

5280 TEAM SERIES

2010 TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **Rules:** These rules will remain unchanged during the 2010 season for all qualifying 5280 Team Series tournaments. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the 5280 Team Series Tournament Committee. **Protests and rule violations must be reported in writing within thirty minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight.** Decisions of the 5280 Team Series Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

2. **ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in the tournaments will be by entries. Entry must be received and approved by the 5280 Team Series Tournament Committee. Anglers must be 16 years of age or older, a current member in good standing of a TBF Club, and paid the appropriate membership and entry fees. 5280 Team Series has the right to refuse any entries received. All anglers must be an FLW Outdoors TBF Competitor Member. The Membership number must be validated before anglers can compete in any 5280 Team Series events. Each angler must possess a *100th Meridian Initiative Certification* (obtainable free online at www.5280basshunters.com). Participants must hold a valid fishing license for the event lake and abide by all state and local regulations. A team is defined as two (2) anglers. **Team member substitution is allowed only one time during the qualifying season. A Championship substitution must be with another qualifying participant.**

3. **ENTRY FEES & DEADLINES:** Entry fees shall be: \$100 per team plus any optional fees. A computer scramble for take-off position will be performed 5 days prior to the tournament. Entries received after that date will be placed in the next open position. Entry fees may be transferred to another tournament in the same year but are not refundable. Entry deadline for each tournament is 5:00 pm on the Monday prior to the tournament date. Any late entries must be paid in cash and include an additional \$25 late fee.

4. **INSURANCE:** Boat owners must have at least \$300,000.00 of Boating Liability Insurance and have a copy of their insurance, showing liability coverage and a valid date of the policy, in the boat and available at Pre-Tournament Meetings.

5. **BOATS & MOTORS:** Any boat, 16 feet or longer, powered by a motor between 50 hp and 250 hp, with a lanyard style kill switch, will be acceptable. All boats must meet BIA, Coast Guard, and all State requirements for the location of the tournament lake; no over-powered boats. Stick steering will not be allowed. Each boat must have a functioning bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, capable of keeping alive one limit of fish per team.

6. **SAFETY:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal floatation device, snapped, buckled and/or zipped, any time the combustion engine is operating while participating in pre-fishing and tournament days of all 5280 Team Series tournaments. All boats must be equipped with an ignition shut-off device securely attached to the boat operator when the combustion engine is on while pre-fishing and fishing 5280 Team Series tournaments. At the discretion of the Tournament Committee, tournament days may be shortened or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Alcoholic beverages or any controlled substances not prescribed by a doctor are not allowed in boats during tournament pre-fishing, fishing hours or during weigh-in.

7. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, 5280 Team Series, sponsors and the sport of tournament fishing. Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules will not be tolerated and may result in disqualification. During the hours of competition contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitors' boat or participate in the practice of "hole-sitting."

8. **COMMUNICATION:** The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing locations or fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. During the off-limits period, practice and competition days, contestants may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone except confirmed 5280 Team Series tournament anglers and other publicly available information. The purchasing of information or hiring of services will not be permitted after the start of the off-limit period, practice and competition.

9. **TACKLE, EQUIPMENT & DIP NETS:** Only artificial baits or lures may be used. Pork-style baits are allowed. All bass must be caught on a rod and reel. Only one rod and reel may be in use by a competitor at any time. Trolling as a method of fishing is not allowed. Landing nets are allowed to assist in landing fish, however, culling nets in live well are not allowed.

10. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Anywhere on the tournament lake except: 50 yards of another contestant's anchored (trolling motor up) boat, 50 yards of any fuel dock, and any area marked off-limits by local, state or Federal authorities. Any additional off-limits will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in without contacting the Tournament Director or designee. Tournament waters are off-limits beginning at 12:01 AM on the Monday before the start of the official event day for all 5280 Team Series tournaments.

11. SPECIAL SITUATIONS: *Contestants must remain in the boat at all times. Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of dire emergency.*

In such an emergency, competitors may be removed (both) from their boat to: a boat operated by other competitors or an officially designated rescue boat. IN CASES OF EMERGENCY CALL 911 AND THEN CONTACT THE 5280 TEAM SERIES TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR.

