

VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK TOURNAMENT RULES

1) GENERAL These rules are for the Veterans Memorial Park (VMP) Bass Tournaments". In addition to these rules, each contestant **MUST READ, UNDERSTAND, AGREE TO, AND SIGN** a waiver. It is the responsibility of each individual to obtain event information, rule information, etc.. Ignorance of the rules is not a defense for violation of them. Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time. The person(s) submitting the protest must be present and willing to identify the offender(s) in a face to face situation. VMP uses this procedure to assure fair and consistent application of rules in all matters. Our objective is to offer you the fairest most consistent handling of any problem.

2) SPORTSMANSHIP - Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship and/or misconduct and/or violates these rules and/or violates the Alabama fishing laws or lake rules may be disqualified. This includes conduct on and off the water including improper fishing techniques, illegal fishing techniques, misconduct in and around the host facilities. Any angler who engages in improper or illegal fishing techniques, either during the tournament may be disqualified.

3) PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY - 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.

4) BOAT/ENGINE REGULATIONS - There is no minimum length or minimum horsepower requirements to compete in the VMP 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. This restriction is to limit access to water not accessible by "conventional bass boat" style vessels. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated or recirculating livewell to maintain alive a team limit catch of fish. An ice chest with an aerator is acceptable upon approval of the tournament director. Any vessel deemed "unsuitable" by a Regional Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in the event.

5) SAFETY - All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations. Boat owners are required to have proper boat insurance that allows tournament participation. Safe boating shall be observed at all times. During competition, each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the combustion engine is in operation. Anyone found 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 ignition shut-off device which must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. Any non-lanyard shut-off systems must be approved by the tournament director. All boats 16 ft. must have a float cushion on board. Each contestant is responsible to have proper safety equipment to meet state and local regulations. Each contestant shall provide their own on-the-water assistance if needed.

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 with the exception of pork rind or deer hide. No prepared or live bait may be used. Chumming is prohibited. Attractant products may be applied directly to a lure. The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. Landing nets are permitted in American Bass events. Only one "rod and reel" may be used at a time. Rods may not exceed nine (9) feet in length. Number of hooks per lure and rules per rig will be restricted by Alabama regulations unless a lesser number is stated.

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.

8) ENCROACHMENT - A "25 yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant's boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants' involved. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon this zone as long as the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. Judging distance is very difficult on the water. As a general 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 announced at tournament sign-up prior to each event. All contestants must check in at the weigh-in site. 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.

11) LIVE FISH - Contestants shall make every effort to keep all fish alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. It is strongly recommended to use chemical additives in livewells. .20 lbs will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. Culling of dead fish is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

12) SCORING - Scoring will be determined by the total weight of each team's catch. The limit shall be five (5) fish per two angler team, five (5) fish for an angler fishing alone. 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. The official minimum length for bass shall be thirteen (13) inches unless otherwise stated at sign-up or if the lake limit is greater than thirteen (13) inches. Bass will be measured lying down, mouth open / tail fanned, on a FLAT board. 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. The official penalty for "dead fish" is .20 lbs per dead fish.

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

14) LOST WEIGH SLIP - The loss of a weigh slip during tournament hours may result in disqualification.

I have read and understand the rules of the Veterans Memorial Park Bass Tournament.

Signed:
