[**Bowfishing Tournament Series Rules**](https://d.docs.live.net/5804ac087ae87d77/Alvarado%20Archery%20Files/Bowfishing%20Tournament%20Docs/Bowfishing%20Tournament%20Rules%202023.docx)

**All participants will be required to sign a**[**liability**](file:///C:\Users\Owner\AppData\Local\Packages\microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe\LocalState\Files\S0\553\Attachments\WAIVER%20AND%20RELEASE%20OF%20LIABILITY.docx) **release,** [**media**](file:///C:\Users\Owner\AppData\Local\Packages\microsoft.windowscommunicationsapps_8wekyb3d8bbwe\LocalState\Files\S0\553\Attachments\MEDIA%20RELEASE%20OF%20LIABILITY.docx) **release and polygraph release form. If there are any team members under the age of 18, a parent or guardian signature is required for these forms prior to the tournament.**

**General Rules:**

1. PRE-Registration will open January 12th, 2023. ENTRY FEE IS: $150 per team with max 4 person teams. Pre-event tournament sign in starts at 2:00pm at each lake. CASH is preferred
2. ***Payout is: 25% of total entry fees per event with 65% deposited into pool for championship and paid to series Champions at the final lake event.***
3. **All teams must be registered, paid and have signed release forms prior to event start to be eligible to compete. Release forms will be valid during the tournament series-no need for new forms each event if one is already filed for 2023. Release forms will be emailed to you upon request or when payment is made. Payment can be made over the phone. (Cash is preferred if payment is made during tournament registration at the lake.) Team Captains are responsible for collecting team payment and release forms from team members and ensuring teams are paid in full.**
4. **Launch time: 4:00pm Weigh in time: 1:00am. A mandatory pre-tournament meeting will start at one half hour before launch time at each lake; ALL team CAPTAINS ONLY must be present**.
5. **Alvarado Archery Reserves the right to allow or not allow late entries OR revoke entries for any reason**. If allowed, late entries will leave last in take-off order.
6. **You can have up to 4 team members per event**. You **cannot** have any non-team member onboard during the tournament. We realize not all team members may be able to compete in each event so you can change team members during the series but only 4 members can compete per event. The team captain must be the same person each event for the team to be viable, but the other 3 members can interchange each event. The designated team captain doesn’t have to be the owner of the boat but must be present and fishing each event as the captain to be eligible for points. (Max 4 team members onboard each boat.) Non team members cannot aid with any part of the fishing tournament. NO collaboration with other teams or transferring of fish between teams or boats. **This action results in DQ.** Each boat has a designated captain and is a separate team.
7. While we encourage youth to be involved in our event, all Teams must have at least one adult team member 18 years old or older. (All participants under 18 must have parent/guardian signatures for liability and media release. Please ask ahead of the event if needed.)
8. Team cancellation requests must be received 72 hours in advance of the start of the tournament for refund. Teams will be refunded tournament fees less 20%. Side pot fees paid will not be refunded.
9. **Tie Breaker Individual Events: In the event there is a tie in total points the team that had the heaviest fish will be declared the winner. So make sure to weigh your heaviest fish. If there is a tie in the big fish categories, we will flip a coin to determine the winner for that event.**
10. **Tie Breaker Series Championship: : In the event there is a tie in total points at the end of the series the team that had the heaviest fish during the series trail will be declared the winner. If still tied the tiebreaker will be the heaviest fish weighed at the final. If still tied the team that fished the most events will be the winner and if still tied the winner will be determined by a coin toss.**
11. **No Pre-weighing or Re-weighing of fish.**
12. **Teams depart from & return to the launch ramp designated before the tournament**
13. **Weigh In:** Each team will be given a token with their team number on it. After fishing and returning to check-in, BEFORE cut-off time, team captains must present the token to a staff member at weigh in site before the designated weigh in time (or be in line) to be eligible for weigh-in. Any teams that do NOT return a token before the official weigh in time will be disqualified.. We ask that team members are present at weigh-in to assist weighing fish. Team members are expected to move fish for weighing and are solely responsible for disposing of all fish after weigh-in.
14. If your team forfeits and leaves before weigh-in, ***one member PLEASE call or text the tournament organizer (817-729-5602)*** and let him know that your team will not be returning for weigh-in. We want all teams to be accounted for after the tournament for safety reasons.
15. **Alvarado Archery has the right to change and enforce rules as deemed necessary and has the right to deny entry and/or disqualify any team at any time for any reason as they see fit to preserve the safety and integrity of our tournament**.
16. Failure to comply with tournament rules will result in disqualification and entry fee will be forfeited.
17. **Polygraph testing will be on-site and winning team members must pass exam. Randomly selected teams may be polygraphed.**
18. **All participants are required to sign a liability and media release form at registration or pre-registration.**

