

TOURNAMENT RULES

Effective January, 2014

1. Pairing of contestants: The Tournament Director will determine the method of pairing partners. Partners will normally be drawn randomly at the meeting prior to the tournament.
2. Member must contact an officer of the club by phone or email 3 hours prior to the meeting or be present at the meeting in order to be in the drawing for partners. No phone calls will be made at the time of the meeting.
3. Any member not in the partners drawing at the meeting prior to the tournament will not be able to fish that tournament. One exception will be granted per member per year when approved by the tournament committee. Otherwise, the member may fish, but his weight will not count towards the tournament and YTD standings
4. Tournament Hours: Tournament hours will usually be from safe light until agreed upon weigh-in time as determined by the tournament director.
5. All participants must possess a valid fishing license for any and all waters fished during tournament hours.
6. If a contestant arrives late at the launch site and wishes to participate in the tournament and luncheon; it is his responsibility to call the tournament director. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
7. In the event of a two-day tournament launch sequence will be reversed on the second day of the event. It is the responsibility of each contestant to meet at a mutually agreed upon time and place (preferably before launching) so as to be able to check in on time.
8. If a boater draws a Blank (no Co-angler) the 1st blank will pick up a non-boater if his boater cannot make it or has mechanical problems. This will continue down the list until all blanks are used. Non-boaters will have preference on filling a blank over a boater.
9. Proof of insurance will be required by all club member boaters. Copy of proof of insurance must be provided to the tournament director prior to the draw of the 1st tournament. If the insurance expires during the year, a new proof insurance must be provided.
10. If multiple blanks are drawn, Boaters may pair up as their choice, as long as it does not conflict with item #8, and as long as you are not the first blank, then you must remain a blank in case of an emergency.

11. **Safety:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times, by all tournament contestants. Caution and safety during the morning blast-off must be observed. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved type III or greater life preserver. The preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in operation. The preserver must be strapped, zippered, snapped or buckled securely and maintained in that position until the contestant reaches a fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. The kill switch must be attached to the operator of the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
12. **Cancellation:** At the discretion of the tournament director or senior officer present, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather conditions or other mitigating factors. This will include all small craft advisories reported by NOAA 24 hours in advance of the club tournament.
13. **MOBILE COMMUNICATION:** The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB's etc is not to be used to communicate fishing information during tournament hours. This is strictly prohibited.
14. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors are expected to follow the highest standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of non-contestants. Any act which reflects unfavorably upon the TBF/FLW efforts to promote fisheries, conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants, depressants or other drugs (excluding prescription drugs) shall be allowed in any boat or in the weigh-in area. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, operates the boat in such a manner as to endanger himself or others may be disqualified. Failure to report any rules violation shall also be grounds for disqualification. All bass must be caught live and in an accepted sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish on a spawning bed will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked in order to be counted as legal. Dead fish may not be culled and must be delivered to the weigh-master for weighing and proper disposal. Participants may be penalized for not showing up at a tournament without prior notice to the tournament director. Penalty in such a case will be ineligible for the next tournament. This rule applies to the Boater and Non-Boater. No Exceptions
15. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rind, etc. Only one casting, flipping, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. Other rods as specified above may be in the boat, ready to use however only one is permitted to be in use at any given time. A hung up rod will be considered as not in use. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

16. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** All boats must be at least 17 feet in length. All boats **MUST** be equipped with an ignition kill switch, functioning bilge pump, fire extinguisher and or other equipment as required by U.S. Coast Guard regulations. In addition, it must have adequate live-well space, properly aerated to maintain alive limit catch of bass by both contestants. The Tournament Director shall have sole responsibility of determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate, this will be done by live well checks prior to launching.
- No Boat will be allowed in the tournament that has an engine with a higher horsepower than is specified on the manufacture's BIA rating plate attached to the boat. The only exception to this rule is that outboards that have been modified to a jet drive propulsion system may use an engine of up to 1.3 times the HP listed on the BIA rating plate. For example, a boat with a 100 HP BIA rating may use a jet drive outboard with a HP rating not to exceed 130 HP. This exception only applies to outboards that have **NOT** been modified by the motor manufacturer. A boat equipped with stick steering may be used if the motor HP does not exceed the stick rating. A small motor, gas or electric may be used for slow maneuvering. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted.
17. **OPERATION AND EXPENSES:** A full discussion should be held between the two partners, prior to the morning departure, as to the schedule of boat operation. This schedule should permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat, to operate the trolling motor (at the boat owner's discretion); so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish their selected waters an equal amount of time. If a contestant waives the above rights, they shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half of the tournament day.
18. In view of the expense involved in operating and maintaining a boat, it is suggested that the non-boater at least assumes 50% of the total expenses of the boat and the vehicle used to tow the boat to the tournament site, tolls, and launch fees. In the event that a non-boater fails to show up for a scheduled tournament or does not notify his partner at least 48 hours in advance of the tournament that he will not be fishing, he will still be held responsible for one half of the expenses listed above. Any non boater who drives himself or with someone else other than the partner will still be held responsible for one half (50%) of the partner expenses listed above, with a minimum of 30.00 per tournament.
19. Any disputes should be brought the attention of the BOD (board of directors). Any fees not paid will disqualify the non boater for all future tournaments until the dispute is settled and the expense paid to the club treasurer then distributed to the boater in question.
20. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except:
- a. No such boat shall permit selected contestants to fish with the 25 yd circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other contestant. In order to have a claimed area, the trolling motor must be up and the boat must be anchored or tied to a fixed object, to include a power pole with the trolling motor in the up position.

b. Any off-limits area as designated by federal, state or local government or by the tournament director.

