

## **Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic Event Rules**

### **1. Official Love's – Le Bonheur Event Rules:**

Decisions of the tournament director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of the tournament rules may result in loss of weight, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight of the particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future Love's – Le Bonheur fishing events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the tournament director in his sole and absolute discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official closing of scales at each tournament, and any written protests must be provided to the tournament director within said time period.

### **2. Registration:**

**All Teams may register online at: [fish4lebonheur.com](http://fish4lebonheur.com) or download the registration form on the Facebook page Loves Le Bonheur Bass Classic. Online registrations will be accepted through September 10<sup>th</sup> 2020; only in person registration on September 11<sup>th</sup> will be accepted. Entry fees are \$250.00 per team until September 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. Afterwards, it will increase to \$275.00.**

### **3. Refund and Cancellation Policy:**

There will be NO refunds.

### **4. Participation and Eligibility:**

Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic tournaments are open to anglers. Any angler entering a Love's – Le Bonheur fishing event who is under 18 years of age must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the official entry form.

Each contestant that is fishing with Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic sign a liability waiver form prior to the first tournament. We will have them available at our first event at the booth to sign or you can download from the website and mail in. If we do not have a liability waiver signed from each angler you are not in any way affiliated with Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic. Each contestant that voluntarily participates in any event voluntarily agrees to abide by Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic Rules and all applicable state and federal laws, and any violation of the said Rules and/or laws will subject the contestant to disqualification and/or other disciplinary action at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

Each contestant that voluntarily participates in any event voluntarily agrees Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic submit and subject himself/herself to a polygraph exam.

### **5. Registration Times:**

All anglers must register in person on Friday Sept. 11, 2020 at Pickwick State Park Hotel in the conference room between 12pm (noon) and 7pm. All anglers will be required to fill out the necessary paperwork and draw for boat launch positions. There will be NO ADMITTANCE to the tournament entry after 7pm.

### **6. Official Check In Time:**

All tournament participants will be given a check in time before the tournament launch. This time will be indicated on their Weigh In Slip paperwork that they will receive at registration. The time marked "Official Weigh In/Due In By" is the absolute latest time that the participants can weigh in without penalty. All anglers must present their Weigh In Slip to the check in official. The check in person will write a time on the paper based on the official tournament time clock that will be displayed at the table. The time written by the check in person is not negotiable and will serve as the basis for any penalties or disqualifications.

### **7. Ability to Weigh In Early During the Event:**

All participants will be granted the ability to weigh in any fish, at anytime, BEFORE their official weigh time. This is to ensure the quality of fish care during the tournament. If an angler decides to weigh a fish early, that fish may not be replaced by another fish later in the tournament. Any fish weighing in will be added to the daily total and will be unable to be "switched out" for a heavier fish. Once an angler has weighed their last fish in the tournament limit, they may not continue fishing. Any angler choosing to take advantage of the early weigh in rule will not be compensated or extended fishing time caused by the delay of weighing in. All anglers will still be required to check in before the official flight check in time.

### **8. Assistance:**

During Official Practice Days and hours of competition, contestants may not purchase, barter or solicit fishing information from any person or participate in the practice of "hole-sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc. to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should first dial 911 and then notify Tournament Director.

### **9. Safety:**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check to weigh in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament will be held the next day, weather permitting. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

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 then two permitted methods of returning to check-in: (1) by both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided each team's fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to check-in by any means other than those cited will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day's weight. Whether or not contestants may be disqualified for improperly "abandoning" a boat is in the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

### **10. Permitted Fishing Methods:**

Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. 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. All contestants must comply with all applicable state and federal laws, and any contestants' failure to comply with all applicable state and federal laws are subject to disqualification and/or other disciplinary action that is at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

### **11. Permitted Fishing Locations:**

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as “off-limits” or “no fishing” by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor’s boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 50 yards of a non-anchored competitor’s boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another area of the same lake at any time is not permitted, regardless of whether or not it is during official practice or competition days.

**12. Off-limits Areas:**

Contestants may not fish inside the established “off-limits” areas if they are labeled off limits. Violation of the rule will result in immediate disqualification. Contestants’ boats must remain in the tournament waters during the event.

