

~ OMBTT ~ "Pot-a-Gold" ~ RULES ~

ELIGIBILITY: Participation in the tournament will be by paid entry. Anyone, whose entry has been received and approved, is 18 years of age or older, having paid the appropriate entry fee or deposit by the Wednesday (prior) deadline date, may be eligible to fish. OMBTT reserves the right to refuse any entry/s received without showing cause. Anglers under the age of 18 must fish with a parent or guardian and explicitly exempt the OMBTT from any liability thereto.

ENTRY FEES, DEADLINES, CANCELLATIONS AND FIELD SIZE: Entry Fees shall be two-hundred and eighty-five (285) dollars. Start numbers will be assigned based on the date of receipt of the full entry. At-site entries will be accepted up to the close of registration (6:15am) – at-site entry will be \$325.00. Any boat/s appearing after the close of the registrations may still fish provided, that the field limit has not been met. Boats granted entry after the registration deadline will start one-minute after the last regularly registered boat has proceeded. Field limited to 105-paid boats.

REFUNDS: If cancelled 31-days prior; \$250.00, after the 31-day deadline; NO REFUND.

FLIGHTS/FINISH: Three Flights; 1-33 Due In 3:00pm, 34-66 - 3:15 pm, 67-105 - 3:30pm

STARTS: Participant boats must be pre-inspected and in the water at least 10 minutes prior to the official start time of the event. Once launched teams will proceed to the side bay, by the park office, south of the launch ramp. Participant boats must pass within 50-feet of the start boat when their number is called, teams not answering the call will be bypassed and the next number will be called so as to not unduly hold up the start process. If planning on fishing areas "behind" the start boat, boats must first pass around the start boat and then safely proceed to u-turn while underway. At no time, will any boat pass another competitor/s boat, which is "first underway", in any no wake zone/s. Boats which experience motor/start problems will relinquish their position in line and start with the bullhorn boat. Boaters experiencing mechanical difficulties may leave and get another boat provided, however, that they return to site and start within enough time to start prior to the last boat's departure.

OFF-LIMITS: Shall commence at 12:01 am the morning of the first day and continue on through the close of the event EXCEPT FOR those hours noted as tournament hours. Fishing is prohibited within 50-yards of any fueling point, within the confines of any buoyed "No Fishing/Boating" areas so designated by buoy or other nav aide/s, any posted closed area/s such as Wildlife Refuge etc. The main marina is off limits, both days, and includes the outside portion of the rip rap break wall and includes casting to the rock wall.

SAFETY: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear an approved personal floatation device (PFD), anytime the combustion engine is operated. All boats must be equipped with an ignition shut-off device, securely attached to the operator when boat is operated above idle speed. At the discretion of the Director/s, tournament days may be shortened or cancelled due to unsafe weather/water conditions. Alcoholic beverages/drugs are prohibited (prescribed medications are allowed).

COMMUNICATION DEVICES. The use of cell/mobile communication devices during tournament hours for the transmission of any fishing information is strictly prohibited.

SPORTSMANSHIP: All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation as well as conducting themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves; the OMBTT, our sponsors and the sport of tournament fishing. Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification. During the hours of competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitors' boat or participate/benefit from the practice of "hole sitting".

LIMIT/CREEL: All participant boats must be equipped with a fully functioning live well capable of sustaining a five-fish tournament limit throughout the course of the tournament day. The tournament limit shall be five (5) fish, twelve (12) inches in length or greater. Only largemouth, smallmouth or spotted bass will be presented for weight. Fish will "bumped" with their mouth closed, tail compressed and brushed for length. A courtesy board/station will be provided for use of contestants. Once officially bumped and called no further recourse shall be available.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: Only one rod and reel, no greater than eight (8) feet in length, in hand contact at all times, may be utilized during the course of the event. Only artificial lures may be employed, for purposes of this section, "pork" and other products generally falling into that category will be allowed for use. The use of multiple lures and/or single hooks attached to any angling contrivance shall not exceed three (3) hooks, if attached to a single lure nor/or one hook each if attached to individual lures.

OFFICIAL CHECK POINT/S: There will be only one site for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. At the time of morning inspection, all competitors must be in full compliance of all rules set forth in these rules. All boats shall identify themselves at check-in sites by means of surrendering their numbered ball and then proceed immediately to weigh in.

