

2016 TBFKS TOURNAMENT RULES FOR STATE TEAM QUALIFIER

1. Participants and Eligibility: TBFKS tournaments are held for the benefit of the TBFKS and its members. Tournaments are open only to TBFKS members in good standing. Members must maintain membership with FLW, TBF, TBFKS and affiliated Club. All memberships are paid through TBFKS. The Following Year dues must also be paid in full to be eligible for the current year event.

2. Sportsmanship: Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contestant, which reflects unfavorably upon the TBFKS's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances shall be allowed in the boats. Communication devices are not allowed to be used to communicate fishing areas and may only be used in case of emergency.

3. Rules: Every contestant shall comply with all applicable federal, state, local, and lake laws and regulations. The tournament rules are explained below and the interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. The decision of the tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

4. Tournament Committee: The Tournament Committee shall consist of the TBFKS Tournament Director, Asst. Tournament Director, State President and three members of the TBFKS.

5. Entry Forms and Fees: A properly completed and signed entry form and the entrance fee of \$200.00 Per boater and \$100.00 per co angler must be in the hands of the TBFKS treasurer before the cut-off date on the entry form. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any late entries. Refund of entrance fees will be made only in case of emergencies and with proper and immediate notification of the Tournament Director.

6. Registration: Each contestant must check-in at the pre-tournament meeting at the time and place prescribed on the schedule of events. Failure to check-in at the pre-tournament meeting at the prescribed time may result in disqualification of the contestant's first day's catch. It shall be each contestant's responsibility to check the schedule of events for the pre-tournament meeting time and location. Disqualification will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

7. Safety: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times by all tournament contestants. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver. Such preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the contestant reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut-off. Extra gas containers of any kind are prohibited. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

8. Boat and Motor: Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard HP rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacture. The HP rating must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Any fishing boat 14 feet or more in length is acceptable for tournament use. Boats equipped with "stick steering" are not acceptable. A small motor, gas or electric may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. A contestant answering affirmatively to the question, "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by the Tournament Committee. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with one who does when possible.

9. Basic Boat Equipment and pre-launch Checks: Each boats live-well will be inspected prior to the start of each day's tournament competition. Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats will have the proper lifejackets, a throw cushion, kill switch, operable live wells, running lights, operable bilge pump, paddle-oar, horn/whistle/bell, and appropriate numbering of boat. The Tournament Director, or his designated appointee, shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether safety features are satisfactory. (All state boating regulations apply to the entrants for the state(s) in which the TBFKS Qualifying Tournament is held).

10. Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will

be permitted except for pork strips, rinds, etc. Only bait-casting, spin-casting or spinning rods (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used. All other types are prohibited. Only one rod and reel is permitted to be in use at any given time. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner.

11. Boat Operation and Expense: Boaters have full run of the boat operation and location as to imulate new national semi final format. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the tournament officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-boater partner assume the cost of gas and oil for the tournament day.

12. Pre-Tournament Practice and Off Limits: The tournament waters will not be off-limits.

13. Permitted Fishing Locations: Fishing is permitted anywhere within the tournament lake except within 50 feet of another contestant's boat which is anchored. No such anchored boat shall permit selected contestants to fish within the 50-foot circle claimed

by him, to the exclusion of any other contestant. All fishing must be done from the boat. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by tournament officials. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament.

14. Official Checkpoint: There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in that afternoon, and this point shall be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. At the time of checkout, all contestants and their boats must be in full compliance with all rules set forth by the tournament official. At check-in, all boats and contestants shall identify themselves by means of the boat numbers and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. All contestants must check-in with the designated tournament officials. Partners must stay together until weigh-in of their catch is completed. Upon arriving at the weigh-in station, any and all fish brought to the weigh-in master, shall become the property of the weigh-in master. Only with the permission of the tournament director, shall the contestants retain their fish or disqualification will result. Tying up of, caging of, or seeding of fish under any circumstances shall result in disqualification and permanent banning from any and all future TBFKS sponsored tournaments.

15. Penalty Points: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces, equivalent to (1/2) pound. Any bass (not of legal size) presented to weigh-in officials will result in loss of that fish plus a one pound penalty. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty.

16. Late Penalty: Contestants who are not in the official check-in point as described in Rule 14 at that appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch, starting with their "Big Bass weight". After 15 minutes the participants shall lose all weight for that day's catch. There shall be no excuses for tardiness, and in no case shall a contestant be allowed to make up "lost time". All fishing must cease upon check-in.

17. Ties: The Tournament Committee will resolve all ties. Tournament big bass will break tournament final stringer ties. If still tied, total number of legal bass weighed will break final stringer ties. Daily heaviest stringer will break daily big bass ties. If still tied, total number of legal bass weighed daily will break daily big bass ties. In both cases, if still tied, a coin toss will be the final tie breaker.

18. Guaranteed Boater /Co-Angler: To have the only opportunity to participate in the qualifier, any boater's entry must be accompanied by a co-angler entry. Guaranteed Boaters/Co-Angler will be assured the opportunity to fish. Both entry fees must accompany the entry forms and be received together.

19. Pairing Of Contestants: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner shall be made at the pre-tournament meeting. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials are not responsible for finding missing partners. A minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the checkout point. The Tournament Director, at his discretion, may reassign partners prior to take-off. Note: The contestants of all draw tournaments will be paired with no regard to race, color, creed or sex. The Tournament Director will do everything possible not to pair guaranteed contestants together or contestants from the same club.

20. Insurance: Boaters must carry a copy of their boat insurance, showing \$300,000 liability and the expiration date (on their person or in their boat) to be presented upon request of a tournament official. If no proof of valid insurance is provided, big bass payouts and final standings will be provincial. Big Bass checks will be mailed and final standings validated upon receipt of a valid proof of insurance papers. If insurance papers are invalid at the time of winning/placing, contestants forfeit all monies and boaters forfeit their qualifying position.

21. Qualifying System: The method to determine the State Team shall be as follows: This will be a multiple day tournament consisting of 2 eight hour fishing windows. Weights for all two windows will be combined and the top 6 heaviest Boater weights and top 6 Co-Angler weights will make the TBFKS State Team for 2016. The 7th Heaviest boater weight will become the 1st alternate on the TBFKS state team for the following year. 3 fish of legal size will be counted per person per fishing window for a total of 6 fish maximum over the event. Two bass pass fish and one legal keeper of any species size (15" spotted bass) largemouth and smallmouth 18". Each State team member in order to participate in the following years National semi final must have dues paid by the Qualifier of the current year and the following year, or forfeiture of State team position. TBF Board of directors will make final determination and next eligible State Team participant will be offered the position until we reach the min.12 man team. In the event we complete the list and are still short of team members, TBF Board will solicit the open Membership based on membership date.

22. Protests: None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contestant's boat at any time during tournament competition. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director, in writing within 15 minutes of the conclusion of the daily weigh-in. The Tournament Committee will make final decisions on all protests, rules violations, and broken laws can be handled by said committee at any time during or after the tournament.