

The Great River Bass Clubs Trail

Tournament Rules 2017

Schedule 2017

Sunday April 30 Big Slough, Savanna IL
Sunday June 4 Mud Lake, Pool 11
Sunday July 23 New Boston
Sunday Aug 20 Lansing, Ia
Sunday Sept. 10 Big Slough, Savanna, IL
Sat. & Sun Oct 21-22 Cassville,

Club President's

Harvester Bass Club - Barry Waldron
Twin Rivers Bass Club - Brian Holst
Gateway Bass Club - Scott Crigger

1. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION
 - a. All Great River Bass (GRB) Club trail Tournaments are structured as team events. A team shall consist of two eligible anglers.
 - b. To be eligible the fish a GRB event an angler must be a member in good standing of a bass club that is participating in the GRB series.
 - c. Such memberships must have been in effect at least seven days prior to a GRB event.
 - d. Eligible members may enroll new members at a GRB event provided that a properly completed participating club membership form and payment of applicable membership fees can be established to the satisfaction of the GRB tournament director.
 - e. Eligible members who are under the age of 18 years on the day of a GRB event may fish with another eligible participant who is either the youth members legal guardian or who has written permission from the legal guardian to fish with the youth angler.
 - f. Angler teams must remain together throughout the GRB event unless there is an emergency or mechanical breakdown. All emergencies and/or mechanical breakdowns must be reported to the tournament director as soon as possible. Trailering of boats during a GRB event is prohibited unless required to retrieve a malfunctioning boat.
 - g. Boats returning to the weigh-in site must keep their catch in their boat until weigh-in.
 - h. Eligible participants may fish GRB events alone provided they wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times during the tournament, and provided they have paid the regular team entry fee.
 - i. As a condition of participation in a GRB event each participant must sign a waiver and release of liability agreement for anyone connected with the GRB event.
2. SAFETY
 - a. Safe boating practices must be observed by all GRB participants at all times.
 - b. Anglers must wear Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices, properly fastened and secured, whenever the combustion engine of the boat is running.
 - c. Anglers operating the boat must be attached to an engine system kill switch via chord, rope or strap when the combustion engine of the boat is running.
 - d. Violation of a safety rule is grounds for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of registration fees.
 - e. At least one member of the boat team must be in possession of a working cellular phone.
 - f. Boat docks are considered "no wake zones" prior to blast off and after check-in.
3. REGISTRATION
 - a. GRB tournament registration fees must be paid in cash.
 - b. Registration forms must be filled out completely signed by the participants and contain the cell phone number of at least one member of the team.
 - c. All boats registering for a GRB event are subject to an inspection by tournament officials prior to launch. The inspection may include live-wells, PFD's, Fire Extinguishers, operational kill switches, basic First Aid kit and proof of boat insurance. Boats deemed to have failed a pre-launch inspection will not be allowed to participate in the event.
 - d. GRB event start and end times will be posted on a schedule prior to the start of the tournament season. These times may be changed on the day of the event at the discretion of the tournament director for safety or regulatory compliance reasons.
 - e. Tournament fees will be based on a ninety percent payout formula. Ten percent of the entry fee will be distributed to the bass clubs represented at the event based on participation.
4. OBEDIENCE TO LAWS AND REGULATIONS
 - a. Violation by any team member of Federal, State, County, or applicable local law will be grounds for disqualification from a GRB event.
 - b. Local waters may be subject to local regulations and it is the responsibility of the anglers to know and abide by the rules.
5. SPORTSMANSHIP
 - a. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation practices will be expected from all GRB participants at all times.
 - b. Any infractions of fundamental sportsmanship principles may be deemed as cause for disqualification at the discretion of the tournament director.
 - c. All bass transported to a GRB weigh-in must be caught in a sporting manner with a rod and reel. Fishing is only allowed during tournament hours.
 - d. Intoxication on the part of a GRB participant will not be tolerated and will be cause for immediate disqualification.
 - e. No alcohol of any kind will be allowed in GRB tournament boats during tournament hours.
 - f. Allegations of cheating in a GRB event will result in an immediate investigation into the complaint, the temporary suspension of any payouts to those accused and the filing of criminal charges if the complaint is found to be credible.
 - g. False or vindictive allegations will result in the disqualification of the person filing the needless complaint.
 - h. Polygraph examinations may be administered at the discretion of the tournament director. Refusal to submit to a polygraph exam may result in immediate disqualification.

