

# FRESNO BASS CLUB

## TOURNAMENT RULES

March 22, 2023

1. **ELIGIBILITY FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION**
  - A. Must be a current member of the FRESNO BASS CLUB (FBC) in good standing. Must also have paid the annual liability insurance dues.
  - B. Contestants must be at least 16 years of age to go into the draw as a non-boater
  - C. Family members may be any age
  - D. All participants under 13 years of age must wear an approved PWC floatation device at all times.
  - E. Must have attended one meeting and paid yearly dues prior to tournament to fish.
  - F. Renewing members must renew their membership by the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting after their expiration date to remain in good standing otherwise, the member must attend a meeting prior to fishing a tournament.
  - G. Member that has lapsed membership shall return as a returning member regardless of the amount of time lapse between membership renewal. A new member must never have been a member of the FBC.
  - H. Boat owner must show proof of current boat insurance.
  - I. All tournament contestants must sign waiver of club liability.
  - J. Guest Prospect – Purpose to increase membership
    1. A Member may have a Guest Prospect fish with them for purposes of recruiting.
    2. Members may not fish with more than 2 Guest Prospect in a calendar year.
    3. A Guest Prospect may only fish once in any calendar year.
    4. Guest Prospects must attend the meeting the month of the event.
    5. Guest Prospect must sign FBC Insurance Liability Waiver.
    6. Member will be responsible for informing guest of tournament rules. Guest Prospects shall obey FBC Tournament Rules.

7. Guest Prospects must be a non-boater and not a current FBC member.
8. If there are too many non-boaters (members) the Guest Prospects will not be allowed to fish the tournament in question.
9. Guests Prospects are not allowed to participate in any options or pools.
10. Entry Fee; Guest Prospect to fish without paying any fees or options or taking part of any payouts.
11. Guest Prospect is separate from a Guest Participant.
12. If the Guest Prospect drops out the boater will take on the last non-boater

K. Guest Participant

1. Each active member in good standing will be allowed to bring in 1 Guest per calendar year, show or no show, to participate in a FBC tournament, excluding the month of December. A guest may only fish one FBC event per calendar year.
  2. Guest Participant must sign FBC Insurance Liability Waiver.
  3. Member will be responsible for informing guest of tournament rules. Guest shall obey FBC Tournament Rules.
  4. Guest Participant must be non-boaters and not a current FBC member.
  5. If there are too many non-boaters (members) the Guest will not be allowed to fish the tournament in question.
  6. Guests are not allowed to participate in any options or pools.
  7. Entry Fee; Guest to fish without paying any fees or options or taking part of any payouts.
  8. The Guest Participant cannot also fish as a Guest Prospect and vice versa within the same calendar year.
  9. If the Guest Participant drops out the boater will take on the last non-boater
- L. Any participant that tests positive for COVID-19 shall not be eligible to participate in any FBC functions or events until they provide a negative test the day before the event.

2. **ENTRY FEE & TOURNAMENT DATES**

- A. Entry fee for point tournaments is \$30.00 per contestant.
- B. Carryover of entry fees, including options, shall be made only if the contestant notifies the Tournament Director, President or Treasurer by 7:30PM the Thursday before the tournament of their withdraw. Progressive Big Fish Pot will not be carried over.
- C. Carryover of entry fees and options shall only be carried over for 3 months. At the end of 3 months all rollover fees will be forfeited.
- D. If an individual officially withdraws from a tournament, they may re-enter and fish the tournament, up until the Thu before the tournament by 7:30 PM except when the tournament is held the weekend following the meeting then late sign-ups outside the 24 hours grace are allowed without Options or PBFP up to 9:00 PM Friday night.
- E. In most cases, entry fees, including options must be paid prior to the monthly meeting or at the monthly meeting prior to the draw for partners. There will be a 24-hour grace period from the start time of the monthly meeting to sign-up for the tournament including Options and PBFP (Progressive Big Fish Pot). After the 24-hour grace period a contestant may sign-up late up to 7:30 PM the Thursday prior to the tournament, except when the tournament is held the weekend following the meeting then late sign-ups outside the 24 hours grace are allowed without Options or PBFP up to 9:00 PM Friday night.
- F. Progressive Big Fish Pot (PBFP), fish 5 pounds or greater.
- G. Late sign-up for the PBFP with catch-up is allowed within the 24-hour grace period. No catch-up or PBFP option shall be allowed outside of the 24 hour late sign-up grace period.
  - 1. Late sign-ups are allowed to enter the PBFP only if they are current. No shows or withdraws will forfeit their monies in the PBFP
- H. The draw will be held at the meeting prior to the tournament.
  - 1. The selection of tournament dates is to be made by the tournament committee, subject to the following:

2. No more than one tournament shall be held in any one month. Under special circumstances the Membership shall have the discretion for any changes.

