

66th ANNUAL TEXAS STATE BASS TOURNAMENT
April 30 & May 1, 2022
Lake Whitney @ Lofer's Bend Day Use Park (DUP)

Key Times and Tournament Limits

Friday, April 29th

Check-in at Lofer's Bend DUP Pavilion (Mandatory) 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM**

Saturday, April 30th (Sunrise @ 6:35AM)

All Divisions	6:30AM First Cast	
Couples, Adult/Boy, Adult/Girl & Sr. Team	3:00 PM	Weigh-In ***
Individual, Kayak & Team Divisions	3:30 PM	Weigh-In ***
Tournament Dinner	3:00 PM	Immediately after Weigh-in ****

Sunday, May 1st

All Divisions	6:30AM First Cast	
Couples, Adult/Boy, Adult/Girl & Sr. Team	1:00 PM	Weigh-In ***
Individual, Kayak, & Team Divisions	1:30 PM	Weigh-In ***
Awards Presentation*****	After Final Weigh-In	

The Tournament Director is available @ tbd during Tournament Hours.

Daily Limits: All Team Divisions: Five (5) fish per Team per day, 14 inches or longer
 Individual & Kayak Division: Five (5) fish per angler per day, 14 inches or longer

- ** All participants or their delegate must check in at the Lofer's Bend Tournament (DUP) Pavilion on Friday from 4:00pm-9:00 pm.
- *** Weigh-in for all Divisions will be at the Lofer's Bend DUP Boat Ramp. The scales will be open 1 hour prior to the above weigh-in times.
- **** The traditional Saturday dinner will begin at 3:00 PM and conclude around 5:00 PM at Headquarters. Subject to availability all contestants and their guests will receive a meal at no cost. Contestants must weigh their fish prior to eating.
- ***** The Tournament Awards Presentation and door prize drawings will be held near the weigh-in area.
YOU MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN DOOR PRIZES.

Texas State Bass Tournament Stated Rules

The following rules of this Tournament are established in the best interest of all fishermen and sponsors. The TSBT will be governed by these rules.

1. RULES CHANGES: The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation the Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in future Tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director will be final in all matters. It is at the Tournament Committee's discretion to make changes where safety is a concern. All Federal, State, and local laws must be obeyed and it is the contestant's responsibility to know these laws.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This is an "Open Tournament": all Texas-licensed or exempt anglers are eligible to fish except an angler who has received "Guide Pay" on the Tournament Lake in the 12 months prior to the Tournament. A guide may not be employed on the Tournament Lake within seven days of the Tournament.

3. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS: At no time during Tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs other than prescription allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water.

4. DIVISIONS: All Divisions must include at least one entrant who is age 18 or older. Anglers may enter only one of the following Divisions: **INDIVIDUAL** (if two Individual Division contestants fish together, each contestant must land his/her own fish); **TEAM** (both Team members must fish together in the same boat); **COUPLES** (same as TEAM); **SENIOR TEAM** (same as TEAM but both entrants must be age 60 or over); **ADULT/BOY and ADULT/GIRL** (Youth must be age 16 or younger. Otherwise, same rules as TEAM); or **KAYAK** (See the Supplemental Rules for Kayakers).

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or any state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified. "Encroachment" is considered a violation of the Sportsmanship Rule.

6. REGISTRATION: All contestants, including mail-in entries, must check in at Tournament Headquarters prior to the Tournament. Check-in and Late Registration will be open from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the Friday preceding the Tournament. Proxies are allowed for Check-in.

7. BOATS & MOTORS: There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations. All motor-powered boats must have an emergency kill switch. Adequate live wells, either built-in or portable, are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition.

8. SAFETY: Boating safety must be observed at all times during competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is running, and the kill switch must be attached to the driver. Both partners are responsible for adherence to these rules.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish is not allowed. No trolling is permitted with outboard engine. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one rod may be used at a time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made.

10. FISHING HOURS: The Tournament Committee shall specify the fishing hours for each Division according to safe light conditions and local custom. The hours chosen for this Tournament are provided separately as a part of the check-in packet. The weigh scales will open 1 hour prior to the first flight's scheduled Weigh-In Time. In all two-person Divisions, the contestants must stay together during Tournament hours unless approved in advance by the Tournament Director.

11. CATCHING OF FISH: Anglers in the **INDIVIDUAL** Division must catch and land his/her own fish. **TWO-PERSON DIVISIONS** may pool their catch to obtain the prescribed Daily Limit. At no time may any Team or Individual have in his/her possession more than the Texas State legal limit. In the event a competitor has more than the Daily Limit in their possession at Weigh-in, Tournament officials will cull that competitor's catch, beginning with the largest bass first, down to the prescribed Daily Limit.

