



## Welcome to the 2020 Bass Champs Team Championship

Presented by Yamaha!

### Official Reminders

- **5 fish limits** both days, all bass are 12" minimum length for this tournament.
- **No information rule** -During the off limits period, official practice, and competition days, other than using publicly-available information (e.g. newspaper and Internet reports) competitors cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from non-competitors. All information must be accessed prior to official off limits periods
- **Off-Limits** -It is the responsibility of the anglers to be familiar with the off-limits. (A picture of the off-limits is posted at the registration table.)
- **No Wake in Lock** -All locks are a No Wake Zone from the end of the long wall on the upstream side to the end of the long wall on the downstream side.
- **Locking Note** - If locking during tournament, each boat needs to have two ropes 10-14 foot long.
- **Take-Off & Boat #** - Take-off will begin at safe light; approximately 6:50am. 4 AOY Teams will be #'s 1-4 with remaining teams randomly drawing boat numbers. Teams will keep the same boat numbers both days, please remember your assigned boat #. The take-off order will be reversed Sunday.
- **Fishing License** - A Louisiana license is required by all anglers and may be purchased by calling 888.765.2602. Anyone born after January 1st, 1984 must have completed a "Free" Boating safety course, which can be taken online. This is required of boat operator only. LAW&F web site is: <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/>
- **Fuel Rule in Effect** - Only factory type installed fuel tanks are permitted for this event. No gas cans, containers, or similar fuel storage may be utilized during official practice or competition days.
- **On Water Assistance** - Kyle Jones is available for help on the water should any angler require it. His contact number is (318) 505-7580. Please call Tournament Director as well @ 817-439-3274
- **HW Marine in Shreveport, LA is the official repair center for the 2020 Bass Champs Championship.** They are available for general boat repairs and motor work during practice and tournament days. Store hours are 9:00am – 6:00pm. Please contact Buddy Hughes or Derek Townsend @ (318) 747-5182.
- **In case of Emergency** - Please contact 911 then call Tournament Director @ 817-439-3274.

### Locking Times

**We work closely with Lock Authorities but cannot guarantee lockage.**

**\*\* Lock at your own risk \*\***

**Lock #5 Downstream morning locking** - Upstream Gates open from 7:30 - 8:00 AM then close gates and lock downstream. Upstream Gates open from 8:30 - 9:00 AM lock 2nd group downstream.

**Lock #4 Downstream morning locking** - Upstream Gates open from 8:30 - 9:00 AM then close gates and lock downstream. Upstream Gates open from 9:40 - 10:10 AM lock 2nd group downstream.

**Lock #4 Upstream afternoon locking** - Downstream Gates open from 12:40 - 1:10 PM then lock 1st group upstream. Downstream Gates open from 1:40 - 2:10 PM lock 2nd group upstream.

**Lock #5 Upstream afternoon locking** - Downstream Gates open from 1:40 - 2:10 PM then lock 1st group upstream. Downstream Gates open from 2:40 - 3:00 PM lock 2nd group Upstream.

**Locking Note - If locking during tournament, each boat needs to have two ropes 10-14 foot long**

- *It is understood that any boats outside of established locking schedule will be treated as any other recreational boat and any boat wanting to lock thru that will interfere with the schedule will have to wait for the scheduled lockage to take place first. **The only exception is for Govt. or commercial lockage's that take priority over recreational vessels***

## Locking Procedures

1. **ALL locks are a No Wake Zone from the end of the long wall on the upstream side to the end of the long wall on the downstream side.**
2. Boats leaving the lock have right of way over boats entering.
3. Boats entering the lock will wait for a green light and horn signal before entering. The traffic lights are mounted on the lock wall adjacent to the miter gates, on the left as you are facing into the lock.
4. All boats must be properly secured to the floating mooring bits recessed into the lock walls. They are painted yellow here, so they should not tie to anything that is not painted yellow (unless it is to another boat that is).
5. Boats should wait on a horn signal from the operator before exiting after the gates are opened in the direction they are going.
6. There is a signal rope located near the end of each long wall, next to a ladder recessed into the wall. They should pull this rope one good time and wait near the area for the green light and horn signal. Do not crowd in close to the gates waiting to lock (see rule #2). If another boat is waiting to lock, then no need to pull the signal rope again if the first boat already has. We may take a while to get to the boats waiting as we may already be engaged with locking others that arrived previously (this is for unscheduled lockage).

