

# OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **RULE CHANGES:** The following rules of this tournament shall remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament directors. The decision shall be final in all matters.
2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** A properly completed and signed application form and the entry fee must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. Friday, August 21, 2009. The tournament directors reserve the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline, and also the right to extend the acceptance date or time. A sponsor may pay the entry fee. There will be no refunds.
3. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Drunkenness by a competitor during the tournament could be cause for automatic disqualification.
4. **BOAT & MOTOR:** All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch unless the motor is a tiller-operated model.
5. **REGISTRATION:** City Hall, Niceville, Florida
6. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** The check out time will be at 5:00 am at the landing of your choice. The only check-in time will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Smoke House Lake Landing. At all times the competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all the rules set forth by tournament directors.
7. **SCORING:** Legal tournament Bream are Bluegill, Shell Cracker, Red Breast Sunfish. The limits shall be 30 per boat of the above species. Tournament and state officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision to include approaching or boarding competitors boat. Only Bream which measure 6 inches or longer may be presented for weigh in. Any Bream that does not measure 6 inches of the official tournament cull board will not be allowed. After contestant delivers their catch to weigh-in officials, they shall not touch their catch until weigh-in is completed. Any Bream that appears to have been mangled, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighted and credited only at the discretion of the Bream officials. Contestants who obtain or use any agent to locate fish on tournament day will be disqualified. The contestant's partner will receive the same penalty if a written protest is not filed prior to weigh-in. All protests must be reported within 30 minutes of weigh-in.
8. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. A functional ignition kill switch must also be attached to the boat operator anytime the combustion engine is in operation. Boats with tiller type steering will not need a kill switch. Violations of these rules shall be reason for immediate disqualification.
9. **LATE PENALTY:** Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose credit for that day's catch. In no case shall a competitor be allowed to make-up for "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to weigh-in.
10. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Legal equipment and bait
11. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** A contestant may fish anywhere in tournament waters but may not anchor within 50 yards of another anchored contestant's boat. All fishing must be done from the boat. Both contestants must remain in their boat at all times except in cases of dire emergency or where safety is involved. In an emergency both partners may take their fish: get into a boat operated by another contestant, tournament official, or designated rescue boat and return to the dock. Partners must remain together in sight of each other's catch under the conditions above in order for their catch to be scored. Loading of boats during tournament hours is prohibited.
12. **CARE AND DISPOSITION OF FISH:** Contestants shall use all reasonable care in the handling and keeping of fish from catch to weigh-in as to make every effort in keeping fish fresh. A contestant shall be granted the right to have a trophy fish for mounting purposes, however, all fish must stay in possession of tournament officials until after the tournament is completed.
13. **TIES:** Largest fish will be the tiebreaker
14. any participant causing a conflict will be automatically disqualified.