12. LIMITS AND SCORING: The Daily Limit is 5 FISH PER DAY PER TEAM for the TWO-PERSON DIVISIONS. The Daily Limit for the INDIVIDUAL and KAYAK DIVISIONS is also 5 FISH PER DAY. Each fish must measure 14 inches or longer. Scoring for the Boater Divisions will be based on the weight in pounds and one-hundredths. Largemouth Bass, Kentucky Spotted Bass, and Smallmouth Bass will be counted. Fish will be measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. **For any dead fish, a penalty of .50 lbs. per fish will be deducted from the total weight. If a bass less than 14 inches in length is presented for weigh-in, that bass will not be allowed and a 1.0 lb penalty will be assessed.** Final standings will be determined by the total weight for the competition days of the Tournament.

13. LATE PENALTY: You must be in the check-in line before your designated weigh-in time. Contestants who are not in the check-in line on or before the designated time will be disqualified for that day. Determining the check-in times and location is the responsibility of each contestant.

14. POLYGRAPH: All contestants are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a test when requested will result in immediate disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test for cheating in connection with any bass tournament is not eligible to compete in the Texas State Bass Tournament.

15. PROTESTS: All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

16. CONSERVATION: This is a primary concern of The Texas State Bass Tournament. Every effort will be made to release as many live fish as possible following weigh-in. Contestants must use only the official weigh-in bags provided by The Tournament. Only five (5) fish are permitted per weigh-in bag and adequate water must be maintained in each bag to completely cover the fish.

17. BASS CLUB COMPETITION: To be eligible for the Bass Club Top 6 Competition (**BCT6**), the Club must have conducted a minimum of four (4) separate Bass Club Competitions within the prior 12 months. The Club may choose its **BCT6** competing anglers by whatever means it wishes as long as they are registered Club Members.

Supplemental Rules Specific to the Kayak Division:

- All anglers must launch from a public access boat ramp.
- Kayak Division Participants agree to follow all State, local and federal laws and all Stated Rules for the Texas State Bass Tournament except those pertaining to live wells and kill switches (Ref. **TSBT Rule 7 and Rule 8.**)
- All fish that are counted by Kayak Anglers are to be photographed on an authorized tournament measuring board, the length recorded on the day's official **Length Slip**, and immediately released back into the tournament waters.

Registration:

- TSBT will supply color-coded Length Slips to designate Saturday and Sunday competitions.
- Kayak Anglers must register Friday at Tournament Headquarters to receive Saturday's Length Slip. Sunday's Length Slip will be provided by the "Kayak Judge" after the Saturday Weigh-in.

Measurements:

- The "**Ketch Board**" will be the official tournament measuring board for the Kayak Division. Anglers must provide their own.
- Each angler may submit his 5 longest bass each day. The minimum length is 14 inches. Only Largemouth, Kentucky Spotted, and Smallmouth Bass are eligible for submission.
- Anglers are responsible for photo proof of the length of the 5 fish submitted for scoring. Failure to provide photo proof for each submission will result in that fish being disqualified.
- To submit a qualified fish, the photo must be clear and show the full length of the fish in place on the measuring board. If the photo does not show the entire fish on the board, it cannot be submitted. The colored-coded Day-one or Day-two Length Slip must also be fully visible in each photo.
- All fish must be placed flat with mouth closed touching the Ketch Board. Hands can not be over or holding down gill plates.
- All lengths will be judged on a quarter-inch basis. Fish measuring in between quarters of inches will be counted as the lesser length (e.g., if your fish measures 14_3/8 inches you must log it in as a 14_1/4, not 14_1/2)
- All length slip entries must be in 1/4 inch increments only. Any use of non 1/4 increments will be reduced to the nearest full inch by the weigh-judge (aka the "Length-Master").

Fishing Check-in

- Kayak Anglers must "check-in" prior to the daily cut-off time.
- Kayak Anglers will be directed to the "Kayak Judge" at the tournament weigh-site for tabulation of their daily catches.
- All Kayak Anglers are required to provide a clear and legible length slip to the Kayak Judge during "weigh-in".

Awards

- The Kayak Division will award 5 places plus Kayak Big Bass.
- Kayak Big Bass will be determined by converting length to weight using the TPWD conversion chart.
- In the event of a tie for Kayak Big Bass, the 2nd largest weight will be the determining factor.