



## **Official Rules of the 2017 Battle of the Bluegrass Presented by Morehead State**

### Official Rules / Changes Participation

By participating in the 2017 Battle of The Bluegrass this constitutes each contestant's understanding of and full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. Contestants must obey all State, Federal and local fishing and safety laws. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any contestant that is determined to be in violation of any term contained in these Official Rules. The Tournament Director's decision not to enforce a specific provision of the Official Rules does not constitute a waiver of that provision or of the Official Rules generally. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, entry may be refused to any individual or university fishing club/team. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight.

### Captions

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

### Participation

Participation is open to college students who are enrolled full-time in an accredited Kentucky college or university and are members in good standing of that college or university's institutionally recognized fishing club. Participants must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher. Students who graduated within 6 months of the tournament date are eligible to compete. Each team must provide its own equipment including, without limitation, fishing equipment, and a boat, all subject to the restrictions contained in these Official Rules. All contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the specified tournament waters being fished.

### Off-Limits / Pre-Tournament Practice

There will be no off-limits period for this event. The first official practice day which will be Thursday, October 12th. Non-competitors (family, coaches, etc.) are not allowed on-the-water during practice hours (except for video and photography purposes). Beginning with official practice and extending through competition, non-competitors are not allowed to be in the boat with contestants except in the event of an emergency (rescue, mechanical breakdown, etc.). GPS waypoints may not be provided to contestants by anyone except other contestants. Contestants may not follow a noncompetitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone. The purchasing or

bartering for information or the hiring of services is not permitted after the start of the official practice period.

### Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants must observe “no wake” areas including posted bridges and other areas identified by the Tournament Director. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device at all times when the combustion engine is in operation, during official practice days and during the tournament days. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut off device that must be securely attached to the driver’s body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Any anglers caught in violation of the rules above, will result in a penalty to be administered by the Tournament Director.

### Sportsmanship

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their school, event sponsors, the sport of fishing and the Association of Collegiate Anglers. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: • Violation of or failure to comply with any of the official rules for the Tournament. • Consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in are strictly prohibited. • Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months. • Suspension/disqualification from any fishing tournament or organization. In other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in this paragraph. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the registration of a previously accepted application to disqualify a contestant.

### Boat and Horsepower Regulations

All boats must be jet propelled, and be a minimum of 16 feet in length. All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard required safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live-well capable of maintaining alive a limit of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in the Tournament may not to exceed the horsepower set forth on the “Maximum Capacities” placard described below. • Each boat must have a clearly legible “Maximum Capacities” placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on the boat placard. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or “Maximum Capacities” placard will be cause for disqualification from the Tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future events. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in Tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

### Permitted Fishing Methods

All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. When sight fishing, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rinds. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at a time. Trolling, defined as moving the bait with the assistance of the combustion engine, as a method of fishing is not allowed.

### Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestant's may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off-Limits", "No Fishing", "No Boats", "Boats Keep Out", etc. by local, state or federal officials. Contestants are prohibited from casting into these areas or having their boat in these areas at any time. Contestant's may not fish within 50 yards of a competitor's boat that was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or a Power Pole anchor with the trolling motor in the up position). At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official checkpoint: By the team members remaining in their boat and being towed in by water, by any other boat. By one or both team members boarding another competitor's boat to be brought to shore. Under these conditions the team catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, fish care penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official checkpoint by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time in the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the Tournament Director or his designated Tournament Official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the Tournament Director to request a restart.

### Official Checkpoints

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the official checkpoint in the afternoon will result in losing credit for that day's catch. All competitors and their boats must be in full compliance with tournament rules before they can depart from the official checkpoint in the morning. All contestants MUST check-in in the afternoon even if they don't have any fish to weigh. All fishing must cease upon check-in in the afternoon. Late Penalty Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

### Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of live well additives is encouraged to promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. A one-half pound (.50 pounds) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Contestants are not allowed to cull dead fish for any reason.

### Scoring

Winners will be determined by the combined weight of the school's two boats with the heaviest bags. Culling must be done immediately. The official minimum length limit for Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky (Red Eye) bass will be **Largemouth 15" Minimum Length, Smallmouth 18" Minimum Length, Spotted Bass 12" Minimum Length**. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length, will not be weighed and will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each short fish presented. All bass brought to weigh-in site must be in a bag with water. Cabela's School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia points will be based off each angler's catch in relation to the final standings. Anglers/teams must weigh a fish to earn points. (For example, the heaviest bag weighed in will earn the maximum amount of points available, the smallest bag weighed in will earn the least amount of points available, but it will still earn points.