12. MEETING, LAUNCH & INSPECTION: A pre-tournament meeting time and location will be announced prior to each event. Boat inspection procedures will be announced at that time. All contestants are required to attend or have a pre-designated representative attending. Failure to comply may result in either forfeiture of tournament and entry fees, or loss of take-off position. If contestant is unable to be in the staging area 30 minutes prior to take-off they are encouraged to contact the 5280 Team Series emergency number. A drive-by boat inspection will be conducted at the launch area. Spot inspection of State fishing license and insurance verification may take place.

13. OFFICIAL CHECK POINT: There will be only one site for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. At the time of morning inspection, all competitors must be in full compliance of all rules set forth by the Tournament Committee. All boats shall identify themselves at the check-in site by means of boat number and proceed IMMEDIATELY to the designated weigh-in area. Failure to check-out in the morning or to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification.

14. SCORING: Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky (Spotted) Bass will be counted. Dead fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty for each dead fish. If dead fish is the largest of the creel, that fish will not count for big bass weight. Culling of dead fish is not allowed. Any bass under the tournament legal length limit presented for weigh-in will result in disqualification of that fish and a two (2) pound penalty being deducted from the total weight of the creel. There will be a five (5) fish tournament limit in the 5280 Team Series tournaments and contestants are not allowed to continue fishing until they have culled down to the tournament limit. The Golden Rule will be the official measure board for 5280 Team Series tournaments. Fish will be measured with mouth closed and touching, tail fanned not pinched.

15. **QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:** By contestants signature on a 5280 Team Series entry form and participation in 5280 Team Series tournaments, contestants agree to quality assurance testing and will abide by its conclusions. These tests may include all or any part of the following: polygraph examination, urinalysis, or blood tests. Refusal to submit or failure to pass any quality assurance test will result in disqualification. Quality assurance tests will be used at the sole discretion of the 5280 Team Series and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by 5280 Team Series. Anglers taking quality assurance tests may be responsible for any and all costs involved.

16. **LATE PENALTY:** Contestants not at the designated check-in site by the official designated time will be penalized one (1) pound for each minute late up to a maximum of ten minutes (10 pounds.) Penalized weight will be deducted from the total weight of the team's creel. If the maximum of ten minutes is exceeded, contestants will forfeit all point/weight for that day's competition, and will still receive 50 participation points.

17. **PAYBACK & TIES:** Payback will be 70% at the ramp, 20% will be held for the Championship Tournament and 10% for administration. Cash awards for the Team Series will be based on one place for every five entries. Additional sponsor merchandise, models and sizes are subject to manufacturer's availability at time of winning awards. Ties for any place will be broken by: 1) number of total fish weighed in, 2) number of total live fish weighed in, 3) big fish. If a tie still exists, monies and points will be split evenly between the teams.

18. **5280 TEAM SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING:** There will be four (4) qualifying point tournaments on the Team Series. **All Teams with at least 250 year-end points, or have fished all 4 tournaments, will qualify for the year-end Championship.** 5280 Team Series points will be awarded as follows: 200 first; 199 second; 198 third, etc. Teams will also be awarded the total weight of their fish for each tournament as points; i.e. a winning team with a weight of 15.52 pounds will receive a point total of 215.52 for that tournament. Teams who do not weigh any fish will receive 50 participation points for each tournament.

19. **SIGNATURES:** Every contestant must sign the release waiver along with a fully completed entry form prior to each tournament.

20. **KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY:** By submitting an entry form to 5280 Team Series events, contestants acknowledge that they have read and understand all rules and regulations of the 5280 Team Series. Failure to read these rules or ignorance of these rules is no excuse. Any violation of these rules may be grounds for disqualification from all future 5280 Team Series events. Any announcement made by the 5280 Team Series Tournament Committee at tournament

sites takes precedence over written rules.

21. **OTHER 5280 TEAM SERIES EVENTS:** Other bass tournaments and events conducted by 5280 BassHunters are by invitation only. Payback, prizes and other awards in these events do not represent nor replace the above 5280 Team Series.

22. **A SPECIAL BONUS:** The top finishing Team of the 5280 Team Series **from a Colorado TBF Club** will be awarded a paid entry to the Colorado TBF State Team Qualifying Tournament. Each Team member must be Colorado TBF Club members before the series starts.

