



2017 The Texas Fallen Heroes Youth Fishing Championship Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations v050117

The Texas Fallen Heroes TFH fishing championship expect strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT • Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant and coach agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty etc. the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification from the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future High School Fishing tournaments. Protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION • Participation is open to high school student anglers 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade providing that the 12th grade student does not turn 19 before September 1st of their senior year. A boat with no more than two team members and each team member must be a member of a school fishing club invited to participate.

Contestants must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the liability form and a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament. Each team will consist of one or two eligible contestants and one boat captain. Any special circumstances must be approved by the tournament director. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to fish for any reason whatsoever. High school teams can also enter the big fish contest and fish both Saturday and Sunday. **BOAT CAPTAINS CAN ALSO FISH ON SUNDAY ONLY AND COMPETE FOR A SEPARATE GAS CASH AWARD AS PART OF THE BIG FISH CONTEST.**

YOUTH ELIGIBILITY Participation is open to all ages and will be divided into the little anglers preschool and up to 3rd grade, junior anglers 4th grade to sixth and high school anglers 7th grade to 12th. This will be a big fish contest for big bass, crappie and catfish caught on one rod and reel per contestant. Boat captain must be at least 19 years old, have adequate boat insurance and be responsible for all persons in their custody.

3. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION • The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services or a coach is not permitted by contestants or coaches within 10 days of this tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. Teams that must travel more than 125 miles from Broadus Texas do not have this restriction.

4. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION • There are no off limits until the start of the pretournament meeting on Friday June 2 at 4:00 PM. Once competition is under way, contestants and coaches may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants and coaches confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources). On competition day, teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

5. REGISTRATION AND PRETOURNAMENT MEETING • Registration deadline will be the Friday June 10th 4 PM, 4 days prior to the tournament meeting Monday June 6th the online registration will close with only those preregistered teams eligible for the Friday night Grand Prize Drawing.

6. SAFETY • Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant and coach is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved and state approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation is not permitted. Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants and coaches. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP • All contestants and coaches are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, our sponsors, the school the team is representing and the sport of fishing.

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pretournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 8.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete or to disqualify a contestant.

8. BOAT OPERATION • Captains must supply and drive boats for their teams. To qualify as a boat captain, the person accompanying a team must be at least 19 years old, have not been paid to fish the tournament waters for Bass in past 30 days, or fished a tournament with an entry fee of **more** than \$500 during the same period. Anyone wishing to be considered boat captain that has paid more than this amount to enter a tournament within the past calendar year must be approved by the tournament director. The contestants may operate the trolling motor. Captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish but cannot add fish to the limit except for Sundays big fish contest where the Captain can add one big fish to be weighed in. The use of mobile communication devices may only be used by the boat captains but not for the purposes of sharing fishing information during the tournament. Students may assist in unloading and loading boats.

9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION • All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. 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 is 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250-horsepower maximum set by these rules. By signing the entry form, contestants and captains agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future High School Fishing tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS • High school fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the lure in the water. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only ONE fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Students must initiate and complete every cast in order for a catch to be considered legal. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Open youth division big fish contest can use live or prepared bait for crappie and catfish. Little anglers and junior anglers can also use live bait for bass. High school anglers fishing for bass can only use artificial baits as described above for the high school team tournament. Boat Captains can bring in one big fish in the open youth division either Saturday or Sunday. Boat Captains for high school teams can only bring in a big fish on Sunday as part of the big fish contest.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES • Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries that is available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by tournament officials, local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant's boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing 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. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Teams must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are three permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both contestants remaining in their boat and being towed by water, (2) by one contestant entering the boat of another team or (3) both contestants entering a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director. Under these three conditions the team's catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Teams that elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any team returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of teams to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Teams must remain together at all times and within sight of their coach until check-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

12. CHECKPOINTS • There will be only one checkpoint for check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

13. LATE PENALTY • Teams that are not at the designated afternoon checkpoint at the appointed time will lose credit for that day's weight.

14. LIVE FISH • Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. Eight ounces (1/2 lb) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

15. SCORING • Scoring for the high school division is determined by the final weight of each team's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass are accepted species. The tournament limit is five bass per team unless the state or lake limit is less than five, in which case the state or lake limit prevails. Teams possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch to that point in the day disqualified and, time permitting, are eligible for a restart from the takeoff location. Any team possessing more than 5 fish at weigh in will be disqualified immediately. The minimum length limit for bass is 14 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 14 inches, in which case, the state or lake limit prevails. **Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be disqualified.** Each team's catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag. The winning team is determined by the day's heaviest catch. Open youth division is a big fish competition for bass, crappie and catfish. Only one fish of

each species may be weighed by any participant. Boat Captains are only permitted to weigh in one fish per day in the open youth division and only one fish on Sunday for the high school division.

16. TIES • Will be broken by a flip of the coin or if both participants agree split equally.

17. LOGO DISPLAY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE • Contestants and captains may wear their own shirts or jerseys during meetings, competition and weigh ins. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant or captain's shirt or jersey found to be offensive. All participants may have their photo or video of them used by tournament officials or media for promotion or reporting about the event.

18. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO • During all days of competition, any and all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in at any event. Students caught in violation of these rules will be disqualified immediately.

19. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST • Each contestant and coach agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

20. INSURANCE • Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all boats used in tournament. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

21. RIGHT OF REFUSAL * The TFH tournament reserves the right to refuse entry into our tournaments to anyone. **The tournament director has final say** in all matters concerning rules interpretation or any extenuating or unforeseen circumstances which may arise during any tournament.

22. CAPTIONS • The bold captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or used in the overall interpretation of this set of rules.