

# BASIN BASSMASTERS

## TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS (updated 11-18-09)

**\*Denotes new rule changes**

### 1. RULE CHANGES

Tournament rules shall remain unchanged throughout the year unless voted on by a majority at the monthly meeting following the meeting when the proposed change was presented. Changes will be presented and voted on by Club Members during the Annual Business Meeting unless previous exception in effect. The Executive Board shall make interpretation, when necessary.

### 2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

(a) Participation in club tournaments is open only to club members in good standing, having current membership in B.A.S.S.

(b) Each contestant must have a valid California fishing license in his or her possession while fishing.

(c) Tournaments shall be fished as teams. Teams will be determined by a draw of boaters and non-boaters wishing to participate. Only two persons per boat are permitted unless exception 3(d) is in effect.

### 3. PAIRING, DRAWS, WINNINGS, PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND GUESTS

(a) Pairing of boaters and non-boaters and tournament start position shall be by draw at the monthly meeting prior to the scheduled tournament.

(b) Boaters shall be drawn first with start position based on the order of draw.

**\* (c) Non-boaters shall be drawn for pairing with boaters based on the order of the draw. For "Draw" tournaments, non-boaters shall have the opportunity to enter the draw for pairing prior to any "Guest". For "Draw" tournaments, "Guests" must enter the draw for pairing. For "Pick' em" tournaments, Boaters may only choose Non-Boaters for partners until none are available. *In all cases, where there are more members than partners available, seniority shall be used to make a determination.***

**\* (d) Any member who registers for a tournament but does not receive a draw at the meeting or whose partner does not make the tournament may be invited to fish with another team; (then) he becomes a member of that three-man team.**

(e) In the event that there are more boaters than non-boaters, the names of all unpaired boaters will be redrawn in pairs. That pair shall constitute a team receiving blast off numbers in that order of draw. Each team shall be required to fish together and reach mutual agreement as to boat use, location and shared expenses. Only when there is no partner available will there be a single boater, and the single boater can weigh in as a “team”. That single boater is eligible to participate as a three-man team per rule 3(d).

\* (f) If a boater or non-boater does not show for the tournament and his tournament fees have been paid prior to the ramp, the remaining partner of that team would be eligible for all of that teams’ winnings, including big fish.

(g) Guests and prospective members are not required to pay a tournament fee and are not eligible for tournament awards or monies.

(h) A prospective member must attend one meeting and fish one tournament with a member before being eligible to join the club. They must receive a vote of acceptance, and pay club dues at the same meeting.

(i) A “prospective member” is defined as a person who is interested in joining the club.

(j) A non-member may fish as a “Guest” one time only and thereafter must join the club to fish in tournaments during the remainder of that calendar year.

(k) An exception may be made to any “Guest” rules by club vote at the meeting prior to a tournament.

\* (l) All tournaments are straight draw with the exception of the annual “night tournament” that is “pick your partner”. Husband and wife teams are exempt from draw unless they choose to enter it.

(m) If a tournament location is to be changed for other than “safety” reasons as stated in 13 (f), only boaters committed to fish that tournament may vote for an alternate lake.

#### 4. REGISTRATION, FEES, AND PRIZES

(a) Tournament fees will be \$20.00 with two big fish options of \$5.00 and \$8.00 respectively. Payback will be approximately 80% of collected fees. Trophies or similar and cash will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place teams; 3<sup>rd</sup> place receives cash only. Awards for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> places will be determined for each event. Cash prizes including big fish (for that tournament) will be evenly split between team members. The big fish options will each be 100% payback as follows:

**\$5.00 Option** The first \$4.00 will be paid back at each tournament; \$1.00 will be held in trust for the first fish of the year weighing 9lbs or greater; after that, the trust will refresh until the next 9lb fish is caught.

**\$8.00 Option** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Big Fish Option is a fee of \$8 that will be held in trust for the biggest single fish of the year. To be eligible for this option, a member must pay their \$8 at the beginning of the season and/or prior to fishing their first tournament. (Those individuals who weigh-in a 9lb fish or the biggest single fish of the year will receive all associated prize money and will not be required to split their winnings with any team member.)

