

IOWA BASS ANGLERS OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS OPEN TOURNAMENTS

Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament officials and shall be final in all matters.

1. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Valid Iowa fishing license. Persons under 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian.
2. **BASIC BOATING EQUIPMENT:**
All Boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length with a gas powered engine with trolling motor. No barge type vessels, pontoons or canoes.
Boats must be checked for live bait, fish and alcoholic beverages. No member will check his/her own boat or weigh his/her own fish. Any boat late to blast-off must have their boat checked by a Board member prior to fishing.
3. **SAFETY:**
Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each competitor must wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation this preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch. This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Every boat must have all required safety equipment. Co-Angler must provide his/her own life jacket. If for any reason you must leave a tournament early you must contact the tournament director or a club officer.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in the boat. Violators will be disqualified.
5. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** No trolling will be permitted. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork strips. Only (1) rod and reel per competitor is permitted in the water at any given time.
6. **OFFICIAL CHECK POINT:** There shall be only one (1) official check point for each check-in in the morning and weigh-in in the afternoon. This point shall be designated by the tournament officials.
7. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing is permitted anywhere except within 25 yards of another competitor unless invited. This privilege shall not be extended to certain competitors with the exclusion of others. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors must not depart the boat to land a fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters. During tournament, competitors must leave and return to the official check point by boat
8. **LATE PENALTY:** Any competitor showing up after check-in time will be penalized one (1) pound per minute. of tardiness and disqualified after 15 minutes. No excuses. Official time announced at blast-off.
9. **YOUR CATCH:** Only largemouth, spotted, red eye or smallmouth bass will be weighed. Only those described which measure 15" or more in length on the longest straight line shall be weighed. Legal size limit shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations with the exact lake fished. A one (1) pound penalty for each dead fish will be deducted from a competitor's total weight for the tournament. If dead fish is largest of the creel, the dead fish penalty will be deducted from the big fish. No iced or mutilated fish will be weighed. **SHORT FISH WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.** All fish will be measured on a golden rule. A courtesy board will NOT be provided. No early weigh-ins.
10. **TIES AND SCORING;** Big bass will break heavy stringer ties. Heavy stringer will break big bass ties. Scores will be based on heavy stringer.
11. **DOOR PRIZES;** No money winners will be eligible for door prizes (if applicable).
12. **RELEASE FORMS:** All entrants must sign a release form prior to fishing.
13. **VIDEO CAMERAS:** The use of any underwater video camera type device, such as the Aqua-Vu system, will not be permitted during any tournament.
14. **CELL PHONE USAGE:** The use of cell phone devices will not be permitted during any tournament, unless for emergency or photos only. Use of cell phone to contact officers of Iowa Bass Anglers for questions will be permitted.

Knowledge of these rules is your responsibility. Failure to read these rules or ignorance of these rules is no excuse. Any announcement made by Tournament Director at tournament site takes precedence over any written rules