\* During tournaments with large numbers of boats, we want the first boats in to proceed to the far end of the lock to tie off to the mooring bits and create a continuous string of boats across the lock to the bit on the opposite wall. This takes 10 regular size Bass Boats to do. If there are not enough in a particular string (9 boats for example), then the two center boats should have enough line to pass across to the boat from the opposite side. This way we do not have boats swinging wildly back and forth banging into each other and the walls too. They should remain alert and follow directions passed down to them from lock personnel on the lock wall while entering and while waiting for the lockage to begin. We may have a need to try to squeeze in a few more boats and need them to move some to accommodate everyone.

\* If a commercial tow is in site of the lock and the gates open/green light on, DO NOT enter the lock, we are committed to locking him first, it is not first come first served in this case. The tow takes precedence over the recreation boats.

\* Do not go passed the buoy lines above and below the dam, this is an off-limits area. They extend from the ends of the long walls to the opposite bank. If the buoy lines are not in place, stay out of this area anyway. The ropes may have been broken by high flows and drift, but it is still an off-limits area. If we have flows high enough to break the buoy lines, then the current is strong enough to make these VERY HAZARDOUS areas.

## Thank you to all our 2020 Sponsors and Location Partners!



**To protect the integrity of Bass Champs and our anglers, all winners will be subject to a polygraph exam before the prizes are distributed at each event. Contestants must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money, awards, and points for the event. The Tournament Director reserves the rights to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph exam, in his sole and absolute discretion.**

**Official 2020 Bass Champs Championship Rules:** Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight for that particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future Bass Champs events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales at each tournament

**1. Participation and Eligibility:** Participation is open to current members of Bass Champs who are 18 years old and older; provided that a team may consist of one participant who is 18 years old or older and one participant under the age of 18 including junior teams as addressed in rule #2 below. Any person entering a Bass Champs Tournament under the age of 18 years must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the official entry form and written consent from parent or legal guardian specifically permitting such contestant under the age of 18 to participate in the event with the contestant who is 18 years old or older.

- Bass Champs Tournaments are open to all anglers except professional anglers. A professional angler is defined as:
- Any angler that has entered more than one bass tournament that required an entry fee greater than \$2,500 or any angler competing in the Major League Fishing BPT/MLF series in the immediately preceding six months prior to the date of the Bass Champs Tournament being entered.
- Any angler that has guided for bass (as defined in Rule 15 below) on tournament waters within 12 days of the official event for any method of compensation.
- **All Contestants must have a valid LOUISIANA fishing license.**

**2. Teams:** The 2020 Bass Champs Championship is a team event. A team shall consist of no more than two anglers; although a Contestant (and official observer, if required by Bass Champs) may fish alone as a single person team (in such event Bass Champs reserves the right to place an observer in Contestant's boat for the tournament day). Only registered Contestants may be in the boat during official practice and tournament days. If either partner enters tournament waters during the official off-limits period (September 14th, 2020 through October 6th, 2020) such partner shall be ineligible for the 2020 Bass Champs Championship.

**3. Information:** Other than using publicly-available information (e.g. newspaper reports and internet reports) no fishing information may be purchased, bartered, solicited or received from any person who entered official tournament waters during the established off-limits period for the 2020 Bass Champs Championship, specifically including, but not limited to, an ineligible partner as described in rules 1 & 2 above.

**4. Tournament Waters: Off-Limits:** No Contestant may be on designated tournament waters for any reason during the official off-limits period which runs consecutively from September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**Official Practice Days:** Official practice days are Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 through Friday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

**5. Safety:** Safe boating must always be observed. Each Contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Competitors are permitted to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

**6. Permitted Fishing Methods:** Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a Contestant leave the boat to land a fish, make the boat more accessible to fishing waters, or locate bass.

