



## 2021 PREMIEREVENTSUSA

### "TEAM FISHING TOURNAMENT" RULES

**1)** These rules are for PremierEventsUSA Team Tournament. In addition to these rules, each contestant **MUST READ, UNDERSTAND; AGREE TO, AND SIGN** the PremierEventsUSA Waiver. PremierEventsUSA utilizes several forms of communication methods including websites, social media, emails and texting. PremierEventsUSA does not use standard mail to communicate rules or other program information. It is the responsibility of everyone to obtain tournament information. Failure to agree to "Truth Verification" provisions stated in the rules may result in ineligibility to participate in future PremierEventsUSA tournament events. It is the responsibility of each entrant to know these rules. Ignorance of the rules is not a defense for violation of them. Tournament Directors shall apply penalties for rule infractions. PremierEventsUSA encourages all parties involved in a rules dispute to photograph and/or video the incident at the time of the dispute to assist in resolving the issue with tournament authorities.

Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time of the tournament. The person(s) submitting the protest must be present and willing to identify the offender(s) in a face-to-face situation at the time the director confronts the named offender(s). The Tournament Director may assess a penalty/ disqualification without a written protest. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. Adjustments to the results, if necessary, shall be made after the final decision. PremierEventsUSA uses this procedure to assure fair and consistent application of rules and penalties in all matters. Our objective is to offer you the fairest most consistent handling of any problem. To avoid protests. If you suspect a possible infraction is about to take place - Alert the would-be offender and check the rules! It is mandatory to provide PremierEventsUSA with the complete and correct name, address. Winners will be required to provide Social Security numbers for tax purposes. Providing incorrect and/or incomplete information is grounds for denial of participation in any/all events Tournaments PremierEventsUSA conducts. All results will be completed at the end of the Tournament, or, in the event of a dispute, within 72 hours of the event and all results will be posted on the PremierEventsUSA Tournament web site. All winnings will be mailed within 72 hours. This procedure is necessary to insure respect for of the competitors' time.

**2) SPORTSMANSHIP** • Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship and/or misconduct and/or violates these rules and/or violates the state fishing laws or lake rules may be disqualified and/or excluded from future PremierEventsUSA tournaments. This includes conduct on and off the water including improper fishing techniques, illegal fishing techniques, misconduct in and around the host facilities for any event including hotels, retail establishments, etc. Misconduct is a bad reflection on organized fishing and PremierEventsUSA. Misconduct may be deemed as an infraction of our sportsmanship rule and is grounds for disqualification from any tournament event. Any angler who engages in improper or illegal fishing techniques, during a competition or not, may be disqualified from any event. PremierEventsUSA shall make the determination as to any sportsmanship, improper fishing techniques and/or misconduct issue.

**3) PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY** • Participation is open to all. However, PremierEventsUSA reserves the right to refuse participation in the PremierEventsUSA event to anyone. At least one (1) partner of each team shall be 18 years of age or older. Those anglers under the age of 18 years must have written consent of parent or guardian. No one under the age of 18 may fish alone without special provisions. A team consists of two anglers. One member of a team may fish alone, however no awards will be given if the other partner fishes with someone else. All team members must be in possession of a current Texas Fishing license.

**4) BOAT/ENGINE REGULATIONS** There is no minimum length or horsepower requirements to compete in the tournament. No internal combustion engine is required. Any propulsion must be created by a motor or engine that generates propulsion in the water. No airboats or similar vessels may be used. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat, or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The U.S. Coast Guard rating plate must be visible and permanently attached to the boat. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Each boat must contain a properly aerated or recirculating live well to maintain any caught fish. An Ice chest with an aerator is acceptable upon approval of the Tournament Director. Any vessel deemed “unsuitable” by the Tournament Director would not be allowed to participate in the event. PremierEventsUSA is not responsible to track or in any way regulate boats used in waters with invasive species. Lake, river authority, state and local officials, etc., are solely responsible for determining launch eligibility of any tournament vessel. If said officials disallow a vessel to launch, PremierEventsUSA will not allow that vessel to participate. Since the decision to allow or disallow a launch is not in the control of PremierEventsUSA, PremierEventsUSA will see this decision made by any governing agent as the final decision and will not allow any protest about that decision.

**5) SAFETY:** All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations. Boat owners are required to have proper boat insurance that allows tournament participation. Safe boating rules shall be always observed. During competition, each participant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the combustion engine is in operation. Anyone operating a boat in an unsafe manner in the opinion of the tournament director may be disqualified. All boats must be equipped with an emergency engine shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver’s body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. The Tournament Director must approve any non-lanyard shut-off system. All boats of at least 16ft must have a float cushion on board. Each contestant is responsible to have proper safety equipment to meet state and local regulations. It is not the responsibility of PremierEventsUSA, the Tournament Director, any Tournament Committee member or any sponsor to provide on-the-water repairs or rescues at any time. Each team must procure their own on-the-water assistance when needed. It is not the

responsibility of PremierEventsUSA, the Tournament Director, any Tournament Committee member or and sponsor to assure that any entrant has returned at the end of the tournament. All state boating regulations regarding the requirement to render aid or to report boating accidents shall be followed. PremierEventsUSA, the Tournament Director, any Tournament Committee

Member or any sponsor is not responsible to report any boating accident in which they are not personally involved.

