



2026 RULES

GENERAL RULES

1. By submitting a registration form, a registrant agrees to abide by the rules and regulations listed and will accept the decision of the Weigh Masters as final. All anglers 18 and over must have a valid Louisiana fishing license. Before fishing, every angler must register and pay online or at the designated registration table (or other designated site). Evidence of poor sportsmanship will be cause for disqualification. All minors (12 and under) must be under the supervision of an adult.
2. Extreme inclement weather may be cause for cancellation of the tournament at the discretion of rodeo committee. There is no refund in the event of a cancellation.
3. All fish entered must be caught in the park on rodeo day. Any fish that appears to have been iced, penned, mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will not be weighed at the discretion of the Weigh Masters.
4. Big Bass Rodeo and Battle for the Bass events are 6:30am to 11:00am. Boats on the Bayou is 7:00am to 10:30am. All fish entered in the rodeo must be brought to the Weigh Master's station no later than 10:59 a.m. for Big Bass Rodeo/Battle for the Bass, and 10:29 a.m. for Boats on the Bayou. Time will go by the OFFICIAL CLOCK at each Weigh station. The Big Bass Rodeo/Battle for the Bass Weigh Station is located at Popp's Bandstand. For Boats on the Bayou, the weigh station is located along Bayou St. John near the bridge at Filmore Avenue
5. Big Bass Rodeo and Battle for the Bass are bank fishing only events. Any angler fishing from a boat will be disqualified. No fishing on North Golf course, Golf Course under construction, Sculpture Garden, within the Louisiana Children's Museum campus, east side of Equest Farm lagoon, or any posted restricted area.
6. Boats on the Bayou is for non-motorized boats ONLY such as kayaks, canoes, flat boats, pedal boats, paddle boards, etc. No sailing vessels allowed. Fishing is allowed in Bayou St. John beginning at Harrison Avenue north to the Lake. Watercraft is not allowed in the lagoons and bayous within City Park boundaries except Bayou St. John.
7. **BASS:** This is a catch-and-release event for all bass. Only LIVE black bass (largemouth, spotted, and hybrids) will be weighed. Please bring your own container to transport your live bass to the Weigh Station. Anglers are not limited to the number of bass that can be entered, but only the one heaviest bass will be considered.
8. In the event of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. There are no limitations on rod weight or strength of line in any category. All bass and cichlids must be left with the Weigh Master.
9. All fish weighed in must be caught by the angler bringing the fish to the weigh station. Fish weighed in for Battle for the Bass or Cichlid and Bream Trim must be brought to the weigh station by a registered member of the team.

BIG BASS RODEO

Anglers may only register for one of the below four categories. All categories except Champions Challenge will award 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. No live bait is allowed for Bass Adult or Champions Challenge.

1. **BASS-Adult:** 13 years or older.
2. **Cichlid and Bream Trim—Team Event:** This is a team event for 1-5 members. Team is limited to a stringer of 15 fish per team. Fish may be any combination of bream, cichlids or perch (sac-a-lait). Open to all ages. Award given to top three teams with heaviest stringers.
3. **Junior Anglers: 12 years and under only.** Awards given to the three youths who bring in the single heaviest of: (A): bream or perch or cichlid OR (B): bass. These are two separate sub-categories and one youth may win in either or both subcategories.
4. **Champions Challenge:** This event is only for past 1st place winners in a BASS category (Adult, Junior, or Fly). Award given for heaviest bass. Open to all ages. (One award)

BATTLE FOR THE BASS

1. Team event for students grades 6-12 of up to 5 anglers. A school may have more than one team.
2. Multiple teams from the same school may not combine their fish in order to beat another school.
3. The teams with the heaviest combined weights of 2 live fish will be recognized for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places.
4. Only artificial bait is allowed. Natural bait (live bait such as worms, crickets, etc.) is not permitted.
5. Students registered for Battle of the Bass may register to fish in both the Big Bass Rodeo and the Battle for the Bass divisions. However, fees for each division must be paid and a separate registration must be submitted. Students registered for Battle for the Bass may not participate in Boats on the Bayou.

BOATS ON THE BAYOU

1. Registrant MUST wear PFD (Personal Flotation Device) at all times when on the water or be disqualified.
2. Registrant boater must be **8 years or older; ages 8-13 must be accompanied on the water by an adult (21 yrs and older.)**
3. This is a live weigh-in event. All fish must be left at the Weigh Station for release by officials. Please provide transport of your live fish. Exception: cichlids may be dead.
4. Any rod & reel type or cane pole is allowed. No limitation on rod weight or line strength. Artificial, dead, or live bait allowed.
5. **Trophies will be given for the three heaviest weights in each category:**
 - **BASS** - black bass (largemouth, spotted, and hybrids)
 - **OTHER** – the single heaviest fish that is not a bass.
6. Anglers are not restricted to weighing in only one species and may win multiple categories.

CITY PARK HISTORY

- LDWF is responsible for fisheries management in New Orleans City Park lagoons. The goal of urban fisheries management is to provide and enhance recreational fishing opportunities.
- Since 1999, LDWF has stocked the lagoons with many species of fish including largemouth bass, yellow bass, sunfishes, channel catfish and blue catfish.
- The invasive Rio Grande Cichlid* was first spotted in 1996 and has become more common in City Park lagoons.
- Most aquatic vegetation problems are controlled by salt water entering City Park lagoons from Bayou St. John.
- There are 11 miles of lagoons and 22 miles of shoreline throughout the 1,300 acre park.
- Average depth of the lagoon system is 3 feet

**Species must be killed immediately after capture.*

