

# **The Ultimate Match Fishing Invitational 2018**

## **Tournament Rules and Conditions**

### **Tournament Director: Joe Thomas**

#### **1. INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT**

These rules will remain unchanged for the UMF Invitational event in 2018. Enforcement and 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. Each contestant agrees to report any rules violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss; the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament; the loss of weight for the entire day of the tournament; the loss of the heaviest bass for the day; disqualification from the entire event and/or disqualification from all future Ultimate Match Fishing events. All protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

#### **2. PAYBACK AND PARTICIPATION**

Payback is based on the number of paid entries for the UMF Invitational. Participation is open to all Bass Fishing League (BFL) anglers who have qualified in the in their respective divisions in 2017. The Ultimate Match Fishing invitational reserves the right to invite additional BFL anglers based on the participation of the qualifying anglers in each division. If any top qualifiers decline the invitation, The UMF Invitational may work down the angler of the year list for each BFL division at its sole discretion. All participation is at the sole discretion of the UMF Invitational. All participants must be 16 years of age or older. Any person under the age of 18 years must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian to participate. All contestants **MUST HAVE** a valid fishing license for all areas fished. Failure to produce proof of a valid fishing license to a tournament official within a reasonable amount of time when requested will result in disqualification.

#### **3. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION.**

The purchasing of, or bartering for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than those available through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after the entry fee balance payment deadline of **APRIL 25, 2018**.

#### **4. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND PARTICIPATION**

There is no practice period or off-limits period prior to the pre tournament meeting.

#### **5. REGISTRATION AND PRE TOURNAMENT MEETING**

Each contest must register in person at the Dayton Boat Dock from 4-6pm with a mandatory tournament meeting at 6pm on May 24, 2018, in Dayton, Tennessee. If for any reason you are unable to attend the pre tournament meeting you must contact the UMF Invitational Tournament Committee via email at [umfinvitational@gmail.com](mailto:umfinvitational@gmail.com) for special permission.

#### **6. BOAT DRAW**

Take off positions for the Ultimate Match Fishing Invitational will be based on A., The order of full tournament entry fee payments received followed by B., the order of entry fee deposits received.

## **7. SAFETY:**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast guard approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from boat check until weigh in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut off device that must be securely fastened to the drivers body when the combustable engine is running. All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. competitors may leave their boat when danger is imminent.

## **8. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conversation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves and to the Ultimate Match Fishing Invitational and UMF Invitational Sponsors.

Violations which may result in disqualification per paragraph one include but are not limited to:

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration of tournament hours extending through the weigh in procedure.
- Abuse of or addiction to mind altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any 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 the first sentence of paragraph 8.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, The UMF Invitational tournament director and committee shall have the right to disqualify a content or impose any penalty as outlined in paragraph 1.

## **9. BOAT OPERATION**

All boaters will compete individually in day one and two of the UMF Invitational. contestants may not use mobile communications devices to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish during tournament hours. mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lock masters or the UMF Invitational tournament staff. Contestants may use smart phones/tablets during tournament hours for GPS, mapping, weather, power generation, personal fishing notes and related data. At NO TIME during tournament hours may contestants read or discuss social media posts from other contestants.

## **10. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS**

All boats must be propeller driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. All boats must be equipped with a steering wheel. No other steering device will be accepted. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U. S., Coast guard safety equipment. All boats must have a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower fro all outboards used in the tournament is 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower listed on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below.

Each boat must have a "Maximum Capacities" or comparable titled placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250 horsepower maximum as set forth by the UMfInvitational tournament committee. By signing the entry form all contestants agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by UMF

personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will result in disqualification. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. no portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Full may be carried in factory installed fuel tanks only. Any additional fuel used must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with nozzle.

### **11. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS**

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod with a reel in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pros trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Alabama and similar umbrella rigs are limited to a maximum of 5 wires with 5 spinners, five lures and 3 single or treble hooks. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as using the combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked in side the mouth.

### **12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat except areas posted or otherwise designated as off limits, no boats, keep out, restricted, no trespassing or no fishing (or similar language or markings meant to restrict public access) by the UMF Invitational tournament committee, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestants boat which was first anchored, (meaning a boat which is held in position by an weight attached to a line or a shallow water anchor such as a Talon or Power Pole with the trolling motor in the upright position. All fishing must be done from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of the pre tournament meeting and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades 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 of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification. Contestants must leave and return to the weigh in site by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer prior to 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. There are two permitted methods of returning to the check in: (1) By the contestant remaining in the boat and being towed in by water, or (2) with the permission of the tournament director, by the contestant entering the boat of another contestant. Under these conditions the contestant's catch may be counted without a penalty except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to the tournament rules. contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to the point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie off or anchoring after a mechanical failure will result in disqualification. Any contestant returning to the check in location 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 the contestant to locate the tournament director/designated official to request a restart.

### **13. CHECKPOINTS**

There will only be one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

#### **14. LATE PENALTY**

Contestants who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute deducted from the total weight.

#### **15. LIVE FISH**

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. Four (4) ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh in.

#### **16. SCORING**

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch during the qualifying tournament day. Only largemouth, smallmouth spotted or redeye bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit is 5 bass. Contestants possessing more than 5 bass must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his or her catch to the tournament limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. The minimum length limit for bass is: Largemouth Bass- 15 inches. Smallmouth Bass- 18 inches with only one permitted. Spotted Bass- 12 inches.

Bass presented for weigh in that fail to measure the prescribed length will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by signature.

#### **17. TIES**

Ties in the UMF Invitational for the top 2 finishers will be resolved by total number of fish; total number of live fish and then by coin toss. Ties involving anglers 3 through payout cutoff will be resolved by dividing the awards equally among the tied contestants.

#### **18. TRUTH AND VERIFICATION**

The top two finishers in the UMF Invitational will be given a mandatory polygraph test. Other anglers are subject to random polygraph testing.

Each contestant agrees to submit by signature on the tournament entry form to a polygraph or voice stress analysis exam 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 UMF Invitational tournament committee's sole discretion and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the UMF Invitational Tournament director.

#### **19. PROOF OF INSURANCE**

Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required of all contestants. Proof of liability insurance must be presented at the pre tournament meeting on May 24, 2018.

#### **20. CAPTIONS**

The captions at the beginning of each section and paragraph are used 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.