



# MARYLAND TROOPERS ASSOCIATION

UPPER BAY TOURNAMENT, TURNERS CREEK MD

JULY 19, 2014

TOURNAMENT HOURS: 6:00am-2:00pm

50/50 Raffle, Give-A-Ways, Plaques for 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> Place and Lunker  
\$100 Entry (Included Lunker); \$20 Calcutta Option (5% back to the lodge)

**BRING ENTRY FORM TO TOURNAMENT LAUNCH OR MAIL\* TO:**

**TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS**

123 RAVEN LN CENTREVILLE MD 21617

\*All entries by mail must be received by Friday prior to the tournament (SEE RULE No. 3)\*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number (for tax purposes) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Boat \_\_\_\_\_ Motor \_\_\_\_\_ Trolling Motor \_\_\_\_\_ Electronics \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have boat liability insurance: No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ (SEE RULE No. 1)

Partner: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number (for tax purposes) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home/Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Does either team member have any physical impairment that may require assistance? No \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (use additional sheets if necessary)

Having acquainted myself with the rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournament. In signing this application, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules and regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the Tournament and I hereby release Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17, host sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims or injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this Tournament. I hereby grant Maryland Troopers Association Lodge the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17 video/audio production and/or articles and press releases, and I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the Tournament Committee reserves the right to reject my application for any reason.

**BOATER SIGNATURE/DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PARTNER SIGNATURE/DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Entry Fee: \$100** \_\_\_\_\_ (make checks payable to MTA Lodge 17)  
**Calcutta option \$20** \_\_\_\_\_ (70% highest finisher, 25% second highest finisher, 5% to lodge. Must pay in to be eligible for prize)

## OFFICIAL RULES

**1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** This tournament is open to members of the general public. Participants under the age of 18 must have parent or guardian signature to participate. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. DURING THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION DAY OF ANY MARYLAND TROOPER ASSOCIATION LODGE 17 OPEN TEAM TOURNAMENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS CONTESTANT HAS PROOF OF BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE AVAILABLE IN BOAT. THIS DOCUMENTED PROOF MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE AND MUST BE AVAILABLE ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE. CONTESTANTS WILL BE CHECKED AT RANDOM AND ANY CONTESTANT WITHOUT PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the President/Board of Directors, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible.

**2. TOURNAMENT/PRACTICE:** The official practice period, if applicable, will be defined as beginning on the first official practice day prior to the tournament and ending at the end of safe light the on the last day of official practice prior to the tournament. During the official practice and the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency, employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the President/Board of Directors, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-brand radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine-band weather information. Each competitor agrees to report to the President/Board of Directors any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the President/Board of Directors and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the President/Board of Directors. Without limiting the foregoing, the President/Board of Directors shall have sole discretion to select the place, at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the President/Board of Directors and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

**3. REGISTRATION:** Each competitor must register prior to the tournament launch. All entries by mail must be received no later the Friday June 21<sup>st</sup> 2013. Boat position will be determined on a first come first serve basis. Competitors that have registered and paid but later discover they are unable to compete in the event due to hardship, family emergency, mechanical breakdown, etc. will be eligible for a refund only if they contact the Tournament Director or other Board Member no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. Special circumstance cases outside of this time period will be decided on by the Board. \*\*This rule will be strictly enforced. \*\*

**4. SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is not running. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. The Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17 reserves the right to impose boat speed limits and the area covered by the speed limit on any or all tournaments. Such decisions are exclusively at the discretion of the President/Directors.

**5. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in Maryland Trooper Association Lodge 17 tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament or weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from this and all future Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17 tournaments. 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 the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries, conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish bind all competitors. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

**6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before removing hook to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs or grippers may be used to boat bass or permitted in boat at any time.

**7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this rating plate. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17 tournaments.

**8. BOAT AND MOTOR:** ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH BILGE PUMP, AERATED LIVE WELL SPACE FOR TWO CONTESTANTS, AND SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CO-ANGLER PARTNER TO CHECK THE EQUIPMENT. The ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunwale of the boat. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All BLADDER tanks and any other type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

**9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** The President/Board of Directors shall establish Tournament waters for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: 1.) Within 25 yards of another competitor's boat with the trolling motor in the water and actively fishing, or 2.) Within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such boat believes the competitor is close to being within this 25 or 50-yard radius. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 25 or 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, the live-bass release area established by the President/Board of Directors will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

**10. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and a tournament official must verify their catch in order to be counted in the tournament. If the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials competitors can continue and their catch will be counted.

**11. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** Partners must stay together at all times until check-in is complete with or without any fish. There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules as set forth by the President/Board of Directors; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the check in person and proceed immediately to the weigh in area. Competitors not at check-in at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "BIG FISH award." Competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose that day's catch.

**12. SCORING:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners will be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitor catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be determined by the President/Board of Directors and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks-in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. For legal dead bass presented to weigh in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces of weight for the fish (if that fish is the team lunger). If the dead fish is not the team's lunger, then there will be a 4 ounce deduction per dead fish from the team total weight prior to any late penalty. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17. When a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. The Maryland Troopers Association Lodge 17 will furnish specially designed bags, and these bags must be used for the weigh-ins. The signature of the competitor must certify his catch.

**13. TIES:** In case of a tie for a "place" standing, the tie-breaker will be decided 1st by total # of fish weighed and 2nd by biggest fish. In case of a tie for Lunger, the money will be equally split between each competitor.

**14. PROTEST:** Any and all protest must be filed with the tournament director in writing. Protest must be filed no later than 5 minutes after the official close of weigh in. Any protest filed after that time will not be accepted or honored.