



**MARINE CORPS RESERVE**



## **Fishing Tournament**

**HOSTED BY OUTDOOR FREEDOM NETWORK**

### **Rules and Regulations**

**NOVEMBER 23, 2019**

Version 022616 supersedes any previous Rules and Regulations

#### **ELIGIBILITY and ENTRY FEES**

**Open to everyone, \$100 entry fee includes big bass award. Payout is 70/30**

*OFN reserves the right to reject any entries which we feel is not in the best interest of the tournament. No one other than paid contests are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. You must have a valid fishing license during tournament hours.*

**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 One place will be paid out per five teams entered at a 70/30 split.

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

#### **2. DONATIONS**

100% of Net profit made from tournament entry fees will be donated to benefit local children in need through Care and Share San Augustine and Broaddus Christmas Fund. Toys donated will also be collected and distributed through these local charities as part of the Toys for Tots 2019 campaign. OFN is a public charity non-profit 501 (c) (3) registered in the State of Texas.

### **3. 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.

### **4. TOURNAMENT HOURS**

Tournament hours will be from a designated time based on the current conditions by the tournament director until 3:00 PM. We reserve the right to assign flights and change hours if necessary. Start times will be announced upon registration and will generally be at first light unless other weather conditions exist.

### **5. LAUNCH SEQUENCE**

TFT is a trailering tournament, participants do not have to check in the morning of the tournament if they are preregistered. The tournament director will set the first cast time based on current conditions and will be announced upon registration.

### **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. The dead fish penalty will also apply to any fish weighed as a 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. WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES**

Weigh-in will be on a first come first serve basis. 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.

## **13. 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.

## **14. 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.

## **15. VIOLATION OF RULES AND DISQUALIFICATION**

Any team or team member found in violation of any rule may face disqualification of their team's catch. If the tournament director feels that their violation was a willful attempt to gain an unfair advantage or to intentionally cheat, then the director has the right to refuse entry from that team or team members in the future.

## **16. RULES INTERPRETATION**

Interpretation of these rules will be left to the Tournament Director. Infractions of any rule may result in disqualification of the catch. All decisions are final and may be disputed according to the "protest" section of the rules.