10th Annual
REEL UNITED
Big Bass Tournament

March 20, 2027

It is with great excitement that we announce the 10th Annual Reel United Big Bass Fishing Tournament! Come out and support the United Way Mid & South Jefferson County, Valero, & Diamond Green Diesel on March 20th at Sam Rayburn Reservoir.

The tournament will be held out of Umphrey Pavilion in Brookeland, Texas with a **Big Bass format.** We will have hourly payouts for the top 12 heaviest bass weighed in each hour. Top prize for the biggest overall Bass will get guaranteed $5,000 dollars provided by our friends at Jordan's Marine and Phoenix Boats.

Don't miss the meet-and-greet captain's dinner Friday night brought to you by **our supporting sponsors** on Friday, March 19th from 4pm-8pm. There will be food, beverages, door prizes, games and SO much more! There will be live music. Food and drinks will be provided by our generous sponsors so come thirsty and hungry!

While you are there, set up a test drive with Jordan's Marine and get behind the wheel of the Number 1 boat on the water. Rambo Outdoors, Daiwa, Bill Lewis baits will all be onsite to add to the fun.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

See below for rules & information regarding qualification and registration. Sponsorship deadline is February 1st, 2027.

ELITE - $15,000 DONATION

- 12 angler registrations
- 12 exclusive tournament gifts
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts
- Company highlights during live stream
- Reserved vendor area in a PREMIUM SPOT (promotion, cook team, or beverage station)

DIAMOND - $10,000 DONATION

- 10 angler registrations
- 10 exclusive tournament gifts
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts
- Company highlights during live stream
- 12x48 reserved vendor area (promotion, cook team, or beverage station)

PLATINUM - $5,000 DONATION

- 6 angler registrations
- 6 exclusive tournament gifts
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts
- Company highlights during live stream

12x24 reserved vendor area (promotion, cook team, or beverage station)

GOLD - $3,000 DONATION

- 4 angler registrations
- 4 exclusive tournament gifts
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts
- 12x12 vendor area is first-come, first-served (not reserved) (promotion, cook team, or beverage station)

SILVER - $2,000 DONATION

- 2 angler registrations
- 2 exclusive tournament gifts
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts

YOUTH ANGLER PRIZES SPONSOR - $1,000

Only 4 sponsorships available

- Recognition during Weigh In
- Recognition on sponsor banner
- Social media shoutouts

Valero | DIAMOND GREEN DIESEL | UNITED WAY Mid & South Jefferson County

OFFICIAL EVENT RULES:

******NOTE******

These rules only apply to the Reel United Event. Additional information can be found at www.OutlawOutdoors.com

- All tournament proceeds will go directly to the continued support of the United Way of Mid & South Jefferson County. All Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. When in question, interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director and the appointed rules committee. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight for that particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales. Boats may be launched from any public ramp on the Lake Sam Rayburn reservoir after 4am the morning of the event. Anglers must be off the water by sunset Friday, March 19. **All Anglers must check in or have a representative check them in on Friday, March 19th from 4-8pm at the Umphrey pavilion. First cast will be at 7:00am Saturday, March 20**. Anglers must use their best judgement for safelight navigation.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:

