



Denton County Bass Club Lewisville, Texas Tournament Rules

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Section 1 – Entry Fees and Pay Outs

The entry fee for each tournament is \$60.00 with an 80% payback and \$10.00 going to the no entry fee Club Classic. Twenty percent of the entry fee will go back to the club to fund the Top Six Team. The entry fee includes a Big Bass pot of \$5.00 with a 100% payback. The 80% payback will be paid - 50% to 1st place, 30% to 2nd place, and 20% goes to 3rd place. A 4th place payout will be awarded at 25 or more entrants each tournament. In case of ties, place prizes will be combined and divided equally. Any unclaimed prize money shall be divided equally among the place finishers. In the event of no winners, prize money shall rollover to the next Denton County Club Tournament.

Reimbursement of Tournament Entry Fees – Entry fee reimbursement will be allowed if the tournament contestant notifies the Tournament Director of their withdrawal prior to safe light take-off. No paid tournament entry fees will be reimbursed after tournament take-off.

Section 2 – Registration and Take Off

The Tournament Director will designate the launch ramp/weigh-in site, and keep the official time. Deadline for club member tournament registration is 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Late entries must verify entry payment procedures with the club Tournament Director, and pay their entry fee prior to start of weigh-in. Tournament start time will be “safe light” as designated by the club Tournament Director. “Trailing” is permitted, provided contestants depart from designated launch site no earlier than official start time. The Tournament Director will direct Take Off procedures for each Tournament. Tournament entry and take-off decisions made by the club Tournament Director are final.

Tournament registration as a boater is not allowed the morning of a club tournament without meeting club membership requirements stated in **Bylaw Article II, Sections 2 and 3 - Membership.**

Section 3 – Check-In and Weigh-In Procedure

Contestants must check in with the Tournament Director or appointed member of the tournament committee by 3:00 PM or be disqualified. All fish weighed become the property of DCBC for live release. Each member may keep one trophy fish per year.

All contestants must weigh their own catch and maintain their fish in condition for live release. Weigh bags will be made available to tournament participants. Fish will be weighed on scales approved by the Tournament Director.

Big Bass will be declared and weighed first for the **Big Bass Pot**, then weighed with the remaining catch for a total stringer weight. A dead fish submitted at weigh-in will not be eligible for the Big Bass Pot.

There will be a ½-pound penalty assessed on each dead fish presented at Weigh-In.

Fish presented at Weigh-In that do not meet the tournament length restrictions, will be culled, and the contestant will receive a ½-pound penalty off their total weight.

Any unnatural weights found in any fish presented for weigh-in shall be cause for disqualification and no points will be awarded.

Section 4 – General Tournament Rules

1. All State and Federal, Fish and Game laws will apply.
2. All fish must be caught in a sportsman like manner and hooked in the mouth.
3. There is a 4 hour dead water period prior to the beginning of the tournament.
4. Contestants leaving before official start time or returning after official cut-off time will be disqualified.
5. All entries will fish from a boat with functioning live well(s). When 2 contestants are fishing together, provisions must be made for identifying and separating each contestants catch.
6. The use of live bait is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.
7. Trolling with the combustion engine is not permitted.
8. Quantity limit will be 5 fish or the legal limit for the tournament lake, whichever is smaller. Legal length of each fish shall be a 14-inch minimum for all species or the legal minimum for the tournament lake, whichever is greater.
9. Protests, discrepancies, violations and questions must be presented to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the completion of weigh-in for a ruling. The Tournament Director may consult with appointed club board members in the final decision process. The Tournament Director will have final authority on all decisions related to disputes or protests, and the decision shall be final.

Section 5 – Scoring, Points and Penalties

Contestants will score points for fishing each tournament. 100 points awarded for 1st place finish, 99 points for 2nd place, 98 points for third and continuing to the last contestant weighing fish. Tied contestants will receive points for that place, and the next place points will be skipped.

Each contestant entered but not weighing fish will receive 30 points less than the last placing contestant. Any contestant who is disqualified will receive no points.

Members will receive 30 points for each monthly meeting attended. A member missing a meeting for good cause (work or emergency) can receive meeting points provided that member;

- 1) Contacts an appointed club officer prior to the meeting to inform him of the absence for good cause, and
- 2) Fishes the tournament following the missed meeting.

Members who must miss tournaments, may **Buy-In** up to (2) tournaments per year by paying a \$60 entry fee preceding the tournament. That member will receive points as if having fished the tournament and caught no fish.

A member **Buy-In** does not receive meeting points for missed meetings.

A member who resides 50 or more miles from the club meeting site and fails to make meeting(s) will receive meeting points provided that member fishes the tournament(s) following the missed meeting(s).

Anyone who becomes a member when entering a club tournament will receive meeting points for the meeting prior to that tournament.

Ten monthly meetings will count toward an annual score with a maximum of 300 points. Members 7 best tournament scores of the 9 scheduled club tournaments (excluding the Club Classic) will count toward an annual score for a maximum of 700 points.

2017 Schedule: To align with the B.A.S.S. Nation schedule and allow existing club members and new members 2 meeting drops, the club voted to approve 240 maximum meeting points with 2 drops for the 2017 schedule ending in September. For 2018, the club schedule will realign back to 300 maximum meeting points with 2 meeting drops from November to November.

Section 6 – Safety and Sportsmanship

Contestants failing to register properly, or leaving the lake prior to official weigh-in without contacting the Tournament Director will be disqualified with no points awarded. This is a safety issue.

Life Jackets will be worn and fastened when the combustion engine is running and boat is under way.

Kill switches must be attached to the driver when the combustion engine is running and boat is under way.

No Alcoholic beverages will be consumed during tournament hours.

During competition, a 25 yard (75-foot) distance will be maintained between tournament boats while fishing. The first boat in a location has the right of way. Mutual consent and rendering aid are exceptions to this rule. Violation of any items in Section 6 will result in disqualification.

In the event of inclement weather or other factors which could affect angler safety, the Tournament Director will decide whether or not to proceed with the tournament. The Tournament Director may modify take off and weigh in procedures due to inclement weather safety.

All tournament decisions made by the Tournament Director are final.

Section 7 – Tournament Lake Selection Procedure

Tournament lake selection is currently decided by club members each year using a written ballot during a scheduled club meeting.

The Club Lake Committee will consist of the Angler of the Year, club President, Treasurer, Tournament Director, and Club Classic Champion. The Club Lake Committee will submit three (3) lake choices for each scheduled tournament month for the year, excluding the end of the year no-entry Club Classic tournament.

At a meeting preceding the monthly tournament schedule, registered club members will sign and complete the lake selection ballot and submit for counting. No absentee or proxy votes are accepted. Lakes with the most votes decided each tournament month will be selected.

No lake may be fished back to back or more than twice in one year.

NOTE: Prior to 2011, lakes were selected each month by the top 3 finishers from the previous tournament who attend the meeting and offer a lake of their choice for voting, chosen from a club lake list. The "Tournament Lake" was decided by popular vote. This rule was decided by the club to be discontinued and replaced by the current lake selection process stated above.

Section 8 – Special Events

For draw tournaments, pairings will be determined at the meeting prior to the tournament. Draw tournament contestants must be present, or represented by at least one club member at the drawing and make arrangements with partner prior to tournament starting time.

Night tournaments start at 8:00 pm and weigh-in is at 8:00 am.

Two-day tournaments will have standard start and weigh-in times, and the lake selection shall be chosen by a club majority vote procedure.

Special event tournaments will comply with applicable club tournament rules stated in Sections 1-6 preceding this section. Tournament entry, take-off, and weigh-in procedures made by the club Tournament Director are final.