**\*Big Fish "Trust" Cap:**

**\$5.00 Option** The "trust" for the "9lb Fish" shall not exceed \$300.00. Should the pot grow to \$300.00, that portion (\$1.00) shall be used to start a second "9lb Fish" pot.

**\*(b) Payback shall be based on the total number of all entries. The attached schedule shall be used to determine payback amounts. 50%, 30%, 20%.**

**(c) Approximately 20% of the fees collected will be retained for club expenses, Angler of the Year awards, Big Fish of the Year, Tournament of Champions (TOC) awards, and any stitching applied to jackets as outlined in club By-Laws.**

**(d) Tournament fees will be collected at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament date. Late payment will be accepted, but must be received before the tournament. Any late payment collected at the launch ramp must be before the blast off. Any tournament debt must be paid before you are eligible to fish any tournament.**

**\*(e) Any member who commits to fish a tournament, but is unable to attend may have their entry fees credited provided they notify a club official and their designated partner within a reasonable time.**

**\*(f) Any member who misses the draw and desires to enter a tournament may contact the Tournament Director or another club official for assistance. The TD/Board will make an attempt to add them to the tournament.**

## **\*5. POINTS**

**(a) Points will be awarded for each tournament and will accumulate throughout the year to determine qualifiers for the TOC and Angler of the Year. Ties for TOC qualifiers are broken by the total pounds of fish caught. For the top six in each division, TOC qualifying will be based on accumulated points from the best 8 of 10 tournaments. If any TOC qualifier cannot fish, the next closest member in total points will take their place.**

**(b) Points will be awarded in the following manner: First place - 50 points, Second - 49, third - 48 progressively through Fiftieth place - 1 point.**

**(c) Five (5) Show Up points will be awarded to each boater and non-boater for each monthly meeting attended and for each tournament fished.**

**(d) Only tournament points can be thrown out. Show up points for meeting attendance and tournament remain.**

**(e) Any non-boater who wishes to fish a tournament but does not receive a draw at the meeting or whose partner does not make the tournament will receive one point less than the lowest scoring team. Per 3 (d), if the non-boater becomes part of a three-man team, he forfeits the guarantee of receiving one point less than the last place team, etc.**

**(f) If a non-boater's partner does not make the tournament, the non-boater will receive five (5) show-up points in addition to any other points they are awarded.**

**(g) In accordance with BASS rules, any team that is disqualified for one half of a two-part tournament (e.g. Night tournament) will be eligible to weigh in and receive points for the remaining half.**

## **6. TOURNAMENT TIES**

**(a) In the event of a tie, Big fish is the tiebreaker, and in the event that there is still a tie a coin-flip will decide.**

~~**(b) Ties for big fish will result in an equal split of cash prizes.**~~

## 7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- (a) Only one rod and reel may be used at any one time. Other rods and reels may be in the boat and ready to use.
- (b) All bass must be caught live and in a conventional manner.
- (c) Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared baits may be used, with the exception of pork-type strips, rinds, etc.

## 8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATION

- (a) Fishing is permitted any place on the designated water that is within the club's tournament location.
- (b) At no time shall a contestant be any closer than 50 yards from a competing boat unless mutually agreed upon by both boats.
- (c) All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants may not leave the boat to land fish.

## 9. DISPOSAL OF FISH

- (a) Every club member will be responsible for disposing of fish that are not suitable for releasing back to the water. The fish will not be thrown into a garbage can at the weigh-in site, nor put back into the water dead or distressed.

## 10. LAKE - OFF - LIMITS

- (a) Pre-fishing is allowed any time with the exception of non- tournament hours on tournament days.

***\*(b) Every lake may have off-limit areas. Unless specific areas are announced or posted as off-limits, 50 yards from any gas pumps will be the only area enforced.***

## 11. BEVERAGES

- (a) No alcoholic beverages and/or non-prescribed chemical substances are allowed in the boats or to be consumed during official tournament hours prior to weighing in.