3. The day of the tournament shall be on a Sunday but, may be a Saturday if the tournament is a two-day event or a night tournament.

4. As many dates as practical shall be set in as far in advance as possible.

### **3. CONTESTANT PAIRING**

A. Pairing of contestants shall be done at the meeting prior to the tournament by a draw of boaters matched with non-boaters.

B. In the event the boater does not show at the tournament, the non-boater is placed in the “next available boat.”

1. “Next available boat” –defined as the next available boat in order of blast off position, this could be a boater whose non-boater has dropped out.

C. In the event a boat is disabled or inoperable at the tournament date, the non-boater is placed in the “next available boat.” The boater is then placed in the “next available boat.”

D. Non-boaters signing up late shall be placed in the “next available boat.”

E. Boaters signing up late shall be placed at the end of the field.

F. Contestants that sign up as a boater or non-boater shall remain as such for the tournament except for when there is a need for more boaters.

G. If more “boat owners” than “non-boat owners” are entered in a tournament, the excess of boat owners shall be allowed to fish alone in their own boat, or with immediate family (father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, or sister) who is an active member of FBC.

H. Any member may fish FBC tournaments with his or her immediate family who is also an active FBC member, and not be subject to the draw pairing. Such pairs shall be entered into the boat-owners draw only to determine their position in blast-off.

I. Member fishing with two of their children, one has to be a paid contestant for the tournament and both must be current paid members of FBC. Children 16 and over have to go into the draw.

J. Paired contestants must stay together throughout the tournament.

K. A member signing up with a family member without going through the draw process must show up and participate together for the duration of tournament (both days if a two-day tournament.) If either family member fails to show up for any reason, both members will have “one strike” against them (no exceptions.) If this should happen again in the same tournament season/year, both members will have a “second strike” against them. Upon receiving the “second strike,” both members will forfeit their option of fishing together without going through the draw process for the balance of that tournament season/year. If either member wished to drop out at any time, both members must drop out together or be subject to the “two strikes rule.” If the boater wishes to continue to fish the tournament they will take on the last non-boater

1. Family member with late sign up – once the draw is completed the pairing remains as is.

L. Deny of draw partner – contestant may deny 1<sup>st</sup> draw however, must maintain 2<sup>nd</sup> draw partner or not fish the tournament.

M. Buddy Tournament at Clear Lake, non-boaters that do not partner up will go into the draw

#### 4. **WEIGH-IN**

A. The weigh-in crew may be assigned by the Weigh Master or the first 3 boats (6 contestants) shall be responsible for assisting with weigh-in. This is not an option without permission from the Tournament Director or a 1-pound penalty will apply.

1. 1<sup>st</sup> boat is the weighmaster or the boater will assist in writing data during the weigh-in.
2. It is the responsibility of participating contestants to check in with the weighmaster at the designated check in time.
3. During a two-day tournament, the same weigh-in crew will help with the weigh-in both days.

B. No contestant in any point tournament shall allow any fish caught by him/her to be included in the tournament weight of any other contestant. The contestants involved in this

infraction shall be disqualified and dismissed from the FRESNO BASS CLUB.

- C. All boats must be within the designated weigh-in location prior to quitting time and report to the check-in boat. The check-in boat will be designated by the tournament director prior to the start of the tournament. Any contestant arriving late for the weigh-in, or not reporting to the check-in boat, is disqualified, regardless of the time period involved. The contestant shall be entitled to participation points. It is the responsibility of both contestants to be at the weigh-in prior to the designated time.
- D. Culling of fish must be done outside of buoys of weigh-in area.
- E. At no time are dead fish to be culled.
- F. Once fish are handed over to the weigh crew no additional fish can be added to the bag or brought to the scales.
- G. Any contestant bringing more than the designated tournament limit of 5 fish to weigh-in will be disqualified
- H. Participants must use tournament weigh in bag, grocery bags are not allowed.
- I. Participants are responsible for bringing their own fish to the scales. Max of 5 participants in line to weigh in fish.

**5. LAKE HEADQUARTERS & "OUT-OF-BOUNDS" AREA**

- A. Lake headquarters shall be selected by the tournament committee.
- B. The official weigh-in station shall be at the lake headquarters unless circumstances deem it necessary to be elsewhere. This exception shall be at the discretion of the tournament committee.
- C. The "out-of-bounds" area shall be designated by the tournament director at the club meeting and at the tournament blast-off.
- D. All fishing shall be done from the boat.

**6. TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN TIME, FISHING HOURS & STARTING PROCEDURES**

- A. Check-in time and weigh-in shall be determined by the tournament director and announced at the draw.

