

25TH ANNUAL

Dick Hiley

ST. JUDE BASS CLASSIC

2023 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

Important Dates:

Tuesday, November 1st: Registration Opens

Friday, April 7th: \$350 Entry Fee Ends

Saturday, April 8th: \$400 Entry Fee Begins

Friday, April 28th: Deadline to Register

Friday, May 5th: Optional Team Dinner and Deadline to Turn in Fundraising Money

Saturday, May 6th & Sunday, May 7th – Tournament Dates

I. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

A. Participation as team: For teams entering the Dick Hiley St. Jude Bass Classic, each team must have one partner 21 years of age or older. Those anglers under the age of 18 years must have written consent of parent or guardian

B. Each contestant must possess a valid state fishing license from Minnesota or from his or her state-issuing agency.

C. The Tournament reserves the right to refuse entry to any team who has been barred from other Tournaments for rules violations or unsportsmanlike conduct. Determination will be made by Tournament Director only.

II. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

A. Entry Fee: Entry fee for Tournament is \$350 per team if payment is submitted via the Online Registration on or before Friday, April 7th, 2023. Beyond April 7th the fee is \$400 per team. This is non-refundable, unless circumstances out of our control arise. Entries must be in the Tournament Director's possession no later than Friday, April 28th, 2023. Beyond that date applications will be rejected.

B. Pre-Tournament and Tournament dates are as follows: Friday, May 5th, 2023 is official practice day. All boats must be on a trailer by 3:00 pm. NO EXCEPTIONS. The Tournament days are Saturday and Sunday, May 6th and 7th, 2023

C. Weigh-in will take place at Izaak Walton Park. Boxing of bass or moving of fish from one location to another during pre-Tournament practice is prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification. The Tournament officials will have the right to board Tournament boats, during practice and on the Tournament day, to check live wells, etc.

D. Payback: 100% payout to 20% of the field. Prize packs awarded beyond cash payout. For teams placing in the top 20% and receiving a cash payout, checks will be issued the following Monday, May 9th, after an electronic acknowledgement form is signed by each individual.

III. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING

D. The Pre-Tournament Team Dinner will be held at the The Front Porch Bar and Grill in Kellogg. (100 N Sheppard St, Kellogg, MN 55945). **This is completely optional.** Flight and boat positions will be shared at this time and posted to social media following the dinner.

An email will be sent to both members of the team the Monday before the tournament. One member from each team will be asked to read and acknowledge their understanding of the rules.

IV. SAFETY

Each competitor must observe safe boating conduct at all times.

A. Each angler is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest life preserver, which is fully secured whenever the main combustion engine is running.

B. All boats must be a minimum of 14-feet in length. Stick steering is not allowed. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats shall contain a properly aerated or re-circulating live well space to maintain a live limit of bass.

C. All competitors must have an emergency ignition shut-off device securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation.

D. All boats must be equipped with emergency ignition cut-off device (kill switch) on any remote steered outboard while main engine is in use. Ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must operate properly, which means when the kill switch is activated the outboard main engine must stop running immediately. The ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must be attached to the boat operator at all times while the outboard main engine is in use.

E. Use of and/or possession of alcohol or illegal substances (during the Tournament is prohibited; this includes the time prior to a team's weigh-in. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

F. The Tournament Director retains the right to delay, cancel or restrict Tournament waters in the case of severe weather.

G. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify the use of any boat and/or motor he deems unsafe, inappropriate, or unsuitable for use in competition. The Tournament Director's decision in this matter is final and may be made at any time.

H. During practice and during the Tournament, contestants must follow and obey local ordinances governing the river, including speed limit laws and no wake zone. Any contestant issued a ticket by a law enforcement agency will be disqualified.

V. SPORTSMANSHIP

A. All contestants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

B. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on Tournament waters. Violators of this rule will be disqualified.

C. During the Tournament days, anglers may not obtain or receive fishing information and/or assistance in the catching of fish from a non-competitor. Competitors may not follow a non-competitor's boat or allow a non-competitor to anchor and/or hold spots for competitors. Competitors may not

engage in the practice of paying non-competitors to practice fishing for them. Violation of this rule or intent of this rule will result in disqualification.

VI. INSURANCE

All contestants using their boat in the Tournament must have a copy of a "paid in full" current boating liability policy with a minimum value of \$300,000 (waivers and binders will not be accepted) with them.

VII. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

****New Rule in 2022****

Per MN fishing regulations, Alabama/Umbrella rigs on the Mississippi River may have no more than 2 hooks per rig.

VIII. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Official Tournament Fishing locations include: Mississippi River, Pools 4 and 5 from lock and dam 3 at Red Wing to the lock and dam 5. The lateral boundaries are the main railroad tracks running north/south on the Minnesota and Wisconsin sides of the river. Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, within the boundaries, except areas designated by federal, state, local officials or Tournament Director.

All angling must be conducted 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 boat must remain in the Tournament waters during the Tournament Days. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat, and must remain in contact with the boat at all times except in the case of dire emergency.

IX. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS

Teams who fail to arrive at the official check-in location by the time established at the rules meeting will be held for inspection until all other boats have been released.

X. SCORING

Scoring shall be determined by the pounds and ounces of each team's catch during the Tournament. LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH BASS will be the only accepted species. The Tournament limit shall be six (6) bass per team. The minimum length of the bass shall be fourteen (14") inches. Any team who

possesses more than the legal limit or brings more than six (6) fish into the Wabasha Municipal Harbor weigh-in area shall be immediately disqualified. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed length violate Minnesota and Wisconsin Fish and Game Regulation and will result in disqualification of the day's catch.

XI. LIVE FISH

Every effort must be made to keep the bass alive through the use of a properly aerated or re-circulated live well. Four (4) ounces shall be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass weighed in. Under no circumstances can a fish be purposely altered.

XIII. LATE PENALTY

Contestants who are not within the municipal harbor mouth at the appointed time shall have their day's catch disqualified. All fishing shall cease upon check-in.

XIV. TIES

In case of ties on day 2, positions will be determined by: 1st tiebreaker – team fundraising total, 2nd tiebreaker – day 1 weight, 3rd tiebreaker – coin toss. *Or gentlemen's agreement.

XV. RULES AND INTERPRETATIONS

A. Contestants will be responsible for knowing the Tournament rules as well as state and local rules and regulations, which pertain to the Tournament waters.

B. All protests must be lodged with the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of completion of daily weigh-in. Following interviews with concerned parties, a ruling will be made. The Tournament Director will interpret rules according to the spirit and intent of the rule and his decision in all disputes is final.

C. Any protests must be lodged directly to the Tournament Director no later than 30 minutes prior to check presentation ceremony on Sunday, May 8th. If a concern is timely presented to the Tournament Director's, a polygraph test may be required before receiving payout checks.

D. Tournament Director reserves the right to polygraph any contestant. Contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph when signing the Tournament waiver. Winnings will be withheld pending results of the test. Teams will be responsible to travel to a designated polygraph location, at their own expense, in Minnesota the week following the Tournament.

E. Discovery of rule infractions will result in disqualification from the Tournament could result. and forfeiting of cash prizes and awards.