

1. Interpretation & Enforcement: Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations (boater or co-angler) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments.

2. Payback & Participation: Payback to the top 20% of paid entries for the tournament. Payback amount is 80% of entries. Participation is open everyone who can acquire a legal South Dakota Fishing licenses and are 10 years of age or older. Any person under the age of 18 entering a tournament must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. Any person's participation in any tournament is at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Any person who, in the judgment of the tournament director, is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his or her boater or co-angler partner or compromise his or her safety or the safety of his or her boater or co-angler partner may not be eligible to participate. All contestants must have all required fishing licenses for the waters they fish.

Team Entry: Entries will be accepted until 9pm Monday May 1, 2018. This is a team tournament.

Team Payment Schedule: Entry fees are \$200 per angler or \$400 per team. Daily Big Bass entry is \$50 per day. One Big Bass weighed per team per day. Calcutta entry is \$100 per team. Entry fees are due with application. Open to the first 50 paid Teams plus the top 10 anglers from the previous year.

3. Off-Limits, Practice and Competition: There is no official practice period or off-limits period prior to the pre-tournament meeting for the tournament. Contestants may not enter tournament waters to locate bass or potential fishing waters or sightsee after 4pm on Friday September 8th. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pre-tournament meeting is permitted only with prior approval from the tournament director. Once competition is underway, contestants may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except boaters and co-anglers confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publically available sources). During competition days, boaters may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone.

4. Registration and Pre-Tournament Meeting: Each Team must register in person at the designated site, send one team member who is 16 years of age or older to represent them at the site of the rules meeting. Registration will start at 4pm till 6:30pm on Friday September 8th. Registration will be in "The Roost" at Spring Creek. Contestants can represent themselves and one other person; and the tournament director can represent more than one person. Every Team or at least one team member must attend the pre-tournament meeting to record flights, take-off time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, and any other relevant tournament rule information. Starting positions will be drawn at check-in. The rules meeting will be held at Spring Creek at 6:30pm September 7th. It will be held in "The Roost" private meeting room.

5. Safety: Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. A driver must be seated in the driver's seat and in full control of the boat whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Four (4) hours is the maximum time the competition will be delayed in one tournament day before being cancelled. Competitors may leave their boats and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other.

6. Sportsmanship: All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the sport of fishing and efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards include, but is not limited to, the following:

Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the 2018 Spring Creek/Lake Oahe Bass Tournament. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.

Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.

Convictions of a felony within the past 36 months.

Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.

Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules.

7. Permitted Fishing Methods: Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel controlled by an angler. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are only permitted under SDGFP fishing rules and laws only. Only **ONE** fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is **strictly prohibited**. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine (in gear) to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your boater or co-angler for verification.

8. Permitted Fishing Locations: Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas posted or otherwise designated as “off-limits”, “no boats”, “keep out”, “restricted”, “no trespassing”, or “no Fishing” (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by Spring Creek and/or local, state, or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant’s boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole, Talon or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing 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. The cutting of trees, bushes and /or logs after the start of the pre-tournament meeting and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block or tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are then two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions both contestants catches may be counted without penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other pertaining to other tournament rules) provided that the angler and co-angler’s fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction of the boater’s catch and the co-angler’s catch to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day’s weight. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until weigh-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted.

9. Checkpoints: There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Checkpoints will be given at the rules meeting.

10. Late Penalty: Contestants who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight, including and weight to be counted toward the Big Bass Award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day’s weight.

11. Live Fish: Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented at weigh-in. Dead bass will be the responsibility of each angler. Dead bass should be cleaned at the cleaning station and kept for consumption.

12. Scoring: Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant’s catch during each qualifying tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit will be six (6) per **TEAM** per day. Teams possessing more than the tournament limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his/her catch to the tournament limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. The minimum length limit for bass will be 12 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will not be weighed and penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Each contestant’s catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag.

13. Ties: The heaviest one-day catch for the tournament will break ties in this two day tournament.

14. Trust Verification Test: Each Contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the tournament directors sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the tournament director.

15. Insurance: Liability Insurance with coverage of not less than \$300,000 per occurrence is required of all boater contestants in the tournament. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.