- B. The tournament director shall give the official time at the pre-tournament meeting and prior to blast-off based on cell phone time
- C. The tournament committee shall determine the method of starting except:
  - 1. No “flare” or “shotgun” starts shall be allowed.
  - 2. The order of starting or positioning of boats within flights shall be determined by the order in which boats are drawn at the meeting. For the second day of a two-day tournament the order shall be reversed.
  - 3. The prime consideration in determining the method of starting shall be the safety of all contestants.
- D. In the event a member or members arrive at the lake late, it will be necessary for the late arrivals to have their live wells checked by a tournament committee or board member they can locate on the lake. A contacted member shall check the late boat and then the late arrivals may proceed to fish. To begin fishing before contacting a member boat for a live-well check is automatic disqualification, including loss of participation point.
- E. Any boater or non-boater who causes his or her boater or non-boater or themselves to be late for morning check-in will be assessed a 1-pound penalty against his or her total weight of that day’s tournament catch.
  - 1. Late will be defined as not being checked in at the stated and printed time at the designated area for that tournament. Check-in applies to all tournament participants (boaters and non-boaters.)
- F. Contestant shall not be deemed late if the contestant notifies the tournament director or president by 9:00PM the Wednesday before the tournament. No penalty shall be assessed.
- G. Contestants that are granted late start shall be last in the blast off.

7. **SAFETY**

- A. Safe boating conduct shall always be observed.
- B. Each contestant is required to wear a life jacket any time the boat is on a plane. It shall be up to each member to provide their own life jacket.

- C. All boating safety rules, speed zones, buoy markers, etc. shall be observed. Any contestant receiving a citation on the lake during the tournament shall be automatically disqualified. Parking tickets are not included. No passing is permitted in the 5 MPH area unless the participant being passed has their trolling motor down or is waived on.
- D. Consumption of alcohol while boat is in the water is strictly prohibited. Tournament participants who violate this rule will be disqualified. Alcohol is only permitted after boat is loaded and fish weighed.
- E. All boats must have fire extinguishers.

**8. BOATS AND MOTORS**

- A. Only fishing-type boats, twelve (12) feet or longer shall be used in tournaments.
- B. Any motor 9 ½ horsepower or greater shall be used as the main propulsion motor.
- C. An electric powered motor may be used to maneuver the boat while casting, gas motors are not allowed to propel the boat while fishing. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Trolling is defined as: “the method of fishing by dragging a hook and line behind the boat.”
- D. Each boat shall have the following equipment to be allowed to fish in the tournaments:
  - 1. Live-well with aerator sufficient to maintain fish in a live condition. Built-in live wells are not necessary. Boater may use ice chest or another container with aerator.
  - 2. Ignition kill switch is required.
- E. A Board member may conduct a boat inspection before the start of the tournament to determine the acceptability of each boat and to check for illegal baits and equipment.

**9. BOAT OPERATION**

- A. It will be left to the sole discretion of the boat owner as to whether anyone, but the owner shall operate the boat or any of its equipment.
- B. Each contestant shall be allowed to select the fishing area for one-half of the fishing day. The boat owner will have first

choice, if desired, to pick which half of the day he will select the fishing area.

- C. Expenses for the trip shall be shared by the non-boating partner. The following guidelines will be followed:
1. The non-boater will reimburse the boat owner **\$40.00** per fishing day for the cost of boat gas, oil used etc. during the tournament. Rate will drop to \$30 when pump price for regular gas drops below \$3.50/gallon. Rate will increase to \$50 when pump prices for regular gas goes above \$4.50/gallon.
  2. Night tournaments are considered as one fishing day.
  3. Any refund of non-boater fees due to unforeseen circumstances is to be determined between the boater and the non-boater.
  4. Any other expensed mutually incurred should be divided. The method and amount of any sharing of expenses should be determined before the tournament fishing day begins.
  5. Any non-boater, non-payment shall result in not being able to participate in future events until paid in full.

## **10, SPORTSMANSHIP**

- A. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation is expected of each member.
- B. Operating the boat in any manner to handicap a partner is strictly forbidden.
- C. Contestant boats must always maintain at least 50 yards distance from other contestant boats, if fishing, unless all involved contestants agree otherwise.
- D. Shoreline or structure may not be buoyed or marked for more than 50 linear yards.
- E. Any violation of any tournament rules shall be cause for disqualification from the tournament and possible dismissal from the club.

## **11. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT**

- A. Only artificial lures shall be used. No live or prepared bait except for pork rind type baits will be permitted.

