

Official Rules for the 2018 SeaArk Boats OWNER'S INVITATIONAL

1. **RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event unless State or local laws are in conflict. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. It is at the Committee's discretion to make a change where safety of the contestants is a concern. **All Tournament, Federal, State and local laws must be obeyed during tournament hours regardless of chip or weigh-in status. It is the contestant's responsibility to know these rules.**

2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** This is a team event. A Team will consist of two persons with one exception: A Third person may accompany the team provided the third person is under 16 years of age 65 years of age or older. The six (6) rod rule will still apply.

3. **OFFICIAL BOAT:** This is a SeaArk Boats Owner's Tournament. You must fish from a SeaArk Boat, the verified boat owner must be on the boat during the tournament and present at weigh in. **A copy of the boat registration must be included with the entry form.**

4. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or any state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of cat fishing will be disqualified.

5. **SAFETY:** Boating safety must be observed at all times. All boats must have a working kill switch and a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver that must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is operative. The kill switch also must be attached to the driver when the engine is operative.

6. **PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** Lake

Wheeler and connecting waters of the Tennessee River System accessible by water. Teams are allowed to lock at own risk. No weigh-in exceptions will be made due to lock schedule or delays. Fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump is prohibited. **No fishing within 50 yards of another anchored boat.**

7. **MEETING:** **One participant of each team MUST be present at the Captain's Dinner Meeting Friday, April 27th, 2018 at 5:00 - 6:00 PM at the Ingalls Harbor Pavilion for instructions.**

8. **LIVE WELL:** Live wells must be used and no stringers or decoy bags allowed.

9. **FISHING HOURS:** Fishing hours will be 6:30 am - 3:30 pm. All boats must check in by 3:30 PM and no later. There will be no exceptions to this rule and will result in disqualification.

10. **BOAT LAUNCH:** Anglers may launch their boats beginning at 4:30 am after a livewell check. Boats must be launched at Ingalls Harbor. There will be an organized blast off that will begin at 6:30 am. No trailering allowed.

11. **BAIT:** Any legal or commercial bait will be allowed. No chumming or hole baiting of any kind is allowed.

12. **NUMBER OF RODS ALLOWED:** All fish weighed must be caught by rod and reel only. A maximum of six (6) rods per boat is allowed to be used at any given time. Any team with a third person is still limited to six rods. You may have extra rod and reels in the boat.

13. **SCORING:** Blue Catfish, Channel Catfish or Flathead Catfish may be weighed. A team limit of five (5) fish maximum must be alive to weigh in. Alabama state law limits one (1) catfish over 34 inches per fisherman on the boat at a time. During the tournament two (2) and three (3) member teams may only keep two (2) catfish over 34 inches on the boat and during weigh in. One (1) person teams may only keep one (1) catfish over 34 inches on the boat, but are eligible to weigh in at max two (2) catfish over 34 inches. Fish will be measured from the front of the mouth to the tip of the tail with both mouth and tail closed (in accordance

with Alabama State Law). **Any boat that exceeds the allowed number of over 34 inch fish will not weigh-in. Tournament staff will not provide guidance or feedback on fish length and whether they're allowed when proceeding to weigh-in.**

14. **SNAGGING:** No snagging will be allowed.

15. **TIES:** In the event of a tie the prize money will be combined and split among the two teams.

16. **MECHANICAL FAILURE:** **In the event of a mechanical failure SeaArk tournament staff will attempt to assist with towing anglers to the ramp if possible, but ability to weigh-in is forfeited. Towing by any other means will be allowed without weigh-in forfeiture as long as tournament rules are followed. Fish must remain in the boat they were caught at all times.**

17. **PROTESTS:** All protests must be submitted in writing prior to the weigh in scales closing. Scales will close 15 minutes after the last tournament boat to weigh in. Closure of the scales will be announced.

18. **POLYGRAPH:** All contestants are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification.

19. **REGISTRATION:** Register at any SeaArk Dealer or mail entry to SeaArk Boats, PO Box 803, Monticello, AR 71657. The deadline for registration is April 13, 2018. Any registrations after this date will be charged a \$40 late fee. **No refunds will be given for any reason after April 13, 2018.**

20. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs other than prescription allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water.

21. **BOAT DRAWING:** To be entered into the drawing teams must present one legal catfish during final weigh in. Participants must be present to win the drawing. In the event of an eligible team not being able to stay, reasons will be discussed on a case by case bases between the tournament committee.

Changes from the 2017 Official Rules have been highlighted.