

## Sherwood Bass Club Rules

1. Sherwood Bass club will have eight regular (two-man team) tournaments. Tournaments will be from February to September on the 3rd Saturday of the month. **All tournaments are safe light to 3:00 pm, except the July and August tournaments. July and August tournaments will be safe light to 1:00 pm.** The club classic tournament is held on the second Saturday in October.
2. Club's annual membership fee will be \$30.00 per person for the February and March tournaments. **You must fish either the February or March tournament to get the \$30 membership. We will not accept membership money or entry fees for later tournaments in February or March. Starting in April, the membership fee will be raised an additional \$30 per month on an accumulative basis through the end of the season. Membership fee by months - February - \$30, March - \$30, April - \$60, May - \$90, June - \$120, July - \$150, August - \$180, September - \$210.** Each regular tournament requires an entry fee of \$100.00 per boat. Ten dollars of the entry fee applies to Big Bass with 100% payback. **The remainder will pay out at 70/30.** Club payout will be as follows: 19 boats or less, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place; 20-25 boats, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th place; 26 boats or more 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place. Classic entry fee is \$100. This includes the \$10.00 Big Bass fee. **Any and all ties will split the money of any and all tied places.**
3. Each contestant must register and pay entry fee to a club official 15 Minutes prior to starting of tournament. Anyone is eligible to fish with the Sherwood Bass Club as long as you do not make a living or primary income from fishing tournaments and/or sponsorships and you are not listed as a Professional on a circuit website.
4. At registration on tournament day, each team will be assigned a starting position in the order of paid entry. Before start of tournament, a club officer will call the official time and livewells must be verified that they are empty.
5. Late contestants will be allowed to compete as follows: Immediately locate another club member prior to fishing and pay entry fee. That member will verify that livewells are empty. We will not allow a non-member to fish if they arrive late.
6. There will be a five fish limit per boat. Sixth fish must be culled immediately. Sherwood Bass will measure all fish with a "Gator Grip Golden Rule Board" (mouth closed and tail pinched.)

7. All Arkansas Game & Fish Commission and State laws will apply at all times. No fishing within 50 yards of another contestant, or marina gas pump. A competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish during tournament hours. These devices may be used for emergency purposes only. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land a fish. Boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency. (Should a mechanical breakdown occur, another tournament contestant and one member from the disabled boat may bring disabled boat's catch in.) In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions due to an emergency or any other reason, his catch of the day shall not be counted in the tournament. Trailering of boats during tournament hours are prohibited.

8. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass may be weighed in. A minimum of 12" in length will apply, except when AGFC or lake limits are greater. Fish presented at weigh-in measuring less than the legal tournament length will not be accepted and the team will be penalized one pound per short fish. Each legal dead fish weighed in will be penalized a half-pound. If the dead fish is the big bass of the day, the dead fish penalty will not apply to this award but will be deducted against total weight.

9. A team will be disqualified, if more than 5 fish are brought to the weigh-in site. Failure to be within no wake zone of official check-in site at the end of tournaments results in disqualification.

10. If any fish at weigh-in is mauled or white-eyed, the club official shall have the right to reject that fish for weigh-in. In order to support "Catch & Release," all boats must have aerated livewell(s) and all live fish will be released. **Anglers will be allowed to use their own bags, but must monitor the amount of people in the weigh in line. A longer than expected weigh in line will not excuse dead fish.** Only dead fish may be kept after tournament.

11. Life jackets are required to be worn anytime the combustion engine is running above idle. The Sherwood Bass Club will not be responsible for any claims of injury or damage incurred in connection with one of its tournaments. No alcohol or controlled substances can be used during tournament hours.

12. NO trolling, live bait or A-rigs allowed during tournament hours. Any bait that resembles an A-Rig is not allowed. 4 Blades and 1 hook, 3 Blades and 2 hooks, 2 Blades and 3 hooks, 1 Blade and 4 hooks.... All resemble an A-Rig and are not allowed in Sherwood Bass Club tournaments. Members must NOT catch or land a fish while out of their boats.

13. Members at the first Thursday of November meeting will vote for the tournament schedule submitted by the tournament schedule committee. Committee will be appointed by the club officers prior to the November meeting. Sherwood Bass will not fish the same body of water or river pool for two consecutive months. When the Arkansas River is on the schedule, there will also be an alternate lake site listed. If the flow on the river is 100M or more Club officers will notify members the Thursday before the tournament if the alternate is needed. (Lake Dardanelle, Pine Bluff Harbor, and Dumas are acceptable river alternates.) Also at this meeting, members will vote for new officers and rule changes for the upcoming season and pay out the Classic money to all members who qualify and fished the classic. Pay out will be according to the team's weight by ounce.

14. All teams that have fished a minimum of five tournaments during the current calendar year will be eligible to participate in the Sherwood Bass "Classic." **Teams are allowed 1 tournament buy in before the September Tournament. Buy in money will go straight to the classic.** The Classic location will be drawn from the original tournament schedule, voted on at the November meeting, on the Thursday before the Classic tournament date. On the "Even number years", the classic will be drawn from the River tournament sites and on the "Odd number years" the classic will be drawn from the Lake tournament sites. **Lake Dardanelle will be considered a river location only.** The Classic will launch according to the final standings. The Classic site is off limits for pre-fishing.

#### **2 Day Classic Format:**

**All teams that fish 5 of the 8 tournaments will qualify. Day one will pay each team's weight by the ounce. Day one Big Bass will pay 10% of the Classic entry. The Top 10 teams in total weight for the year at the conclusion of the September tournament will qualify to fish the 2nd Day of the Classic. That means they are predetermined before the start of the Classic. These Ten teams will carry over their weights from the 1st Day. They will also be paid by the ounce for their 1st Day weight, like all qualified anglers. The combined weights of both days will determine the Classic winners. Payout for the 2nd Day will be as follows: 1st - \$1000, 2nd - \$600, 3rd - \$400, 4th - \$200. Big Bass of the 2nd Day will pay \$100.**

15. A team's total weight at each tournament is accumulated throughout the year for award purposes. If individuals from separate teams fish together, this will establish a new team. **Teams are allowed a Youth Substitution for any tournament through the year, excluding the classic. A Youth Substitute is defined as any youth angler that has not graduated or has just graduated but not started college the fall after graduation. Upon Graduation from the 12th grade or starting college in August the youth angler will no longer qualify as a Youth Substitute.** Awards for “Big Bass of the Year” and “Team of the Year” (most weight as a team for all club tournaments) will be presented at the club meeting the first Thursday of November. Fish caught during the Classic are not taken into account for "Big Bass" or "Team of the Year". The “Team of the Year” will receive \$500.00 cash prize, two embroidered jackets, and two trophies.

16. Decisions will be made by a majority vote of all members present. In case of a tie, the president or presiding officer will vote to break the tie.

17. The president or presiding officer will make all final decisions. If club officers are not able to attend a tournament, then someone will be appointed as director of the tournament, and their decision will be final.

18. POLYGRAPH: All contestants are subject to polygraph testing. Failure to submit is grounds for disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test for cheating in a bass tournament and/or has been disqualified for cheating in a Bass Tournament is not eligible to compete in the Sherwood Bass Club Tournaments. Polygraph testing is performed at the discretion of the tournament director.

**\* Red text indicates a rule change for 2019**