**ACCESS II ILC BASS FISHING**

**TOURNAMENT 2018 OFFICIALS RULES**

**The following rules shall apply to all tournaments. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director or designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the tournament director or designee may impose such penalties, as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee, loss of catch for the day of the violation, loss of points, disqualification from the tournament in question and/or disqualification from any or all future tournaments. The tournament director or designee reserves the right to reject any entry if he or she feels that it is not in the best interest of Access II ILC. Any announcements made by the tournament director or designee at the tournament site take precedents over written rules. The decision of the tournament director or designee shall be final in all matters.**

**ELIGIBILITY: All individuals, 18 years of age or older. A parent or legal guardian must accompany anyone under 18 years of age. A team may consist of one angler per boat or two anglers per boat.**

**REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE: Each competitor must register with tournament director or designee. Entry fee is $60.00 per boat. This includes the $10 entry into the big bass competition. All entry fees must be paid prior to start time. CASH ONLY.  Team members must check in at starting point before tournament start time. All competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the tournament director or designee for that tournament. No entry fees refunded after tournament has been started, (NO EXCEPTION). If a team wishes to withdraw from a tournament he or she may do so for mechanical reasons, sickness or an emergency. The competitor must report to the Tournament Director or designee at Access II office during business hours for a refund. If a team wishes to withdraw from a tournament after a tournament has been started or at any time before weigh-in time that team may do so, the team will not be entitled to any refund. To do so you must inform the Tournament Director or designee that you have to leave. You may call the Tournament Director cell 660-605-0435, or the designee for the tournament. Live wells may be inspected prior to take off.**

**SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Tournament Director or designee has the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION,**

**COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR DESIGNEE OF TOURNAMENT. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT. Every boat must have all required approved safety equipment and individual flotation devices for each competitor. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future tournaments.**

**SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety. Maximum courtesy and safety must be practiced at all times to other competitors and especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Poor sportsmanship or unsafe acts towards competitors or non-competitors will be grounds for disqualification.**

**BOAT REGULATIONS:  Boats must meet all licensing and safety requirements required by the state of Missouri and the lake the tournament is hosted at. Posted speed limits must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.**

**TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: The use of grippers or gaffs in landing bass is prohibited. Dip nets can be used to boat a fish. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used, No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official tournament hours, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have his/her catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. Only casting, spin-casting or spinning rod and reel may be used.**

**COMPETITION: A five (5) fish limit, per team may be weighed. Only water open to public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling of dead bass is prohibited. No fishing within fifty (50) feet of another boat. Must follow Missouri Water Patrol Regulations, Missouri Fish & Game Rules/Regulations and any special regulations that a lake may have. A Tournament Director or Designee must be granted access to a competitor's boat at any time during the official tournament day. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.**

**SCORING TOURNAMENT STANDING: Large mouth, small mouth, and spotted bass will be scored, Five (5) fish limit per team. All lake rules apply. Any frozen or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate disqualification. (The use of ice in a live well as a cooling agent in hot water is permitted.) Anyone bringing more than five (5) fish to the weigh-in scales will not be allowed to weigh in ANY fish. Final winners shall be determined by the pound weight of each teams catch. Biggest Bass competition winner will be determined by the single heaviest fish and should be presented first for weigh-in. Only bass as described above shall be weighed. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited ONLY at the discretion of the tournament director or designee. Competitor's must be at the weigh in table no later than 1:15pm. Competitors who are not in the area described above at set weigh-in time, will be disqualified. In the case of any ties winner will be determined by who has the single, heaviest fish.**

**PAYOUTS: Positions paid back will be determined by total number of entries. 50% of total entry fees will be paid back to the first place team. 50% of Biggest Bass Pot will be paid back to team with largest fish. Second and third place teams may win prizes depending on available donations from outside organizations.**

**PROTEST: All protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director or Designee of the tournament within 15 minutes of the weigh-in completion. The Tournament Director or Designee of the tournament will handle all protests. The decision of the Tournament Director or Designee of the tournament shall be final in all matters.**

**KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH CONTESTANT. Failure to read these rules or ignorance of them is no excuse.**