

**WPFG ABRIDGED RULES - ANGLING – FRESHWATER (BASS  
TOURNAMENT)  
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**GUIDING BODIES**

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**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Team competition will be a 1 day event. The Team event will be held the first day followed by the Individual event on the following day.

WPFGF expects strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants.

**EVENT AWARDS**

This event is Unisex Open (18+).

Team Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the following events:

- Team Weight (total weight of all fish).
- Team Big Fish. (Big fish is defined as the single heaviest fish. (Medals will be awarded to both team members.)

Individual Medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in the following events:

- Aggregate weight - Boater Division.
- Aggregate weight. Co-angler Division.
- Individual Big Fish (greatest weight). Boater Division.
- Individual Big Fish (greatest weight). Co-angler Division.

*In order to compete in the Big Fish event, competitors must enter the Heaviest Bag event. The Heaviest Fish will be a part of the total aggregate weight which is used to determine the awards.*

*The Team and Individual competitions are separate events. It is not required that a person enter the individual event to participate in the team competition.*

**FACILITY and SCHEDULING**

The tournament will be conducted out of Pohick Bay Regional Park.

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A tournament briefing will be held the evening before the event to explain, demonstrate and assist competitors with rule interpretation, the species of fish to be caught and to define the fishing area.

The tournament hours will be 9:00 am (Blastoff) until 3:00 pm (Check-in). In the event there is a large number of boats entered, flights will be established and start and check-in times will be adjusted. All fishing activity will be conducted between these hours. All competitors should arrive no later than 7:00 am to provide for ample time to launch boats, park vehicles and meet with partners. This will also provide ample time for pre-tournament information to be given to competitors.

**COMPETITORS' EQUIPMENT & TACKLE**

Competitors must supply their own fishing equipment suitable for the type of angling being held. Landing nets are allowed for landing the fish.

**TOURNAMENT RULES**

**Interpretation and enforcement**

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations (boater or co-angler) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament. Protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight.

**Participation**

Participation is open only to those individuals eligible to compete in the World Police and Fire Games. Any person's participation in the tournament is at the sole discretion of WPCG officials. Any person who, in the judgment of the tournament director, is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his or her boater or co-angler partner or compromise his or her safety or the safety of his or her boater or co-angler partner may not be eligible to participate. All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish.

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**Team entry**

This tournament will be limited to 200 teams. This number may be increased at the discretion of the WPFG tournament officials. The team must consist of 2 anglers fishing together from the same boat. Teams will be comprised by partners who wish to fish as a team and register as a team. Those individuals who wish to fish in the team competition and do not have a teammate may enter and have a teammate selected for them from a pool of other individual entrants who do not have a teammate. Entering the pool does not guarantee participation in the event as there may be an uneven number of entrants and/or the lack of availability of boats.

**Individual Boater and co-angler entry:**

This tournament will be limited to 200 boaters and 200 co-anglers. This number may be increased at the discretion of the WPFG tournament officials. The number of boaters and co-anglers must be equal unless otherwise determined by the WPFG tournament officials.

**Purchasing of information**

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) is not permitted. The hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after the opening ceremonies for the WPFG. The purchasing of, or bartering for, or asking for fishing locations from another contestant during the tournament hours is strictly prohibited and will be cause for both contestants to be disqualified from the entire tournament.

**Off-limits, practice and competition**

Tournament participants may practice for the tournament or be on the tournament waters to locate fish on any day prior to the day that the tournament begins. Once competition is under way, contestants may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except boaters, teammates and co-anglers confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources). During competition days, boaters may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone.

**Registration and pretournament meeting**

Each contestant must check-in, in person at the designated pretournament meeting site. Every contestant must attend the pretournament meeting to record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, and any other relevant tournament rule information.

There will be separate meetings for the Team and Individual competitions. All participants in the Individual competition must attend the boater/co-angler pairing immediately following the pretournament meeting to receive the contestant's boat number, meet the contestant's boater or co-angler, and record the boater or co-angler's lodging information, phone number and exact location for the contestant and boater or co-angler to meet prior to takeoff.

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**Pairings for Team Event**

Any person entering the Team event that does not enter with selected teammates will be paired by the WPFG tournament committee through a random draw and will receive notice with their boat number, flight time and teammates name at the pretournament pairings meeting. All contestants must contact their assigned teammate at the pretournament meeting. Teammates should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place for the following morning's takeoff. .

**Pairings for Individual Event**

Boaters and co-anglers will be paired by random draw and will receive notice with their boat number, flight time and boater or co-angler's name at the pretournament pairings meeting. All contestants must contact their assigned boater or co-angler at the pretournament meeting. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place for the following morning's takeoff. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to takeoff.

**Safety**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in on the day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. A driver must be seated behind the steering wheel and in full control of the boat whenever the combustion engine is in operation and in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament day may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other.

**Sportsmanship**

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, and to the WPFG. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the WPFG tournament.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Use of any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules.
- Smoking is not allowed in the weigh-in line during the competition.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, WPFG shall have the right to disqualify a contestant.

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**Boat operation**

For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, either teammate may operate the trolling motor or the outboard at the desecration of the boat owner.

Boaters may not request that the co-angler not fish. Any boater that, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her co-angler and any co-angler who unfairly handicaps his/her boater may be disqualified.

The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, breakdowns, etc.) or to communicate with the tournament director. Co-anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day.

**Boat and horsepower regulation**

All boats must be propeller-driven, a minimum of 16 feet in length and have a rear deck (with a seat if requested). All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted.

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live-well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants.

Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the “Maximum Capacities” placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible “Maximum Capacities” (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250-horsepower maximum.

By signing the entry form, contestants agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by WPFG personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament.

Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in contestant boats during tournament hours.

**Permitted fishing methods**

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and

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biodegradable soft baits. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five spinners, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your boater or co-angler for verification.

**Permitted fishing locations**

The tournament will be conducted out of Pohick Bay on the Potomac River. All tributaries of the Potomac River in Maryland and Virginia accessible by boat are permissible to fish. The Potomac River north of the Woodrow Wilson Bridge (Interstate 95 / 495) and south of the Harry Nice Bridge (Rt. 301) is off limits. There will be no fishing permitted in Washington D.C. waters. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas posted or otherwise designated as “off-limits,” “no boats,” “keep out,” “restricted,” “no trespassing” or “no fishing” (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by WPFG and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant’s boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole, Talon or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position.

All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of the pretournament meeting and/or the removal of official local, state or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament.

Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are then two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions both contestants’ catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided that the co-angler’s fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction of the boater’s catch and the co-angler’s catch to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch.

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Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day's weight.

Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until the weigh-in verification is signed. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted.

**Checkpoints**

There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

**Late penalty**

Contestants who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight, including any weight to be counted toward the Big Bass Award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified.

**Live fish**

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

**Limits**

**Team Competition:** The daily limit will be eight fish for each team. Any team possessing more than the tournament limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction. Teams possessing more than the tournament limit will be disqualified.

**Individual Competition:** The daily limit will be five fish for each competitor. Boaters and/or co-anglers possessing more than the tournament limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction. Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit will be disqualified.

**Scoring**

Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch. Only largemouth, spotted or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass.

The minimum length limit for bass will be 12 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure to the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented and the total loss of weight for the short fish.

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Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by the signature of their boater or co-angler. Failure to have a verified boater or co-angler signature may result in disqualification of that day's catch.

**Ties**

Ties will be resolved; by, first by total number of fish for the tournament, then by total number of live fish for the tournament. If a tie remains, then the awards will be distributed equally among the tied contestants.