

Oklahoma Team Match Fishing Rules

- 1- **Oklahoma Team Match Fishing (OTMF)** Directors and/or Rules Committee reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone.
- 2- **Eligibility:** At least one member of each team must be 18 years of age, under age contestants must have written consent from parent or legal guardian. The use of a professional guide on the host lake within 7 days of match date is not permitted.
- 3- **Teams:** Teams will consist of 1 or 2 members. Team members must be declared at the time of entry into OTMF. No substitutes will be allowed. If a Team consists of 2 members and 1 member is unable to fish a particular Match, then the remaining member can fish that Match alone. A person electing to participate in OTMF as a 1 person Team may do so; provided however, that he/she must fish all Matches alone.
- 4- **Tournament entry fee:** Entry fee into OTMF is \$530/Team (\$500 entry fee, \$30 membership). Entries will be accepted on a “first-come, first-serve” basis” until 32 paid entries are received. Any entries received after the 32 spots are filled will have their money returned and will be put on a waiting list. Any check(s) returned for insufficient funds will result in that team being declared ineligible to participate in this year’s OTMF with that position being filled with the next available Team from the waiting list. Entries can be mailed to the Tournament Director or paid in person at that address listed below.
- 5- **Safety:** Coast Guard approved life jackets, kill switch, and working bow and stern running lights are mandatory. Life jackets and kill switch must be worn when boat is on plane. Running on plane under any bridge on Oklahoma waters is immediate disqualification. Breaking any state or federal boating law may be cause for disqualification.
- 6- **Boats:** There is no restriction on make or model of boat or motor. Each Team’s boat must be equipped with a working aerated livewell capable of holding a tournament limit of fish. All boats must have a horsepower rating plat attached by the manufacturer and the motor must not exceed the horsepower rating stated thereon.
- 7- **Matches:** The first paid 32 Teams will be issued a team number in the order in which they are received. Matches will consist of 2 Teams fishing against each other on the designated lake on the designated day. The Matches will be determined by random draw. The Matches will be posted in a bracket format. Round 1 will start March 5, 2011 and must be completed by June 26, 2011, no exceptions. The Tournament director will allow changing of dates drawn as long as both Teams can agree on a date. Round 2 will start July 2, 2011 and must be completed by August 28, 2011, no exceptions. Round 3 and the Finals will start September 3, 2011 and finish by October 30, 2011.
- 8- **Lakes:** The list of lakes is: Eufaula, Ft. Gibson, Grand, Hudson, Nav. Channel (3 Forks), Skiatook and Tenkiller. 7 days prior to a Match the Lake will be determined via random draw from the list of lakes. Once a Lake is determined for a Match, then that Lake will not change unless the Tournament Director deems the current conditions of the Lake to be unsafe. If a Match is rescheduled for any reason, then the Lake will also be redetermined via random draw.

