

Tournament Rules

Tournament Waters: The official tournament waters are all bodies of fresh water reachable from Clewiston Town Ramps on Lake Okeechobee without removing the boat from the water, having to ford natural or man made banks, or lock through for fishing purposes.

Eligibility: The tournament is open to all persons. All participants must be eighteen (18) years of age unless accompanied by an adult. *This is a two person team event.* Each boat may only be occupied by the two registered team members at any time.

Registration: The tournament check in shall commence at **5AM** on Saturday March 24th, 2012 in the parking lot adjacent to the restrooms at the Clewiston Town Ramps. Both team members must be present **in person** at the pre-tournament Check-in to receive a **rules briefing and boat check** prior to takeoff; and confirm that the team's registration form has been properly completed and signed. *Starting positions will be assigned in the order that the registration is received. Early registrations will result in an earlier start position than the morning-of-tournament registrations.*

Weigh-In / Scoring: The official Tournament Weigh-In location is Roland Martin Marina. *All competitors must be thru the locks and notify the check-in boat by 3PM sharp. Only teams who follow this check-in process by 3pm will be allowed to weigh in fish.* Official weigh-in bags will be issued. Only Largemouth Bass will be weighed. The limit is **five (5) fish per team/boat** with a 12" minimum length. No culling of fish at the launch site or adjacent areas is allowed. All bass must be released unharmed immediately after the weigh-in on the outside of the locks. There is a four (4) ounce penalty per dead fish.

Late Penalty is disqualification: Only teams who checked in by 3pm will be allowed to weigh in fish. Failure to check-in by 3PM will result in disqualification and no weight for the team will be recognized.

Awards: First place minimum of \$1000 team payout; increases in the first place money as well as additional payouts (i.e. 2nd, 3rd etc.) will be added based upon the size of final field with 100% guaranteed payback of all entry fees collected. Additionally, five \$100 awards to each of the top five team big fish weighed in. Only one big fish per team is eligible.

Safety: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life vest securely fastened, whenever the combustion engine is running.

Sportsmanship: All competitors are expected to show courtesy to all persons in the water. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are to be consumed during tournament hours. No competitor shall have a non-competitor "sit" on a hole/spot or scout for him. Each contestant's boat is expected to maintain a considerate and safe separation between other boats while fishing.

Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial baits may be used. No live bait. All bass must be taken in a sporting manner. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Fly rods may not be used.

Boat and Equipment: Each boat must have safety equipment, adequate to pass Coast Guard regulations, aboard at all times. All engines 75 HP or more must have a functioning kill switch.

Emergencies: Competitor must remain with their partners and in their boats at all times during the tournament except for use of the restrooms or in the event of sickness, severe storm, or serious hazard. In the event of a breakdown, competitors may transfer their catch to another boat operated by another tournament competitor or tournament official(s) *ONLY* providing that one team member accompanies their catch and that the catch is separate and in sight of both assisting team and entering team member(s). Any such assistance under this rule must be declared upon bringing both catches to the grading table. Failure to abide by the specifications of this section will result in automatic disqualification of both teams.

Protests: There are two (2) opportunities to protest. The first is prior to the morning of take off for violations before the start of the tournament. The second is after fishing but no later than three minutes following the close of the scales.

In the event of a protest, the disputed awards will not be made until the matter is resolved. Each competitor agrees, by signing the registration form, to submit to a polygraph examination if required by tournament officials. The findings of a polygraph examination are final.

Rule Interpretations: Any required interpretation of these rules shall be left to the tournament officials. Infraction of these rules is grounds for disqualification from the tournament. *Decisions of the officials shall be final.*

This year, in response to requests in the past, individuals may fish alone provided the full team entry fee is paid.

REGISTRATION FORM

Following must be completed, signed and accompany entry fee to accepted and secure boat number

Pre-register by mail to **CLEWISTON BASS ANGLERS**, PO Box 2996, Clewiston, FL 33440

Make checks payable to: **CLEWISTON BASS ANGLERS**

Late registration is morning of tournament starting at 5 AM

For more information call: **Tim Loftis (863) 228-7662** or **John Velasquez (561) 635-8380**

PLEASE PRINT

Name # 1 _____	Name # 2 _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City: _____	City: _____
State, Zip: _____	State, Zip: _____
Phone: (____) _____	Phone: (____) _____
E-Mail: _____	E-Mail: _____
Club: _____	Club: _____

My signature releases all individuals, officials, sponsors, organizations, state and local governments from any and all liability in any form for any occurrences resulting whatsoever from my participating in this event. I agree to submit a polygraph examination if requested by tournament officials. I understand that the results of a polygraph are final. I further agree to abide by the rules and regulations.

Signature: _____ Date _____ Signature: _____ Date _____