6. FISH
- d. Anglers are responsible for keeping their fish alive and as healthy as possible. The use of appropriate chemical agents intended to safeguard fish and keep them healthy in the live well is permitted.
 - e. A tournament limit shall consist of five fish per boat.
 - f. Only fish with a minimum length of fourteen inches may be brought to a weigh-in.
 - g. At no time will a GRB tournament boat be allowed to have more than five fish in the live well for longer than it takes to complete the culling process.
 - h. Fish that appear to have been mishandled, improperly confined or improperly treated will be weighed in at the discretion of the tournament director and only after determination of no fault on the part of the anglers involved.
 - i. All fish will be measured on the same "golden rule" measuring scale. Tournament officials will not grant "courtesy bumps" to check the length of a fish prior to weigh-in.
 - j. Fish must be brought to the weigh-in station by a member of the team that caught them.
 - k. Once handed to the weigh-in official the fish become the property of the tournament committee and may not be handled by the team participants until after being weighed.
 - l. Culling of dead fish is prohibited.
 - m. A maximum of two dead fish will be allowed in any limit of fish weighed in.
7. TOURNAMENT HOURS
- a. Check in and weigh in times will be posted on the GRB schedule.
 - b. Tournament hours will start at blast off and end at weigh in.
 - c. Tournament blast off will normally take place at safe light, but may be delayed at the discretion of the tournament director in the interest of angler safety.
 - d. Take off positions will be determined by draw at a pre-tournament briefing prior to blast off. One member of each team must be present at the pre-tournament meeting.
 - e. During multiple day tournaments the starting order for the second day will be the reverse of the first day. No fishing will be allowed after the first day weigh in until after the second day blast off.
 - f. Release boats may be selected by draw at the pre-tournament meeting at the discretion of the tournament director.

8. SCORING
- a. Team scoring will be by total weight of legal fish weighed in.
 - b. Individual angler scoring will be the responsibility of the participating club in determining point totals for their members.
 - c. Only large mouth, small mouth or spotted bass can be weighed in.
9. TIES
- a. If there is a team tie for total weight the winner will be determined as follows.
 - i. Biggest bass for that team, if tied again,
 - ii. Coin flip
 - b. If there is a tie for big bass for the tournament the tie breaker will be determined by
 - i. Biggest team bag weight, or if tied again
 - ii. Coin flip
10. PROTESTS
- a. Any protest of activities at a GRB event must be filed with the tournament director within 15 minutes of the end of the tournament, and before the weigh in process starts, and must be supported by a written complaint.
 - b. The protest will be reviewed by the tournament director. The tournament director may use a committee of tournament officials, or other non-involved anglers, at his discretion.
 - c. The decision of the tournament director with regards to the protest will be final.
11. DISQUALIFICATIONS AND PENALTIES
- a. Being late for weigh-in will result in disqualification.
 - b. Weighing in dead fish will result in a penalty of one half pound for each dead fish weighed in for a maximum of two dead fish. More than two dead fish cannot be weighed in.
 - c. "Big Bass" must be weighed in alive to qualify.
 - d. Short fish (those shorter than 14 inches) will not be weighed in and will result in the loss of that bags big fish as well.
 - e. If only one fish is weighed in and it is found to be short the angler will not receive any points from the tournament for their club standings.
12. INSURANCE
- a. No competitor may operate a boat in a GRB event unless documented proof of insurance, with a minimum coverage of \$300,000, can be produced at the request of tournament officials.
 - b. Proof of insurance must apply to the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat.
 - c. Failure to provide proof of insurance may result in disqualification.

13. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT
- a. Only artificial lure and baits may be used in GRB events. No live bait is allowed.
 - b. Pork rinds and pork strips are considered artificial baits.
 - c. Only one casting or spinning rod and reel combination may be used by any one angler at time.
 - d. Rods used may not exceed eight feet in length from butt to tip.
 - e. All fishing and all landing of fish shall be done from the tournament registered boat. The use of landing nets is permitted.
 - f. Trolling as a method of pulling or moving baits through the water shall not be permitted.
14. BOATS AND MOTORS
- a. All boats in GRB events must be at least twelve feet in length.
 - b. All boats must be equipped with an operational aerated live well.
 - c. Gasoline powered motors must be equipped with a "kill" switch system that shuts down the combustion motor in the event the operator is ejected from the boat.
 - d. Gasoline motors may not exceed the limitations set for that model of boat by the applicable U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
 - e. Boats deemed unsafe by the tournament director will not be eligible to participate in a GRB event.
15. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS
- a. Fishing is permitted on all navigable waters that are legally accessible to the tournament anglers.
 - b. Fishing on waters deemed "off limits" by governmental regulation or the tournament director ruling is not permitted.
 - c. Participant boats will be considered "anchored" on a location if an anchor is out and attached to the boat or if power pole or talon type devices are deployed and the trolling motor is in the "up" position prior to the arrival of another participants boat.
 - d. GRB participants may not fish within 2 boat lengths of another participant's anchored boat.
 - e. Participants may not anchor a boat in such a way as to block another participant's use of navigable water.
16. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS
- a. GRB tournament headquarters will be the site (ramp) from which all boats will start and end the tournament.
 - b. Tournament directors may designate boat preparation, inspection and weigh-in parking areas as necessary.