

FISHING FOR FREEDOM QUINCY, IL.

TOURNAMENT RULES

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

The tournament will be a team format with either a team consisting of a Boater and Warrior or a Boater and Warrior pair. All fish submitted for the weigh-in shall be caught by rod and reel only and by boat.

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

Legal species are Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass in the Staff Sgt. Matt Weichert Memorial Bass Division, Flathead, Channel, and Blue Catfish in the Lymenstull Catfish Division, and black and white crappie in the crappie division.

Any Warriors 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:

- Staff Sgt. Matt Weichert Memorial Bass Division
Pool 19 & 20 Division, Pool 21-24 Division, Mark Twain Lake Division, Reregulation Pool Division

- Allie Lymenstull Catfish Division
Pool 19 & 20 Division, Pool 21-24 Division, Mark Twain Lake Division

- Staff Sgt. Keith "Matt" Maupin Crappie Division
Mark Twain Lake Division

- Private lake(s) (limited to special needs Warriors unable to fish from boats)

Rules

1. 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 Warrior or Boater for this event. Warrior registration ends May 1 or when we reach 300 registered Warriors.

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/her Boater. The Warrior can then contact the Boater for advance planning if he/she desires. For security reasons Boaters will not be provided with the Warrior's contact information prior to the event – please do not make this request of tournament officials.

The final official pairing will take place at the pre-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 Registration Committee. Accommodations for those unable to attend the pre-tournament meeting will be made where practicable.

5. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** Boat minimum size shall be 16 feet in length with a minimum horsepower motor of 25HP. 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 livewell with proper aeration and space capable of keeping the tournament limit of fish alive.

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. **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 combustion engine is operated. The Boater shall have life jackets of sufficient size and quantity on board and readily available 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 alcohol or illegal drugs 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 combustion engine is operated above idle speed. Each Boater is expected to operate his/her 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 his/her craft at No Wake speed within 150 feet of any public boat ramp.

8. **TACKLE EQUIPMENT & NETS:** The Boater shall make available such fishing equipment, bait (Bass Division shall be artificial lures only), tackle, etc. for the Warrior's use in the event that the Warrior is not properly equipped. **All fish must be caught by means of rod and reel only.** Dip nets may only be used to land hooked fish. Snagging is not allowed. Participants in the Bass Divisions 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 by Bass Division participants. Drift/troll fishing is allowed for Catfish and Crappie Division participants.

9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: No boat shall enter any posted restricted zone at any Lock and Dam. 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. After weigh-in, fish will be immediately released into the waters in which they were caught. The tournament director or a volunteer will give the team a weight slip to bring to Clat Adams Park for entry and scoring. All teams will be escorted to Clat Adams Park and will pass by the stage via vehicle to be recognized. All teams must check in with their tournament director at the weigh-in.

Fishing shall be allowed on the Mississippi River and all connected backwaters and tributaries that are accessible by boat during tournament hours. The Mississippi River Pool 19-20 Division will weigh in at Great River Marina in Hamilton.

Fishing shall be allowed on Mark Twain Lake and re-reg pool of the Salt River. Mark Twain Lake participants may use any boat ramp to access the lake but are required to weigh-in their fish at the Indian Creek West Boat Ramp. Teams fishing the Reregulation Pool will weigh in at the South Spillway ramp.

10. 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 or mechanical breakdown contact the Fishing For Freedom phone at (217) 779-3811. If there is an emergency, first dial 911.

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 boats are to be at their weigh in location at 12 noon. The main weigh-in location shall be Clat Adams Park, Front Street and Hampshire Street on the Quincy Riverfront. Participants will be escorted to Clat Adams Park from Hamilton and Mark Twain Lake after their weigh-ins are complete. 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. Even if the team has no fish to weigh the team must check in so event staff knows everyone is off the water and safe.

13. WEIGH-IN: Tournament officials will provide weigh-in bags. Teams will retain fish in their livewell 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.

14. FISH WEIGH-IN LIMIT: The tournament limit shall be 3 fish total per team for catfish and bass and 7 fish total per team for crappie. Tournament size limit will be based upon the size limit imposed by the appropriate state authority for the body of water fished. Boats or fishing teams shall not maintain more than the tournament limit of fish in the boat at any time. Teams may weigh only in their designated division as determined at check-in. All other species will be considered part of the “trash fish division”.

15. TIES: In the case of ties, winners will be determined by largest legal fish on the stringer, if still tied the tie will be broken by a coin toss. In the case of a tie for largest fish in each division, ties will be broken by heaviest stringer, if still tied the tie will be broken by coin toss.

16. SCORING: Dead fish will not be weighed. 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. The “Golden Rule” shall be the official tournament measuring device.

17. LATE PENALTY: You must be out of the water or in line to trailer your boat at 12 noon. Should you miss your designated weigh-in you will be disqualified.

18. 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. Separate awards will be given for each Division and the Divisions are not in direct competition with each other.

19. Contestants are encouraged to submit for weigh-in any legal, unusual catches that are in season. Any species of fish other than the target species of your division as determined at check-in shall be eligible for the Trash Fish division. The heaviest “Trash Fish” will receive an award. Contestants are not allowed to legally retain or transport any living Asian Carp.

20. 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 OR PERMANENT BANNING. THERE WILL BE AWARDS TO ALL DIVISIONS CONTESTANTS BASED UPON THE POSITION THAT THE WILD CARD PARTICIPANT FINISHES.