

# Rules and Regulations for Big Bass Rodeo

("Boats on the Bayou" and "Battle for the Bass" have a different set of rules)

## **General RULES:**

1. By submitting a registration form, a registrant agrees to abide by the rules and regulations listed and will accept the decision of the Weigh Master as final. All anglers 16 and over must have a valid Louisiana fishing license. Before fishing, every angler must register and pay at the designated registration table (or other designated site). A registrant can fish in only one category, and must indicate the category on the registration form. Anglers are expected to exercise courtesy at all times toward fellow anglers. Evidence of poor sportsmanship will be cause for disqualification. All minors (12 and under) must be under the supervision of an adult. Extreme inclement weather may cause for cancellation of the tournament. Cancellation is at discretion of rodeo committee. There is no refund for registration fees in the event of a cancellation.

2. All fish entered must be caught in the park on rodeo day and within the hours of 6:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Anglers may not catch fish or weigh in fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament. Any fish that appears to have been iced, penned, mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will not be weighed at the discretion of the Weigh Master. Those starting before 6:30 a.m. will automatically be disqualified. All fish entered in the rodeo must be brought to the Weigh Master's station no later than 11:00 a.m. No fish will be accepted after this time. Time will go by the OFFICIAL CLOCK at the Weigh Master station. Weigh Station is located at Popp's Bandstand.

3. All fish weighed in must be caught by the angler bringing the fish to the weigh station. Fish weighed for the Cichlid and Bream Trim must be brought to the weigh station by a registered member of the team.

**BASS:** This is a catch-and-release event for all black bass (largemouth, spotted, and hybrids). Only LIVE bass will be weighed. Please bring your own container to transport your live bass to the Weigh Station. Anglers are not limited to the number of bass that can be entered for the category but only the one heaviest bass will be considered for winning purposes.

**NON-BASS Fish:** All other fish (bream, perch, catfish, gar, cichlids) do not have to be alive. **See the specifics for each category below.**

In the event of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. There are no limitations on rod weight or strength of line in any category. All bass and cichlids must be left with the Weigh Master.

3. **Only one award per angler or team in a category.** Catch-A-Cat or Gar is a BONUS and not a category thus an angler may win in his/her registered category and also win the bonus. Angler must be registered in one of the five categories to qualify for the bonus. Rule for Junior Anglers allows catch in either sub-category (cichlid, bream, perch OR bass).

4. This is a bank fishing only event. Any angler fishing from a boat will be disqualified. No fishing on North or South Golf course, any areas under construction, Sculpture Garden, within the Louisiana Children's Museum campus, or any posted restricted area.

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## **FIVE CATEGORIES: May only register for one of the below five categories:**

**1. BASS-Adult:** 13 years or older; use a bait-casting, spinning, or spin-casting reel. (1<sup>st</sup> Joe Courcelle award, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places)

a. Only artificial bait allowed in BASS Adult category. Natural bait (live bait such as worms, crickets, etc.) is not permitted.

b. Once you win 1<sup>st</sup> place in a bass category, you may not qualify to win an award in that bass category again but you may fish in Champion's Challenge. You may fish Champion's Challenge each year with no limit to the number of times you may win.

**2. Fly Fishing:** Fly fishing rod & reel only. Open to all ages. Single heaviest bass or cichlid, bream, perch. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places)

**3. Cichlid and Bream Trim—Team Event:** This is a team event. Team may consist of 1-5 members. Each member of the team must enter and pay a registration fee. Team is limited to a stringer of 15 fish per team. Fish may be any combination of bream, cichlids or perch (sac-a-lait). Awards given to teams with the three heaviest weight stringers of 15 or less fish. Any type or rod/reel, cane pole, crappie pole is allowed. Either live bait or artificial is allowed. Open to all age groups. (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places)

**4. Junior Anglers:** 12 years and under only. Awards given to the three youths who bring in the single heaviest of: (A): bream or perch or cichlid (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places) OR (B): bass (1<sup>st</sup> Paul Kalman Award, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> places). These are two separate sub-categories and one youth may win in either or both subcategories. Any type of rod/reel, cane pole, crappie pole is allowed. Either live bait or artificial is allowed even for bass.

**5. Champions Challenge:** This event is only for past 1<sup>st</sup> place winners in a BASS category (Adult, Junior, or Fly). No live bait permitted; may use fly, bait casting, spincast, or spinning tackle. One award will be given for heaviest bass. Open to all age groups. (One award)

## **BONUS: Catch-a-Cat or Gar:**

Prizes awarded to the heaviest weight gar and catfish. No age restrictions. Must be registered in a category above.