- All Contestants must have a valid fishing license as required by TPWD.
- All State, Coast Guard, Federal Parks & Wildlife regulations shall apply at all times. A violation of any of these regulations could result in a Team surrendering their stringer and/or being disqualified.
- Only registered Contestants may be in the boat during official tournament hours. There are no limits to the occupants of the boat. However, all occupants must be registered for the event and have their Reel United Registration card while in the boat during tournament hours. Any exceptions must be made pre-tournament and approval is required by the tournament director and rules committee.
- **This tournament is designed primarily for amateurs, therefore, anyone who has fished any single tournament within 12 months of this tournament, with a base single angler entry fee equal to or greater than $1,000, or anyone who has provided largemouth guide services for payment within the past 14 days on ANY BODY OF WATER, will not be eligible to compete nor captain. Team entry fees will be split between anglers. Example for team events with an entry fee of $1200 each angler's entry fee would be counted as $600 and would not disqualify them for this event.**
- Boat checks may be performed at the discretion of the tournament Director. All occupants of boat must have in their possession a tournament registration card. If occupants of boat cannot produce the registration card for the tournament the angler will forfeit his eligibility to weigh for that hour.
- Any angler who has not completed registration by 8:00 PM on the Friday preceding the tournament will not be eligible to participate.
- If Anglers arrive on tournament day via parking lot to weigh in all occupants in the vehicle must be registered for the Event. Truck Checks will be performed at the entrance to the Umphrey Pavilion on tournament day and at water.
- **Youth divisions**- Children ages 15 and under are **FREE** and will compete in a separate division that will pay out the top 10 spots for the day for each division. All Juniors need to be registered to compete. Payouts will be prizes provided by Valero Port Arthur and Diamond Green Diesel. Guardian to be present at awards!
- **Junior Anglers**- 10yr and under= **Top 10 spots overall**
- **Youth Anglers**- 11yr-15yr= **Top 10 spots overall**

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

- This event will follow all CDC and government requirements that are in place at the time of the event. All requirements will be posted as information is available on the Event registration portal.

- It is up to the Anglers to follow these guidelines to ensure the safety of all Anglers and Tournament staff.
- Valero or the United Way encourages that all contestants and staff follow CDC and Government required guidelines while competing in the event.
- This event is "fish at your own risk". Valero, Outlaw Outdoors, nor the United Way will NOT be responsible for illness or injuries sustained while participating in the event.
- Weigh-in is subject to change to a drive through weigh-in the event that CDC and local jurisdictions require it.
- This is a charity event and once registered there will be no refund, without approval of the Tournament/Event Director. All refunds issued will be subject to service charges through the United Way.

REGISTRATION TIMES:

- Teams can register online at www.unitedwaymsjc.org until **Monday, March 15th at 5pm.**
- Onsite Registration will be available **Friday (day before the tournament) ONLY between 4-8pm**. There will be NO Saturday morning registration. A completed and signed registration form or online registration and payment must be received before 8PM on the Friday preceding the tournament. If you are registering online, you do not need the form signed or submitted.
- **Anglers may launch at any public boat ramp on Lake Sam Rayburn Reservoir and boat or trailer to the Umphrey Pavilion for weigh in.**
- Alternates to registered anglers may be accepted at the discretion of the Tournament Director and must be made prior to the registration deadline. These changes can be made at check-in on Friday at Umphrey Pavilion.

SAFETY:

- Tournament day may be shortened, lengthened, or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.
- Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather at which time no fishing may occur.
- All Texas boaters' safety laws apply and must be followed.
- Boats may be launched after 4am the morning of the event. Anglers must use their best judgement to determine when there is sufficient safe light to navigate to their desired fishing location. Valero, Diamond Green Diesel, Outlaw Outdoors, nor The United Way are in no way responsible or liable for injuries or loss of assets during this event. Boat may remain in water overnight but must not be boarded until 4am the morning of the event.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:

- Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with others is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All Bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for Bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. Anglers can fish from any location within the navigable waters of Sam Rayburn Reservoir.
- Anglers may fish from a boat, bank, public pier, canoe or kayak.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT:

- All Contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any misconduct could result in loss of weight for the tournament and/or banning from future events. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:
    - Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition
    - Substance abuse
    - Harassment of any kind

ASSISTANCE:

- During hours of competition, contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc. to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify the Tournament Director.

BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION:

- Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain your catch alive. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition should not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Participants must follow all boating regulations. Valero, Outlaw Outdoors or United Way is in no way responsible or liable for any accidents or violations.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- Contestants may fish anywhere within the navigable waters of Sam Rayburn Reservoir and available to the public except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state federal officials, or within 100ft of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position) or within 75ft of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. The act of moving Bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time is not permitted.

OFF-LIMITS AREAS:

- Such areas established and posted as “Off limits” or “No fishing” by state federal officials are considered off limit areas for this tournament. Contestants may not fish inside the established “off-limits” or “No Fishing” area. Violation of the rule will result in immediate disqualification.

