**OWMA All-water Bass Fishing Tournament Details & Rules**

***(Participants please read all the information in the 1st four categories)***

# Highlights

Tournament date is Saturday, April 27, 2019.

Tournament teams can be comprised of one person or two people.

Team entry fee is $100—same price whether team is one or two people.

Deadline for receipt of team entry fee is 4 PM Friday April 26, 2019.

Tournament decal for photos and form for recording bass lengths will be emailed to each participant during 5 to 8 PM on Friday April 26.

Total length of entered bass (maximum of 5 bass per team) and longest bass will be used to determine winners.

Photographs and measurements of fish are required for entries.

Each submitted photograph should clearly show a bass’ jaw in contact with the upright portion of a measuring board, clearly show its tail flat against a measuring board, clearly show the increments of a measuring board, clearly show the numbers on a measuring board in the vicinity of the tail, and clearly show the tournament decal adjacent to a measuring board or behind the tail on the board.

Tournament check-in is 4:00 PM on Saturday April 27.

At least one member of each team must be present at afternoon check-in by 4:00 PM, which will occur at the Noble Research Institute Pavilion at 2715 Sam Noble Parkway in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

At judges’ discretion, late check-ins will be disqualified or 1 inch of total bass lengths will be deducted for each minute late.

Checks will be awarded to the winning teams for largest three stringers and to an individual for largest bass in the following manner:

* 1st $1000
* 2nd $250
* Big Bass $250

A third place cash prize will be added if more than 20 teams participate in the tournament.

**Eligible fish**

All bass entered in the tournament must be caught by a team member between 6 AM and 4 PM Saturday April 27, 2019.

A team may enter up to a total of five individual bass.

Only black bass may be entered into the tournament and all black bass species are lumped into one category—black bass includes largemouth bass, Florida bass, spotted bass, Guadalupe bass, smallmouth bass, and their hybrids (herein referred to as bass).

Bass may be caught anywhere in Oklahoma or North Texas, including private and public ponds, lakes, and streams.

Bass entered into the tournament must be released at the location where caught after measuring its length and photographing it; however, it is allowable to take a state record bass or a public lake record bass to a location with certified scales for appropriate documentation and then either release it where caught or keep it for mounting purposes.

Bass must be caught with rod and reel, or pole and line.

Bass must be caught according to state regulations.

**Bass measurement, photograph & record requirements**

Length of each bass entered in the tournament must be measured on a fish measuring board (a tape measure is not acceptable).

A fish measuring board used in the tournament should be longer than a bass being measured—the measurement entered for a bass that is longer than a measuring board cannot be longer than the last measurement on the board (we suggest using 30- to 36-inch long fish measuring boards).

A fish measuring board used in the tournament must be graduated by the manufacturer in at least 1-inch increments; however, measuring boards with more detailed increments by the manufacturer, e.g., ¼, or 1/8 inch, help a bass be more competitive.

Only the last graduated measurement touched or surpassed by a bass’s tail on a measuring board may be recorded as a bass’s length—lengths may not be rounded up to the next measurement line or estimated between marked measurements (e.g., a 24 15/16-inch long bass measured on a board with 1-inch increments must be recorded as 24 inches).

Each fish entered in the tournament must be photographed on a fish measuring board with its closed mouth touching the upright portion (zero end) of the board and the tip of the tail touching the board.

How bass length should be measured:

* Place bass on its side with the jaw closed.
* Touch the closed mouth to the upright portion of the fish measuring board and squeeze tail fin rays together with the tail touching the measuring board to obtain overall length—avoid hiding measurement increments or numbers near the tail with fingers, hand or arm in a photograph.

Pertinent measuring board delineations and numbers, especially in the vicinity of the tail, must be clearly visible in the photographs.

Each bass photograph must show the tournament decal that will be emailed to registrants during the evening prior to the tournament (contact Mike Porter at 580-504-7090 if a team does not receive the tournament decal by 8:00 PM on April 26).

A bass probably will be declared ineligible when any of the following occur: a bass’ closed jaw is not clearly in contact with the upright portion of the measuring board, measuring board delineations or numbers in the vicinity of the tail are not clearly visible, or the tournament decal/card is not clearly visible in a photograph.

Take good quality, clear photographs.

Photos must be taken with a digital camera, mobile phone or tablet at a minimum 300 dpi (dots per inch) resolution.

Photos should be saved in one of the following photo or figure formats so tournament computers can view them: jpg, gif, bmp, png, pdf, docx, or pptx.

Photos must be emailed to owmafishingtournament@gmail.com or downloaded onto a portable USB flash drive, and submitted with the paper form log of bass lengths to the judges during or prior to afternoon check-in.

It is okay to take multiple photographs of each bass, but only one photograph for each bass may be entered as the tournament record.

USB flash drives will be returned to teams by the conclusion of the tournament except where accuracy of entries is questioned or when a virus is transmitted from the flash drive to a tournament computer—if a virus is transmitted to a judge’s computer via an email or flash drive entry, the team causing the problem will be disqualified and will have to pay for any computer repairs.

Each team is responsible for maintaining a log of measured lengths for bass entered in the tournament on the tournament paper form, which will be submitted to the judges during or prior to afternoon check-in. This form will be emailed to participants after 5 PM on April 26.

