

## ST JUDE BASS TOURNAMENT RULES

**1. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Any contestant, who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or State fishing laws may be disqualified from the tournament. Courtesy and good sportsmanship shall be directed towards non-tournament fisherman and other persons who may be on or near the water during the period of the tournament as well as other tournament participants.

**2. PARTICIPATION, ELIGIBILITY AND SCHEDULING:**

A. All boats will carry a maximum of two persons.

B. Participation is based on first come, first serve basis, in order of date and time entry forms are received and eligibility requirements are met. This includes completed entry forms and payment of entry fees.

**3. SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by contestants. Whenever the gasoline engine is in operation, all contestants must be wearing a U.S. Coast Guard approved flotation device.

**4. TACKLE:** Only artificial lures may be used. No prepared or live bait other than pork rinds or strips are permitted. Only rod and reels may be used, and only one rod may be used at a time. Landing nets are permitted and spare rigged rods may be carried in the boat. Electronic equipment may be used to navigate and locate fish or structure

**5. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** No fishing will be allowed within 50 yards of another boat that was first anchored and tied in that area. No contestant will be allowed to move in on a boat that is working a given area, whether they be drifting or using an electric motor. Any deviation of the 50 yard rule is at the discretion of the participants involved. All fish must be hooked and landed from a boat. All contestants must leave and return to the starting point by boat. Boats may not be trailered from one fishing area to another during tournament hours.

**6. FISHING HOURS:** 6:00 AM boats depart in order determined by registration. Weigh in starts at 3:00 PM LAST BOAT IN NO LATER THAN 3:30 PM

**7. PREFISHING:** This tournament is open to prefishing.

**8. PENALTIES:** Contestants who have not checked in at the weigh-in site on time shall be penalized one pound for each minute they are late and disqualified after 20 minutes. Any contestant weighing in a fish under the minimum length will be penalized by subtracting one pound for each violation from the total legal weight. Any contestant weighing in a dead fish will be penalized by subtracting ½ pound for each violation from the total weight of legal fish. The dead fish penalty does not affect the big fish award. Should a number of fish in excess of a tournament limit be brought to weigh in the culling of excess fish shall be culled starting with the largest fish and descending in order to achieve tournament limit.

**9. COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS:** Protests must be submitted to the tournament captain Within 30 minutes of the completion of weigh in. The decision of the tournament captain shall be Final

**10. DAMAGES:** Damages to any person or equipment this Hometown – St Jude Tournament will be the responsibility of the person or persons involved.

**11. TIES:** In the event of a tie, all applicable prize moneys shall be divided equally between all participants in that tie.

**12. SCORING AND LIMITS:** All State laws will be enforced. Tournament Limit is 5 Legal Bass Fish per Boat. 15" Minimum Length on Large Mouth, Small Mouth, and Spotted Bass. Winners to be determined by total weight, except for big fish which will be determined by weight Of the largest fish in the limit. Big Rough Fish Prize to be awarded to any participant who weighs in the largest rough fish. All fish measured with mouth closed on Golden Rule.

**13. DRUGS AND ALCOHOL:** No participant shall consume alcoholic beverages during scheduled tournament hours. The use of illegal drugs shall be banned at all times