

Tournament Rules

- 1) **2021 ELGIBILTY:** All individuals. 16 years or age or older with a paid entry fee is eligible to fish. A parent or legal guardian must accompany anyone under 16 years of age. A team may consist of two (2) anglers per boat. The Director reserves the right to reject any entry if he feels that it is not in the best interest of the competition.
- 2) **ENTRY/MEMBERSHIP FEE:** Entry fees are listed on the entry form.
- 3) **INSURANCE:** Boat owners must have at least \$100,000 of Boating Liability Insurance. Proof of insurance may be asked for at any time and may be a question on the polygraph test.
- 4) **CHECK-IN and PRE-MEETING:** One team member must check in the morning of the tournament. A pre-meeting will take place on the water approximately five (5) minutes prior to the official start. Idle by live well checks may take place at any time either on or off the water.
- 5) **SCORING:** Largemouth, small mouth, and spotted bass will be scored, five (5) fish limit. All lake rules apply. A short fish will result in the loss of all fish and disqualification. A dead fish will result in a .50 (1/2) pound penalty per fish. No more than five (5) fish are allowed in the live well (in possession) at any time. Anyone bringing more than five (5) fish to the weigh-in scales will not be allowed to weigh in ANY fish. Gator Grip Golden Rule will be the official measuring board. A courtesy bump tub will be provided.
- 6) **LOCATIONS:** Anywhere on the tournament lake except 50 yards of another contestant's anchored boat, trolling motor up. Also, any area marked off limits or no fishing by the Corps of Engineers, local, state, or Federal officials. Any additional off limits will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. All host ramps will be deemed OFF LIMITS during tournament hours.
- 7) **TIES:** All ties will be broken by 1) big bass, 2) most fish weighed in, 3) by earliest entry. (There will be no ties)
- 8) **LATE PENALTY:** All anglers are due back at announced check-in time. Being late will result in disqualification – NO EXCEPTIONS. Official time will be determined by mobile phone.
- 9) **TACKLE and EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures and pork style baits are allowed. All bass must be caught on a rod and reel. Only one rod and reel in use at any time.
- 10) **PROTEST:** All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within five (5) minutes of the weigh-in completion. Decisions of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- 11) **QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:** By contestants' signature on the entry form and/or participation in these tournaments, the contestants agree to any quality assurance tests if required by the Tournament Director.
- 12) **BOATS and MOTORS:** Any boat, 14 feet or longer, meeting Coast Guard requirements with a functional kill switch and functional bilge pump and properly aerated live well will be accepted.
- 13) **SAFETY and SPORTSMANSHIP:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Life jackets and kill switches must be used at any time the combustion motor is running above an idle. All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, courtesy and conversation. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. No alcohol or controlled substance can be used or allowed in the boat during tournament hours.
- 14) **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:** Breakdown: In the event of a boat breakdown, the team may transfer their fish to another contestant's boat or rescue boat for transport to the weigh-in site, meeting the following conditions: the fish must be placed in a segregated live well and one member of the breakdown team must accompany those fish to the weigh-in site. Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestant must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Early Departure: Any team departing prior to weigh in from the tournament lake, must contact the tournament director or appointed staff member. Cell Phones: We encourage all contestants to have a cell phone in their boat for emergency use only.
- 15) **LIKENESS/PHOTO RELEASE:** In consideration for permission to participate in the tournament, I hereby grant to Mark Twain Lake Classic, its assignees and/or licensees (collectively "Sponsors"), the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, biographical information, fishing tips and/or instructions in any medium whatsoever, including but not limited to video/audio productions, merchandising, promotions, articles, and/or press releases. In connection with Mark Twain Lake Classic, without restriction as to changes or alterations from time to time. I understand that I will not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.
- 16) **COVENANT NOT TO SUE AND WAIVER OR SUBROGATION:** I further agree that I will never sue Mark Twain Lake Classic or staff for damages on account of any injury, death or damage, I suffer or cause whether known now or which may develop in the future. In the event Mark Twain Lake Classic or staff, are sued because of my actions, I expressly agree to indemnify and hold Mark Twain Lake Classic and staff, harmless from any liability whatsoever, including court costs and attorney's fee, arising with respect to such actions. I understand that in waiving my rights to sue Mark Twain Lake Classic or staff, I am also waiving the rights of recovery from Mark Twain Lake Classic or staff, of my insurance carrier for any claims they may pay on my behalf.
- 17) **KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH CONTESTANT.** Failure to read these rules or ignorance of them is no excuse. Any announcements made by the Tournament Director at the tournament site take precedent over written rules. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- 18) **I SIGNIFY** by my signature on an entry form that I have read all tournament rules and liability release and agree to abide by all rules, regulations, releases and tournament official's decisions.