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Participation Agreement and Tournament Rules

In case of an emergency, please call 911 first, and then notify the Tournament Director

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

ALL LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAWS MUST BE FOLLOWED, INCLUDING BOATING LAWS. Interpretation and enforcement 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. Violation of a tournament rule will result in disqualification or withdrawal from the entire tournament and/or, in extreme circumstances, ineligibility to participate in future Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) tournaments.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Each angler must be a member in good standing of the Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS). Participation is open only to members who are full-time students currently enrolled and are active members of their fishing club. Full-time students are deemed as taking 12 hours of classes in each semester of competition. If a student requires less than a full-time schedule to graduate, eligibility may be granted. A letter requesting eligibility must be provided before the tournament registration deadline to be considered. Each club must be an official organization on campus with a minimum of two (2) members and coach/advisor for club. Only one club from an institution is allowed. Coach/advisor will need to setup the official roster in the SCOS portal. Each member is eligible for up to five (5) years of competition.

3. OFF LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

For all tournaments, tournament waters shall be restricted from Monday (Safe Light)-Tournament Day before the start of competition. Restricted meaning all tournament rules apply and no information from anyone outside tournament competitors. Competitors must be off the tournament lake waters by 6 pm on the day immediately before the start of the tournament. On competition day(s), anglers are prohibited from using electronic devices to share fishing information. Cell phones may be used only in emergencies during competition. On competition day(s), anglers may not solicit/intentionally receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except other competitors via face-to-face contact only. On competition day(s), teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole-sitting" by anyone. Only competitors are allowed in tournament boats during tournament hours. The use of drones on Official Practice Days and during competition are strictly prohibited.

4. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION

For all events, individual anglers and/or teams may not solicit, purchase, barter, or intentionally receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters other than from another competitor (s) confirmed in the same tournament, including GPS waypoints, Monday-



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Tournament Day before any Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) tournaments, and including tournament day(s). Social media sites, fishing blogs, public forums, fishing apps, and other such public sites are available to any participant and therefore are NOT considered off-limits. However, receiving private information, asking questions on such sites, making in-app purchases, or intentionally participating in threads regarding any tournament-related information during the “no information/Restricted” period is considered intentionally soliciting/purchasing/bartering or receiving of information and therefore is a violation of this rule. The hiring of guides on tournament waters within the restricted period of an event is not permitted.

5. REGISTRATION AND PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING

Each competitor/team must register for each event by Noon on or before the Wednesday before each event. Each competitor/team must check-in, in person on tournament morning before each event to receive their boat number and/or attend a pre-tournament meeting. The time and place for each tournament check-in will be posted before each tournament on the tournament itinerary.

6. SAFETY

Safe boating must be observed and adhered to at all times during each tournament and on the restricted period days. Each competitor is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device anytime the combustion motor is pushing the boat from boat launch until weigh-in on each day of the tournament. 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. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location while the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats or the front or rear decks while the combustion motor is in operation is not permitted. Any team that is observed violating any safety rule during restricted Period or tournament hours will be withdrawn from that event. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP

All competitors in a Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) sanctioned event 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, the school they are representing, the Southern Collegiate Bass (SCB) and its' sponsors. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- a. Violation of, and/or failure to comply with, any of the rules of the SCB
- b. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or any mind-altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting, or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure
- c. Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months



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- d. Suspension/disqualification, probation, or ban from any tournament trail or organization
- e. Any other words, conduct, or actions, including social media posts, reflecting unfavorably upon the Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS)' efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, or compliance with tournament rules.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an entry to compete, to deny a confirmed entry to compete, and/or to disqualify a contestant or team.

8. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. No air-cooled or jet-drive motors are allowed. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space able to maintain alive a limit of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards must not exceed 250hp and the recommended horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" (or comparable titles) placard affixed to the boat. By signing the entry form, either electronically or otherwise, competitors agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on the entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for removal from that tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) tournaments. All fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used during tournament competition. Additional fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise securely fastened to the boat.

9. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only one fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth. Alabama Rigs, A-rigs, and Umbrella Rigs are allowed for use in Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) tournaments where permitted by state law.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES

Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat from the main launch area as defined by the tournament director. Any area designated as "Off Limits", "No Boats Allowed", "Keep Out", "Restricted Area", "No Trespassing", or "No Fishing Allowed" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) are strictly off limits to fishing or boating. Teams must maintain a 25-yard distance between boats unless mutually agreed upon by both parties. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a competitor leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.



