

BIG BASS/BIG SACK- OFFICIAL RULES-2021

ANTHONYROSSIBENNETTMEMORIALFOUNDATION.ORG

Article I: Rules and Regulations

1.01 These Rules and Regulations are the Official Rules (“Rules”) of the Big Bass/Big Sack (Event).

1.02 Participant(s) acknowledge and agree that they have reviewed, understand, and will abide by the Rules as posted at registration and printed with entry forms. Participants willingly agree to comply with the Rules for participation in the Event.

1.03 All local, state & federal laws shall always apply including, without limitation, the penal code.

1.04 All local, state, U.S. Coast Guard, and federal boating and fishing regulations shall always apply.

1.05 In the event of a discrepancy between the printed version and digital version of the Rules, the Rules posted at the time of the Event shall prevail.

Article II: Event Participation and Eligibility

2.01 Each person in the boat must be a paid contestant of the Event and abide by the official Rules.

2.02 The Event is an “Invitational” event.

2.03 Participants less than 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult with written parental permission. (Written parental permission must be provided to event staff prior to the start of the event) Participants under the age of 18 years may not fish alone in the Event.

2.04 Event officials reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone in their sole discretion.

2.05 Anyone who has failed a polygraph examination and/or been disqualified for fraudulent actions in connection with any fishing tournament is not eligible to compete

### Article III: Registration and Entry Fee

3.01 Each participant (team) shall pay an entry fee of \$200 (hereinafter "Entry Fee") to participate in the Event. The Entry Fee shall be paid (in full) prior to participation in the Event.

3.02 Early Registration closes 5 Days prior to scheduled day of event. Early registrations shall have start position set according to entry. Standard registration closes 30 minutes prior to safe light time on the day of the Event. Any registrations after said time will be considered "late" and start position will be after all other registered boats take off. Event Participants may register prior to the Event by requesting entry form and paying entry online by PayPal, by mail, or in person. Anyone paying by mail, entry must be received prior to day of tournament.

3.03 There will be no refunds of the Entry Fee unless an event is cancelled. In the event a Participant needs to cancel an entry (for any reason), the Big Bass/Big Sack entry will move the Entry Fee for registration for a subsequent event as a courtesy on one and only one occasion. Subsequent withdrawals or removals from competition will cause the forfeiture of the Entry Fee.

3.04 If the Participant registered for the Event online, the Participant is not required to attend onsite registration prior to the Event. There is no meeting to attend prior to the Event.

3.05 Payment of the Entry Fee constitutes a representation by each Participant that he/she has read and understands the Rules and the Participant will abide by such Rules and the decisions of the Event Director and/or Event Staff.

3.06 Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes including those involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with Event Rules, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for registration and/or for disqualification, suspension from the Event, and/or other disciplinary action at the discretion of the tournament director.

### Article IV: Interpretation and Discipline

4.01 Participants agree to abide by the Rules and any decisions of the Event Director and/or Event Staff.

4.02 Interpretation and enforcement of the Rules shall be left to the sole and exclusive discretion of the Event Director and/or his/her designee at the Event. In the event a Participant(s) violates any rule set forth in the Rules or, at the discretion of the Event Director, other rule not specifically codified herein, the Event Director may impose a penalty and/or sanction on the Participant (including but not limited to any other participant competing from the same boat). Such penalties and sanctions may include disqualification from the Event and future events. Penalties and sanctions for violation of any rule set forth in the Rules or, at the discretion of the Event Director, other rule not specifically codified herein may include, but are not limited to,

- 1) Reduction of competition hours;
- 2) Loss of one or more fish;
- 3) Loss of catch of the day;
- 4) Disqualification from the Event;
- 5) Disqualification from future events which may include a specific number of events, a specific time period, or a lifetime disqualification;
- 6) Loss of Entry Fee;
- 7) Forfeiture of Event winnings and/or prizes;
- 8) Any other penalty determined by the Event Director or his/her designee and/or the Event Staff.

4.03 Each Participant agrees to report to the Event Director immediately any violation or infraction, potential violations, or potential infractions or false verification of a weigh-in forms. Failure to do so could potentially lead to your disqualification.

#### Article V: Safety

5.01 Participants are aware he/she/they are participating in a physical activity in the sport of fishing that may be dangerous and can cause injury. These activities may involve severe cardiovascular stress and possible violent contact. Participants understand and acknowledge the activities involve certain risks including, but not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries resulting in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, and/or serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, muscles and internal organs, and property damage. Although Rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with participating in the Event, the risk of serious injury does exist and cannot be completely eliminated.

5.02 During Event hours no alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) are to be consumed by Participants or allowed in Participants' boat until the final hourly weigh-in is complete and/or polygraph examinations are complete.

5.03 All boats must be equipped with some type of emergency ignition cut-off device (kill switch) on any remote steered outboard while 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 always attached to the boat operator while the outboard main engine is in use.

