



Civitan Services
 “Hook-a-Heart”
 Bass Fishing
 Tournament 2012

Official Rules

1. **RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged throughout all events unless state or local laws are in conflict. The decision of the Tournament Committee will be final in all matters. It is the Director’s discretion to make changes where safety is a concern.
2. **ELIGIBILITY:** This tournament is for amateur anglers. If you consider yourself a professional fisherman, or if the majority of your annual income is received from prize money won in tournaments, income received from sponsors, and other fees and income derived from fishing, you are ineligible for this event. All contestants must be 16 years of age or older and have a valid Arkansas fishing license.
3. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** At no time during the tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs, other than prescription, allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All teams are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any team who displays poor sportsmanship, or violates the rules, state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified.
5. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** There are no horsepower limits; however, no engine may exceed the B.I.A. horsepower rating for the boat, and all boats must meet Federal and State Regulations. All boats must have a livewell large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition.
6. **SAFETY:** Boating safety must be observed at all times. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket must be on, and securely fastened, any time the combustible engine is in operation. A working “kill switch” must be attached to the driver’s life jacket.
7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. No trolling is permitted. NO live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one rod may be used at a time, other rods may be in the boat for use; however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet (8’) in length.
8. **PROTESTS:** All protests must be submitted in writing prior to the official closing of the scales.
9. **POLYGRAPH:** All contestants, winners and non-winners are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test in conjunction with any Bass Tournament may not be eligible to compete.

10. **SCORING FISH:** Each team may weigh in five (5) fish per day with a minimum length of 13 inches for spotted bass and 13 inches for large mouth bass, measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. Any team weighing in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one (1) lb. penalty plus the loss of the short fish. Any team bringing in more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. A penalty of .20 lbs. per dead fish will be deducted from the total weight. Only largemouth, spotted or smallmouth bass will be scored. Any team returning to the checkpoint late will be penalized at the rate of one (1) lb. per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no weight will be allowed.
11. **BREAKDOWNS:** Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. In the event of equipment failure, there shall be two permitted methods of returning to the check-in and weighing fish. (1) By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water. (2) By one partner entering the boat of another contestant or staff member along with the day’s catch. Each team’s fish must be kept separate.
12. **CULLING FISH:** It is the responsibility of each team to keep no more than a maximum of five (5) fish in a livewell. If more than five (5) fish are present in the livewell during the event you will be subject to disqualification. No culling is allowed in check in area.
13. **PERMITTED FISHING WATER:** No fishing is allowed inside the launch areas on Lake Ouachita. All fishing must be done from a previously inspected boat. No tube or wade fishing allowed. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of a “Gas dock.” No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with a trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boat’s permission. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall not be tolerated. Boats may not be trailored to weigh in during the tournament hours unless under the direction of the tournament Director. Contestants must be able to get the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat. Navigable waters are only waters to be fished during the tournament. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish.
14. **CONSERVATION:** Adequate livewells are mandatory on each boat and must provide adequate aerating to maintain fish in good condition, as every effort will be made to release the fish alive following the tournament.
15. **OFF LIMITS:** Lake Ouachita is open for practice until sunset of the day before the tournament.
16. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** Safe light, 7:00am to 3:00pm. Check-In begins on-site at 5:15 am Saturday, February 25th.
17. **CHECK IN:** All teams will check in with tournament officials prior to launching boat. Boat take-off position will be assigned at check in the order registration is received. All tournament boats must launch from the Crystal Springs tournament location ramp.
18. **REGISTRATION:** Team entry to the Hook-a-Heart Tournament is made by completing and submitting the entry form attached with a non-refundable fee of \$100.00 to Civitan Services. There is an optional \$10.00 Big Bass Pot. The entry form along with the team donation must be postmarked or hand-delivered prior to 5:00pm February 17, 2012. Any team entry after this date will require an additional \$25.00 late fee.



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Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Work Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City/State/Zip: _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Work Phone: _____
 E-mail: _____

We have read and understand the rules of this tournament presented by Civitan Services and would like to enter the contest. In signing this application, we hereby waive and release all other contestants, the hosts, the sponsors and tournament officials from any claims of injury/damages, which may be incurred in connection with this tournament. We further understand and agree that tournament officials reserve the right to refund this entry fee if for any reason they decide not to accept this application. We swear the above facts we have represented to be true and accurate to the best of our knowledge.

 Signature Date

 Signature Date

Enclosed: \$ _____

\$100 Entry Fee

\$10 Big Bass (Optional)

\$25 Late Fee (if postmarked after 2/17/12)

Please mail or hand deliver this form with entry fee to:

Civitan Services
 ATTN: Leigha Jones
 121 Cox Street
 Benton, AR 72015