

# 2010 THRALL COMMUNITY 4-H/FFA BOOSTER CLUB TEAM BASS TOURNAMENT RULES Benefiting 4-H and FFA

## GENERAL RULES

Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of the rule may result in weight loss or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of weigh-in.

## POLYGRAPH

All winners will be subject to and agree to a polygraph exam, by signature of the entry form, before prizes are distributed. Winner shall abide by polygraph results. Contestants must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money and/or awards. The Tournament Director reserves the rights to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph exam in his sole discretion.

## PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation is open to all persons 18 years or older. Contestants under the age of 18 may fish with parental signed consent on registration form AND must be accompanied by an adult on the boat at all times. Proof of age to the tournament director is the responsibility of the competitor. A properly completed and signed official entry form and entry fee must be presented to the tournament director prior to the tournament. All contestants must have a fishing license in accordance with regulations set forth by the State of Texas. Teams shall consist of no more than two anglers per boat. The Tournament Director reserves the right to refund/refuse any entry fee.

## REGISTRATION and TOURNAMENT START

- Registration
  - Payment Types:
    - Check and money orders (due by May 11, 2010)
    - Cash – paid in person by appointment, or at ramp at designated time described below.
    - Credit card – paid when registering online.
  - By Mail: mail completed form and payment to Thrall Community 4-H/FFA Booster Club, C/O Matthew Leopold, 1000 County Road 481, Thrall, TX 76578. Thrall Community 4-H/FFA Booster Club will not be responsible for postal errors.
  - By Appointment: Contact Holly Leopold at (512) 663-3958 to arrange in person registration prior to tournament.
  - Online: register at <http://www.active.com/giving-and-fundraising-tournament/belton-tx/thrall-community-4hffa-bass-tournament-2010> . or go to [www.active.com](http://www.active.com) and search for "Thrall". *Online Registration Powered by Active.com*
  - At Ramp: CASH ONLY - registration opportunity will occur between 5:15AM to 6:00AM at Temple's Lake Park ramp immediately before the tournament on May 16, 2010.
- The Honor Start System will be used at beginning of tournament at any ramp accessing the lake. Tournament will begin at 6AM on Sunday, May 16, 2010. There will be no official sign-out time. No one may participate in the tournament without first being registered and pay entry fee.

## SAFETY

- SAFE BOATING must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from beginning to weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. Boats must have proper lighting and tags as required by the State of Texas for operation.
- INCLEMENT WEATHER - Weather conditions are at competitor's own risk. Be cautious of cloud to ground lightning strikes (must not be on water). Competitors may seek shelter at parked vehicle, however

must not leave parking lot. Leaving parking lot in vehicle will result in disqualification. Make arrangements with Tournament Director for weigh-in if inclement weather occurs during weigh-in time.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT**

All Contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of misconduct are all of the following, but not limited to:

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.

Tournament Director has the right to disqualify any competitor who exhibits any unethical behavior that threatens sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any violation of state, local, or federal laws will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION without recourse.

### **ASSISTANCE DURING TOURNAMENT**

During tournament hours, Contestants MAY NOT receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first, then notify the Tournament Director.

### **FISHING METHODS, TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT, BOAT AND MOTOR**

- Only artificial lures may be used with exception of pork trailers.
- One fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used.
- Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited.
- Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation.
- All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner.
- When sight fishing for Bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish.
- All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a Contestant leave the boat to land a fish, or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
- All angling must be conducted from the boat deck - not on seats, outboard motor, or any raised structure.
- Boats must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
- Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of Bass.
- Boats must comply with state and national regulations. Falsifying information about a boat is grounds for disqualification.

### **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat, anchored or not. Moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake is prohibited.

### **CONSERVATION OF FISH AND HABITAT**

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat are recommended. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and dispose of all trash in the appropriate trash receptacles.

### **SCORING AND TIES**

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each angler's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Smallmouth Bass are accepted species. The limit will be five bass per team and presented in a weigh-in bag. Any Contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will

have their catch disqualified. The minimum length will be as mandated by the State of Texas. A penalty of ¼lb. will be deducted from total weight for each short fish, in addition to the loss of the short fish. A penalty of ¼lb. will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. In case of a tie, a coin toss will determine placing.

### **WEIGH-IN**

- There will be only one official point for check-in and weigh-in.
- Check-In deadline will be at 3PM, on Sunday, May 16, 2010.
- Upon check-in, teams may then line up for weigh-in.
- There will be a ¼lb penalty from total weight for each minute after 3PM.
- Team is disqualified if arrival time is after 3:15PM.
- Weigh-In begins at 3:15PM.
- It is the responsibility of contestants to verify Check-In/Weigh-In times and locations, however tournament staff may use contestant information from registration forms to communicate any changes.
- No trailering will be allowed to the weigh-in location unless deemed necessary for safety reasons by the Tournament Director.

### **LIABILITY**

Thrall Community 4-H/FFA Booster Club and its associates are not responsible for injuries, accidents, or loss that may be caused by person or act of God.