5.04 U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are required for each person on board a boat during official competition. Life jackets must be worn and strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear and shut off. Participants shall check inflatable life vest indicators prior to start of the Event. Any Participant in violation of this rule will receive one (1) warning and shall be prohibited from weighing bass during that respective weigh-in period. (Any subsequent violation of this rule will result in the participant(s) being disqualified for the remainder of that day of competition)

5.05 If Participants observe any significant hazard, condition or activity during his/her presence or participation in the Event; Participants shall remove himself/herself from participation and bring it to the attention of a representative of the Event immediately.

5.06 Safe boat conduct should be always observed by Participants.

5.07 No boat shall have a motor of higher horsepower than approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and/or the lake authority.

#### Article VI: Permitted Fishing Areas, Practice, Off Limits, and Hours

6.01 All fish must be caught on and within the official designated Event waters during official Event hours. Participants may fish anywhere on Event waters accessible to the public by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state and federal officials. Jumping dikes, landmasses or any other object, natural or manmade to enter an area is prohibited.

6.02 The Event off limits time begins at 6:00 p.m. the day prior to the Event. Participants must be off the event waters before 6:00 p.m. on the day prior to the Event and may not begin fishing until the official Event start time which will be announced the morning of the Event. Participants may return to

their respective launch site by boat but are not allowed to fish or use electronics for the purposes of finding fish.

6.03 There is one Official launch site for the Event. Participants may only leave from the Official launch site on the Event day. Participant may not begin casting until the Event has officially started. Official start times will be determined by the Event Director.

6.04 No fishing shall occur within fifty (50) yards of a marina gas pump.

6.05 No one may leave his or her boat to fish or land a fish.

6.06 Participants are limited to use of a primary motorized boat only. No canoes, kayaks, rafts, or flotation apparatuses.

6.07 No fishing is allowed within twenty-five (25) yards of a non-anchored boat or fifty (50) yards of an anchored boat without that boat's permission.

6.08 No Participant may buy, barter, or hold a fishing location from any other Participant or Non-Participant for use during any Event day. No Participant may have a non-participant buy, barter, or hold a fishing location from any other Participant for use during any Event day.

#### Article VII: Methods, Tackle and Equipment

7.01 All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting only, no foul hooking of bedding fish. A foul hooked "bedding" fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. No trolling with big motor. Participants may use only one rod at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.

7.02 No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) may be used to locate fish for Event purposes (depth-finders, sound mimicking devices (such as Hydrowave) and graph charts are the only exception).

## Article VIII: Sportsmanship

8.01 Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and bass conservation are required from every Participant. Participants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. This includes any and all social media content that may be shared now or in the future. Any Participant found compromising the integrity of the sport and/or the Event may be subject to disciplinary action and/or disqualification.

8.02 The favorable public reputation of the Event, the sport of fishing, the Event Director, the Event Staff, sponsors, partners and officials is of paramount importance. Accordingly, Participants shall refrain from making unreasonable attacks, accusations, and comments that disparage the integrity of the Event, the sport of fishing, the Event Director, the Event Staff, sponsors, partners and officials. This includes but is not limited to the Participants social media accounts and digital sites.

8.03 Participants shall always act in a courteous manner, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-participants who may be on Event waters.

8.04 Any Participants attempting to manipulate the outcome of the Event or defraud the Big Bass Tournament will be disqualified and may be subject to prosecution.

## Article IX: Weigh-in, Points, and Penalties

9.01 All bass weighed-in will become the property of the Event and will be released back into the lake alive, if possible.

9.02 Trailering a bass to a weigh-in site during Event hours is permissible only in an emergency break down situation that is approved by tournament director. In such case tournament director will have an event member meet with boat/boater and verify by picture and mark such fish prior to boat being removed from water. Any Participant, whether trailering or not, shall be required to bring their boat and respective partner, if any, with them to the official weigh-in site for a boat inspection when weighing bass in any respective hour.

9.03 The weigh-in times for BIG BASS and BIG SACK shall be announced morning of Event.

BIG BASS option will be designed as APPROXIMATELY "two-hour blocks". Example: weigh in two-hour blocks time is start of tourney-8:00am. 8:00am-10:00, 10:01am-12 noon. 12:01pm- 2pm and 2:01pm-4pm ends tournament.

BIG SACK option times will be announced the morning of the event. Example: 8am-4pm

9.04 For reasons of conservation, all bass brought to the official weigh-in station must be in a weigh bag with adequate water. If a Participant does not have a weigh bag, one will be provided by Event Staff. Bass must be alive to be weighed-in for BIG BASS consideration. Any Participant that is found transporting bass to weigh-in without adequate water in the weigh-in bag may not be allowed to weigh-in. Subsequent violations could result in forfeiting those bass from official weigh-in.

9.05 No Participant may weigh more than one (1) bass per official Event hour. Bass entered as a part of BIG BASS of the hour will carry forward toward total number and final weight and standings.

9.06 Bass must be weighed-in by the Participant and his team member (if applies) (The only exception to this rule would be if one of the tournament participants is disabled, in this case we will allow another Participant to bring the fish to the sales for the disabled angler.)

