

FISHING FOR TUCKER  
BASS TOURNAMENT  
OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

# Tournament Information

## The Story of Tucker Townsend

Tucker Townsend, son of Christopher and Leigh Townsend, is a 12-year old boy with Mitochondrial Disorder. He was born at 27 weeks gestation, weighing just 1 pound and 11 ounces. Tucker spent over 8 months in the NICU at Woman's Hospital, and his parents took him home with a tracheotomy tube and ventilator. He had home nursing for 12 hours a day until he was 3 years old. Tucker also had a feeding tube for nutrition as he ate less than 1% of his food by mouth.

Tucker has many health problems that cannot be explained by his prematurity, such as developmental delay, autistic characteristics, GI issues, and microcephaly (small head). These issues led his parents to seek out Mitochondrial testing, which led to a diagnosis of Mitochondrial Depletion Syndrome in July 2010. This means that at a basic cellular level, Tucker's body does not work the way it is supposed to, and his cells do not have enough energy to perform many functions. Tucker's Mito has manifested in his neurological symptoms, but there is a chance that it could affect his heart, liver, kidneys, or other systems in the future. Mitochondrial Disorder is considered life-threatening and his prognosis is uncertain.

Tucker attends Oak Grove Primary in a special needs classroom, where he works hard and enjoys school. Thanks to Fishing for Tucker, Tucker receives 15 hours per week of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) therapy in addition to school. Therapists come to Tucker's home to work with a proven program for kids with autism and other delays.

Tucker is very frustrated because he cannot express himself, which leads to him grinding his teeth (which will have permanent damage if he continues) and also pulling his hair and needing anxiety medicine. The more that he can talk, the less that he displays these other behaviors and needs the interventions. The ABA Program started in June 2011, and this program has completely changed Tucker. His behavior has improved dramatically, and he has started talking all the time!! The ABA Program has allowed the family to "unlock" the Tucker that has been there all along.

Because of Fishing for Tucker, Tucker's parents have been able to fly in an ABA Feeding Specialist from Philadelphia several times a year that has helped Tucker go from eating no food by mouth to eating 100% by mouth. Thanks to this program, in 2014 Tucker got his feeding button removed. He had 3 surgeries in 2014, as his body has a hard time healing. Thanks to Fishing for Tucker, Tucker's parents were able to care for him and help him to heal without having to worry about the cost of the necessary surgeries. He has a very long road ahead of him, but these successes are showing us that this is the right track for Tucker to be on.

NAME 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

BOAT: \_\_\_\_\_ MOTOR: \_\_\_\_\_ HP: \_\_\_\_\_  
AUTO MAKE: \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL: \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIPCODE: \_\_\_\_\_  
PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Having acquainted myself with the rules, I have completed this application and am enclosing my entry fees. In signing this application, I hereby waive the host, sponsor, tournament officials, or any other authorized agents from all claims or injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament. I further understand that the Tournament Director reserves the right to reject my entry fee if he / she shall choose for any good reason. I certify that the above facts are true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Also, in signing this application I do agree to take a polygraph examination, if deemed necessary and understand I must pass before receiving my awards.

SIGNATURE 1: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE 2: \_\_\_\_\_

CASH or CHECK ONLY (CASH only on morning of tournament)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
**ASCENSION AREA ANGLERS**

MAIL CHECK AND/OR CASH TO:  
Fishing For Tucker  
43141 Earl Bercegeay Road  
Gonzales, LA 70737

There will be a \$25 service charge on all NSF checks.

Entry Fee (per Team): \$100

Participants mailing entries need to have them postmarked by  
**January 25, 2019.**

Entries will be accepted at each Check-In Point the morning of the  
Tournament with a late fee of \$25 (CASH Only)

**Captain's Meeting will be held at Cabela's  
on January 31, 2019 (6-8 pm).**  
All anglers must be registered by 6:45 pm when  
our rules briefing will begin. Any Entries received  
after **6:45 pm on January 31, 2019** will be  
assessed a \$25 late fee.

