



2020 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1. RULES:** The following rules will be interpreted by the tournament director and/or committee and all decisions are final. We reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone.
- 2. PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY:** Nichols Marine Tournament Series events are open only to its registered members. Membership fee is \$110 per person. All entrants must submit a one-time yearly waiver. At least one member of a participating team must be a minimum of 18 years of age. Entrants under the age of 18 must submit signature of his or her parent or legal guardian on entry waiver form. Each team is allowed a maximum of 4 members. Daily participation is restricted to one (1) or two (2) team members. **Championship eligibility** requires that a team must have been represented in all regular season (held) events. Paid entries will be credited qualifying event status, regardless whether actually fishing event, provided entry was included in the event awards payout. Qualifying teams may attain a new member for Championship participation provided (4) member allotment is not exceeded.
- 3. FEES: Regular Season Event (\$200) and Championship Event (\$300).** Entry fees are non-refundable once entry deadline has expired per event. Entries may be mailed, paid online, or dropped off at the Tulsa Nichols Marine dealership. All other entries will be accepted at the pre-tournament registration. Entrants will be charged \$35.00 for any returned or stopped checks. If check not made good within ten (10) days notice, such entrants may be banned from all future events.
- 4. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING and ENTRY DEADLINE:** Pre-tournament meeting is non-mandatory, however teams are held responsible for adherence to any late (**Update News**) announcements, provided via website and at meeting. Regular Season entry deadline is 6:00 pm (sat) preceding event. Championship entry deadline is 6:00 pm (Fri.) preceding event. Late entries will not be accepted once take off positions are established. Teams will be issued a 6X9 team card that can be attained at the tournament registration site through-out the day before event. The card is to be displayed anytime checking in with the official afternoon check-in boat.
- 5. DEPARTURE & RETURN:** The number of flights will be determined by number of entries. We reserve the right to assign flights and hours deemed necessary.
- 6. MORNING CHECK-IN:** Prior to fishing, each team must have their live well checked by a tournament official. If event is designated a tailoring event due to severe conditions, mandatory morning check-in is waved.
- 7. TAKE-OFF:** Take off positions is established at close of registration. Normal procedures are boats being directed out in numerical order. As teams are announced, they must wave to be recognized by the director and may depart only after the director acknowledges them by waving them out. Any team not present when their assigned takeoff was announced must approach and notify starter boat for permission to depart. Under severe circumstances, tailoring procedures will be enacted with full procedures posted to the [Latest Update News](#) link, via website.
- 8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Off limits (no fishing area) map will be made available via the NMTS website and at registration site. Fishing permitted from boat only and contestants are not permitted to leave boat in order to access shallow areas or to retrieve a hooked fish. No fishing within 50 yards of another contestants anchored boat with trolling motor in up position, without permission of the first boat to arrive. At no time may a contestant cast a lure, closer than 25 ft., of another competitor's boat. Partners must remain in sight of each other during tournament hours. In case of emergency, one or both contestants may return to weigh-in by means of another boat; provided it has a operating live well and the director must be notified of such prior to weighing. Return by any other means for purpose of weighing is prohibited, except when event is designated as a tailoring event under severe conditions.
- 9. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** No off-limits period prior to tournament, however there will be no fishing allowed between Championship Day One afternoon weigh-in and Day Two takeoff.
- 10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:** All bass must be caught alive in conventional sporting manner, with one (1) line per angler in active use at any time. Only artificial lures and pork trailers permitted for use. No trolling by combustion engine.
- 11. CULLING FISH:** No team may maintain more than the five (5) fish limit, in the live-well at any time. One member must attend to culling immediately, anytime any additional fish have entered the boat.
- 12. WEIGH-IN and CLOSING OF SCALES:** Must weigh before trailering. Official weigh-in begins with 1st flight at 3:00 PM. Each team must check in with the check-In boat no later than their assigned flight time. Teams without fish need not check in. Fish will only be accepted in the tournament provided bags. Accepting fish in

any other bag would result in disqualification. Once majority of last flight weigh bags are in, an air horn blast will sound off, notifying teams they have 5 minutes to attain official bag for weighing.

13. SCORING: 5-fish limit, 14-inch minimum, measured on flat board (Will-E-Go) in a relaxed manner with mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together, swept in any manner necessary to hit the mark. Only largemouth, spotted and smallmouth bass allowed. Dead fish will be weighed upon discretion of officials. Rulings will be final. All fish must be caught during tournament hours. Total weight determines placing. Ties will be broken by number of fish.

14. PENALTIES: Late afternoon check-in will result in deduction of (1) pound per minute up to five (5) minutes, then disqualification. Each bass not within legal limits will result in a (2) lb. penalty deduction, plus loss of said fish. There will be a (1/2) lb. deduction for each dead fish. Frozen or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate disqualification.

15. AWARD TIES: Tie breaker, will be determined by the greater number of fish. If a tie still exists, the two (2) or more positions will be added together, divided by the number of ties, with the amount of payback awarded equally. Ties involving boat awards may be given the option for a fish-off, provided both teams agree to such.

16. POINT SYSTEM: Points will be accrued from each regular event and the Championship event. First Place = 1 point, Second Place = 2 points, etc. throughout the money placing only. Teams not placing in the money will receive last money place points plus 10 additional points in regular season events, and 20 additional points in the Championship Event, whether having weighed fish or not. No-Shows will receive 500 elimination points.

17. PAYOUT DEFINITION: All payout checks will be made out in the name of the registered Designated Captain. Teams will be responsible for handling the division of payment concerning 1099's

18. RESTRICTING, SEEDING, OR BAITING: No restricting bass by any method which disallows natural movement throughout the entire impoundment, seeding bass from one impoundment to the tournament impoundment, or any coordinated effort in the use of live bait, in baiting holes for the means of attracting or maintaining bass.

19. MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS & GUIDE ASSISTANCE RESTRICTION: During tournament hours, contestants are restricted from acquiring any fishing information by means of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie talkies, CBs, etc. No on the water guidance or participation in practice of hole sitting.

20. SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. U.S. coast guard approved floatation device and kill switch must be worn anytime boat is on plane. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or mind-altering substance during tournament hours are prohibited.

21. BOAT & MOTOR REQUIREMENTS. No pontoons allowed. Allowed are any brands of boats of 16' minimum length, powered by a minimum of forty (40) horsepower, provided it has a working aerated live well and meets U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations.

22. PROTEST: Any protest must be in writing and filed with tournament officials prior to closing of the scales.

23. POLYGRAPH: By signature on entry form/waiver form, contestants agree to a polygraph test by a qualified examiner. Refusal to or failure of a polygraph test will result in disqualification and banishment from all future Nichols Marine sponsored events. First, Second, and Big Bass award winners must be present at conclusion of weigh-in for polygraph administration, unless prior arrangements are approved directly from the tournament director. Any contestants not present for a requested polygraph will not receive winnings until test has been administered, at the next scheduled tournament. Any other arrangement for a polygraph will be at the contestants own expense of \$300.