* **Bass Event Participant Waiver**

Having fully acquainted myself with the rules, and by signing this application, and by my presence at the events, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all event rules and safety regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the events and I hereby release AMVETS, and al those associated with the Harold Brown Jr. Benefit Tournament, Inc., licensees and affiliates, including their affiliated State federations, and clubs and all their respective officers, directors, agents employees and stockholders, the tournament hosts, sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this their events. If I am using a boat during the tournament, I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the event, property damage/watercraft liability insurance having a limit of at least $300,000. Saidinsurance must be issued by a reputable insurer and must cover injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of that insurance.  I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason. (**BELOW WILL BE SIGNED AT CHECK-IN)**

Dated\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Boater Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Non-Boater Signed\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent or Guardian signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bass Team Tournament Rules 2019**

Introduction: These Tournament rules are subject to change at any time.

**1. RULES:** The following rules shall apply to the Harold Brown Jr. event. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament committee. Tournament Officials (consisting of the Tournament Committee members only) shall bedesignated at all tournament sites. The Tournament Director has the final say on all matters at tournament site.

**2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in the Harold Brown Jr. Tournament is open to all that meet all boating and insurance requirements.Proof of mandatory $300,000 boating liability insurance is required to participate in this event. Proof of insurance must be presented at time of registration. All tournaments are team events and shall consist of two persons or one person per boat. Participants under the age of eighteen (18) must be paired with an angler of legal age who will assume responsibility in all matters. All Participants must turn in a signed Participant Waiver prior launching their boat.

**3. Registration**: All boats must be registered with the tournament official by 6:30 A.M.the official registration cut-off time. Tournament officials, prior to the start of the tournament, will do a full boat inspection. A number shall be assigned to every boat.There shall be only one official point for check out in the morning(in front of Cochicuate Ramp), and check in point in the afternoon(The beach and area surrounding the AMVETS property), and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Any boat that comes after 6:30 A.M will be allowed to fish but will be the starter boat. If a boat arrives after the tournament has started that boat will be allowed to fish as long as there is a worker at the site to check the boat and take entry money. An angler may fish alone.

**4. Safety:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a coast guard approved floatation device. This P.F.D.must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely any time the combustion motor is operating.

**5. Sportsmanship:** All tournament competitors are expected to follow the highest standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of the fundamental principles of good sportsmanship or STATE FISHING OR BOATINGREGULATIONS may be deemed cause for disqualification.  Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who are on the tournament waters. All bass must be caught alive and in a sporting manner.  Drunkenness of any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this tournament. No alcoholic beverages or any other depressants or stimulants, shall be tolerated in the boats.

**6. Tackle & Equipment:** Only artificial lures will be permitted. Live bait or prepared bait will not be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod (8 foot maximum length from butt or handle to rod tip) and reel may be used(lure in water, attached to line, connected to rod and reel) at one time (with up to two baits per line) per angler. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready to use. No electronically controlled lures may be used. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited, defined as using gas or electric motor to propel the boat in the direction of travel as lures are dragged along behind the boat. Adjustment of boat position while drifting and dragging lures IS allowed. THERE SHALL BE NOFISHING (LINES OR LURES IN THE WATER) ANYTIME THE COMBUSTION MOTOR IS OPERATING.

**7. Horsepower Regulations:** Maximum horsepower for all outboard motors used in this competition will not exceed the horsepower limitation set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of Nov. 1, 1972. Each boat must have an U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Any boat manufactured prior toNov. 1, 1972 must adhere to the rating set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motors used in competition will be 250 HP for any boat 21 foot, 6 inches or less and 300 HP for any boat over 21 feet, 6 inches or more.Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the tournament registration form, the boat and outboard motor used in this tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of this rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your motor is allowed.Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower rating is forbidden.

**8. For the safety of all Contestants:** All gas-powered motors will be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switchsafety device, which may be checked the morning of the tournament.This ignition kill device MUST be attached to the driver any time the combustion engine is running.  Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver’s seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are at least 16 (sixteen) feet in length or longer, are propeller driven and may not have a raised deck or platform which is higher than the gunnel of the boat. Canoes, barges, or similar cumbersome craft will not be permitted. No boat equipped with stick steering will be permitted to be used during tournament hours by any competitor. The tournament committee shall make the definition of stick steering. Tiller steering is permitted. All boats must have a current registration.

**9. Basic Boat Equipment**: Every boat shall be expected to have all state required safety equipment. All boats must have a functional live-well space properly aerated to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants using the boat.Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility of determining whether aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate”. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S.Coast Guard Regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in the boat.

