

must be observed. Trolling and fishing from shore is permitted as long as all rules and regulations are followed. The intentional snagging of fish is prohibited. Anyone caught snagging fish will be disqualified and all prizes shall be forfeited. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked in the mouth.

#### 12. BAG LIMITS / WEIGH PERIODS / PRIZES:

The tournament hours are 6:00 am to 3:00 pm Friday, Saturday and Sunday, unless changed pursuant to rule #5 Safety. Cash awards will be given for the 10 largest largemouth bass weighed by 9:00 am; 10:00 am; 11:00 am; 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm; 2:00 pm and 3:00 pm. No contestant may have more than one bass in possession at any time during official tournament hours. No contestant may weigh in more than one bass per tournament hour. Participants must be in the weigh-in line by the designated time or their catch will be weighed for the next weigh-in period. Participants not in line by 3:00 pm on Friday, Saturday or Sunday will receive zero weight for that time period. Fish caught during one tournament day may not be weighed during another tournament day.

#### 13. SCORING:

Final standings will be determined as set forth in rule #12. In the event of a tie for an hourly cash prize, the participants will be awarded the appropriate places and those places will be split equally. For example, if 2 anglers catch and weigh a 10 pound bass at 9:00 am weigh-in, the 1st and 2nd cash prizes will be added and divided equally between the 2 anglers. An angler may receive a maximum of 2 cash prizes each day, however, an angler can receive 2 cash prizes each day and still be eligible to win the grand prize awarded at the conclusion of each day. In the event of a tie for the largest largemouth bass during the 3 day tournament, a "sudden death fish off" will be conducted to determine the winner of the grand prize, unless both participants agree to split the prize. Remember an angler may fish 1, 2, or all 3 days of the tournament, however, each participant over the age of 13 must pay \$85 for those who prepay, or \$95 for those who pay after March 20th, 2007 for each day fished. A paid contestant may win (1) \$10,000 Cash Prize during the three day tournament. All participants that choose to enter the optional Big Bass pot may win one additional cash prize each day from this separate pot. Winners of Prizes and Cash Awards are responsible for all local, state, and federal taxes, title fees, and any and all other charges, etc.

#### 14. BREAKDOWNS:

In case of a breakdown on the water, anglers may accept assistance in the form of a tow or a return ride from another participant. While in tow, or riding, the participant accepting assistance may not fish. However, those rendering assistance may continue to fish. In any case, the participant must remain with his or her fish until delivered to the weigh master. If an angler does not remain with his/her fish, the fish will not be weighed.

#### 15. REGISTRATION:

Each participant must personally check in at the lake prior to fishing. Failure to read and review Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days 2007 Tournament Rules and register in person during the prescribed hours shall result in disqualification. Registration will be open from 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm Thursday, March 22, 2007 and 4:30 am - 10:00 am and 3:00 pm - 6:00 pm Friday and Saturday. Sunday Registration 4:30 am - 10:00 am. Registration will be available within the parking lot, at Pleasant Harbor. It shall be the responsibility of each participant to check the schedule of events or obtain event times from a tournament official.

#### 16. PROTESTS:

Protests regarding violations of these rules must be made immediately to a tournament official, and submitted in writing within 30 minutes after each weigh-in. All decisions concerning protest will be made by the tournament director or his designee, in his sole discretion, and such decisions will be binding and final.

#### 17. OFFICIALS:

All decisions of the Tournament Director or his designee shall be binding and final. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director, in his sole discretion, may impose such sanctions as are deemed appropriate, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and entry fee and prohibition from participation in future tournaments. Tournament Officials shall at their discretion, have the option to change, modify or supersede any and all tournament rules without any prior notification. Tournament Officials reserve the right to refuse the participation of any individual in Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days 2007

# **BILL LUKE DODGE**

# **BIG BASS DAYS 2007**

# **TOURNAMENT RULES**

# **LAKE PLEASANT MARCH 23, 24, 25, 2007**

## 1. PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

This tournament is designed primarily for amateurs: therefore, anyone who earned a significant income within the past 12 months from Professional Bass Fishing or Guiding will not be eligible to compete in BILL LUKE DODGE BIG BASS DAYS 2007. The tournament is open to all persons who possess a valid Arizona fishing license, resident or nonresident. A participant of the Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days 2007 is an individual 14 years of age or older who has paid the entry fee and has read and signed the entry form. Participants under the age of 18 fishing from a boat, must fish with a participant at least 18 years of age. Kids 13 years and younger fish for free and are not required to sign an entry form and therefore are not paid participants in the Big Bass Days Tournament. All participants shall read the Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days 2007 Tournament Rules, complete and sign an official entry form (and for participants under the age of 18, the participants and his/her Parent or Guardian shall sign an official entry form), and pay the entry fee prior to being allowed to participate. With the exception of kids 13 and younger, only participants of Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days tournament are allowed in a boat. Non-contestants are not allowed in a paid contestants' boat at anytime during official tournament hours. Wrist bands must be worn by participants at all times during tournament hours.

