



2023 MIDWAY USA AIA TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS, PRESENTED BY PHOENIX BOATS
LAKE OF THE OZARKS: NOVEMBER 4-5, 2023

> ELIGIBILITY:

By invitation only. Anglers must possess a valid state fishing license for the tournament waters (Lake of the Ozarks)

> ENTRY FEE / PAYBACK:

Entry fee: \$320 per team / Includes Big Bass pot.

> OVERALL PAYOUT:

The 2023 Midway USA AiA Tournament of Champions, presented by Phoenix Boats, will pay back 1 place for every 6 teams entered with a maximum of 25 places paid out. First place will win a 2024 Phoenix 819 Pro with a 200 Mercury Pro XS, 2 Power Pole blades, and electronics from Russell Marine Products. 1st place team is also eligible to win an additional \$17,000 if Phoenix First Flight & Anglers Port Marine incentive compliant.

> BIG BASS PAYOUT:

- Saturday 1st Place Big Bass - \$1,000
- Saturday 2nd Place Big Bass - \$250 Lew's Gift Card per angler
- Sunday 1st Place Big Bass - \$1,000
- Sunday 2nd Place Big Bass - \$250 Lew's Gift Card per angler

> BOAT NUMBER DRAW / TAKE OFF & WEIGH IN:

Anglers in Action will do a random, computer generated draw for take-off numbers. Take-off numbers will be reversed for the 2nd day of competition. Official take-off time will begin at 7:15am/safe light on Saturday, 6:15am/safe light on Sunday. Weigh-in will begin at 3:00pm each day.

> TEAM CHECK-IN:

Friday, November 3rd: 3pm-6:30pm
 PB2 (Grand Glaize State Park) in Osage Beach, MO
Teams will receive championship goodie bags, boat numbers, flight times...etc.
 Division Champions can pick up plaques & checks during check-in.

> CATCH LIMIT, SIZE, AND PENALTIES:

5 FISH LIMIT – EACH DAY
 All largemouth & smallmouth must be a minimum of 15 inches in length. Kentucky/Spotted bass must be a minimum of 12 inches in length. Short fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty per fish, plus the loss of the fish. A dead fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty per fish. If the dead fish is your big bass, the one (1) pound penalty will be deducted from that fish. Culling of dead bass is prohibited. No more than 5 fish are allowed in your live-well at any time, unless it is during the culling process. Anyone bringing more than five (5) fish to the bump tub will not be allowed to weigh in any fish that day. All fish weighed in must be caught during the official tournament hours.

> WEIGH-IN BAGS:

All fish must be brought to the scales in an Anglers in Action weigh-in bag, do not use your personal bag. Weigh-in bags will be located next to the tournament trailer. If none are available, please wait in line until the next one is free. Thank you.

> SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP:

Safe boating must be observed at all times. **LIFE JACKETS & KILL SWITCHES** must be used any time the combustion motor is running above an idle. All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. No alcohol or controlled substance can be used or allowed in the boat during the tournament hours.

> LATE PENALTY:

There will be a one (1) pound penalty for every minute you are late checking in, up to ten (10) minutes, then disqualification for that day.

> TIES:

If a tie occurs for overall weight or big bass, the prize money will be combined for those places and divided equally to the tied teams. If the tie is for the grand prize, the heaviest one-day catch for the tournament will break the tie.

> TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial baits/lures are allowed. All bass must be caught alive on a rod and reel. Only one rod and reel can be used at any time by any one angler. Alabama/umbrella rigs are allowed (max of 3 hooked baits).

> PROTEST:

All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within five (5) minutes of the closing of the scales each day. The appointed tournament advisory board will handle all protests. The decision of the tournament director shall be final in all matters.

> LOCATIONS AND OFF LIMIT AREAS:

You may fish anywhere on the tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, or federal officials. You cannot fish within 50 yards of a contestant's anchored boat (with trolling motor in up position), without their approval.

Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat, unless it is authorized by a tournament official.

OFF LIMIT AREA AT LAUNCH SITE: The off-limit area at the take off ramp (PB2). Everything along and inside the GREEN LINE is off limits from fishing during tournament hours. Lake off limits from fishing starts at sunset on Friday, November 3rd, until official start time Saturday morning.

Violation of any OFF-LIMIT RULE will result in disqualification from the tournament.



> INSURANCE:

Boat owners must have at least \$100,000 of Boating Liability Insurance. Proof of insurance may be asked for at any time and may be a question on the CVSA/Polygraph test.

> SPECIAL SITUATIONS:

Breakdown: In the event of a boat breakdown, the team may transfer their fish to another contestant's boat for transport to the weigh-in site, meeting the following conditions: The fish must be placed in a segregated live-well. One member of the breakdown team must always accompany those fish to the weigh-in site. The team broken down must stop fishing from the time of transfer.

Assistance/Cell Phones: During official hours of competition, contestants may not purchase, barter, give, or request information on locating or catching fish to/ from anyone other than their team member they are fishing with that day. Contestants may not participate in the practice of "hole-sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc. to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. We encourage all contestants to have a cell phone in their boat for emergency use only.

Baiting Holes/Brushpiles: Any contestant KNOWINGLY baiting a specific hole/brush pile prior to fishing an Anglers in Action tournament, or KNOWINGLY having an outside source bait a specific hole/brush pile prior to fishing an Anglers in Action tournament, to gain an edge on the competition day, may face disqualification from that event and any future Anglers in Action events.

> QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:

By contestant(s) signature on the entry form and/or participation in the 2023 Midway USA AiA Tournament of Champions, presented by Phoenix Boats, the contestant(s) agree to any quality assurance tests if required by the Tournament Director. They may include all or part of the following: CVSA and/or Polygraph tests. Refusal of an angler to submit to a test or failure of a test will result in loss of winnings, immediate disqualification, plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments.

Quality assurance tests will be conducted as soon as possible at the conclusion of official tournament hours.

> KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH CONTESTANT:

Failure to read these rules or ignorance of them is no excuse. The Tournament Director reserves the right to reject any entry if he feels that it is not in the best interest of Anglers in Action. Any announcements made by the Tournament Director at the tournament site take precedence over written rules. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

By signature on each team's entry form and/or participation in the tournament, each angler agrees that they have read all tournament rules and the liability release and agree to abide by all rules, regulations, releases, and tournament official's decisions.

YOU CAN TRAILER YOUR BOAT PRIOR TO WEIGHING IN BOTH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY

DEPARTURE & RETURN:

The number of flights will be determined by number of entries. Anglers in Action will do a computer-generated random draw for take-off numbers. Take-off numbers will be reversed for the second day of competition.

Take-off numbers will be handed out on Friday, November 3rd, during check-in at PB2 (Grand Glaize State Park) from 3:00pm-6:30pm.