

Tournament Rules, Regulations, and Conditions

PARTICIPANTS: *All participants enter the tournament at their own risk. Fleming Island United Methodist Church, its employees, officers, directors, volunteers, agents, members, and participants shall not be liable for and hereby disclaim any liability for any and all losses, damages or injuries of any kind suffered by any participants, entrants, anglers, their guests and companions, boat captains, vessels and equipment which may occur during the tournament, including the weigh-in location at Whitey's Fish Camp. All captains and participants are responsible for reading, following, and abiding by all rules, regulations, and conditions as contained herein and as may be promulgated by the Tournament's Rules Committee and by signing the entry form agree to abide by the rules and terms thereof. Participants should familiarize themselves with Florida Boating/Fishing License requirements prior to operating a gas-powered motor/entering said fishing tournament.*

ELIGIBILITY: Participants should be at least 18 years of age. Underage participants must have a parent's signed waiver or their fishing partner must be of adult age and willing to assume liability in all matters.

TEAM MEMBERS: Each boat is limited to two (2) team members; a Captain and a Participant. A Captain may fish alone if he or she so desires. Alternates are allowed.

FEES: Entry fees are \$120.00 per boat. Entries shall be mailed to: FIUMC; 7170 Highway 17; Fleming Island, FL 32003 or paid on-line (see entry form for details) no later than June 15, 2019. Entries received after June 15, 2019 will be accepted including the morning of the tournament at \$130.00 per boat.

LAUNCH SEQUENCE: Boat numbers for launch sequence are determined as entry fees are received.

CHECK-IN: Starts at 4:30 AM at Whitey's.

PURSE: 1st Place=\$1,500 dollars; 2nd Place=\$750 dollars; 3rd Place=\$500 dollars; 4th Place=\$250 dollars. Ten dollars of each entry will go to a big fish pot for the tournament date. The big fish pot will have a 100% payback. For every 10 entries over 40 boats an additional \$100 dollars place will be paid (50 boats = \$100 dollars 5th place; 60 boats = \$100 dollars 6th place...)

QUALIFYING FISH: A limit of fish will be five (5) black bass with no minimum or maximum length so long as exemptions are provided. All fish must be caught within tournament hours. No fish shall be taken from waters other than those waters obtainable by boat from the launch point of the tournament. No fishing may occur day of prior to official launch. Fishing period for this tournament will be from safe light to 3pm.

WEIGH-IN: 3:00 PM at Whitey's Fish Camp. Weigh in bags will not be provided, please bring your own.

PENALTIES: Competitors who present a bass for weigh-in that is determined to be dead shall accrue a penalty of .250 of a pound or 4 ounces per dead fish from their total weight. If the dead fish is also the big fish the same penalty will be given towards the big fish pot. Any bass that appears to have been taken unlawfully, mangled, mashed, mauled or snatch hooked will be weighed at the discretion of the tournament director or assistant director. Bass must not be placed on a stringer or on ice at any time. A dead fish may not be culled. At the discretion of the tournament director or assistant director, any fish may become the property of the tournament. Competitors who are not in the official check in area

which is determined by the tournament director, within the time allowed shall be penalized one pound per minute from their big fish, and aggregate total. After ten (10) minutes have elapsed, the daily catch will be disqualified. Any team submitting more than five (5) fish to the scale will be penalized by having the entire day's catch disqualified. All protests must be sworn to in writing and accompanied by a \$300 deposit prior to the issuance of awards at any tournament. Deposit may be refunded pending outcome of polygraph and/or determination of a rules' violation.

LEGAL METHOD OF TAKING BASS: Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait, prepared bait, electronic powered baits, cast nets, bread, or baiting pellets, will be permitted on or within tournament boats with the exception of pork stripes, rinds or other baits similar to such baits. Only one (1) casting, spinning, or spin casting rod and reel combination may be used at any one time, others may be in boat, but only one rod per team member can be in use at any one time. The rod may not exceed eight (8) feet in overall length. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner during tournament hours. Foul hooking of bass will not be permitted and shall not be included in the daily catch. Trolling is not permitted. Dip nets are permitted for their lawful intended use. Any violation of this section will result in immediate disqualification.

SPORTSMANSHIP: All persons participating within the tournament must display only the highest form of sportsmanship and fairness. Any intentional actions conducted by any party to include retaliation of any previous action may lead up to and include verbal warning, written warning, disqualification of daily creel, and possibly the revocation of future opportunities to participate in any future events. All disciplinary actions taken by the director are final. All participants are subject to being asked to submit to an examination to determine the truth in any instance the director deems necessary. Refusal to or not making oneself readily available to submit to such examination will result in a disqualification. Such examination may or may not be on the date of the tournament. No protest will be received once the rewards ceremony has commenced.

BOATING SAFETY: All boats must meet all U.S. Coast Guard requirements. All boaters will abide by all Federal, State, and Local laws governing the operation of a vessel. Boats must be equipped with operable ignition kill switch. The safety kill lanyard must be affixed to the driver of the boat during those times in which the gas engine is in operation. Each competitor is required to wear an U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device during times the gas engine is in operation. Each boat must be equipped with an operable live well capable of maintaining a limit of fish alive during tournament hours. No beverages containing alcohol will be allowed on any boat associated with the tournament during tournament hours. No person who has the appearance of being under the influence of an intoxicant will be permitted to occupy any vessel associated with the tournament. Any violation of the above safety rules will be grounds for immediate disqualification. No canoes, kayaks, air boats, or pontoon boats allowed. No fishing from an elevated platform during tournament hours.

CAPTAIN'S MEETING: Will be held at Whitey's on Tuesday June 25th, 2019 at 6:30 PM. At least one team member from every entry should be present at this meeting.