

2018 Shimano Owner's Tournament Rules

- RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Directors. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Directors may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Directors and tournament officials will be final in all matters. It is at their discretion to make a change where safety of the contestants is a concern. All federal, state and local laws must be obeyed and it is the contestant's responsibility to know these laws. All contestants must read and sign the entry form. A contestant's signature on the entry form will constitute a certification that each angler has read and understands the rules and releases all liabilities and risk.
- PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** The 2018 Shimano Owner's Tournament (SOT) at Sam Rayburn is an individual tournament, not a team tournament. Participation in the 2018 SOT, at Sam Rayburn, will be open to all anglers who have purchased a minimum of \$150 in Shimano or G. Loomis product(s) between 1/1/18 and 9/28/18. Contestants must provide proof of purchase at tournament registration. No more than three contestants may fish from each registered boat.
- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** No time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs, other than prescription, allowed to be consumed while on the water. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any prizes.
- SPORTSMANSHIP:** Contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or any state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified. Contestants must have a valid Texas Fishing License for the Sam Rayburn tournament, (unless exempt) and another form of identification as required by law on their person.
- BOATS & MOTORS:** The SOT has no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have an aerated livewell large enough to sustain fish for a live weigh-in.
- SAFETY:** Boating Safety must be observed at all times. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is operative, and the kill switch must be attached to the driver. In case of any emergency or mechanical breakdown, contestants may take their catch, get into another contestant's boat and return to the weigh-in area.
- TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made.
- PROTESTS:** Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Directors within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.
- POLYGRAPH:** Contestants and winners are subject to a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any prizes. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test, for cheating, in connection with any bass tournament will not be eligible to compete in the 2018 Shimano Owner's Tournament. Contestants must pass polygraphs at tournament location in order to receive cash and prizes.
- SCORING:** This is a big bass tournament and only live bass may be presented at the scales. An individual's largest bass will determine tournament standings for the overall prize(s) and payout(s). Only one bass per individual, per hour, may be submitted for the hourly payout. There is no limit on the number of hours an individual may submit their catch to the scales. Only bass caught during official tournament hours may be presented to the scales. No individual may possess more than five (5) fish at any time. Bass entered in the Big Bass of the Hour contest do not carry forward from hour to hour. In the event of an hourly first place tie, the winner will be determined by which angler weighed-in the winning fish first. All other ties will result in the prizes/awards being combined and divided equally between the respective contestants. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be weighed in. Sam Rayburn has a 14" inch minimum requirement for qualified bass.
- MEASURING OF FISH:** The official measuring board of the Shimano Owner's Tournament is the ProRule Measuring Board. Bass are measured on a flat ProRule board, mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve greatest overall length. No bass that are less than 14 inches in length will be weighed in.
- PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** Fishing is restricted to the navigable waters of Sam Rayburn. Fishing is restricted to the navigable waters of the tournament lake only. All fishing must be done from a boat. Boats may be trailered to and from the weigh-in. No tube, wade, or bank fishing is allowed. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of a non-anchored tournament boat without that boat's permission. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of a contestant's boat which was first anchored or tied with their trolling motor in the stored position, without the anchored boat's permission. Only contestants may be in the boat during tournament hours. Switching or sharing fish with other contestants and/or individuals will result in immediate disqualification. The practice of "hole-sitting" by non-contestants will not be tolerated. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. Contestants must be able to drive the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat.
- TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:** The SOT will be held at Umphrey Family Pavilion at Sam Rayburn - 5438 Sam Rayburn Parkway, Brookeland, TX 7593114.
- FISHING HOURS:** 6:45am until 3pm on Saturday, September 29th. You may be on the water beginning at 4:45 am, but no casting until 6:45am Saturday morning. The scales will open the bottom 1/2 hour of each hour beginning at 7:30, and close at 3pm Saturday. The scales will be closed the top 1/2 hour of each competition hour. Hours paid will be 8am, 9am, 10am, 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, and 3pm.
- REGISTRATION:** Early event registration is available at ttz1.com. On-site registration will be taken at Umphrey Pavilion during registration hours Friday, September 28th from 4pm until 8pm, and Saturday, September 29th from 5am until 6:30am. All contestants including those who pre-registered MUST check-in at the tournament headquarters during official registration hours. All contestants will receive a tournament packet and weigh-in instructions.
- OFF LIMITS:** Sam Rayburn will be off limits beginning at 9pm Friday, the 28th until 4:45am Saturday, the 29th.
- ENTRY FEE:** The entry fee is proof of a \$150 or greater purchase of Shimano or G.Loomis product(s) between 1/1/18 and 9/28/18 per individual.
- CONSERVATION:** This is a primary concern of Shimano; adequate livewells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition. No dead bass will be weighed during the 2018 Shimano Owner's Tournament.
- DETERMINATIONS AND RIGHTS:** Event applications for entry in the 2018 Shimano Owner's Tournament, determinations of hourly winners, rights to awards and prizes, and interpretation of all rules are subject to the sole approval and discretion of the Tournament Directors.
- RULE VIOLATIONS:** All bass caught by contestants fishing together in one boat will be disqualified if any of the said contestants are found to be in violation of any tournament rules and regulations.
- ASSISTANCE:** During competition hours, contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or 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. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first, and then notify the Tournament Directors.