

## **2027 KING OF THE SOUTH Official Rules:**

### **DATES EFFECTIVE MARCH 1<sup>ST</sup> 2027**

**IT'S EVERY ANGLERS RESPONSIBILITY TO READ AND FOLLOW THE RULES!!**

#### **Every Anglers Responsibilities**

In the state of Alabama, anyone born after April 28<sup>th</sup> 1954 is required to obtain an operator's license. Effective October 1, 2024: Nonresidents may operate a vessel upon the waters of this state only after obtaining a valid boater safety certification or vessel operator's certification issued in his or her home state or country, or after obtaining a Nonresident Alabama Boater Safety Certification upon examination and certification under the same terms and conditions as Alabama residents.

During the hours of the tournament all Anglers are expected to treat safety with the highest priority. Make sure to always wear life jackets, kill switches, and keep running lights on when required. Stay focused while driving your boat watching out for any dangers in the water or other vessels. Obey all posted no wakes zones.

**Working Navigation Lights-**Navigation lights help you and other boaters determine which is the give-way vessel when encountering each other at night. These lights must be displayed from sunset to sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility, such as fog.

1. Tournament director has the final say and can deny any team from entering the tournament no exceptions. The Tournament Director will be allowed to participate in the tournaments.
2. Sportsmanship Rule: Any unsportsmanlike behavior during tournament hours will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament. This includes but not limited to behaviors like, someone hole-sitting for you, reckless boat operation, intentionally snagging fish, etc....
3. Communication rule- During tournament hours the use of any communication device to seek guidance or fishing information is not allowed.
4. All fish are to be caught during the hours of the tournament on the body of water the tournament is being held without leaving the boat or receiving fish from another team
5. All State, Corp of engineers, local and Pride of the South rules/laws will be obeyed. It's the Anglers responsibility to be knowledgeable of the rules. If your team is issued a ticket during any Pride of The South tournaments, you must notify the tournament director prior to weighing any fish. It's the tournament director's discretion to determine the penalty up to disqualification.
6. Only 1 Angler per boat. This is a solo event.
7. No leaving the boat to push into any place. If you become stuck, you can push out but not allowed to continue to push forward to gain access. Only your trolling motor or big motor is acceptable to use to gain access to any legal fishing waters.
8. The influencing or requesting any operation of a spillway outside it normal schedule operating times will be disqualified. (Example Olin basin)
9. ON TIME CHECK IN- Each Angler is given a Key Fob when you register in the morning. You are responsible to hang Key Fob back on the board per the clock's time installed on the board before you due in time (Example 3:30 weigh in time (3:29:59-on time) (3:30:00 Late disqualified)). If you choose to leave early or not weigh, please hang fob back on the board so we know you are off the water. **\*\*If you have an emergency or mechanical breakdown, you must contact the tournament**

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director @ 228-327-5941 send a text if no answer. If you are broke down trying to get back for weigh in, you are allowed to ride with another competitor as long as fish remain separate. Running out of gas is not a mechanical breakdown\*\*

