

# Osprey Bass Club

## Fishing Tournament Rules

### **1. COMPLIANCE:**

Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director/President. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director and/or Osprey Bass Club's President may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, forfeiture of entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director/President shall be final in all matters. Protests for any rule infraction must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official announcement, "the scales are now closed".

**a.** Each contestant agrees to report any tournament rule infraction to the Tournament Director/President.

**b.** Failure to report to the Tournament Director/President any tournament rules infractions or false reporting of tournament rules infractions will be cause for being disqualified.

**c.** Rules infractions will result in penalties that may include but not limited to:

(1) Loss of weight for the day of the rules infraction.

(2) Disqualification from the event.

(3) Disqualification from future Osprey Bass Club events for a period of time up to a lifetime disqualification.

### **2. COMPETITOR CONDUCT CODE:**

**a.** Members that participate in Osprey Bass Club events will at all times observe the Competitor Conduct Code and all applicable tournament/conduct rules for the tournament event in which they are participating. All competitors shall conduct themselves professionally at all times. Their actions should not reflect unfavorably on the sport of bass fishing, Osprey Bass Club, its members or affiliates, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

**b.** All competitors will display a high degree of professionalism, integrity and conservation in the sport of professional angling. Any Competitor who violates any of the Competitor Conduct Code should be penalized, which may include but not limited to: disqualification from events, forfeiture of winnings, and/or suspension and non-acceptance of entries from Osprey Bass Club events. Osprey Bass Club may use these actions singularly or in combination as deemed appropriate.

### **3. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

**a.** Participation is open to current members of Osprey Bass Club (OBC) who are 10 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of Tournament Director/President is the responsibility of the competitor.

**b.** Competitors must have a valid fishing license for the body of water in which the event is being held.

**c.** During the official practice and competition days of an Osprey Bass Club's tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 boating liability insurance on that particular boat. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitor using that boat. Random checks will be conducted. Each policy must show a minimum of \$100,000 liability and valid expiration date.

**d.** Anglers must sign the Release of Liability form at the event. If the angler is not pre-registered with Tournament Director, he must present his entry fee to the Tournament Director/President prior to the tournament. The Tournament Director reserves the right to refund any membership and/or entry fee, if he shall choose for any reason not to accept the application for entrance.

- e. Any person entering a tournament that is under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.
- f. Must have at least four (4) participants to conduct an Adult Tournament.
- g. Must have at least two (2) participants to conduct a Youth Tournament.

**4. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE:**

- a. Adult entry fee will be \$100.00 for regular monthly tournament.
- b. Youth entry fee will be \$10.00 for regular monthly tournament.
- c. Entry fee for Classic will be determined by club officers.

**NOTE:** The Big Bass Pot will be managed by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament.

**5. SAFETY:**

- a. Contestants understand that participating in fishing tournaments in an open boat requires using boating safety rules. Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times.
- b. During the official practice and competition, each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver (PFD). Preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in gear. Preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear.

**NOTE:** Youth anglers must comply with state law for wear of life preserver.

- c. The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is in gear.
- d. Weather and water turbulence can be extremely hazardous and extreme caution should be exercised at all times. During practice and tournament hours extreme caution must be exercised by boat operator during bad weather. Boat operators must be aware that there could be large cruisers and/or barges operating on tournament waters that displace extremely large volumes of water, which create unusually large wakes and turbulence.
- e. Violations of either the PFD or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- a. All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.
- b. All contestants must adhere to all State, Federal and local laws governing water activities. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- c. No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- d. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash back to the dock for disposal.
- e. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving immoral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorable upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting applications for membership, participation and for disqualification.
- f. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for membership, participation and for disqualification.

**7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. No fly rods or rods over 8 1/2 feet are allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All angling must be done from the boat, and anglers must stay on tournament waters during tournament hours. Anglers are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament day/days. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: a boat operated by other competitors, a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director or to dislodge their boat from a hazard. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. Citizen band radios, marine radios and cellular phones are allowed in the boat for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during tournament hours.

**8. HORSEPOWER REGULATION:**

Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. It is required that all boats have a U.S. Coast Guard or Manufacturer's horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.

**9. BOAT AND MOTOR:**

ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF IGNITION STOP SWITCH. This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's life vest or clothing any time the combustion engine is in gear. Also any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are 14 feet or more in length may be used. No barges, cumbersome craft or boats without steering wheel will be permitted. Contestants may not use boats equipped with "stick steering" during official practice or during tournament hours. Each boat must also have a properly aerated or re-circulating live-well to maintain a live limit catch of bass by both contestants. Boaters are required to provide a back fishing seat for co-anglers.

**10. BOAT OPERATION:**

Partners must discuss sharing time for his/her selected waters prior to ooze-off. Each partner is entitled to an equal number of hours to fish his/her selected waters during the tournament. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their partner shall be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the co-angler to reimburse the boater in an amount mutually agreed. It is suggested that reimbursement be 1/2 of boat operation cost. Co-anglers not paying their share as prescribed here and at the time of the event shall be cause for being disqualified. This penalty is not limited to the same event but may also result in entries not being accepted into future Osprey Bass Club's events.

**11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

Tournament Director shall establish Tournament waters at the tournament briefing and define any known OFF-LIMITS areas including locking from established tournament waters. Fishing on tournament waters is not permitted within 50 yards of a marina gas pump.

