

# ***Hemophilia Foundation of Arkansas, Inc.***

## ***Bass Fishing Tournament Fundraiser***

### ***Rules and Regulations***

Entry form, check or money order to pay fees, and signed release of liability form must be presented the morning of the tournament. Entry forms received that are not entirely completed and signed by both anglers will not be accepted. Starting positions the day of the event will be determined by positions in line for launching. For example, the first boat in line to be inspected and launched will have the first starting position.

By signing the entry form, you agree to abide by all local, state, and federal laws; and that you have the state required fishing license and liability insurance (if required). Each person in a boat during the event must be a paid-registered angler. Non-registered persons are not allowed in a registered boat at any time before or during tournament hours. We have a strict two angler per boat maximum rule. A single angler may participate in the tournament and be a team by himself/herself. No persons under the age of 18 may participate as a single angler/team. Each angler 17 years of age and under must have a parent/guardian sign the release of liability form for them to participate.

Lake Dardanelle State Park has a strict catch and release tournament program. All fish caught will be released after weighing. Fish may not be caught in any area around the marina. Anglers must remain a minimum of 50 yards (150 feet) from the marina while fishing and obey all "No Fishing" area signs at Lake Dardanelle State Park.

There is a five (5) fish maximum per team at weigh in. Fish may be weighed at any time during the tournament; however, once a fish is weighed, it counts toward the overall five (5) fish accumulative weight for the team. Only largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, and Kentucky spotted bass will be weighed.

Anglers need to have their boats in line, ready for possible inspection, and ready to launch by 5:00 a.m. The tournament officially begins at 6:00 a.m. and will officially start with the sound of a horn. The tournament officially ends at 12:00 p.m. with the sound of a horn. Anglers must be at the weigh station by no later than 12:00 p.m. or their fish will not be weighed and they will be disqualified.

All participants must agree to have their boat inspected by tournament officials at any time prior to or during the tournament. Inspections may include fishing licenses, boat registrations, and insurance certificates for boats with motors over 50 horsepower, an adequate number of life jackets, live wells, rod boxes, closed storage compartments, and tackle boxes.

A buffet style lunch will be prepared and served after you weigh your fish.

Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted.

No alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) are to be consumed by anglers or allowed in the angler's boat during the tournament.

All boats must be equipped with some type of emergency ignition cut-off device (kill switch) on any remotely steered outboard while the main engine is in use. Ignition cut-off device must operate properly and be attached to the boat operator at all times while the main engine is in use.

United States Coast Guard approved life jackets are required and must be worn by each angler registered during the tournament. They must be strapped, zipped, or snapped securely to the angler's body for the duration of the tournament while the main engine is in use.

All fish must be caught in Lake Dardanelle or the adjoining Arkansas River on the day of the tournament; during the official hours of the tournament. Any angler caught violating this rule will be subject to automatic disqualification.

All fishing must be done from a boat. Anglers cannot leave their boat to fish on land or to land a fish.

No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) will be allowed to locate fish. Depth finders and graph charts will be allowed.

Anglers are limited to a motorized boat only. No canoes, kayaks, rafts, or other floatation apparatuses will be allowed. Trailering is not permissible.

No fishing will be allowed within 50 yards (150 feet) of another boat.

No fishing spots may be "claimed" by any angler prior to or during the tournament.

Only largemouth, smallmouth, and Kentucky spotted bass fish will be weighed and must be caught on artificial bait by casting only. Snagging or netting fish will not be allowed. Anglers may only use one fishing rod at a time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitution purposes only.

Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and bass conservation are required from each angler. Anglers shall display integrity at all times during and after the tournament; in person and on social media. Any person caught compromising the integrity of the tournament will be disqualified from future tournaments. Any participants attempting to manipulate the outcome of the tournament or defraud the Hemophilia Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. will be disqualified and subject to prosecution.

All fish weighed will become the property of the Hemophilia Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. and will be turned back into the water alive after weighing.

Only live fish may be brought to the weigh station in a bag with adequate water for weighing. Failure to have a live fish or adequate water will result in disqualification. It is the angler's responsibility to have proper live well aeration and temperature management.

Bass must be weighed in by the angler who actually and originally caught the fish and it must be in their actual physical possession in the weigh-in line. The only exception to this rule would be if the

angler is disabled; in which case the angler's partner can physically bring the fish to the scales for the disabled angler. If an angler has a disability that could possibly affect his ability to physically bring his fish for weighing, please disclose this to the Event Director, Laura Barnhart, before the tournament starts.

Artificially weighted bass will be subject to immediate disqualification.

No boat can have more than five (5) bass in it during the official fishing hours of the tournament. This is an accumulative total for both anglers together.

Cell phones and other communication devices may not be used by participants for the purpose of locating or finding fish with other participants or non-participants.

Anglers should be attentive to their trash and keep it maintained in their boat to be properly disposed of after tournament hours.

In the event of a tie for the overall total accumulative weight, the tie will be broken by 1) the largest bass weighed by each team 2) the most fish weighed in 3) by the earliest weigh in.

In the event of a tie for the biggest bass, the monies will be split between the winners.

Anglers agree to obey all Arkansas State Parks and Arkansas Game and Fish Commission rules and regulations and will make themselves familiar with said rules and regulations. Anglers also agree to cooperate with all tournament officials, local law enforcement, wildlife officers, and park rangers. Failure to cooperate will result in immediate disqualification.

Any protests or disputes relating to any matter involving the tournament must be taken in writing to the Event Director 30 minutes prior to the delivery of any prize or winnings. Protests made after the deadline will be disregarded and the protesting angler or team may be disqualified. Any protest or dispute in writing will be taken to the event staff for review and the protesting angler will be notified of the event staff's decision. Staff decisions are not subject to appeal. The interpretation and enforcement of the rules and regulations will be the sole responsibility of the Event Director. All decisions made by the Event Director are final.

If an angler has to leave the tournament early for any reason, the Event Director should be notified for safety reasons. The Event Director, Laura Barnhart, can be contacted by cell phone at 501-428-1723. The Hemophilia Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. recommends that each boat have a cell phone on board for emergencies.

By participating in the First Annual Bass Fishing Tournament you agree to receive information and entry forms to future bass tournaments sponsored by the Hemophilia Foundation of Arkansas, Inc. by United States postal service or email.