

Harvester Bass Club Official Rules - Approved January 2014

1. **Rules.** The following are the rules of this club and all tournaments and will remain unchanged for the year. Decisions of officers and tournament officials shall be final in all matters. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Officers and tournament committee, not involved in dispute.

2. **Tournament Committee:** Refer to Article IX, Harvester Bass By-Laws

3. **Participation and Eligibility :** Each registration must be completed in person by check in time, at the time and place listed in the Schedule of Events. If you are waiting in line you are on time. Eligibility : participants shall have paid their club dues one calendar week prior to any tournament date to be eligible to fish. **Eligible members may enroll new members at event.** Adult and Junior members must abide by all D.N.R. regulations applicable. Point of contact for current membership information will be the Secretary/Treasurer or a member of the executive board.

4. **Laws and Safety :** Every boat shall have standard Coast Guard Safety Equipment and must obey all Federal and State Laws. Safe Boating must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. All boaters are required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver or PFD, and it shall be strapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Each boat shall have a kill switch with a lanyard attached to the pilots life vest or PFD. Violation of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification. (Coast Guard ruling dated November 1st 1972.) **A contestant has the choice to fish alone.**

5. **Sportsmanship :** Courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from each participant. Any infraction to these fundamental-sporting principles may deem cause for disqualification. All State and Federal Laws pertaining to alcohol shall apply. Unnecessary or vexatious complaints made by a tournament participant or club member may be grounds for disqualification from an event. Repeated violations of the sportsmanship rule may be grounds for removal from the club, as per club by-laws.

6. **Tackle and Equipment :** Baits shall be artificial lures only. Pork rinds are considered artificial. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning reel and rod (8 foot maximum length handle, butt to tip) may be used at any one time. All other type rigs and methods are prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in

10. **Tournament Headquarters/ Weigh In :** Shall be the tournament site. All participants must start & end each day at this site and each team MUST have a member present at the pre-tournament meeting. . Boats encountering mechanical trouble not allowing boat to return to tournament launch site under it's own power (running out of gas isn't a mechanical failure), must abide by the following: If fish are to be transported in another boat, that boat must be registered and participating in same tournament, 1 team member must stay with fish and drop coin within tournament hours. Any team not able return with their boat must notify tournament director as soon as possible.

11. **Dead Fish Penalty:** Each contestant shall be expected to keep their fish alive. For each dead fish – there shall be a 0.5 lb. penalty taken off the total weight. Big Bass must be alive to be weighed.

12. **Fishing Hours:** Check in times are posted on schedules. Weigh in times to be announced before tournament launch.

13. **Late Penalties:** **If you are late for tournament sign-in, but the pre-meeting is still ongoing, you will be allowed to fish but will be the blast off boat. If you are late for weigh in, you will forfeit the ability to weigh-in. Late means no coin in the drop box at the designated time.**

14. **Scoring:** Pounds accumulated will determine scoring during the day. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky bass will be accepted. At no time shall any boat have more than the club **limit set for the event. The only qualification to fish THE CLASSIC will be a club member no later than October 1st.**

15. **Limit:** **There will be a limit of 3 fish for Tuesday Night Tournaments and a 5 fish limit for Thursday Morning Tournaments,.**

16. **Total Weight Ties:** will be determined by big fish . In the event of ties in big fish weight, points and money will be split among both teams.

17. **Measurement :** All fish shall be measured with a flat measuring board, mouth closed. All fish weighed become the property of Harvester Bass Club. **If the team has a trophy fish they want to keep, no penalty will be applied.**

18. **Short Fish :** Any contestant weighing a short fish shall be penalized the short fish plus his BIGGEST fish.

19. **Blast Off:** Will be done in line by draw. The boat with highest number is the last to leave and the starter boat. Release boats are voluntary. No volunteers will result in 2

accordance with state regulations.

boats being selected by draw..

7. Live Wells : An aerated live well must be used to keep fish alive. The club suggests use of Catch and Release agents.

8. Boat and Motor : Boats that are 14 foot in length or more may be used. A smaller additional gas or electric motor may be used to maneuver while casting. Trolling is not allowed. Horsepower shall not exceed the limitations set by the Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1st 1972 .

20. Cheating: (if proven) is grounds for automatic disqualification, forfeiture of fees, club dues and banishment from future club activities. A Poly graph examination may be required, at the discretion of the executive board, and may subject team involved to criminal charges.

**(2014 Rule Changes in Red)**

9. Permitted Fishing Locations: There will be no fishing within 50 yards of another competitors boat that is anchored with trolling motor raised. You must be at least 50 yards from another H.B.C. competitors boat before dropping an anchor or deploying an anchoring system and raising a trolling motor in a fishing area. All fishing must be done from the boat. Boats may be taken out of the water, but must stay at the tournament site. Fish must remain with a team member until fish are weighed in. No trailering of boat is allowed. No pool or lake will be closed prior to any tournament. Tournament pool and lake restrictions will be announced at check in, and may apply due to permit limitations. Federal, State & Local governmental restrictions & postings will be honored by club members.