# ****Boundary Rules:****

1. Boundaries: any public waters on **the designated lake accessible** from a public boat launch.
2. **OFF LIMITS**: to be determined once lake is chosen at pre-tournament meeting
3. Public boat launch means any boater can use the launch and it is open to the public. (You ***cannot*** use a private boat launch or shoot fish in a private pond or lake.)

# ****Fish & Fishing:****

1. **Legal Species:** Any Legal Species by Texas Parks and Wildlife Regulations. Please check the TX regulations directly to be sure this list remains accurate.   Carp & Minnow species, Gar species, and Suckers are legal for this tournament.
2. **A Texas fishing license is required anytime you are on the water shooting fish.**
3. Winner will be determined by the total weight of their 20 largest fish. NO culling at weigh-in, teams are responsible to have their 20 biggest fish ready to be weighed.
4. ~~Largest Carp or Gar species (except alligator gar) will be eligible for largest fish prize.~~ **~~Entry for big fish is $25 per person.~~** ~~Largest Gator Gar wins $100-(only 1 Gator Gar allowed per team and it is NOT eligible for top 20 fish weight.)~~

# ****Vehicle, Boat, Transport & Equipment:****

1. You must finish the tournament with the same marked vehicle and boat that you started with.
2. Each boat should have proper boat registration numbers and papers.
3. Each boat should have the following safety equipment. Proper running lights, fire extinguisher, horn or whistle, life jackets for each individual in the boat and one throwable PFD. We recommend each team member wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the boat is running faster than no wake.
4. Fan-boats and airboats are allowed. Check local laws/rules regarding airboats on the eligible lakes.
5. ***Trailering will NOT be allowed, you must launch and return from the same official ramp***.
6. Please obey speed limits and traffic laws both on and off the water. Any citation called in to tournament staff could result in disqualification.

# ****Fish Handling:****

1. Only single hook gaffs can be used during of the tournament for landing big fish. Nets, snares or gigs are not allowed.
2. All fish must be shot with bow and arrow during the tournament and show evidence of such.
3. Team members may NOT wade in the water to shoot fish; and all team members must remain on the boat at all times (unless it is necessary to enter shallow water to dislodge a boat from structure, or any other NON FISHING purpose). You cannot drop team members off on shore to fish from shore or any other structure. All team members must fish from the boat they entered into the tournament.
4. Scouting is allowed up to 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament
5. Fish disposal is the responsibility of each team and must be done by legal means. TEXAS LAW DOESN’T ALLOW DUMPING OF FISH BACK IN THE WATER. (It is Illegal to return any fish in Texas waters that have been shot with a bow.)
6. No altering fish to add or remove weight. Small fish must be together in one piece. Tournament officials reserve the right to DQ any fish suspected of alterations.

# ****Sportsmanship:****

1. Please respect other teams on the water by not crowding or harassing other teams.
2. ***ABSOLUTELY NO TEAMING UP, NO BUDDY SYSTEM AND NO TRANSFERRING OF FISH FROM ONE BOAT OR VEHICLE TO ANOTHER. THIS IS AUTOMATIC DQ***
3. **Any participant involved in poor sportsmanship, heated arguments or similar behavior will have their team warned or disqualified at Alvarado Archery staff discretion. Any physical altercations by participants will result in the team being disqualified and banned from any future AA Bow fishing events and involved parties will be asked to leave immediately.**
4. Any accusation of a team cheating must be accompanied by a **$100** protest fee and concrete evidence of such. Photos, videos, proof of citation etc.  If tournament staff agrees with your protest, the protest fee will be refunded and the accused team will be disqualified.
5. AA Tournament staff will have final decision on all protest claims and complaints.

# ****Alcohol:****

1. **Alcohol is permitted but is at the discretion of each team. Alvarado Archery is not liable for any alcohol related incidents and reserve the right to disqualify a team with intoxicated members. NO drugs permitted, before, during or after our tournament. If you are perceived under the influence, you will not be allowed to enter or weigh and will be disqualified.  Final determination of a disputed claim will be determined by local on-call law enforcement**