

**Highlands County Sheriff's Office
6th Annual Bass Tournament**

March 11, 2023

1. Eligibility

Only two participants per boat; Two participants are required to be in each boat with at least one being a licensed adult fisherman.

2. Entry Fee

\$125 per team, No Refunds – Rain or shine. This includes **automatic entry into the Big Bass competition & Lunch.**

3. Registration

Boats will be released in flights based off a predesignated number (1-5, 6-10, etc.), which will be determined by the order in which completed entries are submitted to the Highlands County Sheriff's Office, 400 S Eucalyptus St. Sebring FL. 33870. Participants may pay and/or register at the ramp on the morning of the event. Entries will not be considered completed until the signed entry form has been turned in and the entry fee has been paid. Participants paying the day of the event must pay in **exact cash.**

4. Tournament Hours

Safe light to 1:00 PM (return times will be given to the flights as they leave, return times will be staggered according to release times). All boats must be in the basin prior to designated return time or they will be disqualified. NO Exceptions! When returning at the end of the tournament, **each team is required to check in** at the weigh in station whether you have fish to be weighed or not. The Tournament Director shall have the right to delay the start of the tournament. **The public is invited to the weigh-in ceremony.**

5. Tackle/Equipment

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, the exception being pork strips, rinds, ext., only one rod and reel may be used at any time, (spin cast-spinning or bait caster) and may not exceed 8ft in length measured from the end of the butt to the tip of the rod. Others may be in boat ready for use but only one may be used at any giving time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Any one guilty of "snagging" or snatching fish on spawning beds will be disqualified from the tournament. When site fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by the partner in the boat before the hook is removed and the fish is entered your daily catch. The use of grippers in landing/boating bass is prohibited. Trolling (as a method of fishing) is prohibited (may use trolling motor). All bass must be caught in a traditional manner. Penalty for dead fish is .5 pound per fish. There is no weight limit, 12" minimum. Any team with more than five (5) fish brought to weigh in will be disqualified. No culling at the ramp. No team is to possess more than a limit of five (5) Bass at one time.

6. Boat

Each boat will be inspected prior to take off to ensure that it meets US Coast Guard regulations, that it has a running aerated live well, and that running lights are operational. If lights are not operational, the boat will go out last. Each person must follow all Florida Boating/Fishing Laws.

7. Fishing Areas

An angler may not leave his or her boat except in an emergency. All water that is accessible by boat is permitted. No fishing is permitted within 50 yards of any competitor's boat that has its anchor down and trolling motor up - use good sportsmanship! No fishing inside boat basin or check-in site. No fishing in areas designated off-limits by State or Local agencies.

8. Catch & Release

Every effort must be made to keep Bass alive. All Bass caught in tournament must be open water released in a minimum of 4' of water, as per State requirements. Each team must return their fish after weigh in, to the lake, no less than a 100 yard outside of weigh in basin. NO EXCEPTIONS!

9. Golden Rule

All fish measured on a golden rule with mouth closed and tail fanned. 5 fish weigh in limit, 12" minimum.

10. Scoring, Tiebreakers and Awards

Winners will be determined by pounds and hundredths of an ounce.

In the event of a tie for first place only, the following will be used in this order to break the tie: 1) Largest number of legal fish weighed in 2) Largest number of legal live fish weighed in. 3) Heaviest single bass weighed in

11. Laws

All Federal, State, and Local laws and ordinances must be followed by all participants. Absolutely no alcohol or illegal drugs are permitted on any boat participating in the tournament. Any violations will result in immediate disqualification.

Daytime contact phone _____

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____

Circle 2 shirt sizes (Sizes are adult men's)

S M L XL XXL XXXL

S M L XL XXL XXXL

The signature above release all sponsors, The Highlands County Sheriff's Office, County of Highlands, and all officials, organization and/or any other individuals regarding this event from any and all liabilities, damages, claims, or demands caused by my participation in the event. I further agree to abide by the rules of this tournament without exception.

Official Use Only Below this line.

Date Received: _____ Date Paid: _____ Date Completed: _____

Form of Payment: _____ Assigned Team Number: _____