



MARINE CORPS RESERVE



Fishing Tournament

HOSTED BY OUTDOOR FREEDOM NETWORK

Rules and Regulations

NOVEMBER 28, 2020

Version 110220 supersedes any previous Rules and Regulations

ELIGIBILITY and ENTRY FEES

Open to everyone, \$125 entry fee includes big bass award. Your option to donate two new unwrapped toys of at least \$10 value or \$25 dollar donation payable at online registration. Payout is 70/30

ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST SIGN A RELEASE OF LIABILITY WAIVER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT

Entries will be accepted up until start time the morning of the event at Jackson Hill Park and Marina.

1. PRIZE PAYOUT

OFN is a charity fund raising tournament and as such we do not turn anyone away regardless of their fishing skill or past performance.

Prize money will be awarded following the final weigh in by total weight of five fish limit. Based on 100 entries the payout will be:

FIRST PLACE - \$3,000

SECOND PLACE - \$2,000

THIRD PLACE - \$1,000

FOURTH PLACE - \$500

FIFTH PLACE - \$500

SIXTH PLACE - \$500

SEVENTH PLACE \$250

BIG BASS - \$1,000

Bag limit or Big Bass exact weight ties will be broken by a coin flip unless both anglers agree to split the prize.

2. LAUNCH AND WEIGH IN

TFT is a trailering tournament, participants do not have to check in the morning of the tournament if they are preregistered and can launch anywhere on the lake they choose. First cast on tournament day will be 7:00 am.

Weigh in will be drive by to promote proper social distancing requirements. Random prize drawings during the waiting line, picture taking and fellowship will keep things fun. To speed the weigh in process any team that checks out by texting the tournament director will be placed into a separate drawing for something really cool. If a team chooses to leave immediately after weigh in any winnings they may receive will be mailed to them within three days of the event. The final results will be published online and on social media.

Team members must have a mask in their possession and wear it when things get close. Once fish have been presented to a Tournament Official to be weighed-in, all fish become the property of tournament staff and no additional fish may be brought to the scales. Once a team member has checked in or left the boat for the purpose of checking in, neither team member may fish or continue fishing.

TOP THREE TEAMS MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR POLYGRAPH IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE FINAL WEIGH IN. POLYGRAPHS MAY BE REQUIRED AS DETERMINED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AT THE FINAL WEIGH IN.

3. DONATIONS

Net profit made from tournament entry fees will be donated to benefit local children in need through Charity Partners in San Augustine, Sabine, Jasper, Angelina and Nacogdoches Counties. Toys donated will also be collected and distributed through these local charities as part of the Toys for Tots 2020 campaign. OFN is a public charity non-profit 501 (c) (3) registered in the State of Texas.

4. OFF LIMITS

There will be no off limits for TFT Tournament. Teams may not have the assistance of any non-competitor for the purpose of locating or catching fish on the competition day(s). The use of electronic communication devices for the purpose of sharing fishing information during tournament hours is prohibited.

5. TOURNAMENT HOURS

Tournament hours will be from a first cast at 7:00 am with a 3:00 pm deadline to be in the weigh in line. Any team that is not in line by 3:00 pm will not be allowed to weigh their catch. Scales open at 2:00 pm unless tournament director authorizes an early weigh in.

6. SAFETY

Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, securely fastened, at all times while the boat is on plane. Furthermore a kill switch must be fastened to the driver anytime the combustion engine is propelling the boat. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification of the offending team's catch. Running lights must be operational and turned on as required by law. Each competitor's boat must be equipped with a livewell system capable of keeping a tournament limit of bass alive. Any boat equipped with a motor that exceeds the horse power rating of the boat according to the manufacturer is prohibited from being used in the Tournament. During the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP

Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. No team may fish within 50 yards of a anchored boat with the trolling motor up. No team may fish within 25 yards of any other boat without permission from the other boat, however permission may not be granted at the exclusion of any other team. No hole sitting by a non-competitor or by another competitor, to aid a tournament participant will be allowed. Violators will have their catch disqualified.

8. TACKLE AND FISHING METHODS

Only artificial baits may be used. No live or cut bait is permitted (pork baits are permitted). All bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner. No snagging. Each competitor may only use 1 rod at a time. No more than 1 line in the water at a time per angler. Trolling with the combustion motor is not permitted. No competitor may leave the boat to land or catch fish.

9. STATE AND FEDERAL GAME REGULATIONS

All participants are expected to abide by all state and federal laws and game regulations. Any team who intentionally violates a law or regulation in an attempt to gain an unfair advantage will have their catch disqualified. In the case of multiple governing authorities, the strictest law is applicable. Any participant who consumes, or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages, stimulants or depressants will have their catch disqualified. (Prescribed medications taken per doctor's instructions are excluded.) If any laws or regulations are violated the participant will be directed to the Local Law enforcement agency such as the Game Warden.

10. SCORING

A limit of 5 bass (largemouth or spotted bass) may be weighed in. Minimum length is 14 inches measured with mouth closed. A short fish brought to the scales will not be weighed, and will result in a 1 pound penalty. Dead fish will be penalized .25 (1/4) pound. **You cannot win Big Fish if that fish is dead.** All culling must be done at the time the 6th fish is caught; no team may continue fishing with more than the tournament limit in the live well at any time during the tournament.

11. EMERGENCIES

Competitors shall remain with their partners in the boat at all times during the tournament, except in the event of sickness or brief excursions for "nature calling", severe storm or other such hazard. It is permitted for a competitor to leave the boat for marina services. Competitors may leave the boat to dislodge it, but only to return the boat in the direction it came from. Leaving the boat to advance it is not permitted. (In falling water conditions, a team may leave the boat to advance it only to return from water they accessed without leaving the boat.) If for any reason either or both team members decide to leave the tournament waters early, both members shall bear full responsibility for notifying a tournament official. If one team member leaves the water early, he/she may not return and resume fishing. However, his/her partner may continue fishing for the remainder of the tournament hours. In case of a breakdown, one partner may return with fish by another tournament boat or a Patriots Challenge staff boat while the other partner is permitted to stay with the disabled boat.

12. LATE PENALTY

Teams who are not checked in at the deadline time of 3:00 pm will not be permitted to weigh their fish. Official time will be kept by the tournament director.

13. PROTEST AND POLYGRAPH TEST

Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the close of the weigh-in. Anyone protesting the tournament results must be willing to sign a sworn statement regarding their protest and pay a \$300 polygraph/investigation fee that will be refunded if the protest is upheld and forfeited if it is not. tournament officials reserves the right to give a polygraph test to any participant at any time. This test does not have to be administered on site and may be set up by the Tournament Director at their discretion. All participants agree to abide by the results of any polygraph test administered. In the event of a protest and an off-site polygraph test the Tournament Director will have the option of mailing all the checks to the teams in the money pending the outcome of the polygraph. By entering into the tournament you agree to be subject to a Random Polygraph test to determine eligibility for your winnings. Should a participant refuse to take the test or "Fail" as determined by the qualified individual administering the test, that participant may be disqualified from that tournament and future OFN tournaments. It is the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, if a participant is to be disqualified for rule violations or is required to take a polygraph test.

14. RULES INTERPRETATION

Infractions of any rule may result in disqualification of the catch. Interpretation of these rules will be left to the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

