

# **TABC 2017 STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT**

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. The 2017 TABC State Championship Tournament will be held on Falcon Lake on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September and Oct 1<sup>st</sup> of 2017.
2. Registration & the Captain's meeting on Friday, September 29, 2017 will be at Falcon Lake Tackle.
3. The weigh-in for both days will be held at the water's edge at the County Ramp.
4. Registration will be on Friday, September 29, 2017 from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Captains meeting will follow registration at 6:15 PM. **Team Captain or designated representative must attend.**
5. All State, Federal, Local and International Rules shall be obeyed.
6. All clubs and club members must be in good standing of T.A.B.C. with tournament entry fees paid prior to the start of the Captain's meeting.
7. A club's up to eight- (8) member team shall fish in teams of two (2) from four (4) boats with no more than two (2) persons per boat. The heaviest weights from three (3) of the four (4) boats will be the club's score PER day. This allows each club to drop the lightest weight each day. Clubs are encouraged to send more than one eight (8) man team.
8. Each boat is permitted a daily limit of five (5) bass. No pooling of bass will be allowed between boats.  
**THIS WILL BE A POLYGRAPH QUESTION.**
9. All fish – Largemouth, Smallmouth, Kentucky spotted or Guadalupe Bass will be a minimum of fourteen (14) inches or the lake's minimum size limit if greater than fourteen (14) inches. All fish will be measured at the weigh-in using an official Check it Stick board. **IF A SHORT FISH IS BROUGHT TO THE OFFICIAL WEIGH-IN, THAT BOAT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FOR THE DAY.**

- 10.** All fish must be taken by rod and reel methods only, using artificial baits only. Prepared pork strips, buck tails, and feathered type lures are considered artificial baits. Only one (1) rod and reel may be in use by each person at one time. Other rods may be rigged in the boat, but not in use.
- 11.** All fishing shall be done from a boat. No wading, bank fishing, inner tubes, or kayaks will be allowed while fishing. You may not leave the boat to retrieve fish. Electronic tracking equipment, with the exception of depth finders and GPS units, are prohibited.
- 12.** All boats must be equipped with a working kill switch. While the boat is on plane, all boat occupants must wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket and the kill switch must be hooked up to the driver. **NOT HAVING THE KILL SWITCH HOOKED UP TO THE DRIVER OR NOT WEARING OF THE LIFE JACKETS BY ALL BOAT OCCUPANTS WHILE THE BOAT IS ON PLANE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FOR THAT DAY. THIS WILL BE A POLYGRAPH QUESTION.**
- 13.** No trolling allowed. Electric motors may be used to maneuver a boat, but cannot be used to activate or drag a lure. Drift fishing with the wind or windsock is allowed.
- 14.** Team Captains will be given ribbons for each of their teams at registration. Each team must display this ribbon on their trolling motors during the tournament.
- 15.** The tournament starting times will be safe light as determined by the Tournament Director. A prayer and the National Anthem will be played prior to the launch. Launch will be by Team number. For instance Team 1 will launch first on Saturday, but the order will be reversed on Sunday and Team 1 will launch last. Each boat will go by the Launch Boat for Livewell and safety inspections as their numbers are called out.
- 16.** Each Team Captain (or representative) will draw a team launch number at the registration.
- 17.** Weigh-in times will start at 3:00 PM on Saturday and 1:00 PM on Sunday. There will be a staggered flight weigh-in. Scales will close at 4:00 pm Saturday and 2:15 Sunday.

18. Only TABC Official Weigh-in Bags will be used for the weigh-in. You must get the weigh-in bag from the weigh-in site as we will be controlling the number of weigh-ins in line at any given time.
19. Team members may communicate. Cell phones, walkie talkies and CB Radios and any other communications devices can be used to communicate fishing spots, information or locations during the tournament fishing hours of the event, but only amongst team members. Exceptions will be made in cases of a life or death emergency. "THIS WILL BE A POLYGRAPH QUESTION"
20. All participants with or without fish, MUST CHECK IN. Not checking in will result in Team disqualifications.
21. All fish must be taken from the public areas of the Tournament Lake; however, at no time will a club's boat be allowed to fish within one hundred (100) feet of another boat unless that boat is a member of that club's team. No fishing is allowed within one hundred and fifty (150) feet of an anchored or tied tournament boat with the trolling motor up without permission from that boat's occupants. A hydraulic anchor ( power Pole, Talon) in the down position is considered an anchored boat. THIS WILL BE A POLYGRAPH QUESTION.
22. No pale-gilled fish will be allowed. Ice may be added to the live well to aid in the survival of your fish. A .50-pound (one half pound) deduction will be assessed PER dead fish at the weigh-in. No culling of dead fish, as this is state law.
23. Fishing with a licensed or active guide who guides on the Tournament Lake during a thirty (30) day period prior to the T.A.B.C. Tournament is prohibited. Licensed or active guides will be eligible to enter this tournament provided that they have not guided on the Tournament Lake at any time thirty (30) days immediately prior to the tournament and they are current T.A.B.C. member(s).

24. There will be no alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs allowed on board or consumed by any fishing participant while on the water or during tournament hours. Any angler can be polygraphed so do not drink until after all polygraphs have been given.
25. Only one (1) Bass per boat may be eligible for the Big Bass per day. Participants must declare fish to be weighed for Big Bass prior to weighing it in.
26. There are no off limit days for this tournament.
27. All boats/equipment must meet U.S. Coast Guard and State Regulations. No motor shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat. All boats must have: a working kill switch, lights and fire extinguisher along with an aerated live well.
28. All contestants are required to cooperate with requests from tournament officials on and off the water.
29. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or any federal, state or local laws or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified.
30. All contestants are subject to polygraph examination at the request of the tournament director. Failure to submit to a polygraph or to pass will result in immediate disqualification of the team's weight or participation in the tournaments awards. Any violation of tournament rules will result in disqualification of that team.
31. Any protest must be made IN WRITING to the tournament director within 15 minutes after the last angler has weighed in. The Tournament review board, made up of TABC Directors and Club Representatives, will immediately review the protest.
32. All decisions of the tournament director will be final.