OFFICIAL WEIGH-BAG: Participants are required to use OMBTT Weigh Bags which are logo'd as Bas-n-Bag. Personal bags (Bas-n-Bag or Bass-ina-Bag) may be used. A team bringing their catch to scale in an unapproved bag will subsequently forfeit their days catch.

BIG BASS: Competitors may choose only one bass out of their bag as an entry into the "big bass side pot/s". Dead fish MAY NOT be entered as a big bass entry.

LATE PENALTY: One-pound per minute after the designated end time, up to five- minutes, after which time the competitor/s will be automatically disqualified.

DEAD/SHORT FISH: Every effort shall be made to keep the catch in a viable state of health. Dead fish presented for weight shall incur an eight (8) ounce penalty. Participants will be responsible for disposing of their own dead fish in an appropriate manner so as not to negatively impact future OMBTT tournament activities. Short fish will incur a one (1) pound penalty.

CULLING: Teams will not have more than the tournament limit of 5-fish prior to checking in.

50-YARD RULE: Competitors may not fishing within a 50-yard radius of another competitors boat which was first anchored with its trolling motor up and stowed. Use of mechanical or staked anchoring systems are recognized as "anchored".

TIES: Will be broken by first; total live fish weighed, second; total fish weighed, third; big bass of the bag and fourth; if everything else is equal, a toss of a coin. If the tie is for big bass, then prize money is split and the BB plaque awarded by coin toss. In case of a tie for 1st Place; teams will be sent out for a one-hour fish-off, team with the heaviest weight will win, if still tied; number of fish, then big bass, if still tied, flip of the coin (or splitting of the 1st and 2nd Place purses).

LEAVING THE BOAT: If an angler needs to leave the boat due to an emergency or to use the bathroom, etc., the partner must immediately cease fishing until such time as the partner returns.

BREAKDOWNS: Teams may choose to double-up with another team in order to bring their catch to the scale, provided, however, that the catch is kept separate and/or distinctively marked. Catch must be well cared for.

INSURANCE/LIABILITY: Each boater, as a condition of participating in these events, shall carry a minimum of \$300,000 in liability insurance. Participants will also agree to hold everyone associated with these events harmless in case of injury or death.

QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING: By their signature on the entry form and/or participation in this tournament, participants agree to any quality assurance tests as required by the Directors. They may include all or part of the following; polygraph test, urinalysis, blood test, and/or observer in or out of the boat. Refusal of anglers to submit will result in immediate disqualification plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments. None of the above rules shall prohibit the Director/s or an authorized member of the Tournament Committee from observing, approaching or boarding a competitor's boat during official tournament hours. Quality assurance tests will be conducted as soon as possible after conclusion of official tournament hours.

THE COMMITTEE: A committee of "the whole"; Tournament Committee, will be appointed by the director/s prior to the event by drawing the three (3) teams from the field. This committee will address all issues of note. If, for any reason, one (or more) of the drawn teams are themselves a subject of rules violation, then another team will be drawn to take their place.

KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY: Failure to read these rules and/or ignorance of these rules is not an excuse for prohibited conduct. Any extreme violation of rules will be grounds for disqualification from all future OMBTT events. Any announcement made by the Director/s at tournament sites takes precedence over written rules if in conflict with same.

TOURNAMENT STAFF: The tournament director/s and assistants will be identified on the roster alphanumerically.

PROTESTS: All protests must be made verbally, prior to the end of the last team's weight official posting and then, in written form, within 15 minutes after the close of the tournament. In the case where the protest may involve a member of the Staff, the protest will be decided by the committee of the whole.

PRESUMPTIVE CONDUCT: Defined as intra-team interaction on the water, as an example, contestants who were FIRST ANCHORED OR TIED TO a fixed-point, with their trolling motor stowed (up) and prior to the arrival of another competitor's boat may claim exclusivity within a 50 yard radius of their boat. This does apply to those instances where the boat claiming the exclusivity is blocking access to "another area" (creek, bay, slough, etc.) in those cases, egress shall be allowed to other competitors boats. Competitors boats which are obviously fishing in a fixed position, such as on a point, should, as a matter of courtesy, be given a wide berth when approaching, going around and going away from, as a matter of good sportsmanship. Conduct prior to, as well as after the conclusion of the event and while still at site, must reflect the highest standard of sportsmanship. Cursing, fighting words, and any other action or conduct which may reflect negatively on the series or its competitors, will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification from further events.

Jami Norman, DIRECTOR
OHIO MEGA BASS TOURNAMENT TRAIL