

## ALTON JONES CLASSIC RULES

Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Failure to comply may result in disqualification. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales.

### GENERAL RULES AND INFORMATION

- Registration Deadline: Registration will close once 75 teams have fully completed registration. A completed and signed entry form and rules sheet must be received with full payment prior to the registration deadline. Flight numbers will be randomly drawn the day before the tournament (site TBD). Those not present at the Draw Party will be assigned flight numbers after the highest Draw Party number, in the order of arrival at the ramp.
- Contestants may not enter tournament waters to locate bass or potential fishing waters or sightsee after 11:59 Wednesday evening.
- Tournament is open to all anglers except professional anglers. A professional angler is defined as: Any angler that has entered more than one bass tournament that required an entry fee greater than \$2,499 in the six months prior to the date of the Tournament.
- Licensed Guides that have guided on the body of water in the previous 14 days will not be allowed.
- All contestants must have a valid fishing license.
- Polygraphs may be used.
- There will be only one official point for check-in and weigh in. Flights for weigh-in will be 25 per flight every 15 minutes starting at 3:00 p.m. Fishermen will start in sequence based on their drawn number.
- Competitors not at the weigh-in site at the designated time will be penalized at the rate of .1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight for the day. Any team more than 15 minutes late for weigh-in will be disqualified without recourse.
- Trailering is not allowed: All boats must leave the official check point by boat in the order designated at registration.
- Contestants must launch their boat at the Twin Bridges ramp unless otherwise directed by the tournament director.
- In the event of severe weather alternate take-off instructions will be given at the registration site, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.
- Teams may fish anywhere accessible by boat except areas designated as off-limits or within 25 yards of another team's boat anchored or not.
- Any team that allows any other team to fish within 25 yards of the team's boat has suspended the 25 yard rule and has opened the water to all competitors.
- Official Checkpoints: There will be only one official checkpoint for boat inspection in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check-out in the morning or failure to official check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification from such event. During morning check-out, all teams are required to idle a minimum of 100 yards

before putting the boat on plane. It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to arrive at the designated check-in location on time. Regardless of what you are told or understand, it is the angler's responsibility to verify their provided flight card time. All fishing must cease upon check-in, or upon such other time as may be designated by the Tournament Director.

- Closing of the Scales: Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. This time may be lengthened or shortened at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.
- If one partner is unable to fish then you may fish solo.
- Any change to the above stated official scale closing time will be announced during registration and during boat check-out. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by such time.

**IT IS THE ANGLERS' RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW/BE AWARE OF ALL TOURNAMENT DEADLINES, RULES, AND REGULATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE TOURNAMENT.**

**SCORING & TIES**

- The pounds and ounces of each team's catch will determine tournament standings during the tournament.
- Only largemouth, spotted, or smallmouth bass will be weighed.
- The limit shall be five (5) fish per team.
- Culling must be done immediately upon catching the sixth fish.
- The minimum length will be as mandated by Texas Law for the lake fished.
- A penalty of 1/2lb. will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish, plus loss of the small fish.
- A penalty of 1/4lb. will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish.
- A team that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified.
- In case of a tie, combining awards and dividing equally among the tied teams will resolve positions.
- Trophy positions will be determined by a coin toss.

**BOAT, MOTOR, TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

- Only artificial lures with the exception of pork rind may be used.
- Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass, large mouth, spotted and small mouth must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
- All boats must have a properly accredited or re-circulation live well to maintain a live limit (5) catch of bass.
- Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
- Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel.
- Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- All contestants will follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Violation of this rule will be reason for immediate disqualification without recourse.
- No alcoholic beverages or non-prescribed drugs are allowed in the boat at any time.
- Drunkenness will be grounds for immediate disqualification without recourse.
- Each contestant must keep the waters clean and dispose of all trash in the appropriate trash containers.
- Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification.
- 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.
- During hours of competition, 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.
- The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time, whether or not during official practice days or competition days, is not permitted.
- Any violation of state, local, or federal laws will result in immediate disqualification without recourse.

## **SAFETY**

- Safe boating will be observed at all time.
- Each competitor must wear a serviceable U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver (PFD) any time the combustion engine is in operation and until the combustion engine is shut-off.
- The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch (kill switch lanyard) attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is running.
- The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear.
- Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.
- Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.
- Tournament Director reserves the right to place an official observer in a contestant's boat at any time during competition hours.
- In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first, then notify tournament officials.