2023 Irish Angel Fishing Tournament Rules:

**1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY** Open to all individuals, male and female. The tournament director has the right to refuse entry to anyone for any reason.

**2. ENTRY FEES/PRIZE PAYOUT -**  Entry fees shall be $125.00 per team. Team shall consist of (2) two. $5.00 Cash Gate Pass will be required.

Prizes include:

Includes Big Fish – Cash Prize.

1st place Wicked Tuna Charter

2nd Place Fat Tuna Charter

3rd – to be determined based on number of entries

**3. LAKE SPECIFIC OFF LIMITS AREAS:**No off limits except for the hot hole and skimmer wall on Lake Keowee, and any DNR or State waters marked as such.

**4. TOURNAMENT HOURS** Tournament hours will be from safe light to 3:00 p.m. We reserve the right to assign flights and change hours if necessary.

**5. LAUNCH SEQUENCE** Starting positions will be determined by random draw for each event.

**6. SAFETY** Safe boating conduct must always be observed. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device securely fastened, at all times while the boat is being propelled by the combustion engine. Furthermore, a kill switch must be fastened to the driver anytime the combustion engine is propelling the boat. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification of the offending team's catch. Running lights must be operational and turned on at the blast-off of each tournament. Each competitor's boat must be equipped with a live well system capable of keeping a tournament limit of bass alive. Any boat equipped with a motor that exceeds the horsepower rating of the boat according to the manufacturer is prohibited from being used in the Tournament. All AUXILIARY gas tanks and BLADDER tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. During the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor.

**9. SPORTSMANSHIP** Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. NO TEAM MAY FISH WITHIN 50 YARDS OF ANY OTHER BOAT WHICH IS ANCHORED WITH THE TROLLING MOTOR UP. FURTHERMORE, NO TEAM MAY FISH WITHIN 25 YARDS OF ANY OTHER BOAT WITHOUT THE OTHER BOATER'S PERMISSION. PERMISSION MAY NOT BE GRANTED TO ANY TEAM AT THE EXCLUSION OF ANY OTHER TEAM. No hole sitting by a non-competitor to aid a tournament participant will be allowed. Violators will have their catch disqualified.

**10. TACKLE AND FISHING METHODS** Only artificial baits may be used. No live or cut bait is permitted (pork baits are permitted). All bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner. No snagging. Each competitor may only use 1 rod at a time. No more than 1 line in the water at a time per angler. Trolling with the combustion motor is not permitted. No competitor may leave the boat to land or catch fish. Alabama rigs are permitted.

**11. STATE AND FEDERAL GAME REGULATIONS** All participants are expected to abide by all state and federal laws and game regulations. Any team who intentionally violates a law or regulation in an attempt to gain an unfair advantage will have their catch disqualified. In the case of multiple governing authorities, the strictest law is applicable.

**. SCORING** A limit of 5 bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass) may be weighed in. **Minimum lengths will be set at the discretion of the Director but at no time will be less than 12 inches.**  Lengths will be measured with mouth closed. A short fish brought to the scales will not be weighed, and will result in a 1-pound penalty. Dead fish will be penalized .25 (1/4) pound. The dead fish penalty will also apply to any fish weighed as a Big Fish if that fish is dead. **All culling must be done at the time the 6th fish is caught; no team may continue fishing with more than the tournament limit in the live well at any time during the tournament, with the exception of dead fish that is not included in their limit**. On any water where State or local laws prohibit culling or impose limits of less than 5 fish, the state or local laws will replace the above as the rule.

**13. EMERGENCIES** Competitors shall remain with their partners in the boat at all times during the tournament, except in the event of sickness or brief excursions for "nature calling", severe storm or other such hazard. It is permitted for a competitor to leave the boat for marina services. Competitors may leave the boat to dislodge it, but only to return the boat in the direction it came from. If for any reason either team member decides to leave the tournament waters early, his or her partner must also stop fishing and return to the dock. In case of a breakdown, one partner may return with fish by another tournament boat while the other partner is permitted to stay with the disabled boat.

**14. WEIGH-IN PROCEDURES** Weigh-in will be on a first come first serve basis. Once fish have been presented to a Tournament Official to be weighed-in, no additional fish may be brought to the scales. Bags may be limited in order to avoid a bottleneck at the weigh-in tanks. **Teams not weighing any fish are still required to check in with tournament officials in order to account for all teams.**  Once a team member has checked in or left the boat for the purpose of checking in, neither team member may fish or continue fishing. SCALES WILL CLOSE 20 MINUTES AFTER THE LAST FLIGHT’S CHECK IN TIME. Anglers must be in line with their fish by that time. Teams that launch at the tournament site may trailer their boat prior to weighing fish. Teams who launch at an alternate ramp must weigh their fish prior to trailering.

**15. LATE PENALTY** Competitors who are not checked in by the check in deadline will be penalized at a rate of 1 pound per minute, up to 15 minutes at which time their catch will be disqualified. The contestants will retain their participation points for their yearly total. Late penalties will be deducted from "Big Fish" weight as well as total weight. Key floats labeled with boat numbers will be issued at check in. To be considered “checked in”, your float must be turned in to the check in station prior to your scheduled check in time.

**21. LIABILITY INSURANCE** All members must carry a minimum of $100,000 of liability insurance on any boat they use during each Tournament. Failure to do so, or reporting of false information will result in disqualification of catch.

**22. VIOLATION OF RULES AND DISQUALIFICATION** The violation of a tournament rule by either team member may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day (eligible for a restart), loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification for the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future events. If a team is disqualified from a tournament their weight will be recorded as 0 lb. However they will still receive tournament points as if they had just caught no fish. If the director feels that their violation was a willful attempt to gain an unfair advantage or to intentionally cheat, then the director has the right to refuse entry from that team or team members in the future and will inform all members of the situation.

**23. RULES INTERPRETATION** Interpretation of the rules will be left to the Director. Infractions of any rule may result in disqualification of catch. All decisions by the tournament director are final.

**24. LIABILITY RELEASE:** By signing the Official Entry Form, signing the sign in form at the ramp, online entry, and/or participation in these tournaments, I hereby release and agree to hold harmless Irish Angel, Inc. its officers, sponsors, hosts, employees, and anyone working in association with them from any damages, injuries, or death that may occur as a result of competing in these events, whether by negligence of the said parties or otherwise to the fullest extent of the law