9.07 Any artificially weighted bass will be disqualified, and the Participants may be subject to prosecution and shall be disqualified from all future events. Any questionable fish will be subject to inspection by a marine biologist or similarly qualified expert.

9.08 Only largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky spotted bass will be weighed-in. Specific lake minimums and/or slot requirements must be followed, and it is the responsibility of the Participant to abide by all local, state, and federal Rules for the Event lake(s).

9.09 No Participant may have more than the legal possession limit in his/her possession at any time during official Event hours. All bass submitted to be officially weighed shall be released back into the water except for deceased, mortally wounded or "trophy" sized fish once official weights are recorded. Limit one "trophy" fish per participant.

9.10 In the event of a tie during a "2 hour period" for the BIG BASS, the winner will be the Participant that earliest registered. All entries will be marked when paid and this will also be your take off position.

9.11 Every effort should be made to keep bass alive including proper livewell aeration, treatment, and temperature management.

9.12 Any alteration of length or weight of bass is prohibited, and the Participant will be banned from any future Big Bass Bonanza events and may be subject to prosecution.

## Article X: Communications

10.01 Participant's entry into an Event via mail, online or onsite represents your express consent to receive email, phone, and text message communication from the BIG BASS/BIG SACK Event and any of its successors, directors, members, officers, agents, contractors, affiliates, employees, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers before, during, and after an Event. Participants who participate in the BIG BASS/BIG SACK Event will be entered in our database. It is understood and acknowledge that they will receive ongoing Event updates. In order to discontinue communication, it is Participant's responsibility to notify the event official in writing to opt out of the mail, email, text message, and other databases.

10.02 Text and Mobile App updates and Event communication is an added value service provided by the Event. The Event and the Event Staff cannot guarantee delivery of any text messages or communications. It is the Participant's responsibility to manually enter themselves into the text system. Some carriers/providers block text messaging services and it is the Participant's sole responsibility to check with his/her respective provider to determine text delivery services. If Participant is unable to receive text messages, please contact your provider prior to the Event.

10.03 Cell phones and other communication devices may NOT be used for the purposes of locating or finding fish and/or communicating with other Participants or Non-Participants regarding such.

## Article XI: Polygraph Examination

11.01 Participant agrees to submit for a third-party administered polygraph examination and agrees to provide truthful and honest responses as to be determined by the third-party polygraph examiner.

11.02 Refusing to take a polygraph examination for any reason will result in immediate disqualification.

11.03 Any Participant taking medication should notify the polygraph examiner prior to examination.

11.04 Any Participant determined by the polygraph examination and/or other Event Officials to be intoxicated and/or under the influence of any type of illegal drug(s) at the time said Participant is required to take the polygraph examination or in violation of the Rules, will be disqualified from this Event and all future events.



11.05 Participants acknowledge and agree that Event officials may disclose the results of the polygraph exam. Whether disclosure occurs is at the sole discretion of the tournament director.

11.06 By his/her signature on the Event entry form and/or other required documents or entering the Event online, each Participant agrees to submit for a third-party administered polygraph examination. Each participant shall abide by the conclusion reached by the third-party administrator administering the polygraph examination and, specifically, whether the Participant provided honest and truthful responses.

11.07 At the sole discretion of the Event Director or his/her designee, random third-party administered polygraph examinations may be administered on site during the Event.

#### Article XII: Boat Inspection

12.01 All Participants, by entering this Event, hereby agree to allow their boat to be boarded and inspected by Event Officials at any time prior to, during, or following the Event, to include, but not limited to, their boat registration, U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate, live-well, rod boxes, closed storage compartments, tackle boxes, life jackets, personal floatation devices, and safety equipment.

12.02 The Event cooperates with local law enforcement, park rangers and fish/wildlife officers during the Event. If any Participant is found to be in violation of local, state or federal law during Event hours, he/she/they will immediately be disqualified. Participants are required to bring to tournament directors' attention if they receive any citations during tournament hours. At such time tournament director will gather information and await citation settlement before paying out winnings. Only if cleared of all violations is participant awarded winnings. Should any winnings go un-awarded, said winnings will be donated to a local charity.

#### Article XIII: Protests and Disputes

13.01 All protests or disputes relating to any matter involving the Rules and/or the Event must be registered in writing with the Event Director within fifteen (15) minutes of the close of weigh-in and prior to delivery of any prizes or winnings. Protests made after the deadline will be disregarded.

13.02 Any protest filed by a Participant shall be heard by the Event Staff. After reviewing the protest submitted, the Event Director shall inform the protesting Participant of the Event Staff's decision. The Event Staff's decision is final and not subject to further appeal.

13.03 The interpretation and enforcement of the Rules will be the sole responsibility of the Event Director and, if protested, the Event Staff.

#### Article XIX: Miscellaneous

14.01 The headings, captions, titles, and numbering system are inserted only as a matter of convenience and may under no circumstances be considered in interpreting the provisions of this Agreement.

14.02 The Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Indiana in all respects, including matters of construction, interpretation, validity, and enforcement.