

## **TOURNAMENT RULES**

Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Rules will apply in all events unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. Directors reserve the right to refuse any membership or tournament entry fees or entry forms for any reason. Officials and directors decisions will be final in all matters. These are traditional team events and all team members must fish from the same boat during any event.

1. **INSURANCE:** All boats used in tournaments must have the mandatory minimum liability insurance required by law for their vessel. This is the user/owners responsibility.
2. **DISCLAIMER FOR LIABILITY:** By signing the entry form participants agree to waiver any and all claims of LIABILITY Against Friends of Istokpoga, Inc., and the Humane Society of Highlands Co., directors or participants involved with the tournament, from accidental damage or claims of any kind, manmade or nature during the tournament venue. This includes acts of God.
3. **REGISTRATION & SIGN UP:** Teams will take off in the order in which entry fees are received. Teams must pay in cash only at ramp the morning of the event. Pre-registration will be held at: Trail's End Fishing Resort, Mossy Cove Fish Camp, lake Istokpoga Marina and Lorida Bait & Tackle. Checks will be accepted with pre-registration.
4. **SCORING:** Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths of ounces. Places will be determined by total weight of 3 fish. Any ties will be broke by largest single fished weighed, then by total amount of fish caught. If there is still a tie after these 2 tie breakers, the 2 places money will be put together and divided equally between tying teams. Fish must measure at least 14" in length. We will have exemption forms for all tournaments.
5. **LIMITS & PENALTY:** All contestants must use care in handling and keeping fish alive for release after weigh-in. All fish will be brought to the weigh master in plastic bags with enough water to keep the fish covered until weigh-in. A tournament limit will be 3 fish per team. No culling of dead fish. No culling at ramp. Dead fish penalty will be .50 pounds per dead fish. Teams must not have more than 3 fish in the live well at any time. All teams are required to have their own weigh bags for transporting fish to weigh in.
6. **LIFE JACKETS & KILL SWITCH:** Approved life jacket or vest will be worn by both team members any time the outboard motor is in gear and running above IDLE. Kill switch will be connected to boat operator any time the outboard motor is running and in gear and propelling the boat fast enough to raise the bow.
7. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No wading or trolling is allowed. All fish must be caught from the boat. Traditional rods (no longer than 8") and reels, bait casters, spinning, etc. Only one rod and reel may be used at any given time by each angler. No rod may be left unattended with line or lure in water.
8. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** Safe light until 3:00 PM, unless otherwise posted or stated.
9. **FISHING LOCATION:** Anglers may not leave their boats (no wading) except in dire emergency. No fishing within 50 yards of any boat anchored, with trolling motor up. No fishing in areas designated off limits by governmental agencies. No fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump.
10. **TEAM CHECK-IN:** Any team checking in after the time designated by director will be disqualified, regardless of reason.
11. **MECHANICAL BREAK DOWN:** Anglers can be towed by any vessel willing to tow them, teams experiencing mechanical problems can catch a ride with any other team competing in the same event but must have their fished marked and kept separate from other team's catch. If a team member enters another competitors boat to be brought in, neither team is allowed to fish again that day.
12. **BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION:** Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain a live limit catch of bass. All boats must have an operating kill switch that must be attached to the operator at all times when the outboard motor is running and in gear. Violation of any of the above rules may be cause for disqualification.
13. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Each team is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, safety, courtesy and conservation. Any team found in violation of these rules or any federal, state or local laws may be disqualified. The use, possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages during fishing tournaments hours, which conclude upon the completion of payout, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from current and future Team Series events. Public display or posting of criticisms of the tour, its officials, sponsors or anglers will be grounds for immediate disqualification and expulsion.
14. **PHONES AND RADIOS:** Cellular phones and radios are only to be used for purposes not associated with fishing. Emergency/work related calls permitted.
15. **POLYGRAPH TEST:** Any member may be required to submit to a Polygraph or truth verification test. Failure to submit to either of these tests will result in disqualification from this tournament.
16. **NO CUMBERSOME CRAFT:** Only boats of 15' in length and equipped with steering wheel device for navigation of boat and motor. Accepted built in live wells recommended for care of live release.
17. **PAYBACK:** Is all entry fees minus the administrative cost and humane society donation, plus donated prizes from local businesses.