- 9- Off Limits :** No Team may be on its scheduled Lake for 7 days prior to a Match. No Team may obtain information pertaining to the Lake it is scheduled to fish from any outside source 7 days prior to match.
- 10- The Bracket :** OTMF is a single elimination format. The 32 Team field will compete in Round 1. Round 1 will consist of 16 head- to- head Matches. The actual pairings will be announced once all 32 teams are confirmed for OTMF competition. **If a Team is declared ineligible or is unable to fish for any reason prior to competing in its Round 1 Match, then that spot will be filled with the first available Team on the waiting list. After a Team fishes its Round 1 Match and if that Team subsequently becomes ineligible or is unable to fish for any reason, that spot will not be filled from the waiting list, the other Team will receive a “bye” and will automatically advance to the next Round. No refunds of the Entry Fee will be given after a Team fishes its Round 1 Match.** The 16 Teams that win their respective Match in Round 1 will advance to Round 2. Round 2 will consist of 16 Teams in 8 head- to- head matches with the 8 Teams that win their respective Match advancing to quarterfinals and so on until the final two Teams are determined.
- 11- Tackle:** Only artificial baits or lures may be used. No Trolling or live bait is allowed. Pork style baits and commercial scents are allowed. All bass must be caught on rod and reel and in a legal, sporting manner. Only one rod and reel per contestant is allowed in use at any one time. Dip nets are allowed.
- 12- Scoring:** No more than five (5) bass may be weighed limited to large mouth/black bass, Kentucky/spotted bass or smallmouth bass only. All Bass must measure 14 inches or more (16 inches or more for Tenkiller) on a flat board with the mouth closed and in any way to get the tail to touch. Total stringer weight will determine winner of the Match. Any Team bringing more than five (5) fish to weigh in will have their entire catch for that day disqualified. Once fish have been turned over to tournament officials, they become the property of the tournament and no fish may be added to catch. Each Team will have their biggest bass weighed for tie breaker purposes. A short fish is a 1 pound penalty and loss of that fish. **No dead fish will be weighed.**
- 13- Culling:** A Team may have no more than five (5) bass in possession. Upon catching the 6th legal bass, one Team member must immediately cull. However, the other Team member can continue fishing as long as the other Team member is in the act of culling.
- 14- Late Penalty:** All contestants must be checked in with the Tournament Director by end of official fishing time. Teams checking-in late will be disqualified.
- 15- Permitted Fishing Areas:** Fishing is allowed from boat only and confined to waters specified in the match. Teams must leave the designated launch ramp via boat and return via boat. Teams must not depart the boat to fish or land fish. No Team will be allowed to fish within 25 yards of an operating gas dock. No fishing within 25 yards of another Team’s anchored boat will be allowed without permission from other team. No Team may fish in areas designated as off-limits by State or Federal authorities, including but not limited to, swim beaches, spillway and dam areas, etc. Team members must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of emergency or life threatening situation. In case of boat or motor problems, notify the Tournament Director and a decision will be made at that point.

- 16- Restricting bass:** Restricting bass by any method which disallows its natural movement or travel throughout the impoundment is prohibited and is cause for immediate disqualification. Seeding bass captured from another impoundment is prohibited and is cause for immediate disqualification.
- 17- Take off:** Take off will start at safe light. Contestants should have there livewell checked prior to take off. No Team may begin fishing or depart the take-off area before the official starter calls their Team number.
- 18- Weigh in:** Each match will weigh in at 2:00 pm. Boats are allowed to be loaded onto there trailers prior to weighing fish.
- 19- Official time:** The official timekeeper for the match is the OTMF Tournament Director
- 20- Ties:** all ties will be decided by the total number of fish, if a tie still exists big fish will determine winner, if a tie still exists then there will be a one hour fish-off subject to these Official Rules until a winner is determined.
- 21- Protests:** Any protest should be made in writing at the weigh-in within 15 minutes of conclusion of the weigh-in
- 22- Waiver:** All Team members must sign a Waiver releasing all tournament officials, rule committee members, tournament staff, contestants, host and sponsors from any and all claims, injuries, and/or damages incurred in conjunction with their participation (including travel to and from an OTMF Match) in an OTMF Match or event before the Team will be allowed to participate in OTMF
- 23- Polygraph:** By signing this Waiver contestants agree to a polygraph test by a qualified examiner. Refusal to submit to a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Failure of the polygraph test or refusal to submit to the polygraph test will result in forfeiture of all monies and the contestant will be banned from future OTMF matches.
- 24- Cheating:** Anyone who has been banned from another organization or has been convicted of cheating in any other fishing tournaments or contest is not eligible to join or fish the OTMF.
- 25- Alcoholic beverages:** Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are not allowed during tournament hours and/or prior to polygraph.

Any announcements made by the tournament director at the tournament site takes precedence over these written rules. By participating in this event each person agrees that all decisions made by tournament director and/or rules committee are final and not subject to legal challenge.