



Highland Marina Resort Winter Spotted Bass Series Official Tournament Rules

- Polygraph Examination** - 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 in connection with any bass tournament for cheating or whose results are found to be inconclusive will not be eligible to compete in Highland Marina Resort tournaments.
- Participation & Eligibility** - These tournaments are open to all persons. At least one team member must be 18 years or older.
- Registration** - Each competitor must register in person, complete this application, and have a rule briefing and boat check prior to blast off.
- Safety** - Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each contestant must have a Coast Guard approved life vest and motor kill switch secured at all times while the boat is on plane.
- Sportsmanship and Conduct** - All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure; Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months; Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition; Chemical substance abuse or addiction; Disqualification from a Highland Marina Resort tournament or other fishing organizations that resulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a contestant's honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into a Highland Marina Resort event being questionable. Upon review of the circumstances by tournament director, Highland Marina Resort, and the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the entry fee of a previously accepted application, or disqualifying a contestant. The decision of the Tournament Director is final. Highland Marina Resort reserves the right to place an official observer in a contestant's boat at any time during competition hours.
- Protest** - All protests must be filed after the rules briefing prior to blast off, or no later than 15 minutes after weigh in is completed. Any competitor who is caught accusing another competitor of an infraction of the tournament rules without filing a formal complaint with the tournament director can be disqualified from the tournament trail for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Tackle & Equipment** - Only artificial lures may be used. No live baits. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional manner using rod and reel.
- Boat Equipment** - Safety equipment adequate to pass Coast Guard regulations must be in the boat at all times. Carelessness or unsafe operation of any boat shall not be tolerated and is grounds for disqualification. Each boat must have an aerated live well with space adequate to maintain a tournament limit of bass.
- Permitted Fishing Locations** - Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere on West Point Lake. Fishing is only allowed on navigable waters, contestants must be able to run the boat to all fishing areas without getting out of the boat. Fishing is not permitted 50 yards from any marina gas pump, areas designated as no fishing areas by state or local officials, or 50 yards from another contestant's boat which is first anchored with their trolling motor up. Contestants may not cast into, hook, or land a fish in these areas.
- Scoring** - Largemouth & Spotted bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 7 fish per boat – all of which must be spotted bass (must have tooth patch on tongue) and must be 12 inches in length or larger measured on a golden rule with the mouth closed and by moving the tail from side to side.
- Dead/Short Fish Penalty** - There will be an 8-ounce penalty for each dead fish weighed in. If a dead fish is in the running for big fish, the 8-ounce penalty will apply to that fish also. Culling of dead fish is not allowed. At no time shall a team have more than 7 fish in its possession. Upon catching the 8th fish you must cull. If a short fish is brought to the scales, the penalty will be the loss of your big fish.
- Late Penalty** - Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area (the Highland Marina outer "no wake" buoy) at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute which will be deducted from the total weight counted that day including any weight towards big fish. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall be disqualified.
- Emergencies** - Competitors shall remain in their boats and with their partners at all times during the tournament, except in the event of sickness or severe storm. Partners may be momentarily out of sight of each other for the sole purpose of performing nature calls.
- Fishing Method** - Highland Marina recognizes only the following methods to catch bass: casting & retrieving a lure, and any form of pitching or flipping. Drifting is allowed only when it is "wind aided". You may use your trolling motor to adjust your "wind aided" drift pattern.
- Tournament Hours** - Tournament hours shall be from 8:00 am at the earliest or safe blast-off time, as determined by the tournament director until 3:00 PM unless otherwise stated at the tournament briefing.
- Rule Changes** - Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament officials. The decision of the tournament director shall be final in all matters. Infraction of these rules could be grounds for disqualification for this and future tournaments.
- Pre-fish off limits** - There is no pre-fishing off limits for these tournaments.
- Cancellation/Re-schedule** - Highland Marina Resort reserves the right to cancel or reschedule any tournament at any time.

19. **Participant Agreement, Release, and Acknowledgement of Risk** - In consideration of Highland Marina Resort allowing me to participate in this tournament, I acknowledgement and agree as follows: I have read and understand the rules for the Highland Marina Resort tournament event. I have voluntarily completed this application and have included my entry fee to participate. I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament, federal, and state rules and regulations. I expressly assume all risk(s) associated with each tournament event and I hereby release Highland Marina Resort, the host, all sponsors, and tournament officials, including, but not limited to each of their respective employees, officers, directors, managers, members, insurers and representatives (collectively "Releasees") from all claims or injury and/or damage arising out of, or related to and/or incurred in connection with any Highland Marina Resort sponsored event(s). I hereby agree to indemnify, defend, and hold harmless Releasees from and against any and all demands, claims, causes of action, (including, but not limited to, causes of action in contract, tort, strict liability or otherwise, and specifically including, but not limited to, any claim of negligence and/or fault of any Releasee) , fines, penalties, damages, liabilities, judgments, and expenses (including, without limitation, reasonable attorneys' fees) incurred in connection with or arising out of my participation and my partner's participation in any Highland Marina Resort sponsored event. I hereby grant Highland Marina Resort, the unconditional, royalty free, perpetual, right and license to use my name, voice, and photographic likeness in connection with Highland Marina Resort promotions, television shows, and/or articles and press releases. I agree that I am not entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament director reserves the right to reject my application for any reason. By signing this application I agree to submit to any truth verification testing requested by Highland Marina Resort, and provided by a polygraph test selected by Highland Marina Resort, and agree with the outcome of any such testing shall be final and binding. I agree that I have sufficient health, accident, and liability insurance to cover any bodily injury or property damage incurred by myself or others as a result of my participation in any Highland Marina Resort sponsored event. If I have no such insurance, I declare that I am capable of paying for any and all such expenses or liability. I understand that I am responsible for paying all local, state, and federal taxes, title, license and registration as a result of my participation in any Highland Marina Resort sponsored event. I agree that sole and exclusive venue for the determination of any claim or controversy arising out of or related to any Highland Marina Resort sponsored events shall be in the city, county and state of LaGrange, Troup, Georgia, where the principal office of Highland Marina Resort is located. Should it become necessary for Highland Marina Resort or any Releasee to incur attorney's fees and costs to enforce this Release, I agree to pay the attorneys fees thereby expended, or for which liability is incurred. If this is a team event, I agree that my partner, if absent from signing this Release, understands all statements, rules, and regulations stated above and has given me express permission to sign on his behalf. By signing this Release, I am stating that my partner and I both agree to these terms.