

# 2009 SKEETER OWNER'S TOURNAMENT

## OFFICIAL RULES

### GENERAL RULES

**1. RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials will be **FINAL IN ALL MATTERS**. It is at the Director's discretion to make a change where safety of the contestants is a concern. All federal, state and local laws must be obeyed and it is the contestant's responsibility to know these laws. All contestants must read and sign the entry form. Your signature on this form will constitute a certification that each contestant has read and understands the rules and entry form Participant Agreement, Release and Acknowledgment of Risk.

**2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** The 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series at Lake Fork is an individual tournament, not a team tournament. Participation in the 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series, at Lake Fork, will be open to all registered owners of a Skeeter boat and other individuals signing up with a Skeeter owner. All contestants must fish out of a Skeeter boat and each Skeeter boat must contain at least one registered owner. No more than (3) contestants may fish from each registered boat. You must pay your registration fee before competing in the tournament. Employees of Skeeter Products and Yamaha Motor, Corp. and immediate family members are not eligible to participate in the 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series. Anyone who has provided guide service for pay within the past 12 months on the official tournament lake will not be eligible to compete.

**3. 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. Violation of this rule will result in **IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION AND FORFEITURE OF ALL ENTRY FEES**.

**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 bass fishing will be disqualified. Any contestant who was previously disqualified from a fishing event that resulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a contestant's honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into the Skeeter Owners event being questionable will not be permitted to enter the event. Contestants must have a valid Texas Fishing License for the Lake Fork tournament, (unless exempt) and another form of identification as required by law on their person.

**5. BOATS & MOTORS:** There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have an aerated livewell large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition. Extra gas tanks must be secured and must meet U.S. Coast Guard specifications.

**6. SAFETY: BOATING SAFETY MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES.** A U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is operative, and the kill switch must be attached to the driver. In case of any emergency or mechanical breakdown, contestants may take their catch, get into another contestant's boat and return to the host marina.

**7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. **ONLY ARTIFICIAL LURES MAY BE USED.** No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. The use of electronic tracking equipment cannot be used.

**8. PROTESTS:** All protests must be submitted in writing within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

**9. POLYGRAPH:** All contestants, winners and non-winners, are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test, for cheating, in connection with any bass tournament will not be eligible to compete in the 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series. Contestants must pass polygraphs at tournament location in order to receive cash and prizes.

**10. SCORING:** This is a BIG BASS (one bass) Tournament and only **Live bass** may be presented at the scales. An individual's largest bass will determine Tournament standings for the overall payout(s). Only **one bass per individual, per hour**, may be submitted for the hourly payout. There is no limit on the number of hours an individual may submit their catch to the scales. No individual may possess more than five (5) fish at any time. Bass entered in the Big Bass of the Hour contest do not carry forward from hour to hour. In case of a tie for first place in the overall standings, a sudden death fish-off will occur. All other ties will result in the prizes/awards being combined and divided equally between the respective teams. **See 10a for tournament location specific rules.**

**11. MEASURING OF FISH:** The official measuring board of the Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series is the **PRO-RULE**. Bass are measured on a flat board, mouth closed, tail compressed to achieve greatest overall length. **See 11a for tournament location specific rules.**

**12. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** No fishing is allowed inside the host marina area. Fishing is restricted to the navigable waters of the tournament lake only. All fishing must be done from a Skeeter Boat. Boats may be trailered to and from the weigh-in. No tube, wade, or bank fishing is allowed. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of a non-anchored tournament boat without that boat's permission. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of a contestant's boat which was first anchored or tied with their trolling motor in the stored position, without the anchored boat's permission. Only contestants may be in the boat during tournament hours. Switching or sharing fish with other contestants and/or individuals will result in immediate disqualification. The practice of "hole-sitting" by non-contestants will not be tolerated. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. Contestants must be able to drive the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat.

**14. REGISTRATION: See 14a for tournament location specific rules.** All contestants including those who pre-registered **MUST** check-in at the tournament headquarters during official registration hours. All contestants will receive a tournament packet and weigh-in instructions.

**15. FISHING HOURS: See 15a for tournament location specific rules.**

**16. OFF LIMITS: See 16a for tournament location specific rules.**

**17. ENTRY FEE:** The entry fee is \$80 per individual per tournament, which covers one individual for two competition days. Entry fee plus one (1) Limited Edition Rod may be purchased for \$120. Limit one (1) rod per angler per tournament. **See 17a for tournament location specific rules on Entry late fees.** The tournament will be held regardless of weather conditions and there will be no refunds of entry fees.

**18. CONSERVATION:** This is a primary concern of Skeeter Boats. Adequate livewells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition, as every effort will be made to release as many live, releasable fish as possible, following weigh-in. No dead bass will be weighed during the 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series.

**19. APPLICATIONS:** All applications for entry in the 2009 Skeeter Owner's Tournament Series, determinations of winners and rights to awards and prizes and interpretation of all rules are subject to the sole approval and discretion of the tournament officials. **DECISIONS BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND OFFICIALS ARE FINAL.**

**20. SPONSORS:** The sponsor of the tournament expressly reserves the right to accept or reject any entry form or contest application

**21. RULE VIOLATIONS:** All bass caught by contestants fishing together in one boat will be disqualified if any of the said contestants are found to be in violation of any tournament rules and regulations.

**22. ASSISTANCE:** During hours of competition, contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors 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 call 911 first, then notify tournament officials.

### LAKE FORK TOURNAMENT SPECIFIC

**10a. SCORING:** Only largemouth, smallmouth and Kentucky spotted bass (Black bass) will be weighed in. Lake Fork is a slot limit lake. Fish measuring between 16 inches and 24 inches are slot fish and must be released. Any individual weighing in a slot fish will be disqualified for that day from the violation time forward. As per lake regulations, each individual contestant must not have in his/her possession more than one (1) fish 24 inches or greater.

**11a. MEASURING OF FISH:** Lake Fork is a Slot Lake. No bass that are over 16 inches or under 24 inches in length will be weighed in. The natural state of the fish (length, weight) may in no way be altered to gain advantage in this tournament. Such acts will result in immediate disqualification.

**12a. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** Fishing is restricted to the navigable waters of Lake Fork.

**13a. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:** Lake Fork Marina, Alba, Texas, 903-765-2764.

**14a. REGISTRATION:** Entries postmarked after June 8th will be considered late. Late registration will be taken at Lake Fork Marina during registration hours beginning Thursday, June 18th from 2 p.m. until 6 p.m. All contestants including those who pre-registered **MUST** check-in at the tournament headquarters during official registration hours. All contestants will receive a tournament packet and weigh-in instructions.

**15a. FISHING HOURS:** 6:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 20th and 6:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21st. You may be on the water beginning at 4:45 a.m., but no casting until 6:00 a.m. during competition days. The start will be announced on KMOO (99.9 FM) radio. The scales will **open** the bottom 1/2 hour of each hour beginning at **7:30 a.m.** both competition days, and close at **3:00 p.m.** Saturday and **12:00 p.m.** Sunday. The scales will be closed the top 1/2 hour of each competition hour.

**16a. OFF LIMITS:** The tournament lake will be off limits to fishing beginning at 7 p.m. Friday, June 19th until 4:45 a.m. Saturday, June 20th. Other off limits to fishing will be from 3:00 p.m. Saturday, June 20th until 4:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 21st.

**17a. ENTRY FEE:** Entry fees postmarked after June 8th and entries paid at on-site registration, will be \$90 (for the \$80 entry fee) and \$130 per individual registering for entry and (1) rod.