

**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES  
FOR  
UCHEE CREEK CAMPGROUND AND MARINA  
5 MAY 2019 BIG BASS BLOW OUT**

It is each contestant's responsibility to read official tournament rules prior to signing entry form and participating in the 2019 Big Bass Blow Out. Failure to read these rules or ignorance of them is no excuse for rule violation(s).

**1. INTERPRETATION:**

a. Interpretation of these rules is left exclusively to the tournament director (Uchee Creek Campground and Marina Manager).

b. All the tournament director's decisions are final. In the event of rule violation(s), the tournament director may impose such sanctions deemed appropriate, including but not limited to disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, forfeiture of entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Protests of any rule infraction must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official announcement, "The scales are now closed" for each of the four weigh-in periods.

(1) Each contestant agrees to report any tournament rule infraction to the tournament director.

(2) Failure to report rules infractions to the tournament director or false reporting of tournament rules infractions will be cause for disqualification.

(3) Rule infractions will result in penalties that may include but not limited to:

(a) Disqualification from the event.

(b) Disqualification from future Uchee Creek events for a period of time up to a lifetime.

(4) All participants will leave from Uchee Creek Marina and return to the Marina at the designated weigh-in time determined by the tournament director. Roll call will be taken at launch time. All participating boats will have their live wells checked by Uchee Creek Marina and marked for identification. Failure to do so will mean disqualification.

(5) Launch time will be safelight as determined by the tournament director.

(6) No one other than paid contestants or tournament officials are permitted in a competitor's boat during tournament hours.

(7) All contestants must respect their fellow contestant's water and take care not to encroach on another competitor. A "50 yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant's boat may move within 50 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants involved. A boat moving from

one area to another may infringe upon the zone as long as the parties moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. Judging distance is very difficult on the water. As a general rule of sportsmanship, all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area.

## **2. COMPETITOR'S CONDUCT:**

a. Participants in the tournament will always conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike behavior and their actions may not reflect unfavorably on the sport of bass fishing, Uchee Creek Campground and Marina, the Directorate of Family and MWR, and Fort Benning, Georgia. All contestants must adhere to all state, federal and local laws governing water activities. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification

b. All competitors will in their best efforts provide a high degree of professionalism, integrity and conservation in the sport of professional angling. Any competitor who violates these rules may be penalized which may include: disqualification from events, forfeiture of winnings and ban from future Uchee Creek tournaments.

## **3. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

a. The Uchee Creek Big Bass Blow Out is an open event and intended for amateurs.

b. Competitors must have a valid fishing license for the state of Georgia or Alabama.

c. Tournament officials reserve the right to refund any membership and/or entry fee, if they shall choose for any reason not to accept the application for entrance.

## **4. PROFESSIONALS:**

Any bass angler who has entered more than one bass tournament requiring an entry fee greater than \$1,000 in the preceding 12 months prior to the date of the Big Bass Blow Out will not be allowed to enter. Any individuals who served as a "guide for fee" on Lake Eufaula from Uchee Creek south to the dam in the last 12 months prior to the Big Bass Blow Out will not be allowed to enter.

## **5. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE/OFF-LIMITS:**

There will be no official practice period.

## **6. ENTRY FEE:**

Entry fee is \$60 per boat.

## **7. SAFETY:**

a. Contestants understand that participating in fishing tournaments in an open boat is inherently dangerous. Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times.

b. During the official tournaments(s) each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in gear. It must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear.

c. The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is in gear. During tournament hours extreme caution must be exercised by boat operator during bad weather.

d. Weather and water turbulence can be extremely hazardous and extreme caution should be exercised at all times. Violation of either the personal flotation device or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.

e. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, allowed in the boats during the official tournaments(s).

f. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash back to the dock for disposal.

## **8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during the competition. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All angling must be done from the boat and anglers must stay on tournament waters during tournament hours. Anglers are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters.

## **9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

Tournament director for each tournament shall establish tournament waters at the tournament briefing and define any known OFF-LIMITS areas. Any water within tournament boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Fishing on tournament waters is not permitted inside the Uchee Creek Marina or the first buoy marker from the river channel.

## **10. BIG BASS SCORING:**

a. There will be four two hour weigh-in periods as follows: 0700-0900, 0900-1100, 1100-1300, and 1300-1500

b. No contestant may weigh in more than one bass in a designated two-hour weigh-in period. Bass must be alive to be weighed in. All bass brought to weigh-in site must be in a weigh bag with water. Only one bass per weigh-in bag is allowed.

c. All contestants are required to bring their boat and respective partner with them to weigh in site when weighing bass.

d. Bass entered in a designated two-hour weigh-in period do not carry over into the next two-hour weigh in period. Your biggest bass is registered into the final overall standings.

e. Bass must be weighed in by the contestant who originally caught it and it must be in the said contestant's physical possession in the weigh-in line. No contestant may have more than three bass in possession at any time during the official tournament hours.

f. All fish must be caught on the day of the tournament. At no time may fish be placed on or retrieved from stringers, cages, or baskets.

g. Mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered fish will be weighed only at the Tournament Director's discretion. All fish presented at the weigh-ins become Uchee Creek Campground and Marina's property. All live fish will be returned to the tournament waters and the Tournament Director will dispose of any dead fish.

h. Only largemouth and spotted bass will be weighed. Minimum length will be 14 inches (measured on a flat board) for largemouth bass and 12 inches for spotted bass. Largemouth bass must be at least 14 inches and spotted bass must be at least 12 inches. Contestants may request a courtesy measure with a flat board prior to presenting fish for weigh-in.

#### **11. TIE:**

In case of a tie, ties will be broken using the following criteria:

- Person weighing their fish first during any two-hour weigh-in period.

If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedure, place monies will be combined and split evenly.

#### **12. TOURNAMENT PRIZES:**

- a. \$1,000 guaranteed overall big fish for the Big Bass Blow Out.
- b. \$250 guaranteed big fish per each two-hour designated tournament weigh-in period.
- c. Prizes as provided by sponsors for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> place in each designated tournament weigh-in period.

#### **13. Boat inspection:**

All contestants, by entering this tournament, hereby agree to allow their boats to be boarded and inspected by tournament official at any time during said tournament and checked for items to include, but not limited to, boat registration, Coast Guard horsepower rating plate, boat contents to include live well, road boxes, closed storage compartments, tackle boxes, life jackets, personal flotation devices and safety equipment. Winners in any given weigh-in period or overall big fish may be subject to a polygraph examination as determined appropriate by the tournament director.