## 12. BOAT AND MOTOR

**(a) For the safety of all contestants, boats used must be a minimum of (14) feet in length.**

**(b) Boats must be Coast Guard equipped.**

**(c) Motors may not exceed BIA regulations in horsepower.**

**(d) An electric trolling motor may be used for maneuvering.**

**(e) Trolling with gas motor is prohibited.**

**(f) Boats must have a functional live well space, properly aerated.**

### **13. SAFETY**

**(a) Safety shall be of the utmost consideration during any club event. Every member shall be responsible and accountable for the safety of themselves, fellow members and the public at large.**

**(b) Life jackets must be worn any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear or until fishing location is reached and engine is shut off. Kill switches will be utilized.**

**(c) Each individual is responsible for providing an approved chest-type life jacket.**

**(d) All individuals must observe all lake rules and regulations.**

**(e) All boats must have running lights turned on until the first fishing location is reached.**

**(f) In the event conditions of a lake (e.g. weather, water level, etc.) pose a threat to the safety of club members, the tournament will be relocated to the "home lake" as predetermined by the club membership.**

**(g) The Delta (B&W Resort) will be the home lake/ramp of the club.**

**(h) The use of two-way radios will be allowed during tournaments for safety purposes only.**

#### **14. SPORTSMANSHIP**

**(a) Sportsmanship shall be of utmost consideration during any club event. Every member shall be responsible and accountable for their sportsman-like conduct towards their fellow anglers and the public at large.**

**(b) Sportsman of the Year will be voted on at the annual meeting and awards presented annually.**

#### **15. SCORING**

**(a) Only Large Mouth, Small Mouth, and Spotted bass will be counted toward a total weight.**

**(b) All fish will be measured on a WIL-E-GO BELLY board. A sheet metal flat board shall be used at Lake Oroville.**

**(c) The minimum size limit will be thirteen (13) inches measured mouth open and as laid horizontally on the board. The Weigh Master will work the tail in an effort to achieve the 13-inch minimum. In the event that the fish does not measure to the minimum length the angler presenting the fish will receive a one-pound penalty and the fish will not be included in the overall weight.**

**(d) Fish that appear to be mangled, mashed or mauled in any way shall be weighed in only at the discretion of the Weigh-in Officials.**

**(e) A .25-pound penalty (4 ounces) will be deducted for any dead fish.**

**(f) Individual club members must uphold the National CATCH AND RELEASE POLICY.**

**(g) Weigh In shall be done at the scheduled time. Special circumstances and Tournament Officials agreement may allow for early weigh-ins provided no participants are adversely affected.**

**\**(h) Only five fish (5) per day, per boat will be allowed to be weighed in. Culling inside the 5 mph zone of the Weigh In site is not permitted.***

**(i) Any contestant that has not arrived at the official weigh-in site by the Tournament Director's Official Time will not be allowed to weigh in and will be disqualified. If a boat breaks down, the Good Samaritan Rule allows one (1) representative from each team at the Check In. Both teams would then qualify for Weigh In.**

**\*(j) Tentative qualifiers for the TOC will (at the October meeting) determine the lake to be fished for the TOC as follows: Boaters will nominate lakes; Boaters and Non-Boaters will then vote on the lake to be used.**

## **16. TOURNAMENT VIOLATIONS**

**Any member has the right to file a protest against any member for violation of tournament rules. A member having directly observed the violation must file a protest within thirty (30) minutes of weigh-in. The protest must be in written or verbal form and given or made to the Tournament Director.**

**(a) The Tournament Director will request a private meeting with the Board to determine the validity and severity of the infraction.**

**(b) In the event a protest is found to be valid, the Board will impose a penalty against the violator based on the severity of the infraction from the below choices:**

- a) A verbal warning.**
- b) A deduction of points (10-20).**
- c) Disqualification from the event.**
- d) Temporary suspension pending a club vote on expulsion.**

**The Tournament Director will notify the person of the Board's decision.**

**(c) Repeat violations may result in disqualification or expulsion.**

**(d) During tournament hours (blast-off to weigh-in) the Tournament Director has total authority to warn or disqualify any member for a violation performed in his presence.**