

PA Suskie Bassmasters
General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday 1-29-2020

BOD Attendance: Jim Lacomis, Ed Mrochko, , Matt Miller, Chris Ostrowski, Frank Slymock

Call to Order: Frank called the meeting to order at 7:47 pm

Quorum: A quorum was established as 5 BOD members were present

Old Business:

We are adopting a zero tolerance for alcohol on-board during a tournament. Any first offense to this will result in immediate DQ for the tournament and in the event there is a second occurrence, the guilty party will be disqualified for the entire season.

Weigh-ins will commence 15min after the close of a tournament to allow BOD members time to set-up. Please keep your fish in the live well until the scales are opened to reduce stress on the fish.

Cull tags for 2020 season. All cull tags used in a tournament must be a clip-on type tag. No piercing tags or tags through the gills will be allowed.

New Business:

Several ideas were circulated about possible changes in 2020 that were discussed at the last meeting and carried forward for continued discussion.

Proposal #1: It was also proposed that we change the minimum length to 14" for 2020 to alleviate the stress we put on younger fish by moving them every week. As part of this change, we would eliminate small bass as a separate fish and replace it with the smallest 14" bass brought in for the week. This would still remain a \$5 buy-in to participate and we would carry money over every week for a small bass of the year award.

Walleye were discussed as an alternative but it was decided that they are even less tolerant of stress and we did not want to try to solve for 1 problem by creating another.

Proposal #2: Make our tournaments a true 2-man team format with a 1 fish boat limit and then perhaps go back to a larger AOY prize. The AOY prize has been reduced over the years because it is impossible to police the movement of fish among participants in a single boat and it created unfair situations as not all participants follow the format of individual best fish. The team format would essentially end the practice of stacking weights and produce a true AOY team. The proposed format is a 2-man team to start the season. In the event a team member was unavailable, the remaining member could fish with an alternate and it would count towards the team. In the event the alternate was from another team, they would have to designate at the start of tournament which team they would be fishing for that week. We would not go so far as making teams callout the designated alternates at the beginning of the season as this would give the greatest flexibility for members taking vacations during the season.

Proposal #3: There was much discussion again on whether to allow largemouth to be weighed in in 2020. Historically, these bass are an anomaly and there is decades of info to support the fact that they are not reproducing in our stretch of river. In 2019, we saw the largest numbers of largemouth in our

history and although members caught them across a wide area, their presence at the weigh in was not consistent with years of data collected by the club. The Susquehanna is primarily a smallmouth fishery and we are looking to respect that moving forward so there is a proposal to ban largemouth for 2020.

We will plan on voting on these changes at the next meeting with a ballot type format.

The questions will be the following:

- 1) Would you support a change to a 14" minimum length for 2020 tournaments?
- 2) Would you support a 2-man Team format for 2020?
- 3) Do you support a ban on largemouth bass for tournaments in 2020?

We will try and schedule the next meeting for Feb 19 at Grotto depending on availability.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:27pm