

Bryan Bass Club

2010 Annual Rules for Bryan Bass Club Tournaments

- 1. RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the year unless amended by majority vote at a monthly club business meeting. Violation of a rule results in a disqualification of that day's weight. The Tournament Director has authority to enforce general and annual tournament rules at all tournament sites.
- 2. PROTESTS:** All protests claiming rule infractions must be presented to the Tournament Director in writing within 10 minutes after the scales are officially closed for the tournament day. The Tournament Director, upon observing or being informed of a rule violation, will promptly inform alleged rule violators of an infraction and decide if a penalty or disqualification will be enforced. When informed, violators may verbally accept the decision or request an appeal. Appeal procedure: Tournament Director and President will randomly draw three member names, who will be convened to either confirm or invalidate the penalty by majority vote after listening to involved parties. The president will report the procedure at the next club business meeting.
- 3. OTHER RULES AND LAWS:** All Federal, State and local laws must be obeyed and it is the contestant's responsibility to know these laws. If a club tournament day is authorized by majority vote at a business meeting to coincide and coordinate with another tournament event at the same lake, that event's rules additionally apply to co-participants and the club Tournament Director is allowed to accept official weights and penalties from the coinciding officials. Members participating in a coordinated event are required to pre-pay club entry fees as defined in the by-laws.
- 4. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Members in good standing are eligible to participate as contestants in monthly club point tournaments. Members may be accompanied in their boats by associate members (spouses and children). Associate members, wishing to participate as contestants for place prizes, must declare intentions to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament day, or the default is that an associate is not participating. Members may be accompanied by a guest contestant as permitted in club by-laws. Members must declare their eligible guest contestant to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament day. A member and their eligible guest must fish from the same boat.
- 5. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** No alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription) are to be consumed during tournament hours.
- 6. BOATS AND MOTORS:** There is no horsepower limit; however the motor must not exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat. Boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations. Boats must have an emergency kill switch. Boats must have a working aerated live well large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition.
- 7. SAFETY:** Boating safety must be observed at all times during tournament day. Whenever the boat is traveling on plane, all contestants in the boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver on/fastened and additionally the boat's kill switch must be attached to the driver.
- 8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner with a rod and reel. Only one rod at a time may be used per contestant, and a cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Intentional snagging of fish is prohibited. Fish caught by sight fishing (bedding bass) must be hooked inside the mouth. Trolling with the aid of the combustible or electric motors is prohibited. Only artificial lures may be used, NO live bait. Pork rinds and liquid fish attractants are permitted. Use of a landing net is permitted.
- 9. OFF-LIMITS:** There is no off-limits period.
- 10. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** Contestants may only fish from a boat in waters of the lake designated by the club for the weekend tournament. Contestants cannot leave boat to land a fish. No tube, wade or bank fishing. Boats may not be trailered about the lake during tournament hours unless under the direction of the Tournament Director. Contestants must be able to drive boat into lake fishing areas without getting out of the boat. The practice of harboring or restricting the natural movement of fish by any means such as, but not limited to the use of nets, tanks or dams will result in disqualification.

11. CULLING: Unless additionally restricted by lake regulations, each contestant will keep no more than a maximum of five (5) bass in a live well. Upon exceeding a five bass tournament limit, contestants must cease fishing and cannot resume fishing until they have culled to a five bass limit. Contestants may not give bass to other contestants nor receive bass from another person prior to weigh-in. Dead bass may not be culled.

12. SCORING/ PENALTIES - START, STOP:

a. Both Start and Stop - It is the contestant's responsibility to obtain official time from the Tournament Director and be within visual observation of the Tournament Director at the start/stop site. Contestants must start from and return to the designated club site. Contestants participating in another coordinated event approved by the club are permitted to follow its start/stop rules.

b. Start - Any contestant who begins fishing or departs the club launch/weigh-in site to begin travel to fish on the lake before the designated start time will have their weight for that day disqualified. If the designated start time is in safe-light, the Tournament Director or representative will judge safe light and declare the start. Just prior to the tournament start, the Tournament Director will announce start/stop times, official time, and point out where your boat should be by the stop check-in time.

c. Stop - Any contestant returning to the designated launch/weigh-in site after the tournament stop time will have their weight for that day disqualified. A contestant is considered at the weigh-in site by the stop time if (a) their boat is in sight and inside a no-wake buoy for the launch ramp or marina or (b) in sight and within 50 yards of the launch ramp if there are no no-wake buoys within sight of the ramp, or (c) their boat is already on the trailer and located in the launch/marina parking area.

13. SCORING/ PENALTIES - BASS TYPE, NUMBER/LENGTH, DEAD BASS, and WEIGHT/RANK:

a. Type of Bass - Only Largemouth, Kentucky Spotted, Red Eye and Smallmouth bass will be scored.

b. Number and Length of Bass - Unless additionally restricted by lake regulations, each contestant may weigh in a maximum of five (5) eligible bass per tournament day with a minimum length of 14" with mouth closed and tail compressed. Check-it-Stik is the official measuring board for club tournaments. Contestants bringing a short bass to the weigh-in station will be penalized the loss of their largest bass. Any contestant bringing more than five (5) bass to weigh-in will have their weight for that day disqualified.

c. Dead Bass - A dead fish penalty of .25 (1/4 pound) will be deducted per dead fish from total weight for the day. However, no iced (fish from an iced container, but ice may be added to a live well to cool and condition the water therein for bass survival), frozen nor pale-gilled bass will be weighed.

d. Tournament Ranking - Tournament award standings will be determined by the net weight (total weight minus all applicable penalties) for the competition day for all contestants, while tournament point standings include only member contestants (not associates and guests). Contestants participating in another coordinated event approved by the club are permitted to follow its weigh-in rules, and it is the responsibility of the contestant to present the Tournament Director with an official weigh-in slip on the same day (unless another exchange is agreed upon by the Tournament Director) to have their weight for that day counted.

14. CONSERVATION: This should be of great importance to all of us as anglers/sportsmen. Contestants are required to use care when handling fish and while holding them in your live well during the tournament day. Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition. All live bass are to be returned to the lake after weigh-in.