

***NOTE:*** Please add your tournament partner name in the "Additional info - Order Notes" section when checking out.

By purchasing this product you are agreeing that you have registered online and agree to the contest rules.

### **2024-25 Fitz Fishing & Tackle Winter Bass Challenge Rules**

**Take-off anywhere with first lines in the water at 8:00 a.m. and weigh-in at PB2 by boat (no trailering to weigh-in).** Inside buoys of PB2 by 3:30.

**Eligibility:** All individuals who have paid the appropriate entry fee. Anglers under 16 may compete as a non-boater. Anglers under 16 must be accompanied by a boater who is their legal guardian or have a waiver and consent signed by their legal guardian.

**Entry Fee:** \$150.00 per boat which includes Big Bass. Entries will be accepted in person at PB2 starting at 6:30 a.m. or online. All entries submitted within 48 hours of the tournament must be in person and pay by cash only. No more than 2 people per boat.

**Tournament Hours:** First lines in the water at 8:00 a.m. and weigh in at 3:30 p.m. All fish must be caught during the tournament hours.

**Take Off and Weigh-in:** Take off from anywhere with first lines in the water at 8:00 a.m. and weigh-in 3:30 p.m. at PB2.

**Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial baits may be used. Pork style baits and multi-rig (A-Rig) are allowed. All fishing including the landing of fish shall be done from the boat. All fish must be weighed in by using the weigh in bags provided by the tournament.

**\*A-Rig Restrictions:** Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to one a-rig with maximum of five wires with a maximum of five blades, and three hooks.

**No Trolling:** All bass must be caught on a rod and reel.

**Boats and Motors:** Any boat 14 feet or longer will be accepted. Boats must have a functional live well and a functional kill switch. ***No trailering during tournament hours.***

**BOAT BREAKDOWN:** There will be no trailering of boats. In the event of a breakdown one member of the team may be carried to the weighin on another teams boat provided that both teams fish are kept separate. The accommodating team is equally responsible for observing all tournament rules. If any member of either team violates a rule both teams will be disqualified.

**Safety and Sportsmanship:** Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed. Life jackets must be worn at any time the big motor is running. All Missouri Department of Conservation and Missouri State Water Patrol regulations and laws apply. Alcohol is not permitted in a contestant's boat during tournament hours.

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** Left / right points and inside of PB2 cove and bank leading to Pa He Tsi along with left / right points and inside of Pa He Tsi. There will be no fishing within 50 yards of another contestant's boat at anchor.

**Team Champion:** The Winter Bass Challenge Championship team will be awarded the championship pot plus a commemorative trophy. The championship team will be determined by the cumulative weight for their best 4 tournaments. Anglers must state their team for the series at the beginning of the second tournament to be considered for the championship, no exceptions.

**Alternate/Substitute Fisherman:** Each team will be allowed an alternate/substitute fisherman for one tournament only. Any team member may fish by themselves for any tournament. The tournament committee shall make final decisions about substitute fisherman. No substitute fisherman will be permitted for the championship tournament, however one team member may fish by themselves for the championship tournament. Your team does not need to fish all four tournaments to be included in the final standings for the championship and you do not have to qualify for the championship tournament. The Championship Tournament will include the standard pay out format as with all other tournaments.

**Short Fish/ Dead Fish Penalty:** Largemouth and Smallmouth bass 15" in length or larger and Spotted bass 12" in length or larger will be scored. 5 Fish limit per day. Any fish brought to the scales that is under the specified length will result in a 1-pound deduction of your total weight plus the loss of the fish. Each dead fish brought to the scales will result in a 1/4-pound deduction of your total weight. Contestants may not have more than five bass in the live well at any time unless they are in the act of culling.

**Protest:** Must be filed 15 minutes after weigh-in.

**Ties:** Ties will be broken by biggest bass. If still tied, then by earliest registration. Big Bass ties will be determined by earliest registration.

**Tournament Payout:** Payout pot is 90% of all tournament entry fees collected less 5% for championship pot.

Payouts will be made for the following:

- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Heaviest Weight
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Big Bass

Additional places paid per each 7 boats over 20 with equal number of pay-out places for both Heavy Weight and Big Bass, however, not the same pay-out money for each place.

**Special Payouts:**

- Lowest weight 5 keepers
- Largest Spotted (Kentucky Bass)

*Special payouts paid based on a minimum of 15 boats.*

**Check in Late Penalty:** 1 pound per minute up to 10 minutes, then disqualification. No excuses.

**Polygraph:** Each contestant agrees by his or her signature on the application and/or your participation in the tournament to submit to a polygraph test. Tournament directors will determine who will take the test. Failure to pass the test will result in disqualification.

**Weather:** Each tournament is subject to cancellation or delay prior to take off time at the discretion of the tournament committee. In the event of cancellation, your tournament fees collected may be applied to a future tournament or refunded.

The tournament committee shall have sole authority to interpret the rules and to apply the rules to all issues, disputes, questions or controversies concerning the tournament. All decisions made by the Tournament Committee concerning the tournament, the interpretation of the rules shall be final and not subject to dispute or appeal. The tournament committee reserves the right to reject any entry.

**WAIVER:** Through your entry fee and/or your participation in the tournament, 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.