

# Disabled American Veteran Big Bass Tournament 2019

## **1. RULES, DECISIONS, PROTESTS:**

1. All decisions of the Tournament Director and Rules Committee are FINAL.
2. All protests must be in writing with the Tournament Director within thirty (30) minutes of the designated weigh-in.

## **2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**

1. All state and federal penal code laws shall apply at all times and all state, Coast Guard, federal, Parks & Wildlife regulations shall apply at all times.
2. Contestants must have a valid Arkansas fishing license on their person unless exempt.
3. Each person in boat must be a paid contestant of this Tournament and abide by all Tournament rules and regulations.
4. Non-contestants are not allowed in paid contestant's boats at anytime during official Tournament hours.
5. All bass caught by contestants fishing together will be disqualified if any of the said contestants are found to be in violation of any Tournament rules and regulations.
6. Any contestant found to be in violation of any Tournament rules and regulations will be subject to disqualification from this Tournament and all future Tournaments.
7. Any person who has been disqualified from any prior tournament may be subject to being refused entry into this Tournament.
8. Tournament officials have the right to refuse ANY entry.
9. Participants 17 years of age or younger must be accompanied by a parent or adult with parental permission.

## **3. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE**

1. Entry Fee must be paid before fishing and no refund or substitution of entry fee for any reason.
2. Regular entry fee will be paid at time of contestant's initial registration. Early Registration will end August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## **4. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

1. During Tournament hours no alcoholic beverages are to be consumed by tournament contestant or allowed in contestant's boat.

## **5. SAFETY (THE FOLLOWING IS MANDATORY):**

1. All boats must be equipped with some type of emergency ignition cut-off device (kill switch) on any remote steered outboard while the main engine is in use. Ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must operate properly, which means when the kill switch is activated the outboard main engine must stop running immediately. The ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must be attached to boat operator at all times while the outboard main engine is in use above idle speed. However, kill switches are not required with hand operated engines unless equipped with a kill switch when manufactured.
2. Boat operator must show proof of valid registration.
3. U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are required for each person on board. Life jackets must be worn and fastened while main engine is in use above idle speed.
4. The Tournament will be held regardless of weather. (Should conditions threaten safety, please use caution.)
5. The above mentioned rules are for your safety.

## **6. PERMITTED FISHING AREAS AND HOURS**

1. All fishing must be done the Dardanelle Pool. No Locking up or down is permissible. Fishing will start at 5:30 a.m. (on your favorite hole). No launching before 4:00 a.m. Must be in weigh-in line (at the fish tanks) at the Lake Dardanelle Tournament Headquarters no later than 1:00 p.m. Hourly Weigh-in's will start at 7:00 am and will be held each hour until 1:00 pm.

## **7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

1. All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting. No trolling with the big motor. Only one rod may be used at any one time by contestant. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.
2. No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) may be used to locate fish for Tournament purposes (depth-finders and graph charts are the only exception).
3. Bass must be caught from a legal motorized boat. There is no tube fishing or fishing from the bank allowed.

## **8. WEIGH-IN, SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONSERVATION:**

1. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from every participant.
2. All bass weighed in will become the property of the Tournament and will be released back into the lake alive if possible.
3. Trailering a bass to weigh-in site during Tournament hours will be permissible. No bass on ice. Bass must be alive to be weighed in. However, any contestant whether trailering or not, shall be required to bring their boat and respective partner or partners, if any, with them to the official weigh-in site for a boat inspection when weighing bass in at any respective hour. Official Weigh-in sight will be at the Lake Dardanelle State Park { weigh-in facility } Russellville AR. Side.

4. For conservation reasons, all bass brought to official weigh-in station must be in weigh-in bag with water or livewell.
5. No contestant may weigh in more than one bass. More than one bass per weigh-in bag is prohibited.
6. Bass must be weighed in by the contestant who originally caught the bass and it must be in said contestant's actual physical possession in the weigh-in line when said contestant declares ready to weigh.
7. Any artificially weighted or preserved bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal law. Any questionable entry will be subject to inspection by a marine biologist or similarly, qualified expert from the Parks & Wildlife Dept.
8. Minimum length of bass to be weighed is 14 inches on All species for this Tournament. Golden Rule. All bass will be weighed in tournament bag.
9. This is a BIG BASS Tournament (one bass). Only largemouth, smallmouth, and Kentucky spotted bass (black bass) will be weighed in.
10. No contestant may have more than three bass in possession at any time during official Tournament hours. This is a mandatory catch and release program during official Tournament hours. All bass when Tournament is officially over must be released into official release truck.
11. Tournament officials will be stationed outside of the headquarters to oversee Tournament. Your complete cooperation is expected and mandatory.
12. Upon arrival at weigh-in site, Tournament officials will assign you a weigh-in number which will be posted on your weigh-in ticket. This number will determine the break of any ties both on Big Bass standing and/or any Bonus Prizes. First Big Bass caught will win the Tie Breaker.
13. All fish must be caught on Lake Dardanelle during the Disabled American Veteran Big Bass Tournament hours.

## **9. PRIZES & PAYBACK**

1. First prize Winner will be \$5,000 cash. Second through tenth prizes are based on number of entries. Hourly Prizes will be \$300 for 1<sup>st</sup>; \$200 for second and \$100 for third. Hourly pay backs could be more based on number of entries.

## **10. POLYGRAPH**

1. Polygraph tests will be given to the Top 5 finishers and on a random basis and must be passed. Each contestant, by signing the entry form, agrees to submit to polygraph.
2. Any contestant determined by the polygraph examination or other Tournament officials to be intoxicated or on any type of illegal drugs at the time said contestant is required to take the polygraph examination, or in violation of Tournament rules, will be disqualified from this and all future Tournaments.

3. Any contestant found to be in possession of any illegal substance will be subject to disqualification and prosecution.

#### **11. BOAT INSPECTION**

1. All contestants, by entering this Tournament, hereby agree to allow their boats to be boarded and inspected by Tournament officials at any time during the Tournament, to include, but not limited to, their boat, boat registration, and boat contents to include live well, rod boxes, closed storage compartments, tackle boxes, life jackets, PFD's and safety equipment.

#### **INFORMATION:**

1. Any and all announcements concerning emergencies and results will be broadcast over KCJC 102.3. Bring a portable radio in your boat.

**All Disabled American Veteran Big Bass Tournament proceeds benefit the Arkansas D.A.V.**