

FISHING FOR FREEDOM QUINCY
June 2ND, 3RD, AND 4TH, 2017
QUINCY, IL.

TOURNAMENT RULES

This primary mission of this tournament is to be a day of fun for both the boater and the Veteran. The competitive nature of the tournament shall always be secondary to the day of enjoyment on the water.

The tournament will be a team format with either a team consisting of a boater and veteran or a boater and veteran pair. Fish submitted for the weigh-in shall be by boat.

Weigh-in will consist of the boats largest three (3) live fish in the catfish and bass divisions and seven (7) largest fish in the crappie division.

Legal species are Large and Small-mouth Bass in the Staff Sgt. Matt Weichert Memorial Bass Division, Flathead, Channel Catfish and Blue Catfish in the Lymenstull Catfish Division and black and white crappie in the Staff Sargent Keith "Matt" Maupin crappie division.

Any veterans that have special needs or participation requests are asked to identify these at tournament registration so that their needs may be met where possible.

The following divisions will be in effect, please note that each division is separate and does not compete against other divisions:

- * Mississippi River Division (and all backwaters/tributaries connected and accessible by boat) in the following Pools 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, and 24
 - * Mark Twain Lake Division will consist of the main lake and the re-regulation pool
1. **RULES:** Interpretation of these rules shall be the exclusive domain of the Tournament Director. Protests must be made in writing not more than 15 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in. The decisions of the Tournament Director shall be final.
 2. **ELIGIBILITY:** All tournament participants must be 18 years of age or older.
 3. **ENTRY FEES/DEADLINES:** There is no entry fee for either the veteran or the boater for this event.
 4. **REGISTRATION AND PARTNER ASSIGNMENT:** Registration will be conducted via the on-line registration portal at FishingforFreedomQuincy.org website. A tentative pairing FOR CONFIRMED ATTENDEES ONLY, will be conducted approximately 2 weeks prior to the event. At this time the warrior will be provided with the contact information for his boater. The warrior can then contact the boater for advance planning if he or she desires.

For security reasons boaters will not be provided with the warriors contact information prior to the event- Do not make this request of tournament officials.

The final official pairing will take place at the tournament meeting. Whenever possible, tournament organizers will attempt to honor pairing requests that are made in a timely fashion. All participants must check-in at the registration table prior to the tournament meeting unless alternate arrangements have been made with the Tournament Director. Accommodations for those unable to attend the pre-tournament meeting will be made where practicable.

5. **WEIGH-IN:** Tournament officials will provide weigh-in bags. Teams will retain fish in their live well in the bags until directed to present them to tournament officials. Once presented for weigh-in all fish become the property of the Tournament Director and will be released back into waters from which they were taken or disposed of at Fishing For Freedom staff's discretion.
6. **INSURANCE:** Boat owners must have a valid insurance policy with a minimum \$100,000 "Boating Liability Insurance" and have a copy of said policy available in the boat during the tournament.
7. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** Boat minimum size shall be 16 feet in length with a minimum horsepower motor of 25 hp. All boats must meet B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements as well as the requirement of the state or state boundary waters in which it is operated. No boat may be powered with a motor that is in excess of the posted horsepower rating on that craft. Each boat must have a live-well with proper aeration and space capable of keeping the tournament limit of fish alive if fishing in the Staff Sgt. Weichert Bass Division or the Staff Sgt. Maupin Crappie Division. Participants in the Catfish Division must have a properly aerated live well or have alternate means of keeping the tournament limit of fish alive.
8. **SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Safe boating and ethical fishing practices must be observed at all times. Life Jackets must be worn and fully fastened when the propulsion motor is operated. The boater shall have available sufficient life jackets on board for all occupants of the vessel. Each contestant is expected to follow the highest standards of fairness, courtesy, safety and conservation at all times. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed in any boats during tournament hours, and no participant shall be under the influence of illegal drug or alcohol during tournament hours. Violation of this section shall result in immediate disqualification. A properly attached and functional kill switch must be utilized by the boat operator any time the propulsion motor is operated above idle speed. Each contestant is expected to operate their boat in a manner that does not jeopardize the safety of the public, the boat occupants or property. Boat operators are reminded to be cautious about creating a hazardous wake or wash with their boat and to adhere to all posted No Wake zones and operate their craft at No Wake speed within 150 feet of any public boat ramp.
9. **TACKLE EQUIPMENT & NETS:** The boater shall make available such equipment, bait (Catfish Division only, Bass Division shall be artificial lures only), tackle etc. for the veterans use in the event that the veteran is not properly equipped. All fish must be caught on rod and reel only. Dip nets may only be used to land hooked fish. Snagging is not allowed. The Staff Sgt. Weichert Bass Division shall be limited to not more than one rod in use by each participant at one time. Participants in the Catfish and Crappie Divisions shall be limited to two rods per participant in use at any one time. Trolling is not allowed for Staff Sgt. Matt Weichert Bass Division participants. Drift/troll

fishing is allowed for Catfish and Crappie Division participants.

10. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** No boat shall enter any posted restricted zone at any Lock and Dam. Fishing will be allowed on the Mississippi River and all connected backwaters and tributaries that are accessible by boat during tournament hours. An off-limits zone shall extend 50 feet in all directions around another participant's anchored boat. Any other posted "No Boats" or "No Fishing" shall be off limits to tournament participants. For 2017 fishing shall be allowed on Mark Twain Lake and re-regulation pool of Salt River. Mark Twain Lake participants may use any boat ramp to access the lake but must be present at the Ray Barrens Ramp not later than 12:00 PM for weigh-in. Boats fishing Mark Twain Lake shall be required to weigh-in their fish at the Ray Barrens Boat Ramp. The bass and the crappie will then be immediately released into Mark Twain Lake and the tournament official present will give the fishing team a weight slip to bring to Clat Adams Park for entry and scoring.
- 10a. **DECLARATION OF FISHING LOCATION:** All teams must declare which body of water they intend to fish at the tournament rules meeting. After that time no other body of water may be fished by that team. Compliance with this rule is important to prevent the spread of fish disease and to make sure that fish brought to the weigh-in are returned to their original body of water. A "zero tolerance policy" shall be in effect for violations of this section.
11. **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:** Participants may depart the boat to use restroom facilities. In the case of an emergency situation or mechanical breakdown contact the Tournament Director at (217) 779-3811.
12. **TOURNAMENT TAKE OFF AND WEIGH-IN TIMES:** The tournament shall begin at 0600 hours. All participants shall be on the honor system. No lines may be placed in the water or any attempt made to fish prior to 0600 hours. All fishing or attempt to fish shall cease at 1200 hours. Weigh-in times and order will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Weigh-in times will be determined by the river pool or lake being fished. The weigh-in location shall be Clat Adams Park, Front Street and Hampshire Street on the Quincy riverfront. All boaters will be required to check-in with tournament staff immediately upon arrival at the weigh-in site and proceed as directed to the weigh-in.
13. **SCORING:** Dead fish will not be counted. A penalty of 2 pounds will be assessed on the team total for any fish brought into the weigh-in below tournament size minimum as announced at the pre-tournament meeting. "Golden Rule" shall be the official tournament measuring device. Tournament limit shall be 3 fish total per team for catfish and bass and 7 for crappie. Tournament size limit will be based upon the size limit imposed by the appropriate state authority for the body of water fished.
14. **LATE PENALTY:** A penalty of one pound for each minute late at the designated check-in location will be assessed on the teams total up to a maximum of 10 pound deduction. Any team late by 15 minutes or longer for check-in will be disqualified.
15. **TIES:** In the case of ties, winners will be determined by largest fish in the stringer or live well, if still tied the tie will be broken by a coin toss. In the case of a tie for largest Bass in the Staff Sgt.

Matt Weichert Bass Division or tie for largest catfish in the Catfish Division, ties will be broken by heaviest stringer, if still tied the tie will be broken by coin toss.

16. **WINING WEIGHT PRIZES AND AWARDS:** will be presented at the conclusion of the weigh-in for such places and awards as announced at the pre-tournament meeting.
17. **FISH WEIGH-IN LIMIT:** The boat or fishing team will be limited to a weigh-in of three fish in the catfish and bass divisions and seven in the crappie division. Boats or fishing team shall not maintain more than three bass or seven crappie in the boat at any time. Teams fishing in the Lymanstull catfish division on the Mississippi River only, may retain and bring in more than the 3 catfish weigh-in limit, as these catfish are used to stock the lakes at the Illinois Veterans Home. Teams may weigh in fish for up to and including all three divisions (example may weigh-in 7 crappie, 3 bass and 3 catfish).
18. **SPECIAL RULES:** In the event that two or more warriors are assigned to fish from a single watercraft only three/seven fish shall be allowed to be possessed on the boat or maintained /submitted for weigh-in. The weigh-in limit is based upon a boat limit, not on the number of participants in the boat.
19. Contestants are encouraged to submit for weigh-in any legal, unusual catches. Prizes/awards will be given for some of these unusual catches. The largest "Trash Fish" such as Asian Carp will receive an award or plaque. Contestants shall not retain or transport any Asian Carp alive.
20. Contestants fishing for Bass in the SSGT Weichert Division will be divided into separate sections. Those fishing the Mississippi River will constitute the river division; those fishing Mark Twain Lake will make up the lake division. Separate awards will be given for each division and the divisions are not in direct competition with each other.
21. At least one member of each team must check out the team at the Clat Adams location at the end of the tournament. Participants are strongly encouraged to come to the Clat Adams weigh in, as a team for recognition. At 3:30 PM CST, tournament officials will be required to initiate contact or search for any participants that have not checked out.

KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. ALL ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR SHALL TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THESE RULES. ANY EXTREME VIOLATION OF RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF AWARDS. THERE WILL BE AWARDS TO ALL DIVISIONS CONTESTANTS BASED UPON THE POSITION THAT THE WILD CARD PARTICIPANT FINISHES.