10. All site fish must be caught inside the mouth. No snagging
11. Five fish 12 in or Lake Rule limit per boat. Fish measured with a Radicull Beamer Board.
12. 1/4lb (4oz) per 1 dead fish. 1/2lb per 2 or more dead fish (Example: 1 dead fish .25 deduction 2 dead fish .75 deduction 3 dead fish 1.25lb deduction.) Lunker winning fish must be weighed alive. Short fish will be released immediately. Ties will be determined by the Lunker between the two teams. It is the Angler's responsibility to notify the weigh master that you want your Lunker weighed. Any suspicious dead fish can be denied being weighed in per tournament director's discretion.
13. All fished weighed in will be released back.
14. Artificial bait only. No trolling or live bait fishing. Only 1 rod allowed at a time. (A-RIGS are legal). You must completely retrieve your line inside the boat prior to picking up another rod. Jigger poles are not allowed. No fishing while big motor is running.
15. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs allowed during tournament. If you're subject to taking a polygraph no drinking after you weigh your fish until all places and prizes have been decided.
16. No culling at the dock. Only 5 fish allowed in live well at any time. Allowed to cull a dead fish.
17. Cutting down of green trees including having someone not entered to fish with the intent to fish during the tournament will result in being banned from fishing the trail. No intentional putting out green limbs or baiting fish prior to any event is allowed.
18. Cannot relocate fish prior to an event. Meaning catching them somewhere else and releasing them in a different area with the intent to catch during any event.
19. Must follow all water safety rules. Life jackets and kill switches during blast off and while boat is on plane.
20. Must abide by all "NO WAKE ZONES". This includes blast off at live oak. Upper and Lower Bryant's on Tensaw must obey buoys. Even if the buoys are missing due to high water.
21. Can leave the boat in an emergency only. No fishing allowed while not inside of the boat during an emergency. If a team member must leave early you are allowed to drop him off at the dock. Once a person leaves the boat, they are not allowed back in the boat to fish anymore in that tournament. The angler staying must remain in the boat the entire time.
22. Off limits are determined by state laws. No fishing in ponds or private waters during high water levels. No casting into a private or off limit waters even if your boat is not sitting in the off-limits waters. Cannot leave the boat to gain access to fishable waters. You are allowed to lock through Dams. The following are OFF-LIMITS DOCTOR LAKE, HELLCAT LAKE, BOYKIN LAKE, FLAG LAKE, GREEN LAKE, BEAR LAKE, CHOCTAW LAKE, OLIN BASIN, BIG CHIPPEWA LAKE, AND LITTLE CHIPPEWA LAKE. GRAVEL PIT MILLERS FERRY.
23. Must obey all posted signs this includes dams. (Section 220-6-19 it shall be unlawful to fail to comply with any restrictive sign, buoy, or marker as approved by the Director of the Alabama Marine Police Division). You must maintain 800ft from Claiborne, Coffeerville, Millers Ferry, and Selma Dams. If posted signs do not indicate 800 ft. it's your responsibility to determine 800ft. Treat the sign like a wall do not cross nor cast past the posted sign or the area the sign is referencing this includes private ponds or off-limit areas. For examples look at the off limits file under the rules tab for the division via the website.
24. Any team fishing in 3-mile creek on mobile river, you must obey the "idle only" designated areas.

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25. Any Boat is allowed to carry gas with you in an approved coast guard tank with quick disconnects. Handheld tanks are not allowed cannot leave boat to get gas on land. No one is allowed to bring you gas during the tournament. Plan accordingly if you run out of gas you must make it back on time in your boat. If you ride back your catch will be disqualified.

27. An approved boat must be equipped with an Outboard Water-Cooled motor only. No jet foot motors, or go-devil style motors will be allowed to enter the tournament. Also working live well, navigation and running lights. (Any questions call Tournament Director 228-327-5941)

28. No team can block access to fishable waters. If a team has their trolling motor down FISHING, you must give that team a 50 YD courtesy distance on that bank (opposite bank does not apply) that is being fished unless both teams agree differently. Any team fishing smaller creeks or tighter areas has to choose which bank if there first to allow another team to fish opposite unless it's impossible for two boats to fish at the same time. If a team has their anchor out FISHING, you must give that team a 100 YD courtesy distance unless both teams agree.

29. Anyone that fishes any of the pride of the south tournaments are fishing at their own risk and cannot hold anyone that is involved in the tournament responsible.

30. Each event will have a mandatory polygraph test performed per the Tournament director's decision. A formal protest must be filed by the closing of the scales in person. Any obscene or vulgar gestures said at the event because of the protest will result in banning of the trail. This type of conduct will not be tolerated.

31. In case of a 1<sup>st</sup> place tie the angler with the biggest fish in their limit wins the decision and the losing team of the tie will be considered 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Lunker ties will result in a 50/50 payout split.

**KING OF THE SOUTH AWARD**

**The angler after the 3<sup>rd</sup> event with the most points will receive a \$5000 bonus plus free entry as boat 1 to the follow-on season.**

**Any questions or concerns with these rules please don't hesitate to Contact Jeremy Bass @ 228-327-5941.**