**7. Sportsmanship and Conduct:** All Contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Any previous conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation for a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime related to, arising out of, or involving any fishing tournament or event, except with full, prior written disclosure to the Tournament Director under oath and by affidavit of all facts and circumstances surrounding such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation at least ten (10) days before the Bass Champs event being entered, and thereafter subject to the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion that such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation does not result in the Contestant's honesty, integrity, character or qualifications to enter the event being unreasonably questionable.
- Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.
- Chemical substance abuse or addiction.
- Disqualification from Bass Champs tournaments or other fishing organizations that resulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a Contestant's honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into a Bass Champs event being questionable in the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.

Upon review of the circumstances by Bass Champs and the Tournament Director, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the entry fee of a previously accepted application, or disqualifying a Contestant. Bass Champs reserves the right to place an official observer in a Contestant's boat at any time during competition hours.

**9. Assistance:** During hours of competition, Contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify the Tournament Director at 817-439-3274.

**10. Boat and Horsepower Regulation:** Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of Bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament. No Contestant may have a platform, raised deck, or ladder which is higher than the gunnel of the boat. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor will not be allowed in Bass Champs events. All boats must be propeller driven and must be equipped with wheel steering, no other steering device will be permitted. No air, jet drive, or surface drive boats will be permitted during official practice or competition days. **"Official practice" days are October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 – October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

- **Fuel Rule in Effect:** Only factory type installed fuel tanks are permitted for this event. No gas cans, containers, or similar fuel storage may be utilized during official practice or competition days.

**11. Permitted Fishing Locations:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat and available to the public, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time, during official practice days or competition days, is not permitted.

**12. Off-limits areas:** Such areas will be established and announced at the registration for the 2020 Bass Champs Championship. Contestants may not fish inside the established "off-limits" area. Violation of the rule will result in immediately disqualification. Contestants' boats must remain in the tournament waters during the event

**13. Trailing is not allowed:** All boats must leave the official check point by boat in the order designated at registration. Contestants may launch their boat at a ramp other than the designated take-off location, but all Contestants must come through the official check point location before leaving to fish. In the event of severe weather alternate take-off instructions will be given at the registration site, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director

**14. Official Checkpoints:** There will be only one official checkpoint for boat inspection in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check-out in the morning or failure to officially check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification from such event. During morning check-out, all teams are required to idle a minimum of 100 yards before putting the boat on plane. It is the sole responsibility of each Contestant to arrive at the designated check-in location on time. Regardless of what you are told or understand, it is the angler's responsibility to verify their provided flight card time. All fishing must cease upon check-in, or upon such other time as may be designated by the Tournament Director.

**15. Scoring:** Will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each angler's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Smallmouth Bass (collectively, "bass") are accepted species. The limit will be FIVE (5) bass per team. Any Contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch for that day disqualified. The minimum official length limit for all species of bass for the 2020 Bass Champs Championship will be 12 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length limit, will result in loss of that particular fish and ONE (1) pound penalty to the weight of the remaining fish. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in bass. Any artificially weighed, preserved, or altered bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal and state laws. The Pro-Rule Measuring Board is the official measuring board of Bass Champs. Bass will be measured with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length

**16. Live Fish:** Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives made by Sure-Life, which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat, are recommended. A ONE (1) pound penalty will be deducted for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Any team that weighs in a dead fish for the Big Bass Award will receive a ONE (1) pound penalty from the total Big Bass Award weight. **Culling of dead bass is prohibited.**

**17. Late Penalty:** Contestants who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time will be assessed a ONE (1) pound per minute penalty from their total weight including any weight to be counted toward a Big Bass Award. Any Contestant more than 15 minutes late will forfeit that day's catch. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, a Contestant may return to the check-in location with their catch by receiving a ride from another registered Contestant or tournament official only. The Contestants must return to the official check-in location by the methods set forth above by their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty.

**18. Closing of the Scales:** Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. Due to certain weigh-in locations this time may be lengthened or shortened at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time will be announced during registration, during boat check-out or during weigh-in.

**It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by such time.**

**19. Ties:** A tie for 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2020 Bass Champs Championship will be broken by a One Hour Fish Off. All other ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money.