**6) Permitted FISHING METHODS AND TACKLE** - All fish must be caught live in a conventional and sporting manner. Trolling also referred to as ripping / sweeping or jerking, is prohibited. Cast and retrieve methods of ripping and jerking are legal. Only artificial lures may be used. Only ONE fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth. Landing nets are permitted. Alabama Rigs, A-Rigs, and Umbrella Rigs ARE allowed for use. Chumming is prohibited. Attractant products may be applied directly to a lure. The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. Rods may not exceed nine (9) feet in length. Number of hooks per lure and rules per rig will be restricted by state regulations.

**7) Permitted FISHING WATERS** - Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by the tournament director, local, state or federal officials or the service area for any gas pump, operational or non-operational. Marina's may have additional areas off limits near gas docks due to fuel lines in the water. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. No contestants are permitted to leave their boat in an effort to propel or float their boat to fishing waters they could not otherwise reach, however. The use of push poles is permitted. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day; Contestants must leave and return to the official check-in by boat.

**8) ENCROACHMENT** - A "25-yard rule" is always in effect during competition. No contestant boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestant's involved. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon this zone as long and the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. Judging distance is difficult on the water. As a rule of sportsmanship all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area. Exception: In the case of fishing docks or piers, no contestant's boat may "tie up," or "protect" more than a single dock at one time regardless of the distance involved.

**9) EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR EMERGENCY** - In the event of equipment failure or emergency, contestant's boat may be towed to the check-in, if it is necessary to transfer fish to another boat. It must be another contestant's boat. At least one member of the team must accompany the fish to the weigh-in site.

**10) FISHING HOURS AND LATE PENALTY** - Official fishing hours will be sunrise for Nocona, Texas or at a time set by PremierEventsUSA until 3:00pm. All contestants must check in at the weigh-in site by 4:30pm. Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time may be disqualified. **DON'T BE LATE!** No culling of fish in the host marina or weigh-in area.

**II) LIVE FISH** - Contestants shall make every effort to keep all fish alive using a properly aerated live well. PremierEventsUSA strongly recommends the use of chemical additives in live wells, A one (1) pound penalty will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The Tournament Director or a designee will make all judgments of fish mortality. Culling of dead fish is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

**12) SCORING** - Scoring will be determined by the total weight of each teams catch. The limit shall be five (3) fish per team, five (3) fish for an angler fishing alone. ***This is a large mouth Bass Tournament only.*** Once a tournament limit has been reached, any angler landing an additional fish must stop fishing until a fish is culled to bring the number of fish on board to the tournament limit. The partner may complete their cast during the culling process. Teams presenting more fish than the stated tournament limit will lose their entire weight for that day. Check for legal species at each event. The official minimum length for bass shall be fourteen (14) inches unless otherwise the lake limit is greater than fourteen (14) inches. Bass will be measured lying down: mouth open / tail fanned. On a FLAT board. The Tournament Director will have the official board for measuring. This is the only board that will be used in determining length. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length limit, shall be removed from the catch and a penalty of one (1) pound will be deducted from the remaining weight. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. A team may be one single angler or two anglers. PremierEventsUSA will assign a Team ID number to each team. There are no substitutions to team members.

**13) Official BOATS - Officials** may be on the water during tournament hours and can approach, photograph or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests.

**14) PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE (PRE-FISHING)** Entrants must be off the water by 6:00pm on the Friday prior to the event. There are no other off-limit periods.

**15) NO ALCOHOL** - No alcoholic beverages are allowed during the tournament hours. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any tournament boat.

**17) BOAT INSPECTION** Boat inspection instructions will be given at the sign- up site. Failure to obtain a sign-off at boat inspection may result in disqualification.

**18) COOPERATION WITH MEDIA/PROMOTION** - Within the framework of reasonable requests, all contestants in the event will cooperate with media representatives covering said event, Likewise, participation in the tournament grants PremierEventsUSA the use of any pictures of contestants, accounts or interviews with contestants it gathers for the lawful promotion of PremierEventsUSA and its tournament operations and sponsors.

**19) TOURNAMENT PROTECTION RULE** - Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to PremierEventsUSA or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, wardens, fishery biologists, tournament officials, etc.) during the practice period or tournament, may result in the temporary or permanent suspension from all future PremierEventsUSA tournaments. Disrespect and or defamation to PremierEventsUSA as an organization, any tournament staff member, or sponsors of PremierEventsUSA, may result in immediate disqualification.

**21) CITATIONS** - A contestant cited by officers for violation of State or Federal fishing or boating regulations may be disqualified.

**22) TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTING** - All contestants: by virtue of their entry into any PremierEventsUSA fishing tournament event, agree to submit to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, and solely the Tournament Committee will make the determination of the meaning of the results.

**23) WEATHER/MOVING EVENTS** – The Tournament Director will monitor weather forecasts leading up to the tournament date. The official forecast app for this purpose is Weather Underground. Any weather deemed extreme will be grounds for cancellation or postponement of an event. Decisions will be made two (2) days prior to the day of the tournament. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to cancel an event for other reasons.

**24) TOURNAMENT AWARDS** – PremierEventsUSA will award cash prizes for the teams placing in the top three positions based on net weight after deducting any penalties. Additionally, the team with the top-weighing event fish type will be awarded a cash prize. Each team must designate the fish for biggest event fish type at weigh in. Only one fish may be designated as the big event fish type entry,

**24) TIES** – In the case of a tie (including big event fish type), the teams tied will be awarded prizes for two places, divided equally between the teams.