**10. Permitted Fishing Locations:** Fishing on the tournament water is permitted anywhere except within 25 yards of another competitor’s boat, which was first anchored.An anchored boat is defined as having the anchor in the water and the electricmotor out of the water. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 25 yards claimed by said boat. No boat will be permitted to drop anchor on another competitor’s boat until that boat(s) has moved 50 yards away. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing shall be closed to tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat. The cutting of trees, brush and/or logs after the start of the tournament and/or removal of official local, state or federal barricades or barriers at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type ofblock and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of emergency. If contestants must leave the boat to relieve themselves during tournament hours, they must ask another participating boat to witness them leaving and returning to their boat. No boat shall approach within reaching distances of another boat during the tournament except for an emergency.

**11. Scoring:** Tournament awards and final winners shall be determined by total weight.Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Kentucky and Spotted bass will be weighed.  The prevailing statutes bind all competitors and regulations of said states. At no time shall a competitor have in his possession more than the allowed Tournament limit. Culling is permitted, but must be done immediately. There will be no culling of fish at the ramp. Once a competitor has checked in all fish are the property of the Tournament Director. The minimum length for bass shall be twelve (12) inches. Only bass as described above whichmeasure (12) inches or more in length with mouth and tail closed shall be weighed in. Each fish weighed in less than twelve (12) inches will have one (1) pound deducted from the total weight and those fish will be disqualified. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, or mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament officials. Bass must not be placed on a stringer at anytime during the tournament.

**12A. Lunker:** Tournaments will have a separate Split Lunker pool (100% payback of this pool). Each team entered in the lunker pool may weigh in one largemouth and one smallmouth in an attempt to win the pool. The heaviest fish of eachspecie, from all fish weighed, will win one half of the pool amount. If only one specie is weighed in (all largemouth, no smallmouth or all smallmouth, no largemouth), the largest fish of that specie will win THE ENTIRE POOL.

**13. Measuring Devices:** Due to the variance in measuring devices, a request to check your measuring device against the Official Measuring Device (Golden Rule) with no penalty to the contestant, will be allowed. There will be no courtesy check for fish allowed.

**14. Catch and Release:** For each legal dead bass presented to the weigh-in officials, the competitor shall have four (4) ounces (or 0.25 lbs.) of weight deducted from his daily total. The tournament officials shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.Competitors bringing more fish to the scales than the limit allowed in the tournament willhave their catch culled down to the tournament limit, starting with the largest fish and one pound per extra fish will be deducted from their total weight.

**15. Late Penalty:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be penalized. Example: 3:00 PM check in time, if not at checkpoint at 3:00PM - you are 1(one) minute late, not at checkpoint by 3:01PM – you are 2(two) minutes late and so on. The penalty shall be at a rate of 1 pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day. This will include any weight to be counted toward a Lunker award. After being fifteen minutes late you are disqualified. THERE SHALL BE NO EXCUSE FOR TARDINESS. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament briefing.

**15A. Contestants, boats and breakdowns:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the check in area by boat and all boats must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh in except with the permission of the Tournament Director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency the Tournament Director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. If a boat is disabled there are only two permitted methods of returning to the check in: (1) By both anglers remaining in the boat and being towed by water (tow boat may be a non-contestant) or (2) with the permission of the Tournament Director, by one or both anglers entering the boat of another team in the tournament, at which point all fishing must cease by all parties. Under these two conditions the rescued team’s catch may be counted without penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided all fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction to the Tournament Director. If one person stays with the disabled boat, at no time shall the number of fish on the boat exceed the legal number of fish per angler. (It will be up to the rescued boat to cull a fish, if necessary, to stay within the legal limit unless the rescuing boat agrees to cull one of their fish instead) {example: 3 persons X 5 fish per person = maximum15 fish on boat}. Contestants who elect to return to the check in by any other means than cited above will be disqualified and will not be allowed to weigh in. Otherwise teams must remain in sight of each other at all times. The momentary condition of being out of each other’s sight for a restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE any time partners are separated.

**16. Ties**: Ties in weight will be decided by number of fish. If teams remain tied, None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor’s boat any time during the tournament hours.

**17. Protests/Complaints:** All contestants are required to report all complaints or violations against any competitor to the Tournament Director in writing prior to the presentation of awards at the tournament site. The Tournament Committee, before the presentation of awards, shall rule upon all violations and/or complaints. Tournament Trail Director shall have the power to break a tie vote. No person presenting a protest, or person being protested against can take part in Tournament Committee voting.

**18. Special instructions** may be in effect during any tournament when Tournament Director deems it necessary.

**19.** Each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph test should he be accused of any rule violation at any time after the tournament. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the FederationTournament Director and his Committee, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Committee shall have sole discretion to select the place, at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination. Failure to take this test shall mean automatic disqualification.

**20**. Violation of any of these rules listed shall be cause for disqualification. All state boating regulations and applicable safety codes will be adhered to or face disqualification.