

# **OFFICIAL RULES**

**Rules:** The following rules for the tournament will be used. These rules will be interpreted by the Tournament Committee and all decisions are final. All Missouri Conservation and Water Patrol Regulations apply.

**Eligibility:** 18 years of age or older with a paid entry. Contestants under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. The following persons will not be allowed to participate in the tournament: 1) Any professional guide-past or present. 2) Anyone who has earned more \$3,000 prize money, sponsorship or gratuity within 12 months prior to the tournament date. 3) Anyone who has a permanent residence within 50 miles of the tournament lake.

**Safety:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During take-off, all contestants are REQUIRED to wear a life jacket, which must be securely fastened. The Tournament Committee strongly recommends the use of kill switches by all contestants.

**Sportsmanship:** Any unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language as determined by the Tournament Committee could result in disqualification in tournament and/or suspension in future tournaments.

**Tackle & Equipment:** Only artificial bait or lures may be used. No live or prepared bait may be used other than pork or pork type bait. No trolling is permitted. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours. Only one rod may be used at one time. All bass must be caught on rod and reel. A landing net may be used. All fish must be caught and landed from boat.

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament lake accessible by boat. Fishing is not permitted within 50 yards of another competitor's boat, within takeoff cove (within boundaries of Alhonna Resort to the point directly across from Alhonna Resort) or areas designated "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, or federal regulations.

**Scoring:** Only Largemouth Bass, Spotted (Kentucky) Bass, and Smallmouth Bass will be counted. Total stringer weight will determine place. All bass submitted at weigh in must be 15" in length with a limit of 5 fish per boat. Any bass that does not measure 15" will result in a 2 pound deduction from total stringer weight. A courtesy board will be available to all contestants prior to weigh in. Measuring will be conducted by closed mouth and pinched tail. Flat measuring boards will be used as official measuring. All tournament fish are to be returned to the water after weigh in. The exception to this rule would be a trophy fish (5+ lbs. or larger). Any dead fish submitted for weigh in will result in a 2 oz. deduction from total stringer weight.

**Late Check In:** All boats must check in. Contestants late in doing so will be penalized 1 pound per minute up to 10 minutes, then disqualification.

**Ties:** All ties for total weight will be broken by boat of entry. In the case of BIG BASS, the cash prize will be divided equally among the winning contestants.

**Protests:** Any protests must be made in writing to the Tournament Committee within 30 minutes of scheduled weigh in. The Tournament Committee may, on its own motion, take up and decide questions relating to any contestant's conduct or score.

**Waiver:** Through your entry fee, you waive and release all other contestants, host, sponsor, the charity, and tournament officials from all claims and/or damages incurred with connection of this tournament.

**Note:** All contestants are subject to a lie detector test.

*The winner of any cash or attendance prizes is responsible for any federal, state, or local taxes.*