

BOATS ON THE BAYOU

Rules & Regulations for "Boats on the Bayou" Category on Bayou St. John

(These rules are specific to this category and differ from the traditional Big Bass Rodeo Division)

WATERCRAFT:

- Non-motorized boats such as kayaks, canoes, flat boats, pedal boats, paddle boards, etc. will be allowed only in Bayou St. John for the purpose of fishing this category. Use of any motor (gas or electric trolling motors) is not allowed. No sailing vessels allowed.
- Only one person allowed per single capacity vessel. Only two people allowed per double or more capacity vessel. Registrant **MUST** wear PFD (Personal Flotation Device) at all times when on the water. Anyone not wearing a PFD will be disqualified and escorted off the bayou. There will be a patrol boat in Bayou St. John during the event.

PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY:

- Registrant boater must be **8 years or older; ages 8-13 must be accompanied on the water by an adult (21 yrs.)**
- Participants 16 years of age or older must possess valid Louisiana fishing license.
- All registrants must comply with La. Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries regulations as well as Big Bass Rodeo rules for this category.
- Any attempt to enter a fraudulent catch, exchange catches, or hamper or threaten any rodeo official will result in disqualification. Registrants agree to abide by rules and regulations listed and will accept the decision of the Weigh Master as final. Evidence of poor sportsmanship will be cause for disqualification.
- Inclement weather may require fishing on the bayou to close due to safety reasons. Closure at discretion of rodeo committee.

REGISTRATION:

- Pre-registration fee is \$20 each and is non-refundable.
- Pre-registration will **end at 5pm on March 24th**.
- On-site registration is \$30 starting at 6am.
- All registrants will be issued a **numbered bib** and must sign a waiver of liability. If under age 18, waiver must be signed by parent or legal guardian
- **No one will be recognized as a registrant unless a signed waiver is on file with rodeo officials before fishing begins.** Waiver form may be downloaded from rodeo website.
To turn in waiver, choose one of the following:
 1. **BY MAIL:** Register online by noon on Monday, March 21st. Bibs will be mailed to participants that pre-register online before this date.
 2. **Day of Weigh Station Filmore**
Weigh Station Filmore will be located on Bayou St. John near Filmore Avenue. Weigh Station Filmore will open at 6:00 a.m. for on-site registration and pickup only. It will be a pop-up tent labeled **"Boats on the Bayou" Weigh Station**. Waiver can be turned in and bib received at this station.

- ALL participants must visit the Weigh Station Filmore to pick up bibs the morning of.
- Anyone not wearing the numbered bib will be disqualified. **Bib must be visible at all times.** No fish will be weighed without angler wearing bib.

FISHING TIME, BOUNDARIES, WEIGH STATIONS, PARKING:

- Fishing will begin at 7:00 a.m. and end at 10:30 a.m. All fish must be brought to the weigh station by 10:30 a.m.
- Bayou St. John beginning at Harrison Avenue north to the Lake is open for fishing. Watercraft is not allowed in the lagoons and bayous within City Park boundaries except Bayou St. John.
- Weigh Station Filmore will be placed along Bayou St. John near the bridge at Filmore Avenue. Weigh Station will open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 10:30a.m.
- The Awards Ceremony will be held at Popp's Bandstand along with winners for the traditional Big Bass categories. Ceremony usually begins at 11:30a.m.
- Parking—to preserve the magnificent oak trees, **please do not park under any branches or on tree roots!**

GENERAL FISHING INFORMATION:

- This is a live weigh-in event. All fish must be left at the Weigh Station for release by officials. Please provide transport of your live fish. Exception: cichlids may be dead.
 - All fish entered must be caught in the designated area of Bayou St. John on rodeo day and within the hours of 7 a.m. to 10:30 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 7 a.m. will automatically be disqualified. All fish entered in the rodeo must be brought to the Weigh Master's station no later than 10:30 a.m. No fish will be accepted after this time. Time will go by the OFFICIAL CLOCK at the Weigh Master station.
 - All fish weighed in must be caught by the angler bringing the fish to the weigh station.
- Any rod & reel type or cane pole is allowed. No limitation on rod weight or line strength. Artificial, dead, or live bait allowed.
- In the event of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. Weigh station will record weight and time fish is brought to weigh station.

FISHING CATEGORIES:

Trophies will be given for the three heaviest weights in each category

BASS - black bass (largemouth, spotted, and hybrids)

TRASHBASH—the single heaviest fish that is not a bass.

Angler is not restricted to catching any one species above, thus one person may win multiple categories.