



**VALERO UNITED WAY
2ND ANNUAL BASS
TOURNAMENT RULES**



OFFICIAL EVENT RULES:

- All tournament proceeds will go directly to the continued support of the Mid-South Jefferson County United Way. All Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight for that particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales at each tournament. Boats may be launched anywhere on the Lake Sam Rayburn reservoir after 4am the morning of the event. If the boat is to be left in the water overnight, the Anglers may not board until 4am. First cast will be 30 min prior to Sunrise. The official time for first cast will be posted on the event Web page 1 week prior to event. Valero will provide both Breakfast and Lunch at the Umphrey pavilion. Anglers may leave their boat to eat lunch and get refreshments at the Umphrey pavilion only. At the conclusion of the event there will be TONS of door prizes, in order to participate in the drawings, each boat must check in and receive their boat weigh cards. If no fish are being weighed in then that team will be marked as "Did Not Weigh" (DNW) but will still be eligible for door prizes.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:

- All Contestants must have a valid fishing license
- TEAMS: Only registered Contestants may be in the boat during official tournament days. Up to 2 Anglers in each boat. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the tournament director for Anglers with disabilities.
- In honor of Father's Day there is a Father/Child Drawing for those that self-identify during registration or before 8AM day of the event. To be qualified children must be under the age of 18.

REGISTRATION TIMES:

- Teams can register until 6:00am the morning of the event. A completed and signed registration form and Payment must be received before 6:00am the morning of Tournament
- Teams may launch at any location at Lake Sam Rayburn Reservoir and trailer to the Umphrey Pavilion for weigh in.

SAFETY:

- Tournament day may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.

Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

- All Texas boaters' safety laws apply and must be followed.
- Boats may be launched after 4am the morning of the event. Anglers must use their best judgement to determine when there is sufficient safe light to Navigate to their desired fishing location.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:

- Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All Bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for Bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a Contestant leave the boat to land a fish, make the boat more accessible to fishing waters, or locate bass.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT:

- All Contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any misconduct could result in loss of weight for tournament and/or banning from future events. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:
- Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.
- Substance abuse
- Harassment

ASSISTANCE:

- During hours of competition, Contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "Hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify the Tournament Director.

BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION:

- Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of Bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament. Participants must follow all boating regulations. Valero is in no way responsible or liable for any accidents or violations.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat and available to the public, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other

tournament angler. The act of moving Bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time, whether or not during official practice days or competition days, is not permitted.

OFF-LIMITS AREAS:

- Such areas established and announced at the registration for this event. Contestants may not fish inside the established "off-limits" area. Violation of the rule will result in immediately disqualification. Contestants' boat must remain in the tournament waters once launched during the event.

TRAILERING IS ALLOWED:

- Contestants may launch their boat at any ramp on the Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Official weigh in will be carried out at Umphrey Pavilion the day of the Tournament at 3:00PM.

SCORING:

- Will be the total pounds and ounces of each Teams catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth and Spotted Bass are accepted species. The limit will be FIVE (5) Bass per team. Any Contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch for that day disqualified. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed length limit of **14" regardless of species**, will result in loss of that particular fish and a **1 pound** penalty to the weight of the remaining fish. Bass that are weighed in during the early weigh period, as stated in the "Live Fish" section will be added to the remainder of the competitor's bass at final weigh. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in bass. Any artificially weighed, preserved, or altered bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal and state laws. Each Contestant's catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag. The Bass will be measured with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length.

LIVE FISH:

- Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives made by Sure-Life, which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat, are recommended. **A 1 pound penalty will be deducted for EACH dead Bass presented for weigh-in.** Any team that weighs in a dead fish for the big Bass award will receive a **1 pound** penalty from the total big Bass weight. Culling of dead Bass is prohibited.
- **Due to extreme heat, during summer tournaments, each team will be allowed to weigh in 2 bass prior to the 3pm final weigh in time.** At this time the team will be allowed to return fishing with no penalty and the possession limit for that boat will be reduced to **3 fish MAX** for the remainder of the event. At the final weigh in, the total accumulated weight will be the final total weight for the event.
- Scales will open at 10am for early weigh in. Any team that chooses to weigh in more than 2 fish will be done fishing for the day and all fish caught after that will not count towards their total weight.

LATE PENALTY:

- Teams must be in line to weigh in at 3:00PM the day of the event. Any team not checked and received their official Weigh card by 3:30PM will not be eligible to weigh in.

TIES:

- All Ties will be broke by weight of largest fish on stringer. Ties for individual big bass will be Broke by length (the longer fish will be the Winner).

By completing registration all anglers, sponsors and participants agree and accept these rules. Any questions can be presented to Tournament Officials at Registration Table Day of Event or via email prior to Tournament at Janie.Johnson@unitedwaymsjc.org