

# Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament

## 2012 RULES

**RULES:** The following tournament rules shall apply to the Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament operated by The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County and American Bass Angler. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. Rules violations must be reported to the Tournament Director on site within 15 minutes after the announcement; "The scales are now closed".

1. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation is open to teams who are 16 years of age or older. Contestants under 18 years of age must have a parent or guardian signature prior to entering the tournament. Tournament officials reserve the right to refund entry fee, if they choose for any reason not to accept the application and/or entry fee. During competition day, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance (see Participant Release of Liability and Official Entry Forms) covering the boat being used in the tournament.
2. **PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:** There will be no off-limits or official practice days. During the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules.
3. **POLYGRAPH:** By his and her signature on the official tournament entry form and/or the liability release form, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph examination/truth verification method. Polygraph for this tournament will be performed for 1<sup>st</sup> place plus two (2) other winning positions. Results of the polygraph will be final and all competitors agree to abide by the findings.
4. **PRE-REGISTERED ENTRIES:** Teams may preregister by filling out the registrations form and mail it to the address listed on the fliers or by calling one of the numbers set for registration. Failure to attend the pre-tournament meeting at the ramp will result in forfeiture of entry fee and disqualification from the tournament.
5. **On Site REGISTRATION:** Teams desiring to register at the tournament site must register in person prior to 5AM local time. One member of each team must attend the mandatory safety/rules briefing at 5:20am at the tournament site. Failure to attend the safety/rules briefing will result in forfeiture of entry fee and will not be entered in that tournament.
6. **SAFETY:** Safety is paramount and anglers must recognize that; Fishing from an open boat in itself is inherently dangerous, and as a result the Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County and American Bass Anglers seek to limit those hazards with reasonable safety rules.
  - a. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During practice and competition, each competitor must wear a US Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn at all times the combustion engine is in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
  - b. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten, restrict tournament waters or cancel the start of the tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
  - c. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.
  - d. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT, AT WHICH TIME ALL FISHING MUST CEASE.
7. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
  - a. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament hours shall be cause for automatic disqualification.
  - b. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification.
  - c. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the State of Alabama.
8. **SAFETY/BOAT CHECK:** Safe boating will be observed at all times. Contestants understand that participating in fishing tournaments in an open boat is inherently dangerous. Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times. During competition, each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver (PFD) any time the combustion engine is in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear. The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is in gear. In addition extreme caution must be exercised and boat operator must be aware that there could be large cruisers and/or barges operating on tournament lakes that displace extremely large volumes of water which create unusually large wakes and turbulence. Violation of either the PFD or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.
9. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial and biodegradable lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time.
10. **HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in tournament competition will be 250 HP or less. The horsepower of the outboard engine cannot exceed the rating specified on the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate nor the horsepower maximum set by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from the tournament.
11. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** All boats must comply with all U.S. Coast Guard Requirement and be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only manufactured lanyard may be used and must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a person in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are less than 16 feet in length may not be used. No boat equipped with "Stick Steering" shall be permitted. Boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass.
12. **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Prior to the day's start, each boat must be given an inspection check by a tournament official. This number must be displayed when leaving at launch and at check-in.
13. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be defined as all waters on Lake Wheeler open to the public and accessible by boat. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. .

14. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon, this point shall be announced at the tournament briefing.
15. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** Official start and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament briefing. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the tournament director will open weigh-in at 12 Noon for safety.
16. **SCORING:** Only live bass will be weighed. Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-hundredths weight of each teams catch. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted bass will be weighed. The limit per team shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day. The minimum length shall be 12 inches measured on a flat board. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. Bass must not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.
17. **LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute; to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.
18. **TIES:** In case of a tie, combining awards and dividing them equally among the tied contestants shall resolve positions. A form of lottery will determine trophies for those positions tied.
19. **WAIVER AND RELEASE:** As a condition of participation in this tournament, competitors must execute a waiver, release of liability and a name and likeness release.

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## **OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM** **2012 Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament**

(Please Print)

### **Boat Owner Information:**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_, FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SSN \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_  
 BOAT BRAND \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. RATING \_\_\_\_\_  
 OUTBOARD BRAND \_\_\_\_\_ H.P. \_\_\_\_\_

### **Partner Information:**

LAST NAME \_\_\_\_\_, FIRST NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
 ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-MAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
 SSN \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DAYTIME PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ CELL \_\_\_\_\_

Tournament entry: \$ 100.00

Make checks payable & mail to:

The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County  
c/o The American Legion  
P.O. Box 996  
Decatur, Al. 35602

**Liability Release**  
**2012 Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament**

In consideration of being allowed to participate in the Veterans Memorial Team Bass Tournament operated by American Bass Anglers, I acknowledge and agree to the following:

1. The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to person or property from the activities involved in a bass tournament is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis, illness, injury and death to a person and destruction of equipment, and while compliance with particular rules, correct use of equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, such risk does exist.
2. I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, Boat Owners Liability Insurance (including coverage for third party property damage and bodily injury) with no Tournament Exclusion, having a minimum limit of at least \$100,000.00 per occurrence.
3. I have been advised by tournament officials of the contents of this document and through my reading it, and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document prior to signing it.
4. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, AND ALL OTHER RISKS OF TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN, WITHOUT LIMITATION, IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES (AS DEFINED BELOW) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT(S;)
5. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation in the tournament.
6. I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNEES, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE COMBINED PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS OF MORGAN COUNTY AND AMERICAN BASS ANGLERS, INC., THEIR PARENT AND/OR AFFILIATED COMPANIES, THE OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AGENTS, CONSULTANTS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES OF EACH, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT ("RELEASEES"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.
7. If there are any questions raised by the judges or officials of THE COMBINED PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATIONS OF MORGAN COUNTY AND AMERICAN BASS ANGLERS, INC. as to my veracity in respect to my participation in this tournament, I agree to submit to a polygraph examination and understand that failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification from this event. I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT AND THE ATTACHED RULES, I FULLY UNDERSTAND THEIR TERMS, I UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.
8. PUBLICITY. In consideration for permission to participate in this tournament, I ("Contestant") hereby grant to The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County and American Bass Angler, Inc. its assignees and/or licensees (including television production companies contracted by the companies ), the unconditional right to use my name, voice, image, image in a video format while participating in this tournament, photographic likeness, biographical information, fishing tips and/or instructions in any medium

whatsoever, including but not limited to video/audio productions, merchandising, promotions, articles, and/or press releases, in connection with The Combined Patriotic Organizations of Morgan County and American Bass Angler, Inc., without restriction as to changes or alterations at any time. I understand that I will not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use and waive my right to review the finished product. By my signature below I verify that I have read and understand the foregoing provisions.

BOAT OWNER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

PARTNER'S SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

Age if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

I, AS PARENT/GUARDIAN DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PARTICIPANT AND I AGREE AND GIVE MY CONSENT TO HIS/HER RELEASE AS PROVIDED ABOVE OF ALL THE RELEASEES, AND, FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, ASSIGNEES, AND NEXT OF KIN, I RELEASE AND AGREE TO INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITIES INCIDENT TO MY MINOR CHILD'S OR WARD'S INVOLVEMENT OR PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT AS PROVIDED ABOVE, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

PARENT'S/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:**