TRAILERING IS ALLOWED:

- Contestants may launch their boat at any public ramp on the Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Official weigh in will be carried out at Umphrey Pavilion the day of the Tournament. Tournament is an hourly format, and fish will be weighed from 8am-3pm on Tournament Day.

TOURNAMENT HOURS:

- Tournament is an hourly format and fish will be weighed from 8am-3pm on Tournament Day.
  - 7-8am- First Fishing hour (No Weigh ins during this hour)
  - 8-9am- 1st Weigh in hour
  - 9-10am-2nd Weigh in hour (TEE SHIRT HOUR)
  - 10-11am- 3rd Weigh in hour
  - 11-12pm-4th Weigh in hour (TEE SHIRT HOUR)
  - 12-1pm- 5th Weigh in hour
  - 1-2pm- 6th Weigh in hour
  - 2-3pm- 7th Weigh in hour (Tournament is over at 3pm EXACTLY NO MORE FISH WILL BE WEIGHED)

SCORING:

- Tournament is a Big Bass format with hourly payouts for the **Top 12 bass.** Anglers may weigh 1 fish per hour. The bass will be weighed, and the 12 heaviest fish each hour will be paid out. Only Largemouth and Spotted Bass are accepted species and must meet minimum length requirements. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed length limit of **14" for all species (spotted or Largemouth bass)**, will result in a disqualification of that angler for that hour. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in the bass.
- Any artificially weighed, preserved or altered bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal and state laws. Each Contestant's catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag with enough water in bag to totally submerse the Bass. The Bass will be measured with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length. Metal detectors and other devices will be available and utilized on a case-by-case basis under the direction of the Tournament Director.
- **Youth Divisions**- all Anglers 15 years of age or under **must be registered**. There is no fee for Junior Division. The top 10 overall anglers registered in both Youth Divisions will receive prizes for the heaviest fish weighed in during tournament hours. All Youth Anglers must have in their possession a tournament registration card. Junior Anglers wishing to participate shall pick up a registration card on Friday (day before the tournament), at check in. If a youth catches a fish that is not a Bass, then as long as it is legal bring it and we will weigh it just the same. All youths weighing in bass will place in order of weight other species will place after bass.
- **Anglers wishing to weigh fish will need to have the Angler's weigh cards presented to them at check in on Friday (day before the tournament). You must have this card to weigh your fish.**
- **Check-in Friday Evening is Mandatory! All Angler's must appear at check in between 4pm-8pm to check in or register for the event or have a designee present to complete check in.**
- Each weigh hour will start and stop with the clock posted at the tournament weigh station.
- Once the hour has ended the staff will take your information and you may return to fishing.
    - **Bonus Hour REEL UNITED T-shirts** can be purchased at registration for $20!!! There are 2 designated bonus hours for this event **(9-10am & 11-12pm).** During registration if you purchase a REEL UNITED T-Shirt and you win one of the bonus hours we will DOUBLE your payout!!! This is only for 1st place in a bonus hour!!! Your anglers card must have that you purchased a BONUS Tee shirt marked on it to qualify.
- All hourly payouts will be paid out at the end of the tournament (3PM on Tournament Day)
- **NEW WILD CARD!!!** At the end of each hour the last person bumped out will draw for a chance to win $1,000!!!! The angler will have one chance if the Wild Card is not drawn by the last hour, then the last person bumped for the tournament will automatically win the Wild Card payout!!! There will be 7 bobbers in the bucket to draw from. Every losing bobber will be removed and the chances of drawing will go up.

LIVE FISH:

- Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical additives in live wells, such as Sure-Life, which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat, are recommended. All fish must be presented alive. **No dead fish will be weighed during this event.**

TIES:

- A tie will be resolved by combining the Payouts from tied places and splitting it evenly between tied Anglers.

RAFFLE AND DOOR PRIZES

- Giveaways will take place **Friday Night (before tournament day).** After registration check-in, visit the **Valero tent** and pick up a door prize card. Write your name and number on the card and present this card to the door prize table. There will be at ticket roller there that will be drawing cards every 10 minutes throughout the evening! If you win you will receive a text message. All prizes must be picked up by 8pm Friday, (before tournament day).