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11. EMERGENCIES

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911 FIRST, THEN CONTACT THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are 3 permitted methods of returning to weigh-in:

- Both competitors remain in their boat and are being towed by water
 - One competitor stays with the boat while the other enters the boat of another team with their daily creel
 - Both competitors enter a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director
- Under these three (3) conditions, the teams' catch may be counted without penalty, except for late penalties outlined in the tournament rules.

12. SCORING

Scoring will be determined in pounds and hundredths of a pound (example 18.57 lbs) of each team's catch during the tournament hours. The limit per tournament and species of bass will be listed on the Tournament information sheet. Any contestant or team that possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch disqualified for that particular tournament. The official minimum length for all species of bass for each tournament will be listed on each Tournament information sheet.

13. LATE PENALTY

Teams must be checked into tournament officials on or before their return flight time. Teams will be penalized 1 pound per minute late. Teams returning fifteen (15) minutes late or later will not be allowed to weigh in their catch for that particular tournament day.

14. LIVE FISH

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following to be deducted from their daily score: (1) Dead Fish - .25 lb.; (2) Dead Fish - .75 lb.; (3) Dead Fish - 1.25 lb.; (4) Dead Fish - 1.75 lb.; (5) Dead Fish - 2.25 lb. Once fish are presented to the "Bump Official", they are property of the Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS). If they are alive when they are received, they will be counted as alive.

15. SHORT FISH

The official minimum length for all species of bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass) will be posted in each tournament itinerary. Any fish that does not meet the length regulations posted within the tournament itinerary will not be weighed and will be assessed a 1-pound penalty, which will be assessed to the teams' total weight for each short fish presented. The official measuring board for the Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) will be the Pro Rule. The Tournament Director has the final say about the legal size of a fish presented.



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16. CLOSING OF THE SCALES

Scales will close 15 minutes after the last flight is due to check-in. Any teams in line to weigh in fish when the scales officially close will be allowed to weigh in their catch. Any changes in this procedure will be announced at tournament registration.

17. POINTS

Anglers of the Year Points:

Points will be awarded in order of tournament placing.

Example:

300 points for 1st place

299 points for 2nd place

298 points for 3rd place

This point system will continue for all teams that weigh in fish. Any team that fail to weigh in fish in a tournament will be awarded 10 points, providing that they check in so we know that they are off the lake and safe. Teams that zero and fail to check in will receive 0 total points for that event and will not be allowed to enter another SCOS tournament in that season. We must know that all teams are safe and off the water. The team with the highest point total at the end of the season (not counting the Championship) will be deemed the Anglers of the Year.

18. TRAILERING IS NOT ALLOWED

All boats must leave the official checkpoint by boat in the numerical order designated at registration. Contestants may launch their boat at a ramp other than the designated take-off location, but all contestants must come through the official checkpoint location before leaving to fish. In the event of severe weather forecasted, alternate take-off instructions will be given at registration, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

19. CHECKPOINTS

All teams must check in prior to all events to receive their boat number and/or attend all pre-tournament meetings. For safety purposes, all teams must also check in on or before their flight time at the designated check-in point, even if they fail to weigh in any fish.

20. TIES

In the event of a tie, all teams tied will be awarded the payouts for 2 places, divided equally between all teams involved. For example: if two teams are tied for 1st place, those two teams will be awarded the payouts for 1st and 2nd place, divided equally. The next team in line will be awarded the 3rd place payout. Teams tied will receive the same points for that event. Ties that involve Big Bass will be decided by the highest overall weight of the teams involved in the tie.

21. LOGO DISPLAY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE

Anglers may wear their own shirts and jerseys during Southern Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) events. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any



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angler shirt or jersey from being found offensive. All decisions are at the tournament director's sole discretion.

22. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO

During days of competition, any alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Anglers may not consume alcohol products during tournament hours, including weigh-in, at any event.

23. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

Anglers agree to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials by properly licensed examiners, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

24. INSURANCE

Liability insurance with coverage of \$300,000 is required on all boats used in all Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director will result in withdrawal from that event.

25. ENTRIES, MEMBERSHIP & PAYBACK

Entries are \$80 per boat, per tournament, which will go towards the stringer payout. Payback at each event will be 80% of all entries received and will be paid back 1 spot for every 10 entries. All payouts will be rounded down to the nearest dollar. After tournament expense fees, the remainder will go towards the SCOS Championship.

26. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS

The Top 100 teams in the AOY standings at the end of the regular season will qualify for the Southern Collegiate Open Series (SCOS) Championship.