Tournament Waters will be the **Atchafalaya  
Basin** and all connecting Navigable Waterways

**YOU MUST LAUNCH WHERE YOU CHECK-IN**  
Check in will begin **February 2 at 4:00 am**  
All boats must be Checked-In by **6:30 am** at one of  
the following locations:

**Bayside Tackle, Pierre Part  
Doiron's Landing, Stephenville  
Belle River Public Landing, Belle River**

**THERE WILL BE NO "SWITCHING SIDES" IF  
LAUNCHING AT DOIRON'S.**

Official Start Time is **6:30 am**

Weigh-In to be held at **Cabela's** in Gonzales  
All boats must check in by 3:30 pm at  
**Cabela's** prior to weighing in.

Food will be provided to all Fishermen who  
participate.  
There will be plenty of door prizes provided  
by **Cabela's**.

**The 1<sup>st</sup> Place team will receive a free entry  
for our 2020 event.**  
(Team must remain the same to receive free entry.)

**Payout Information**  
Payout will be based upon participation:  
**\$1,000 First Place Based on 50 Boat Field**  
**\$2,000 First Place Based on 100 Boat Field**  
**\$500 First Place Big Bass**

## TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1) **Eligibility:** The tournament is open to all (**TWO PEOPLE**) to fish as a **TEAM**, providing the person operating the combustion engine is 18 years old or older. An adult choosing a minor as a partner will take full responsibility for that minor. Both members must hold a valid fishing license.
- 2) **Applications:** Applications may be mailed in early, and may also be turned in at the Pre-Tournament Briefing. They will also be accepted the morning of the tournament at one of the official checkpoints but those entries received after the Pre-Tournament Briefing will be assessed a late fee of **\$25**. Boat numbers will be assigned in the order that the applications are received.
- 3) **Pre-Tournament Briefing:** There will be a non-mandatory Captain's Meeting on **Thursday January 31<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 pm**, at Cabela's in Gonzales. All participants are encouraged to attend. **6:45 pm** will be the early entry deadline for the tournament. Anyone entering the tournament after this deadline will be assessed a late fee of **\$25**.
- 4) **Check-in:** Angler Check-In will take place the morning of the tournament, **February 2, 2019** at the stated launch site you choose to launch from. All teams must be checked in by **6:30 am**. Boats will go through inspection, life jackets must be visible, running lights in and working, and live wells will be checked. Each tournament boat will receive a trolling motor ribbon indicating they have been checked and are fishing the tournament. **ANGLERS MUST LAUNCH AT THE SAME LOCATION IN WHICH THEY CHECK IN.**
- 5) **Trailer:** After boat check in the morning, trailering will **ONLY** be permitted for angler's return to the weigh in at Cabela's. **NO** angler will be permitted to change launch locations throughout the day. Anglers **MUST** load their boats from the **SAME** location in which it was launched in the morning.
- 6) **Fishing Hours:** Tournament will begin at **6:30 am**. All fish weighed in must be caught the day of the tournament (during official hours). Weigh in will be at **3:30 pm** at Cabela's in Gonzales at the front of the store. All teams must be checked in by **3:30 pm**. (see **15 Penalties** for late penalty assessment)
- 7) **Safety:** Safe boat conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times. Unsafe operation of a boat could disqualify the team. All boats must be equipped with USCG approved life jackets, which must be worn secured when combustible engine is in gear. In an emergency or when it dictates, one or both anglers may take their catch and get into another tournament boat. All boats must be equipped with approved running lights and working engine kill switch.
- 8) **Sportsmanship:** All Competitors are expected to show courtesy to other competitors and non-competitors alike. **NO ALCOHOLIC** beverages or **ILLEGAL DRUGS** will be allowed in boats during tournament hours. Drunkenness will not be tolerated. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or violates the Fish and Game laws of the State of Louisiana can be disqualified.
- 9) **Tackle:** Only artificial lures can be used. No prepared or live bait, other than pork rind strips may be used. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional manner using a rod and reel. No trolling will be permitted at any time during tournament hours. A contestant may use only one rod at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes. Maximum rod length shall be eight (8) feet.
- 10) **Boat Equipment:** Safety equipment adequate to pass Coast Guard regulation must be in boat at all times. All boats must be equipped with a combustible **OUTBOARD** engine (No surface drives, jet drives, or inboard engines allowed), functional emergency kill switch, and live well and attempts must be made to keep fish alive. No combustible engine that exceeds the BIA horsepower rating for said boat will be allowed. Carelessness or unsafe operation of any boat and motor shall not be tolerated and is grounds for disqualification. It is recommended that each boat have a functional bilge pump.
- 11) **Pre-Tournament Practice:** There is no off limit period before the tournament. Anglers are not permitted to catch bass anytime before the tournament and transport them to be released in another part of tournament waters, in the effort to establish a population of bass in a selected area.
- 12) **Permitted Fishing Water:** **Atchafalaya Basin** and all creeks, canals, and navigable waterways that are open to the **PUBLIC** shall be permitted fishing waters. No fishing permitted within **fifty (50) yards** of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within a **fifty (50) yard** circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor fishing the tournament. CB radio, walkie-talkie, fixed or portable phones cannot be used between competitor's during tournament hours to locate or acquire fish. No competitors shall have a non-competitor scout out a hole or hold a hole for him during tournament hours to obtain fish. Waters that are posted (off limits, no fishing, no trespassing and private property) by the State or Local authorities or any posted water where the public is not allowed and is off limits to all competitors. You cannot cross any of the above listed water to gain access to open or public fishing water.
- 13) **Creel/Limit:** Limit of **five (5)** bass per team. Minimum length of bass is **twelve (12) inches** measured on straight / flat board. No culling at landing, only **five (5)** bass in boat at check-in. Any team weighing in more than **five (5)** bass will be disqualified. All **State and Federal laws** will be adhered to during tournament hours.
- 14) **Ties:** Largest bass weighed shall decide a tie. Number of fish weighed shall decide ties after big fish. Total weight will decide a tie for Big Bass.