**NOTE:** Any water within tournament boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be off-limits.

**12. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:**

There will be only one official point for check-out in the morning, and check-in in the afternoon, as designated by the Tournament Director. Competitors not at the checkpoint at the designated time will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute, deducted from their total weight for the day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late for send-off or check-in will be disqualified for the day. Official start and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 8 hours fishing time.

**13. SCORING:**

Each adult angler's BEST four (4) and youth BEST (2) tournament weights shall be scored. The total weight, of each angler's catch, shall determine their tournament standings and placement for Osprey Bass Club's Angler of The Year (AOY). When fishing as a team, the members of the team will each share 50% of the weight (i.e. total weight equals 8 pounds; each member of the team will each have 4 pounds to add to their tournament standings). Only largemouth, spotted, red eye or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The creel limit shall be five (5) unless the prevailing state/lake limit is less. (The Tournament Director may impose a creel limit of less than five fish if they deem weather and/or local conditions warrant the reduction.) At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling must be done immediately upon catching a sixth fish. Culling of dead fish is strictly prohibited. Minimum length will be 12 inches (measured on a flat board) unless the prevailing state/lake rule is larger. In most cases the state's longest length limit will be used. A penalty of 1 pound will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish and a penalty of eight (8) ounces or (.50) pounds will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. In the case of a slot fish, it shall not be weighed. In the event the anglers' big fish is dead a penalty of eight (8) ounces or (.50) pounds will be deducted from the big fish total weight. A contestant that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately. Mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered fish will be weighed only at the discretion of the Tournament Director. No regurgitated baitfish will be weighed. Fish will not be put on a stringer at any time. All fish presented at the weigh-in become the property of Osprey Bass Club. All live fish will be returned to the tournament waters and the Tournament Director will dispose of any dead fish. Trophy bass will be managed by the Tournament Director.

**14. PAIRING:**

Boater may choose his/her fishing partner or fish alone. All angling must be accomplished from the boat. Competitors must stay on tournament waters and in sight of each other throughout the tournament day from send-off until weigh-in (Exception: Nature call). Tournament Director has no responsibility for finding lost partners.

**15. TIE:**

In case of a tie, ties will be broken using the following criteria:

- a. Largest number of legal fish weighed has priority.
- b. Largest legal fish weighed has second priority.

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**NOTE:** If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, place monies will be combined and split evenly, and place points will be awarded accordingly. Merchandise prizes will be awarded as determined by the Tournament Director/President.

**16. TRANSFERS:**

Entry fees may be transferred or refunded only if proper notification is made to Osprey Bass Club Tournament Director/President prior to start of the tournament.

**17. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE/CLASSIC:**

- a. Refer to OBC's tournament schedule for information on location and date.
- b. Tournament Director, Weigh Master and Public Relation Representative are organizers of OBC's Classic Tournament.
- c. Eligibility for fishing the Classic Tournament follows:
  - Must be a member in good standing
  - Must have fished 40 percent of current year tournaments

**18. POINT SYSTEM:**

Tournament points shall equal member's total weight of fish weighted at each Osprey Bass Club (OBC) tournament and fifty percent of his/her team's total weight of fish weighted at Quad State and/or S.A.B.B.A. tournament.. The Tournament Director will total each member's best 4 tournament weights to determine first, second, third, and so forth place for the year.

**19. Angler of the Year (AOY):**

The member with the heaviest weight total for his/her BEST four tournaments will be the Angler of the Year. The AOY will represent Osprey Bass Club in the Quad State Bass Club AOY competition. If the AOY cannot compete, the second, third and so forth place angler becomes eligible to be entered. The \$50.00 entry fee will be paid by Osprey Bass Club (OBC).

**20. Pay Out: See Payout sheet.**

**NOTE:** In the event of a zero-fish weigh in, anglers shall be reimbursed their entry fee, minus OBC's fee.

**NOTE:** All prize money not awarded for a tournament will be divided equally between each place winner and OBC treasurer.

**21. Prizes:**

Angler of the Year (AOY) shall receive a \$200.00 cash prize. In addition, AOY will receive entry fee to a Quad State Bass Club tournament and \$100.00 to defray tournament's expenses.

**22. Guest Angler:**

Except for Quad State Bass Club's members, guest participation is limited to fishing one Osprey Bass Club Tournament per year. To fish more than one tournament, guest(s) must become a member.

**23. Youth Bass Angler's Membership:**

- a. Must be 10 to 18 years of age, recommended by a member and has paid membership dues (\$10.00).
- b. Must demonstrate a wiliness to comply with club Bylaws and Tournament Rules.

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**24. Youth Bass Angler's Competition:**

- a. Competition requires two or more youth anglers.
- b. Anglers must comply with Tournament Rules and Bylaws.

**25. Youth Bass Angler's Award:**

Award shall be determined by Tournament Director, Weigh Master and Public Relation Representative.

**NOTE:** In the event a youth angler places in an adult OBC tournament the difference between the youth prize money and the adult prize money will be divided equally between each place winner and the OBC treasurer.

**NOTE:** If a youth angler wins an adult OBC tournament and there are no other winners, ten percent of the first place prize money will be awarded to the youth winner. The remaining prize money will be divided equally among the adult tournament participants.

**26. Youth Bass Angler's Competition Schedule:**

Schedule shall be determined by Tournament Director, Weigh Master and Public Relation Representative.

**NOTE:** Youth Anglers must comply with all safety and standards stated in OBC's Tournament Rules.