## 2. COOPERATION WITH MEDIA:

Participants authorize the use of their photographs as a condition of being allowed to enter, or of equipment or verbal or written accounts of the event or interviews of participants for the lawful promotion of Bill Luke Dodge and/or sponsors of the Bill Luke Dodge Big Bass Days as authorized by Wild West Bass.

## 3. SPORTSMANSHIP:

High standards of sportsmanship, safety and courtesy are expected of all participants during the event. It is expected that all participants will practice maximum courtesy at all times to other participants and non-participants alike. No electronic tracking devices (implanted microchips) may be used to locate fish for tournament purposes. Tournament participants may not enter the water, by person or device for the purpose of locating fish or receive information from person(s) who have located fish by diving or devices. Such activity is not permitted sixty days before the tournament or any time from March 23 through March 25, 2007. Depth finders and graph charts are

the only exception.

## 4. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE POSSESSION AND ABUSE:

While participating in the tournament, during tournament hours, the consumption of alcohol or the unlawful use of any controlled substance will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes.

## 5. SAFETY:

Safe boat operation and conduct must be observed at all times. Any violation of local, state or federal laws or regulations will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all prizes. Each participant is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (life preserver) and said preserver must be strapped, snapped, zippered and worn securely any time the combustion engine is operating. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather and other factors that could endanger the safety of the participants. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. All low profile boats designed for fishing must have and use a safety lanyard to kill switch when combustion engine is operating.

## 6. RELEASE OF LIABILITY:

All participants are required to sign a waiver absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors and their employees of responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities.

## 7. FISHING LICENSE:

It is the responsibility of all participants to acquire and have in their possession all fishing and boating licenses and/or permits required to lawfully fish the tournament lake. Not following any license requirements will result in immediate disqualification.

## 8. FISHABLE WATERS / OFF LIMITS AREAS:

Fishable waters include all water reachable by boat or shore which is open to all participants and which is not otherwise restricted by local, state or federal regulations. For example, anglers may not fish the back of the Aqua Fria River area which is not accessible to boats launched within the main lake area. All fishing and landing of fish must be done from boat or shore. There is no fishing permitted within 50 yards of any

ramp on Lake Pleasant. Fishing is permitted within Pleasant Harbor Marina area, however, anglers may not fish within boat slip areas or within 50 yards of weigh docks or any areas posted private property. No participant can block or hinder another participant's access into or out of any portion of the tournament lake or backwater. Any area of the tournament lake may be declared off-limits as deemed appropriate by tournament officials.

## 9. FISH TRANSPORT FROM AREA TO AREA:

Contestants fishing from shore should have their fish weighed immediately to ensure the health of the fish. Plastic weigh bags will be available at registration for shore fisherman. Dead fish will not be weighed. It is recommended that shore anglers fish close to the weigh area if they do not have the necessary equipment to keep the fish healthy. Contestants are prohibited from transporting live fish from one area to another for the purpose of establishing or increasing the fish population within an area of the tournament lake 60 days prior to the last day of the tournament. Violation of this rule, or its intent, will result in immediate disqualification. In addition, a participant may not solicit or receive any information concerning such lawful activities conducted by nonparticipants for a period of 60 days prior to the conclusion of the tournament.

## 10. POLYGRAPH TESTING:

All paid participants shall submit to a polygraph examination at any time deemed necessary by tournament officials. The examination will encompass all aspects of the tournament rules and tournament related activities. A Grand Prize winning angler must submit and pass, in a conclusive manner, a polygraph examination as a condition precedent to claims consideration. Failure to pass the polygraph test will result in forfeiture of all awards, cash or prizes. Each paid participant agrees to submit to a polygraph examination. Failure to submit to the polygraph examination will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of all awards, cash and prizes.

## 11. TACKLE / FISHING TECHNIQUES:

Participants may catch largemouth bass on rod and reel only. Only one pole may be used at a time unless the participant possesses a 2 pole stamp. Participants may use live bait as authorized by the 2007 Arizona Fishing Regulations. All other rules and regulations pursuant to the 2007 Arizona Fishing regulations