## TOURNAMENT RULES

- 15) **Penalties:** Teams who have not checked in at the official check point on time at the conclusion of the tournament will be assessed a **1 pound** penalty for each minute they are late up until **15 minutes** when they will be disqualified. Minimum length of bass is **twelve (12) inches** measured on straight / flat board. Any team weighing in fish shorter than **twelve (12) inches** in length will lose each short fish plus be penalized **1 pound** per short fish. There will be a **one-quarter pound (0.25 lb.)** deducted per dead fish. If dead fish is the largest, dead fish penalty will apply to that fish.
  - 16) **Official Boats:** Officials will be on the waters during tournament hours and can approach or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests.
  - 17) **Damage:** Damage of any nature to a contestant's vehicle, boat, equipment or fishing tackle is the responsibility of the tournament contestant.
  - 18) **Rule Changes:** Rules will remain unchanged throughout the event. Tournament Director may acquire assistance of Tournament Officials. Tournament Director and Officials have the right to accept or refuse any person / person's entry fee if deemed detrimental to the Tournament.
  - 19) **Launch Fees:** All launch fees are assumed by the contestant.
  - 20) **Protest:** Complaints or protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within **fifteen (15) minutes** after scales are closed. Tournament Director must be informed of such action prior to or during weigh-ins.
  - 21) **Weigh-in:** The official weigh-in scale will open at **3:00 pm**. No contestant may weigh-in earlier. Exceptions will be made for extreme weather conditions **ONLY**.
  - 22) **Tournament Director's Decision is final.**
- OFFLIMITS AREAS:** Bayou Tranquille, Adam's Pits, ALL Doiron's Subdivision Canals, Doiron's Store Canal, Ponds along Hwy 70 off Bayou Long, Anything else listed as Private Property

## Thanks to our Dedicated Sponsors

*Cabela's*

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*We, at Fishing for Tucker would like to personally thank our great sponsors, volunteers, and most of all, the anglers who support us year in and year out. Without the continuous support of you anglers, our cause could not have proven its success.*

**“No man ever stood so tall, as when he stooped to help a boy.”**

# 9<sup>th</sup> Annual fishingfortucker



**Saturday February 2, 2019  
Atchafalaya Basin Tournament  
Trailerred Weigh-in**

**Featuring Emcee Lyle Johnson,  
Host of Ascension Outdoors**

**Entry Fee (per Team): \$100  
75% Payout to Fishermen**

**For More Information Contact:**  
Ryan Lavigne: 225-921-9332  
[www.fishingfortucker.com](http://www.fishingfortucker.com)

Hosted By: Ascension Area Anglers