

Rules for 7th Annual Veteran & Wounded Warrior Freedom Boat Open Bass Fishing Tournament April 13, 2019

- 1. PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY:** The tournament is open to everyone. This is a team event, Ideally a Veteran, Gold Star Dad, Blue Star Dad or a 1st responder in each boat, But Not mandatory. We reserve the right to refuse anyone to fish.
NOTE all participants must have current fishing licenses.
- 2. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING:** NO Pre Tournament meeting.
- 3. ENTRIES:** **ENTRY FEE** for the Veterans, Gold Star Dads, Blue Star Dads, & 1st Responders is **FREE**. all others is \$50.00. Big Bass included You can pay the day of tournament. _
- 4. OFFICIAL CHECKIN POINT:** There is only one official place for check-in on the morning of tournament to pay entry fees and boat checks All boats must be equipped with a livewell and working aerator pumps which may be checked. The official check-in point is designated to be on the east side of Whitehorn Cove Marina office. Everyone Must check in before fishing.
- 5. TRAILERING :** You must check-in at start/stop location (Whitehorn cove Marina) before you trailer then after opening ceremonies you can trailer to your location. You can put in any where on Ft Gibson but must weigh-in at start/stop location (Whitehorn cove Marina 2 pm) .
- 6. TOURNAMENT TIMES:** Tournament time is 7 am to 2pm.
- 7. TAKE OFF:** Launch will be in numerical order going out beside the Veteran & Wounded Warrior Freedom Boat or dock (so we can get a picture) at White horn Cove unless you are trailering then after opening ceremonies you can trailer to your location. Boat numbers assigned must be displayed during the tournament hours.
- 8. WEIGH-IN :** Weigh-in is at 2:00 Pm . Anyone found to arrive after their time will have a automatic loss of 1/2 oz per minute. All fish will be brought to scales (**no more than 3 in line**) in weigh in bag. Every effort will be taken to release all bass back to the water alive Awards and Big Bass will be presented after last weigh in.
- 9. SAFETY:** Each boat must have the required Coast Guard safety equipment pertaining to his/her boat. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver(boat captain is to provide life preserver for the veteran). This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is going more than 5MPH. Each boat must be equipped with a kill switch . All boats during tournament hours must have running lights on. **All boats must ck-in at weigh in even if you didn't catch any fish.**
- 10. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in this tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, conservation, and are to observe due courtesy to non-tournament fishermen that happen to be on the lake during the tournament. **NO alcoholic beverages** will be permitted during tournament hours including the award ceremony. So let's have fun.
- 11. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. Only one rod may be used at one time. Others may be rigged and in the boat ready to use. Electric motors may be used for slow maneuvering, **but trolling is prohibited**. Boats are to be a minimum of 10 feet long and Engine not exceed rating on the boat. **Boat Captain is to provide fishing tackle for the veteran if possible.**
- 12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing is permitted anywhere on the tournament waters except within 50 ft of any gas pumps and 50 yards of another fisherman that is anchored with the trolling motor up and off limit water designated by either lake officials or tournament officials. All angling must be done from your boat and YOU **MAY NOT** leave the boat to land fish. The boat must remain on tournament waters throughout the tournament hours. It is ok to put your boat on the trailer before you weigh in but check in by your set time .
- 13. SCORING:** Winners determined by the total weight. Only 3 largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be weighed. The limit of team to be total of THREE (3) fish. Only one (1) 22" or longer fish per team. Fish must be 14 inches or more in length . Fish not meeting rules will not be weighed. Any dead fish will be weighed upon discretion of officials. There will be a (1/2) lb. deduction for each dead fish. Any fish said to be frozen, mangled, mashed, or otherwise altered to the tournament officials will not be weighed.
- 14. TIES:** The following will break ties: (1) Number of fish caught; (2) Largest fish caught; (3) Toss of a coin.
- 15. PROTEST:** Any contestant may protest the eligibility of any fish of any other contestant. Protest may also be filed against individuals believed to have violated these tournament rules. All protests must be filed with the tournament director whom will make a prompt decision. This decision will be final. No protest will be considered after fifteen minutes have elapsed from the time that the last fish was weighed. None of the rules prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding a competitor's boat at any time.
- 16. AWARDS:** Food served during weigh in and after then awards. Awards will be Trophy's 1st 2nd 3rd and Big Bass, Money 1 place for every 7 boats, Smallest total team catch, mystery weight and drawing for no fish caught.