# Additional details & rules

The tournament is open to the public.

At least one member of a team must be at least 18 years old.

All participants should conduct themselves as honest, ethical sportsmen.

Registration fees may be paid by check, money order or credit card, payable to OWMA or Oklahoma Wildlife Management Association.

OWMA Secretary Kimberly Sanders receives registrations at OWMA, 743 County Road 1350, Chickasha, OK 73018-8018 or OWMA.OWMF@gmail.com.

For individuals who have never been members of OWMA, tournament registration fee includes a 2019 OWMA membership for one person (teams with two non-members must designate who will receive the membership).

Name, mailing address, mobile phone number, and email address of each team member will be recorded during registration.

OWMA tournament expenses include cash awards, potential polygraph test(s), food and drink for participants during check-in, advertisement, tournament rule preparation, team fish log form preparation, tournament decal preparation, and membership service expenses.

Any income above expenses goes to the Oklahoma Wildlife Management Association.

Bass may be caught from boat, float tube, bank, pier, wading, and other legal fishing locations.

Each person should keep track of his/her largest bass.

The team with the largest stringer may be subjected to a polygraph test before being awarded the prize.

Tournament judges will determine whether winners of other categories also will have to take a polygraph tests.

When a polygraph test is conducted, participants must pass the test to receive their prizes.

All decisions of the judges are final regarding any questions, disagreements or issues.

When a tie occurs for a category, the prize will be split pro rata among the tying teams.

A meal of sandwiches (probably hamburgers or barbeque), chips, non-alcoholic drinks, and snacks will be provided for teams following or during the afternoon check-in.

**Justifications for releasing bass where caught rather than bringing to check-in:**

* Individual fishermen can catch fish at multiple locations, so some fishermen probably would commingle fish from multiple locations.
* Commingling fish from different sources in water, or releasing fish at places where they were not caught, increases the likelihood of spreading diseases, parasites and undesirable organisms to impoundments or streams where bass are released (e.g., the following diseases and organisms could be spread in this manner: largemouth bass virus, golden algae, Lyngbya, other cyanobacteria, zebra mussel trochophores or veligers, didymo, bacteria, fungi, Eurasian water milfoil fragments, hydrilla fragments, other macrophyte fragments, etc.)
* Some fishermen might not return each bass to the location where it was caught, which would harm source fisheries where bass were caught because large bass are relatively scarce or uncommon in even the best situations.
* The tournament is not being conducted at a single impoundment or stream, so most participants would have to haul fish many miles to the check-in location and back to the sources, which would increase stress on fish and the likelihood of bass mortality.

**Justifications for using fish length rather than fish weight:**

* Fish length can be more accurately measured by fishermen than fish weight because measuring board precision and accuracy vary less than weighing scale precision and accuracy.
* It is more difficult to falsify fish length than fish weight, e.g., it is more difficult to stretch a fish than it is to add weight inside a fish.

**Sources of fish measuring boards (this is not an all-inclusive list):**

38-inch Check-it Stik Salt Water Series [https://www.amazon.com/dp/B006WEHIXU/ref=olp\_product\_details?\_encoding=UTF8&me](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B006WEHIXU/ref%3Dolp_product_details?_encoding=UTF8&me)= ($31.99 with free shipping—1/8-inch increments), also available in some Academy stores near saltwater coasts, but not available online (approximately $19.99—1/8-inch increments)

36-inch Yak-Gear Floating Fish Ruler https://kayakkaddy.com/product/floating-fish-ruler-inch/ ($39.99 plus shipping--1/8-inch increments), also available at <https://www.mariner-sails.com/yak-gear-floating-fish-ruler-36.html> ($39.99 plus shipping--1/8-inch increments)

32-inch Frabil Benchmark Measuring Board [http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/B004Q6O78A/ ref=dp\_olp\_new?ie=UTF8&condition=new](http://www.amazon.com/gp/offer-listing/B004Q6O78A/ref%3Ddp_olp_new?ie=UTF8&condition=new) ($24.67 with free shipping—1/4-inch increments)

30-inch Hawg Trough [http://www.austinkayak.com/products/8737/Hawg-Trough-Fish-MeasuringDevice.html](http://www.austinkayak.com/products/8737/Hawg-Trough-Fish-Measuring-Device.html) ($16.99 plus shipping--1/4-inch increments)

32-inch Gator Grip Walleye Fish Measuring Board <https://www.gatorgrip.com/Shop/Detail/7> ($32.00 plus shipping—1/4-inch increments)

60-inch Rapala RMFR Magnum Folding Ruler [http://www.amazon.com/Rapala-RMFR-MagnumFolding-Ruler/dp/B001QJPQ12/ref=sr\_1\_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1425482871&sr=8-6&keywords=fish +measuring+board](http://www.amazon.com/Rapala-RMFR-Magnum-Folding-Ruler/dp/B001QJPQ12/ref%3Dsr_1_6?ie=UTF8&qid=1425482871&sr=8-6&keywords=fish+measuring+board) ($17.98 with free shipping—1/4-inch increments)

 3-5-19