

LOWNDES COUNTY BASSMASTERS

TOURNAMENT RULES

Amended November 2009

1. This is a “Bass” only tournament with total weight determining the winners. Maximum of two (2) persons fishing from each boat: fishing alone is permitted, however all members (boaters and non-boaters) will be given an opportunity to fish from another member’s boat by anonymous draw out. The only exception is if it would cause a violation of State or Federal Laws such as an over-gross of max. carrying capacity established by the U.S. Coast Guard. The draw will be done at the launch site prior to launch. The names of all boaters will be placed in a container and drawn by non-boaters one at a time to pair partners. The non-boater will be required to pay a fee to the boater to offset boat operation costs. The fee will be a minimum of \$15.00 per day. Non-boaters are also required to use restraint in the amount of tackle and gear brought aboard.

2. Boaters will launch their boat early enough to allow all contestants to be in the water prior to tournament launch. Non-boaters will be at the tournament site and ready prior to launch time. If a non-boater is late (after launch), he is considered disqualified unless he finds a boater or brings his own boat and complies with the bylaws concerning late arrival. Member must be in good standing and entry fee paid prior to member starting to fish.

3. All tournament fees must be paid in cash at or before the tournament. If paying at the tournament site, you must have the correct entry fee. **No change will be available at the tournament site.**

4. Tournament payoff is 65% of entry fees. Balance is paid out in the following manner 50% to 1st, 30% to 2nd, and 20% to 3rd. Big fish pot is optional and paid to the participating individuals that catch the three heaviest bass during the tournament hours. The split will be 50% to 1st, 30% to 2nd and 20% to 3rd.

- a) 1st, 2nd and 3rd place anglers at each tournament will have the option of receiving a trophy or a plate (with the difference between cost of the trophy and plate paid to individual). 4th, 5th and 6th place anglers will receive a plate.

5. The Weigh Master will start the tournament and will stop it when the official time indicates the tournament is over. Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward the big bass pot. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose credit for the day’s weight.

6. There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official checkpoint for check-in in the afternoon. All boats will be checked prior to tournament start for any previously caught fish. Failure to go through boat check in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

- a. Late arrivals must check in with a club officer before starting to fish. It is your responsibility to find an officer on the lake.

- b. In case of mechanical difficulty, the boat owner may send their fish to the check-in point by their boat partner in another person's boat. If the boater is fishing alone, they may send their fish in by another boater while their boat is towed to the check-in point. Their fish will be held until they arrive at the check-in point, state how many fish they sent in by whom, and then weighed in their presence. This applies only to the boat owner to allow them to protect their investment. Their partner, if one, must bring their own fish in personally.

7. All bass must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner – casting, spinning, spin-casting, or fly rod tackle may be used. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

8. A courtesy measuring board will be set up prior to the scale area. Contestants are encouraged to measure any doubtful fish prior to approaching the scale area.

9. All fish brought to the scale area will be in accordance with state and local laws; five (5) fish creel limit for each contestant. The Weigh Master will set creel Limits for each tournament at the pre-launch meeting on the 1st day of the tournament. Minimum fish length must meet established size limit determined by state game and fish rules for the body of water the tournament is conducted on. Penalty for undersized fish placed on the scale will be not only the loss of that fish, but **the contestant's largest fish will be deducted as a penalty.** Also, there will be a penalty of 4 ounces for each dead fish weighed in. The fish will be placed on a marked measuring board, mouth closed, and tail laid on the board pinched closed. The Weigh Master will weigh fish on scales minus transport bag. Contestants will maintain possession of their fish (if any doubt exists) until the results of the tournament are made official. Bass may not be kept on a stringer at any time during the tournament. A Bass 10 pounds or larger may be kept for mounting purposes only.

10. In case of tie, place will be determined by the largest single fish recorded at this tournament by the contestants concerned with the tie. If the tie is unresolved, prize will be split.

EXAMPLE: Tie for 1st would result in 1st and 2nd place monies split between the tied contestants. 3rd place would be awarded normally.

11. All boats must be operated in accordance with state and local laws. Safe boating will be observed at all times. DURING COMPETITION, EACH CONTESTANT IS REQUIRED TO WEAR A FASTENED U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE PRESERVER ANYTIME THE COMBUSTION ENGINE IS IN OPERATION AND THE BOAT IS ON PLANE.

12. Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state or federal officials or within **50 yards of any marina gas pumps or within 50 yards of any other competitor's boat.**

13. All angling 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 boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. If a contestant decides to leave the tournament before official check -in time every attempt should be made to notify another member to preclude a search and rescue mission post tournament. Contestants must leave and return to the

official checkpoint by boat. Contestants may trailer their boat prior to weigh-in only when necessary to facilitate the weigh-in process or to ensure the creel is released without harm.

14. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. Intoxication will be cause for immediate disqualification. Conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules are grounds for disqualification and/or rejection of any application for participation.

15. All participants agree to hold harmless the State where the tournament is held, Lowndes Bassmasters Club, any sponsors, officials, and all other contestants for any and all injuries and/or material and bodily damage in connection with this tournament.

16. Rule interpretation will be left exclusively to the weigh master. Decisions make by the weigh master may be appealed to the Board of Directors. Any decision made by the Board of Directors on an appeal is final.

17. Protests against any club member for rule violation(s) must be registered within fifteen (15) minutes of the conclusion of the weigh-in. Protests will be investigated by the Weigh Master who will then make recommendations to the chapter Board of Directors. The chapter Board of Directors will rule on violations of the tournament rules. All decisions are final.