21. **CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours (check-in to weighing of fish). Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In such an event, contestants may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by another contestant or a rescue boat. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions, cited above, in order for their catch to be scored in the tournament. Contestants cannot fish if by themselves in a boat which had a partner until the partner returns. If a contestant violates any of the conditions, for any reason (except for emergencies, and break down of boat), their catch for the day shall not be counted. Trailoring of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except at the direction of tournament officials. During two-day tournaments, contestants may not be on tournament waters except to return to a launch site or with approval of the Tournament Director after Tournament Hours.
22. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be only one official checkpoint. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all the rules. Boats will leave in the order drawn and return in flight times assigned. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves at the official checkpoint by means as described by officials and proceed as directed to the weigh-in area. It is imperative that all boats check in regardless of their catch, in person or via cell phone. Partners must remain together or within sight of each other and each other's catch until weigh-in slips have been signed, even if only one of the partners has fish.
23. **23 LATE PENALTY:** Contestants who are not at the official check point at the appointed time will be penalized at a rate of one (1) pound per minute to 15 minutes, at which time their catch will be disqualified for that day. **THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR BEING LATE.** All fishing will cease upon arriving at the official check point.
24. **24 SCORING:** Tournament standings will be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the days of the tournament. Only largemouth and small mouth black bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) bass. The prevailing state, local and federal statutes and regulations bind all competitors. After check-in a contestant must present all legal fish in his/her possession for weigh-in.
25. Lunker pool for each tournament must be decided and paid prior to the start of the tournament. Preferably at the ramp before launch.

26. The assistant tournament director will be responsible for the collection of the lunker money. All participants are included in the lunker pool unless they notify the tournament director or assistant tournament director prior to launch for that day.
27. The lunker pool will be for the largest LM Bass or SM Bass of the day selected by the member or guest. In case of a tie, the longest fish will win if measured. If a tie stands up the moneys will be split equally among the lunker winners. At least one fish must be weighed for lunker in a mixed bag. No dead fish shall be counted as a lunker for any club tournament. No Exceptions. A two fish courtesy weigh-in or measurement or both may be given to each contestant provided they ask for it before the official weigh-in begins.

LIMITS: At no time will a contestant have in their possession more than the limit prescribed above. The Tournament Director may conduct checks for violations. When more than the legal limit is caught, the angler must immediately cull down to the legal limit. Failure to do so will result in the Removal of the largest fish, down to the legal limit. Non club members are limited to one (1) fish limit

A. MINIMUM LENGTH: Only black bass which conform to the minimum length assigned by state statute or the Tournament committee may be presented for weigh-in. Measurement will be from a closed mouth to the tip of the tail on a flat board. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to conform to the minimum length assigned will be released and accrue a one pound penalty for each fish presented. Maximum penalty is the total weight of the catch. A courtesy measurement may be requested by the member prior to weigh-in or else the penalty will be assessed for short fish.

B. DEAD FISH: It is incumbent upon the contestants to take the utmost care of their catch. A penalty of four (4) ounces or .25 lbs will be assessed for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The determination of a live or dead fish will be the sole responsibility of the Tournament Director. Dead fish may not be culled. Any penalty will be deducted from the total score of the contestant. Once a competitors catch is measured, counted and verified by tournament officials, he/she may not return to his/her boat until the catch has been weighed and recorded. Anyone culling a dead fish shall be disqualified from the tournament. No Exceptions.

28. 25 TIES: In case of ties, tournament standings will be determined by:

1. Total # of fish caught
2. Largest fish caught
3. By means selected by the Tournament committee.

29. 26 PROTEST PROCEDURES: Anyone who feels that he/she has witnessed an infraction of any tournament rule may submit protest. The protest will then comply with the following outline.

1. The person wishing to make protest should immediately notify the Tournament Director upon arrival at weigh-in. The protest must be submitted within 30 minutes of the official end of the tournament weigh-in procedure.

2. The Tournament Committee will then make a determination of the validity of the protest.

3. All such valid protest shall then be considered. The Tournament Director after consultation with the Rules Committee shall determine possible action.

THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE SHALL BE FINAL IN ALL MATTERS

We, the undersigned officers of the club as listed in Article III Section 6 of the Port city bass anglers of Maryland by-laws do hereby agree with and certify that the attached bylaws have been ratified by the membership and the commencement of the club on this the 3rd DAY OF December 2013.

☐Signed;

Signed; /Initials

President

Vice-President

Secretary

Treasurer

Tournament Director

Mickey McCleary

Larry Kunkel

Rob Chard

Ray Bialek

Frank Britt

Sergeant of Arms

Floyd Dalton
