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Return this form along with your check to: Missouri State Council of Machinists, 212 Utz Lane, Hazelwood, MO 63042 Seiu#1/jm

24th ANNUAL MISSOURI STATE COUNCIL OF MACHINISTS BASS TOURNAMENT

<u>RULES</u>: These rules will be interpreted by the Tournament Committee and all decisions are final. All Missouri Conservation and Water Patrol Regulations apply.

<u>TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE</u>: The Tournament Committee will be responsible for weighing and for resolving any disputes. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to appoint partners in specific circumstances or to reject any entry.

ELIGIBILITY: Tournament participants must have a valid Missouri Fishing License and be properly registered for the tournament. No one will be eligible to participate in the tournament who receives more than 50% of his/her gross annual income from tournament prize money or if they receive payment for guide services.

<u>SAFETY</u>: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed by all participants. All boats and motors must comply with Missouri Water Patrol Safety and Regulations Rules. During take-off, contestants are REQUIRED to wear a securely fastened life jacket. The Tournament Committee strongly encourages the use of kill switches.

<u>SPORTSMANSHIP</u>: Any unsportsmanlike conduct or abusive language could result in suspension from future tournaments.

<u>TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT</u>: Only artificial bait or lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait may be used other than pork or porktype bait. No trolling is permitted. Boats may not be trailered during the tournament. Only one rod may be used at one time. All bass must be caught on rod and reel. A landing net may be used. All fish must be caught and landed from boat.

BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat will be given a number which must be displayed at all times. The boat number will also indicate the weigh-in order, by flight.

<u>CHECK-IN LATE PENALTY</u>: All boats must check in. Late contestants will be penalized 1 pound per minute up to 10 minutes, then disqualification. Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in.

SCORING: Only Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass and Smallmouth Bass will be counted. Total stringer will determine place. Any bass that does not measure will cause 2 pounds to be subtracted from the total stringer weight. Bass must be 15 inches long and no more than 5 fish per boat may be weighed in. Each contestant is expected to take the utmost care of his or her fish so that all living bass may be returned to the lake. No frozen or mangled fish will be submitted for weigh-in. Any such fish will be deducted and turned over to the Tournament Committee for review. Any contestant doing so will be disqualified and subject to disciplinary action. After the contestant submits his or her fish to be weighed-in, the contestant will not be allowed to handle the fish again. Decision on short fish will be made by the official weigh-master. A courtesy board will be available prior to weigh-in. Measuring will be conducted by closed mouth and pinched tail. Flat measuring boards will be used for official measuring. Live tournament fish will be returned to the lake, except for trophy fish (5 lbs. or larger) to be mounted. A 2 oz. penalty per dead fish will be deducted from the total stringer weight.

<u>TIES</u>: All ties for total weight will be broken by the total number of fish. In the case of a tie for Big Bass, the cash prize will be equally divided between the two contestants.

<u>PROTESTS</u>: Any contestant wishing to protest the conduct or score of a fellow contestant must do so in writing, and file the same with the Tournament Committee within 30 minutes after the last flight is scheduled for weigh-in. The Tournament Committee may, on its own motion, take up and decide questions relating to any contestant's conduct or score.

WAIVER: Through your entry and entry fee, you waive and release all other contestants, the host, sponsor and tournament officials from all claims and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament.

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