

## Sunflower Team Series

**1. RULES:** These rules will remain in effect throughout the current tournament year unless specifically superseded by the Sunflower Team series, State or local law. Sunflower Team Series herein after referred to as STS. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the STS Tournament Directors. Protests and rule violations must be reported in writing by the official closing of the weigh scales. Decisions of the STS Tournament Directors shall be final in all matters.

**2. Membership:** Membership to STS is \$40.00 per person. All members shall be 18 on or before participation in an event. Any participant under the age of 18 must fish with an adult and submit the appropriate release form. A Current Kansas Fishing license is required along with a Kansas Bass Pass for special length limit lakes.

**3. Tournament Entry Fees:** All tournaments are 90% pay back. Entry fee for the 6 Tournament series is \$100.00 boat per tournament. The \$100 registration fee includes \$10.00 (Big Bass Pot) and \$5 fee for Team Of the Year (TOY). The entry fee for the Championship is \$200 and payback will be respectively doubled. The tournament director may adjust entry fee on tournament locations that require a significant lake usage fee.

**4. Scoring:** 6 one day tournaments; 100 point scoring system: Sample Scoring 1st place team –100 point; 2nd place—99 points 3rd Place –98 points and so on. All teams that didn't weigh in a fish receive 50 participation points. Championship; 200 points scoring system with placing points in increments of two. The points your team receives for the best 5 of 6 one day tournaments will be added to the points for the championship to determine total (TOY).

Championship: The Championship will be a 2 day event. Teams must fish 3 of the six regular season events to qualify for the Championship. STS reserves the right to allow additional teams to the championship at their discretion. Substitutions are not allowed to fish the Championship.

Team Of the Year (TOY): Will be determined by total points scored in the championship and 5 of the 6 regular season tournaments, and the Championship

**5. Teams:** Teams may consist of one person or a maximum of two persons.

**6. Substitutes:** Each team may have one substitute during the regular season. Any Substitute must pay a membership fee and not be a current member of another team. A substitute may only fish one time with one team. A substitute is not required, either member of a team may fish solo for that team (full team registration fee required). A substitute may form his or her own team after their participation as a substitute. If current members on different teams desire to fish together, they must form a new team, one may not be considered the substitute on the others team.

**7. Ties:** Ties will be broken by: 1) Big Bass, 2) Total number of fish weighed in, 3) Total number of live fish weighed in. If a tie still exists, monies and points will be split evenly. Ties for TOY will be broken by finishing place at the Championship.

**8. Short Fish Penalties:** All fish brought to weigh-in must be of legal size determined by state law for that body of water fished. Short fish will be culled from your sack and a one (1) pound penalty assessed to total. A courtesy measuring board will be available to be used by teams.

**9. Equipment:** Only artificial lures can be used in STS tournaments. The use of pork trailers is permitted. The uses of multi-lure baits are permissible as long as they do not violate state/Region/Lake regulations. Only one rod/reel may be used by a competitor at a time. Landing nets are allowed. Intentional snagging of game fish is unlawful and not permitted.

**10. Trolling:** Trolling with the use of a combustible engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. A team found to be doing this would be disqualified for that tournament and put on probation for the remaining season tournaments

**11. Boat and Motor:** Boats must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and must have a motor within rating limits. Any boat, 16 feet or longer, powered by a motor between 40 hp and 250 hp, with a lanyard style kill switch will be acceptable. No over-powered boats. A proper Coast Guard yellow plate must be permanently mounted on all boats. "Stick Steering" will not be allowed. Each boat must have a functioning bilge pump and live-well space, properly aerated, capable of keeping alive one limit of fish per team. Any vessel deemed "unsuitable" by the STS Tournament Directors will not be allowed to participate.

**12. Limits:** This is a 5-fish limit (per team or when fishing alone) at each tournament. Anyone possessing or bringing in more than a 5-fish will be disqualified.

**13. Dead Fish Penalty:** For each dead fish a ½ pound penalty will be deducted from your total weight. A dead fish will not be weighed-in as big fish. Tournament director will make final decision if fish is dead or not. Fish that appears altered or mangled shall be the tournament director's decision to weigh or not to weigh the fish.

**14. Late to weigh-in:** There will be a deduction of 1 lb. per minute of your total weight for every minute late to weigh-in. After 15 minutes past weigh-in teams are disqualified.

**15. Registration:** There will be registration at the tournament site starting an hour and a half or more before the start of the tournament. A Mandatory Pre-tournament meeting will occur 30 minutes prior to scheduled take off. All teams are required attend the mandatory meeting 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Registration will close 30 minutes before the start of the tournament. Paying entries fees after the tournament registration time will be accepted only at the tournament Director's discretion. Tournament Directors will only accept cash at registration (NO Checks Please). All teams may pre-register by mail for a tournament. If pre-registering, entry forms must be post marked 7 days before the tournament you desire to fish. Entry fee may be rolled over to the next tournament, if the director is contacted before the start of the tournament. Failure to contact tournament director for a roll over will result in a forfeit of entry fee and contestants will receive show up points. There will not be a late registration fee for registering at the ramp. Tournament take off positions will be determined by draw after the mandatory meeting.

**16. Weigh-in procedures:** All contestants will be instructed at the pre-tournament meeting on any unique weigh-in procedures. Each team must present his or her own catch to the weigh-in official. No other person shall then handle the fish except a weigh-in official. No person other than weigh-in officials may touch the scales; weigh-in basket or any part of the weigh-in equipment.

**17. Live well Inspection:** Boats must have a live well, either built into the boat or portable. Live wells must have some type of pump or circulator to keep fish alive. Prior to boat launch the Tournament Director or assignee will check all live wells.

**18. Life Preserver:** During all STS Tournaments, contestants not wearing their life jackets zipped and secured when the combustion engine is running and in gear will have that day's weight disqualified from the tournament.

**19. Sportsmanship:** All contestants are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. The following shall be cause for immediate disqualification with no appeal available. 1.) Intoxication. 2.) Use of illegal substances. 3.) Physical or verbal abuse of STS personnel or other contestants. 4.) Possession of alcohol or illegal substances in the boat or on your person during hours of the tournament.

**20. Off-Limits:** The tournament director will announce the off-limits areas at each pre-tournament meeting. Any team fishing in the off-limits areas will be disqualified from the tournament. Teams may not fish closer than 50 yards to another competitor who is anchored with the trolling motor up unless given permission. If permission is given to one, then all may fish same water. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall be cause for disqualification.

**21. Leaving Your Boat:** Competitors may not leave the boat in order to land a fish. Competitors shall remain with the partner in the boat at all times during the tournament. Except in the event of sickness or brief excursions for "nature calling", a severe storm or other such hazards. If for any reason a team decides to leave the tournament waters early, competitors must try to contact the director, prior to leaving the tournament. If you have boat trouble, one member must remain with the disabled boat. The other team member may board another competitor's boat with that day's catch and bring fish to weigh-in. Please contact the tournament director prior to doing so.

**22. Cheating:** Anyone caught cheating in any tournament event will be immediately barred from fishing in any STS event. We reserve the right to have a random truth verification test performed at any time. You may not use a cell phone to gain an advantage over the rest of the competitors. All protest must be submitted in writing to the Classic director before the close of weigh-in. Verbal protest will not be accepted.

**23. INSURANCE:** Boat owners must have at least \$300,000.00 of Boating Liability Insurance and have a copy of their insurance, showing liability coverage and a valid date of the policy.

**24. Refusal of Membership:** We reserve the right to refuse membership or entry into any of STS Tournament Series Events.