



Tournament Rules - 2023

Start/ Weigh in: First flight will launch at safe light. **Weigh-ins begins at 3 pm and continues in 10 minute increments.** Departure will be determined by the order in which entries are received. **Weigh-in staggered by boat number.**

Scoring:

- Determined by pounds and ounces
- Large-mouth bass only
- Five (5) fish per boat
- No fish under 14 inches
- The state regulation of only one fish over 16 inches will be waived for this tournament. Waiver will be given at check-in.
- Undersized fish will be culled and a three-pound penalty assessed
- One pound penalty for each minute late, up to ten (10) minutes, at which time the team will be disqualified
- A .25 pound (4 oz.) penalty for each dead fish weighed in. Culling of dead fish is prohibited.

This is a **catch and release** tournament. All live fish must be released by tournament officials immediately following their weigh-in.

Protest: There are two (2) times during this contest in which you may register a protest. The first is before the first boat is launched, for any infraction that may have incurred prior to the beginning of the contest. The second time for registering a protest is immediately after the weigh-in of the last boat's catch and before the awards presentation begins. Once the awards presentation begins, all results of the contest are considered fair and final.

Tackle and Equipment: Artificial lures only. No live baits or "prepared baits" will be permitted other than pork strips, rind, etc. Only one casting, spin casting, spinning or flipping rod and reel in use per person is permitted. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready to use. All bass must be caught alive by rod and reel. Trolling as a method of fishing will not be permitted. No fly rods allowed. No fishing within 50 yards of another contestant provided he is anchored with his trolling motor up.

Boats and Motors: Any boat 14 feet or longer is allowed, as long as it has 25 HP or larger gas-powered motor. Aerated livewells are required. No canoes, airboats or pontoon boats are allowed. Flats boats will be permitted as long as no one is using the poling platform, ladder or any other raised tower. If caught, you will be automatically disqualified. WCH Bass tournament strongly recommends that kill switches are operational and attached to the driver any time the boat is on plane for safety purposes.

Registration: Lads & Lasses: \$120 per boat. VIP & Friends: \$120 per boat. Saturday Tournament: \$140 per boat must accompany registration. Entry fee is nonrefundable. No mail-in entry will be accepted postmarked after April 30, 2022. Early registrations will take place online until Tuesday, May 16 at 8am. In person registration will take place at the Palatka City Docks from 4 am to Safe Light the morning of the Lads & Lasses and VIP & Friends Tournaments. In person registration will take place at the Palatka City Docks from 3 am to Safe Light the morning of the Saturday Tournament.

Participation: No lone fishermen. Participants must fish as a team. Open to anyone 18 years of age or older or, if under 18, must have consenting adult fishing with him/her. Only TWO persons in a boat. Boat operator must be over 18. Tournament director reserves the right to reject any participant for any reason within his/her sole discretion. Lads & Lasses must be 1 male and 1 female.

Safety: All boats must have USCG equipment as required by law. USCG-approved life jackets must be worn anytime boat is on a plane. All boats must be equipped with kill-switches. No alcoholic beverages allowed. All boats will be checked before launching. Start time subject to change for safety at Tournament Director's discretion.

COVID-19: If a registered participant is infected with COVID-19, suspect exposure to COVID-19, or are experiencing any of the following symptoms: fever, shortness of breath, cough, runny nose or sore throat, they must withdraw from the Tournament.

Tournament Director: Paul Hamilton and Mike Bach
Official Rules Updated: June 14, 2022

All participants must check-in at Palatka City Docks area on the morning of the tournament to receive boat number decals and captain's bags.