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Officer Aaron Pearson Benefit Buddy Bass Tournament



**Tournament April 19th, 2015
7:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.**

Mill Creek Boat Ramp, Table Rock Lake

\$ 100.00 Per Boat --- Payback Based On Cash & Prizes

\$ 20.00 Optional Big Bass 100 % Payback

TOURNAMENT RULES

Early entries will be taken by mail beginning on March 1, 2015. Entries will also be taken the morning of the tournament beginning at 6:00 AM at the Mill Creek ramp. Boat take off numbers will be based on date and time of entry. Entry fee will be \$100 per boat. One person entry is acceptable but full entry fee is required.

Donations can be made by check payable to Officer Aaron Pearson.

OFFICIAL OMTT "BENEFIT" TOURNAMENT RULES

1. PREFACE-RULES: These rules and regulations remain unchanged during the 2015 season for all Ozark Mountain Team Trail Events. Interpretation and enforcement of the following rules and regulations is left exclusively to the Tournament Directors and are not subject to appeal. **PROTESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER THE OFFICIAL CHECK-IN TIME OF THE FINAL FLIGHT.** All protests in writing will stand up unless a witness disagrees, where final decisions are made by tournament director. Anglers being protested may not be witnesses. Witness does not have to be a tournament angler. **Once anglers have been protested and notified, those protested anglers may not protest the team that protested them.** Rules are in effect during competition days of all 2015 Ozark Mountain Team Trail Events. It is every angler's responsibility to know these rules and you will be held accountable. All Anglers must have a current fishing license in the state waters fished. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Cheating of any kind will not be tolerated and will lead to immediate disqualification. **Trailering of boats is prohibited during OMTT tournament hours unless approved by Tournament Officials.**

2. ELIGIBILITY: To maintain the highest standards possible, participation in Ozark Mountain Team Trail ran Event, (herein after referred to as OMTT), will be by entry invitation only. Any male or female whose entry has been accepted and has paid the appropriate entry fee and membership by the official deadline date is eligible. **Boater must be at least 18 years of age.** OMTT reserves the right to refuse any entries.

3. INSURANCE: Boating Liability Insurance (\$100,000 minimum) is required of all competitors in Ozark Mountain Team Trail events.

4. COMPETITION PERIODS: Tournament hours begin as listed on the schedule and/or stated at official registration. The Tournament Director reserves the right to change the Tournament Hours on competition days if need be. Competitor's must know and observe the official times, dates and rules. During **competition hours/official practice days**, tournament anglers **may not** procure the service of guides or local experts, participate in the practice of "hole sitting", follow a non-competitor's boat to fishing locations, use mobile communication devices to communicate fishing locations or information during tournament hours, fish in the designated off limit areas given in the pre-take-off announcements. Breaking of the for mentioned rule results in immediate disqualification from OMTT event. **No wake zones & no fishing zones on all lakes must be followed.** If an angler admits fault, is warned/ticketed by law enforcement, or is protested, anglers breaking the no wake/no fish rule will be disqualified immediately. If OMTT event is two days or more, the anglers will lose that days weight only.

5. SAFETY: Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast-Guard approved personal flotation device fully strapped, snapped or zipped securely **anytime the combustion engine is running** once competition day begins. Competition day begins after you receive your boat paddle and have been approved to compete. Violators of this rule will be disqualified. All boats must be equipped with an engine shut-off device securely attached to the boat operator when the combustion engine is running during competition days. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament times may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP, ALCOHOL & DRUGS: All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, conservation, care and courtesy at all times. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the boat or used by the competitors during official tournament hours or at the official weigh-in. No drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a physician) shall be used by any competitor during official practice, tournament hours or at the official weigh-in. Respect fellow competitors on the water.

7. BOATS AND MOTORS: All boats must meet B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements; House boats, barges or other cumbersome crafts are not allowed at the Tournament Director's discretion. All boats must be equipped with an ignition "kill switch" device. Each boat is required to have a properly aerated live well adequate to maintain alive, a limit catch of bass. Running lights, if required by OMTT Officials, must be operational. Electric trolling motors may be used for maneuvering.

8. TACKLE, EQUIPMENT & FISHING: Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Pork style baits are allowed. No live bait or prepared bait allowed. All bass must be caught on rod and reel, and only one rod and reel allowed in water per angler. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. Trolling, as a method of fishing is not allowed. Underwater cameras are not allowed during **tournament hours**. Dip nets are allowed to assist in landing fish. Snagging bass off spawning beds is prohibited and all bass caught off spawning beds must be hooked inside the mouth. All bass must be caught alive on rod and reel.

