

SMITH LAKE PARK

TOURNAMENT RULES 2025

Smith Lake Park - 403 County Road 386, Cullman, AL 35057

To help the integrity of Smith Lake Park and our anglers, all winners will be subject to a polygraph test before the prize money is distributed. Anglers must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money. The Tournament Director reserves the right to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph test, in his sole discretion.

TEAM RULES:

Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of Tournament rules may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight, the ineligibility to participate in the Smith Lake Park Tournament, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protest must be made within 20 minutes of the official closing of scales.

REGISTRATION:

Registration will be January 16, 2025 until September 25, 2025. Entry fees are \$200 per team. Registration can be completed online on Eventbrite. Please make checks out to: Smith Lake Park Bass Fest. All other entries placed on the night of the pretournament meeting will be CASH ONLY with an added \$20 fee.

PRETOURNAMENT MEETING AND MEAL:

There will be a pretournament meeting on October 3, 2025 at 6:00pm CST at the Cullman County Agricultural Trade Center (17465 US Highway 31, Cullman, AL 35058). This is a mandatory meeting and at least one team member from each team must attend. If a team member does not attend the meeting and sign-in, that team will be disqualified and will NOT BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT. Sign ups are also available this night \$200 cash only!

ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICATION:

The Smith Lake Park tournament is open to anglers with the exception of (Pros) MLF Series of FLW Tour Boater(s), Bass Masters Elite Series Anglers, and PAA (Professional Angler Association) Boater(s). Any angler entering the Smith Lake Park Tournament who is under the age of 18 years of age must also have a signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form.

Tournament Director has the right to refuse any anglers application or the right to fish the tournament without cause/reason. No protests accepted.

PARENT/CHILD TEAM: Any Team consisting of one adult and one child under the age of 18 will be considered a team.

SMITH LAKE PARK TOURNAMENT IS A SINGLE/TEAM EVENT:

A team shall consist of no more than two anglers or may fish alone as a single person team. Teams that have an unavoidable circumstance that results in a team member who cannot fish must notify the tournament director within 24 hours prior to registration. Only registered contestants may be in the boat during day of tournament.

INFORMATION:

No fishing information may be purchased, bartered or solicited from any person who entered official tournament waters during the established off-limits, specifically including, but not limited to, an ineligible partner as described

REGISTRATION TIME:

Registration for the Smith Lake Park Tournament will begin on January 16, 2025 until September 25, 2025 for online only. If you sign up at the pretournament meeting there will be an added \$20 Fee. CASH ONLY WILL BE ACCEPTED. Must be paid and registered before 6:00pm. A team member must check-in in person at the designated site during official registration and present a valid fishing license and proof of boat insurance. Team members do not have to check-in at the same time.

REFUND AND CANCELLATION POLICY:

There will be no refunds.

SCORING:

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and hundredths of a pound of each angler's catch during the tournament, Largemouth Bass and Spotted Bass are accepted the limit will be five (5) per team. Any contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have his/her catch disqualified. All Anglers must follow Alabama Department of Conservation and Nature resource rule. For Smith Lake that no fish between 13-15 inches

can be weighed in for the Bass Tournament. Bass presented for the weight in that fail to measure the prescribed length, will result in loss of that fish and a half pound penalty to the remaining fish. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by signature of at least one team member. The Pro-Rule measuring board is the official measuring board for the Smith Lake Park Tournament. Bass will be measured with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length.

LIVE FISH:

You may weigh one dead fish as part of your five fish total; an 8 ounce penalty will be assessed to your total weight. No dead fish will be weighed for big fish.

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 the checkout point in the morning or failure to officially check-in point will result in disqualification from tournament. During morning checkout, all teams are required to idle a minimum 150 yards before putting boat on plane. It is sole responsibly of each contestant to arrive at the designated check-in point 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 time as may be designated by the Tournament Director. All boats must leave the official check-in point by boat in the order designated at registration. In the event of severe weather takeoff instructions will be given at the registration site, at the sole discretion of Tournament Director.

CLOSING OF THE SCALES:

Scales will be closed 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time will be announced during registration, during boat checkout, or during weigh-in. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and be in the weigh-in line by such time.

LATE PENALTY:

Contestants who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time will be assessed a one pound per minute penalty from their total weight, including any weight to be counted toward big fish. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will forfeit his/her catch. The contestants must return to the official check-in location by the methods set forth above by their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty.

BREAK DOWNS:

In the case of a mechanical breakdown a contestant may return to check-in with their catch by receiving a ride from another Smith Lake Park Fishing Tournament Team, as long as both teams fish are keep separate

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:

Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of Berkley Gulp products. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine, a method of fishing is prohibited.

Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as legal fish. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish, or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. "Any umbrella-type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time—with or without hooks—is not allowed". Such rigging, harness or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Traditional twin-arm spinner baits or buzz baits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must go on the main hook of the bait, not the arms while blades can go on the arms. The head on the main stem may hinge. Tournament officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT:

All contestant are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following.

1. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
2. Actions or words that reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.
3. Chemical or substance abuse.

OFF LIMITS AREAS:

Such areas established and announced at the briefing meeting. Contestants may not fish inside the established "Off Limits" area, within 50 yards of a public boat launch. Violation of the rule will result in immediate disqualification. Contestant's boat must remain in the

tournament waters during the event. Until weigh in, at which time boats maybe loaded and pull to weigh-in site at stage inside Smith Lake Park.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as “off-limits” or no fishing by state or federal officials, or 50 yards of a competitors boat which was first (an anchored boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position). Or within 50 yards of a non-anchored competitor’s boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. 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.

SAFETY:

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened). U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check to weigh in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver’s body anytime the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver’s seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament will be held the next day, weather permitting. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

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 check-in.

A). by both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, with permission from the Tournament Director.

B). Under these conditions both contestants catches maybe counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided each team’s fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction to the Tournament Director. Contestants who elect to return to check-in by any means other than cited will forfeit their catch to that point in time of the tournament.

Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of the tournament.

ASSISTANCE:

During hours of competition, contests may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole-sitting". The use of mobile communication device such as cellular phones, marine radios, CB's, etc. to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should first dial 911 and then notify Tournament staff: Kenneth Cornelius 256-550-049 & Sara Morgan 256-347-8334

BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION:

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain properly aerated live well space to maintain alive limit of catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitation set by U.S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry form or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament. No contestant may have a platform, raised deck, or ladder that is higher than the gunnel of the boat. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor will not be allowed.

TIES:

Ties, will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEO:

All photos and video taken for the Smith Lake Park Fishing Tournament are the property of Smith Lake Park and may be used for promotional purpose. If media approaches, you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and accommodate them within reason. During weigh-in you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and answer the questions to the best of your ability.

PRIZE PRESENTATION AND CHECK PICKUP:

All prize winners must be present to fill out all paperwork before leaving due to checks being mailed. All checks will be mailed within five to seven days after the tournament.