entry fees will be pooled to create the Biggest Bass prize. Your pre-entry and entry fee is non-refundable. Registration on Tournament day begins at 4:15 AM at Flippers, Gallatin, Tennessee, 37066. Tournament fishing is from first safe light with Weigh-in at 2:00 PM.
4. **Safety:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. All boats are required to have emergency engine shutoff switch and they must be attached to the driver any time the gas engine is running. At time of check-out running lights must be turned on and during times required by State Regulations. All boats and motors must comply with Boating Institute of American (BIA) and U.S. Coast Guard horsepower ratings. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. At the discretion of the Tournament Directors the tournament day may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions, etc.
5. **Sportsmanship:** Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Hole setting will not be tolerated, and will be cause for disqualification from this tournament. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed during the tournament hours. Violators will be disqualified.

Fishing rules (continued)

6. **Boat & Motor:** Boats must be 15’ or more in length and have functional and properly aerated live well space to maintain adequately alive a limit catch of bass. Tournament Officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.
7. **Permitted Fishing Methods:** All bass must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner. When fishing bedding fish they must be hooked inside the mouth, snatching fish is strictly forbidden. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
8. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 50 yards of a refueling dock of a marina or any area designated as “off limits” or “No fishing” by local or state officials. No fishing within 50 yards of another competitor’s boat which is anchored with the trolling motor up. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within 50 yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. Competitors must return to the official weigh-in point by boat. Competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of emergency (an act of nature excepted). Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except when approved by Tournament Directors.
9. **Official Weigh-in Point:** The official point for check-out in the AM and weigh-in is Flippers Bait & Tackle, Gallatin, TN. At the time of check-out beginning at first safe light all boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth herein. Weigh-in time is 2:00 PM or as posted prior to dispatch of boats. Each boat must be given, prior to the day’s start, an inspection check by a Tournament Official.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are only two methods of returning to the official weigh-in: (1) By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed in by water, or (2) By one partner entering the boat of another tournament contestant with their fish. Under these two conditions, catches may be counted (normal penalties apply such as dead fish, late penalty, etc.) If a team must violate any part of this rule due to an emergency or any other reason, the catch will not be counted.
10. **Scoring:** Tournament winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredth weight of each competitors catch. Only largemouth, spotted, or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 fish per team. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statues and regulation of the State of Tennessee. At no time shall the team have in their possession more than the limits described in these rules. In the event a competitor exceeds the above described limit, the Tournament Official shall cull down to the limit prescribed, taking the largest bass first. The minimum length for large mouth and Kentucky spotted fish is 14”. Minimum for small mouth bass is 18”. Fish will be measured on a flat (golden rule) board with mouth closed and by moving tail side-to-side. **The penalty for a short fish at the scales will be total disqualification.** Weigh-in bags are to be furnished by the contestant. Any frozen or iced fish presented at weigh-in will result in immediate disqualification. **Dead Fish will result in a one pound penalty...** **Big Bass Pot:** A team may win only one big fish prize. It’s the angler’s responsibly to have any fish weighed for big fish prize. **Ties:** All ties will be determined by a coin flip. **You must be in line for weigh-in at 2:00PM or be disqualified.** **Protest:** All protests must be submitted in writing and signed within 15 minutes after the total weigh-in completion.