9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS & COMMERCIAL DOCKS: Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50-yards of a **public gas pump**, within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position (with the trolling motor in or out of the water), unless that competitor specifically allows any and all tournament boats the right to fish within 50-yard radius claimed by him; within any area designated by state or federal agencies as a "no fishing" area; within the buoyed areas of the take-off cove. Other specific off limits shall be addressed at the pre-takeoff meeting. **Corps of Engineer Lakes in the White River chain have specific off limits in and around "Concession Areas" (Marinas) and commercial docks. Anglers caught fishing or ticketed in non permitted fishing areas, will be disqualified.**

10. SPECIAL SITUATIONS: Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must land all fish from inside the boat. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Neither competitor may depart from the boat except in the case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, one or both competitors may be removed from their boat to another boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. It is the responsibility of anglers to keep their fish separated and in water during transport to the tournament weigh-in site. Anglers must notify an official tournament staff member of the situation upon arrival to weigh-in.

11. TAKE-OFF ANNOUNCEMENTS & INSPECTION: There will be mandatory pre-take-off announcements 10 minutes prior to take-off. Boats will take off in order of event entry by flights. Failure to respond to the call of your boat number will result in the loss of take-off position. No boat is allowed to leave the take-off area until boat number is called by an OMTT official. An idle by inspection will be conducted at take-off. Boat operator will be asked to show "kill switch" as he/she idles by the last check point. **No boat leaves the take-off with a faulty "kill switch".** All Coast-Guard approved life jackets must be fully zipped, snapped or strapped on both contestants. Live wells must be opened and aerators on during idle by. Failure to comply by these rules may result in forfeiture or loss of take-off position. No jockeying for position.

12. OFFICIAL CHECK INN: Check-in site will be determined by OMTT Officials. During pre-tournament inspection, all competitors must be in full compliance of all rules set forth by the Tournament Officials and continue to abide by those rules until the weigh-in ceremony is completed. All boats will identify them selves at check-in site by means of boat number and proceed **immediately** to the designated weigh-in area to weigh fish. Failure to receive morning boat inspection or turn in your boat number/paddle at the check point will result in disqualification.

13. SCORING: Largemouth, Kentucky (spotted), Smallmouth and Meanmouth (Red Eye) Bass are counted. **Five Fish** per team may be weighed in at each event. Fish must be weighed on OMTT scales in an OMTT bag. The official length limit for bass will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be announced at the pre-take-off meeting. Bass should be measured on a flat board with mouth closed and the tail of the fish must touch the legal length line to qualify. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length will not be counted and will cause a **1.00 pound penalty** for each such bass presented to be deducted from the contestant's total score. For each legal **dead bass** presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor's shall be penalized **0.50 pounds** to be deducted from their daily score. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. At no time during tournament hours shall a contestant possess more than a 5-fish limit or weigh in more than a five fish limit. Failure to comply with these rules will result in immediate disqualification.

14. CULLING: Culling must be done immediately by one angler before culling angler makes another cast and not inside the host marina buoys or designated take-off areas. **Anglers may not cull a dead fish.** Culling of a dead fish will result in immediate disqualification. Anglers may put fish #6 in the live well before getting the cull fish out of live well as long as culling angler does not make a cast before culling.

15. LATE PENALTY: Contestants not at designated check-in site by official designated time will be penalized **one pound** for each minute late up to a maximum of **ten minutes (ten pounds)**. Penalized weight will be deducted from the team's total weight. If the maximum of ten minutes is exceeded, contestants will forfeit all weight for that day's competition.

16. PAYBACK: Based on the **cash and prizes** for the benefit tournament. In the event of a **TIE**, OMTT Tournament Officials will combine and divide equally the prize money between the spots that are tied. Trophy position shall be determined by entry position on ties.

17. QUALITY ASSURANCE TEST: Random quality assurance test may be given at OMTT ran events. By his or her signature on entry form and/or participation in any OMTT tournament event, anglers agree to submit to any or all quality assurance tests. Refusal to submit to any or all test will result in immediate disqualification and possible ban from future OMTT events. If anglers fail any or all tests, the angler's weight shall be 0.00 pounds and they lose all winnings. None of the OMTT rules shall prohibit an OMTT Official from approaching, observing or boarding any competitor's boat during tournament competition periods.

Boater Signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to: Officer Aaron Pearson
Benefit Tournament

Boater Name (Print) _____

Mail checks to: Tom Blakemore
1225 W Highland St
Springfield, MO 65807

Non-Boater Signature _____ Date _____

Contact numbers: Tom Blakemore 417-880-6767
Scott Berry 417-861-2983
Sutton Berry 417-844-6553

Non-Boater Name (Print) _____