

# John W. Brown Fishing with A Vet Military Tournament

## 2024 Rules & Regulations also found at [crosschurch.com/fish](http://crosschurch.com/fish)

1. **ELIGIBILITY:** Limit 2 people per boat. At least one member of the team must be a veteran, retired military, or active military personnel. Any angler 16 years of age or older must carry a valid Arkansas fishing license. Anglers must be present at events to win any gift, giveaways or drawings.

Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1986, and of legal age to operate a motorboat, must have successfully completed an approved AGFC Boating Education Course and carry proof while operating a motorboat.

2. **REGISTRATION AND ENTRY:** Every team must register online at [crosschurch.com/fish](http://crosschurch.com/fish) or in person at Hook Line & Sinker, Southtown Sporting Goods, or at Cross Church in Springdale (1709 Johnson Road, Springdale, AR 72762). All members must have boater's liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000, prior to the tournament. **Entry fee will be \$80 per boat. Late Entry Fee = \$100 per boat after May 30, 2024. No registration on May 31.** Late registration will be allowed at the boat ramp, the entry fee will be \$100 cash. Ramp entries must be accepted 30 minutes prior to official take off time.
3. **TOURNAMENT TIME:** Check in time will be 5-5:20 AM. Take off time will be 5:45 AM. Departure will be drawn in random sequence before the tournament. You will get your boat number when you check in. The Tournament Directors will call off boats and check live wells. Boaters are to be in line per their assigned *take off* number. Boats must be within marina buoys by check-in time for afternoon check-in (2 PM).
4. **LATE CHECK-IN PENALTY: DISQUALIFICATION.** No excuses! Boats must be inside buoys located at Prairie Creek, No Wake Zone, by check in time (2 PM)
5. **FISHING LOCATION:** Anywhere on the tournament lake, except within 50 feet of another contestant's boat without consent, or any public marinas. **No fishing inside the buoys of Prairie Creek**, or any off- limits areas, or no boating areas.
6. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** Any boat 14 ft. or longer will be accepted if powered by an engine of 10 hp or more and equipped with a kill switch and an aerated live well. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours. Trailering refers to hauling the boat from ramp to another ramp. If you launch at Prairie Creek you may load your boat to the parking lot and retrieve your fish.
7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. Pork-style lures are allowed. All bass must be caught on one rod and reel at a time. Trolling and live bait are not allowed. **No Alabama Rigs or Umbrella Rigs Allowed!!** All multi-armed baits and rigs are banned regardless of materials used in construction with the exception of two arm spinnerbaits and buzzbaits. Two arm spinnerbaits and buzzbaits are allowed for use provided the arms are no longer than 5" (five inches) from the "R" bend or line tie to the end of the wire. Spinner or buzz blades CANNOT BE CHANGED TO TEASER BAITS, only spinner or buzz blades may be used. The use of prohibited rigs will result in Disqualification. **Any rig or bait that is in question should be presented to the Tournament Directors prior to competition. Any ruling on baits that can or cannot be used by the Tournament Directors will be final.**
8. **SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. Life jackets and "kill switch" must be worn when the boat is on plane. All Game & Fish rules and regulations will be strictly enforced. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy,

and conservation. Intoxication will be cause for **immediate disqualification**. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in the boats during the tournament hours, extending through the signing of the weigh-in form. Illegal use of drugs, commitment of a crime, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules are grounds for disqualification and/or rejection of any application for participation.

9. **WEIGH-IN:** Teams will use weigh-in bags provided by the Tournament Director at weigh-in to bring fish to the scales. A courtesy board will be provided.
10. **SCORING:** Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass (Kentucky), Meanmouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass will be counted for total weight. The total stringer weight per team will determine finishing place. Any Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass or Meanmouth Bass under 15" and any Spotted Bass (Kentucky) under 12" presented for weigh-in will result in a one pound penalty plus the loss of the fish. **A dead fish will result in a .50-pound penalty. According to AGFC any bass that is brown in color, or has any hue of brown in coloration will constitute a "Meanmouth" and must be 15" in length.** Bass will be measured on a Golden Rule, mouth closed and tail to touch the line. Five (5) FISH LIMIT PER TEAM. Any team presenting more than 5 fish at the weigh in will be disqualified. Any frozen or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION. Snagging is illegal, any bass caught by method of sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth. The use of any electronic implanted device(s) (bugging) used to locate fish will result in team DISQUALIFICATION.
11. **TIES:** Total weight category, largest single bass will determine winner. If single bass ties, total number of fish will determine winner. If still tied, a coin flip will determine winner. For big bass tie, we will combine the places and divide the prize winnings equally.
12. **QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:** By his/her signature on this entry form and/or participation in this tournament, contestants agree to submit to and pass a quality assurance test if required by the Tournament Directors. Refusal to submit to a quality assurance test will result in immediate disqualification, plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments. Contestants disqualified by result of the test will forfeit all monies and prizes and may be banned from future tournaments. Tests will be random.
13. **PROTEST:** Protest must be filed in writing with the Tournament Directors no later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in.
14. **TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION:** Tournament Directors have the right to cancel the tournament and fully refund any tournament fees paid.

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL ANGLERS TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE TOURNAMENT RULES.**

**Tournament Directors:** Shannon Mosley (479) 409-1172 and/or Keith Harmon (479) 684-9935

**Interpretation of the rules detailed above shall be the exclusive right of the Tournament Directors. Decisions shall be final in all matters.**

**In completing the entry form (either electronic and/or paper), contestants confirm they will abide by all rules and regulations and are subject to a random quality assurance test. I also hereby waiver and release The John W. Brown Fishing with A Vet Military Tournament and all affiliated entities from any and all claims in this tournament. Tournament Directors, and all affiliates will not be responsible for any accidents or lost/stolen items.**