**13. Boat and Horsepower Regulation:**

Each boat must have all the required U. S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain properly aerated live well space to maintain alive the limit of catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitation set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor, or rating the plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament. No contestant may have a platform, raised deck, or ladder that is higher than the gunnel of the boat. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor will not be allowed in Love’s – Le Bonheur Bass Classic events. No air or jet boats will be permitted during official practice or competition days.

**14. Sportsmanship and Conduct:**

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. All contestants must comply with all applicable state and federal laws, and any contestants’ failure to comply with all applicable state and federal laws are subject to disqualification and/or other disciplinary action that is at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or mind-altering substances during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- b. Any previous conviction, arrest, or investigation for a felony, or crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime related to, arising out of, or involving any fishing tournament or event. Exception will be considered with full, prior written disclosure to the tournament director under oath and by affidavit of all facts and circumstances surrounding such conviction, arrest, or investigation so long as those facts and circumstances do not result in the continuing questionability of the contestant’s honesty, integrity, character or qualifications to enter the event.
- c. Actions or words that reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition. Love’s – Le Bonheur Bass Classic will not allow bullying by any competitor during practice, at meetings, or during tournament hours. ANY act of bullying will result in disqualification from the event and any future events. DOCUMENTED VIOLATION OF THE SPORTSMANSHIP RULE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION OF THIS EVENT.
- d. Chemical or substance abuse.
- e. Disqualification from any Love’s – Le Bonheur Bass Classic or other fishing organization’s tournament that resulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a contestant’s honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into a Love’s – Le Bonheur Bass Classic event being questionable is in the tournament director’s sole and absolute discretion.

**15. Trailering Is Not Allowed:**

All boats must leave the official checkpoint in the order designated at registration. Contestants may launch their boat at a ramp other than the designated take-off location, but all contestants must come through the official checkpoint location before leaving to fish. In the event of severe

weather, alternate takeoff instructions will be given at the registration site at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

**16. Official Checkpoints:**

There will be only one official checkpoints for boat inspection in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through the checkout in the morning or failure to officially check in at the check-in-point will result in disqualification from such event. During morning checkout, all teams are required to idle a minimum of 100 yards before putting the boat on plane. It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to arrive at the designated check-in location on time. Regardless of what you are told or understand, it is the angler's responsibility to verify his/her provided flight card time. All fishing must cease upon check-in, or upon such other time as may be designated by the tournament director.

**17. Scoring:**

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and hundredths of a pound of each angler's catch during the tournament. ONLY Largemouth, Spotted and Smallmouth Bass are accepted species. The limit will be three (3) per team. Any contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have his/her catch for the day disqualified. The minimum official length limit for all species will be provided at each event. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit, will result in loss of that fish to the weight. Each contestant's catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag. The Golden Rule measuring board is the official measuring board of Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic. Bass will be measured with closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length.

**18. Live Fish:**

You may weigh a dead fish as a part of your three-fish total; a half pound penalty will be assessed to your total weight for each dead fish weighed. No dead fish will be weighed for big fish. Culling a dead fish is prohibited and will result in disqualification. All dead fish must be brought to weigh in for sanitary disposal.

**19. Late Penalty:**

Contestants who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time will be assessed a one-pound-per-minute penalty from their total weight, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will forfeit that day's catch. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, a contestant may return to check-in location with their catch by receiving a ride from another registered contestant or tournament official only. The contestants must return to the official check-in location by the methods set forth above by their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty.

**20. Closing of the Scales:**

Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. Due to certain weigh-in locations, this time may be lengthened or shortened at the tournament director's sole and absolute discretion. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time will be announced during registration, during boat checkout, or during weigh-in. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by such time.

**21. Ties:**

A tie for 1st place in Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic events will be split. All ties will result in splitting that place and the next place's money.

**22. Photography & Video:**

All photos and/or video taken at an Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic event are the property of the Hookbone Fishing League and Love's – Le Bonheur Bass Classic may be used for promotional purposes. If any form of the media approaches, you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and accommodate them within reason. During weigh in you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and answer the questions to the best of your ability. All video/camera equipment placed in a contestant's boat shall not be tampered with or removed without permission from the Hookbone Fishing League tournament director.

Any tampering with, powering off, or removing of this equipment will result in the team's disqualification.