- B. Only casting, spinning, fly, or spin-casting reels may be used. The same limitation applies to rods. No rod longer than 8-1/2 feet from tip to butt cap may be used.
- C. Any number of rigged rods may be ready in the boat, but only one rod may be used at a time.
- D. Electronic depth finders, graphs, thermometers, pH meters, color selectors, and other similar equipment are permitted except Aqua View underwater video devices are prohibited during the tournament.
- E. Except as otherwise authorized, all fish may be taken only by angling with one closely attended rod and line or one hand line with not more than three treble or here single hooks and not more than five artificial lures

**12. CARE & DISPOSITION OF FISH**

- A. All contestants shall use reasonable care in the handling, keeping, and transporting of fish to the weigh-in site. Contestants are responsible for supplying their own weigh-in bags.
- B. All live fish shall be returned to the lake in accordance with the tournament director's instructions. Dead fish shall be disposed of in accordance with State fish and game laws.
- C. A contestant shall be granted the right to keep any trophy fish for mounting purposes.

**13. SCORING**

- A. Tournament winners will be determined by total weight accumulated during the tournament. A total of five (5) fish may be weighed in by each contestant. At no time shall any contestant have more than his legal limit (5) in his possession. If more than 5 fish are brought to the scales the participant shall be disqualified.
- B. Legal tournament fish shall be largemouth (black) bass, Kentucky spotted bass, Florida bass, and smallmouth bass.
- C. Minimum length of any fish shall be 13 inches. The fish shall be measured with the mouth open, hanging on a FLAT board. The tournament committee shall have an official board for the measurement of any questionable fish. All fish less than 13 inches weighed in will not be counted. A one-pound penalty

will be deducted from the contestant's remaining legal fish total weight.

- D. A 0.50 lb. deduction will be assessed for each dead fish.
- E. A dead fish cannot be weighed in for any big fish award IE: Tournament big Fish, Big Option and Progressive Big Fish Pot
- F. Any fish that appears injured or mangled in any way will be counted only at the discretion of the tournament committee. The tournament committee shall also determine whether any fish is to be considered as live for the purposes of awarding bonus points.
- G. In cases of ties on total weight, the tie will be settled by the largest fish in each contestant's catch.
- H. In the case of a tie on the weight of big fish, money will be divided equally, and two Big Fish trophies shall be awarded.
- I. Points shall be awarded starting with first place receiving 50 points, second place receiving 49 points, and so on.
- J. All contestants not weighing in fish will receive 5 points for attendance at each tournament. All other contestants weighing in fish would receive their place points.
- K. There will be a total of eleven (11) point tournaments fished in a tournament year. Nine (9) of the eleven (11) tournaments will be used for the calculation of the year end standings.
- L. Two points will be awarded each member in attendance at each monthly meeting.
- M. In the event of a tie for total weight, including big fish, the distribution of points shall be added, then divided equally between the contestants in question.

#### **14. TOC (Tournament of Champions)**

- A. The top 10 anglers will advance to the TOC
- B. The top ten will be based on throwing out the 2 lowest tournament points
- C. Members participating in a minimum of 9 tournaments will also qualify for TOC
- D. For calendar year 2023 this will be 8 tournaments.
- E. TOC lake location will be determined by the prior TOC winner within a 100 mi radius from the prior years lake schedule.
- F. The TOC location will be off limits Monday – Friday prior to the TOC. Pre-fishing on the Saturday before is allowed.

**15. ANGLER OF THE YEAR**

- A. Shall be determined by total raw points.
- B. In the event of a tie Big Fish shall be the tie breaker
- C. In the event of a tie for “Angler of the Year,” first place shall be shared by the two tied contestants and trophies will be given to both.

**16. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**

- A. Shall be determined by total raw points.
- B. In the event of a tie Big Fish shall be the tie breaker Rookie of the Year is a first-time angler in the FRESNO BASS CLUB.  
The Rookie is allowed to participate for this award only during their first FULL season (calendar year) in the club.
- C. In the event of a tie, the award shall be shared by the two tied contestants and trophies will be given to both.

**17. NON-BOATER OF THE YEAR**

- A. Shall be determined by total raw points.
- B. In the event of a tie Big Fish shall be the tie breaker  
Non-Boater of the Year is an angler that is subject to the non-boater’s draw for partners for the complete tournament year.
- C. A non-boater may retain status if:
  - 1. Angler is drawn out, more non-boaters than boaters, and is required to furnish a boat to compete in the tournament for which the angler is drawn out.
  - 2. The tournament director request that said non-boater furnish a boat for a given tournament to prevent other non-boaters from being drawn out.
  - 3. The tournament director shall insure the events in 1 and 2 above do not occur more than twice in a tournament year.
- D. In the event of a tie for Non-Boater of the Year, the award will be shared by the two tied contestants and trophies will be given to both.

**18, RULE DECISIONS**

- A. The interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Board of Directors.

- B. All protests or complaints must be filed in writing with and board member present at the tournament no later than 30 minutes after the last contestant has weighed in.
- C. A properly filed protest or complaint must be acted upon by the board.
- D. If the member filing a protest or complaint is a board member, the contestant must file the protest or complaint with another board member who is present.
- E. If the above procedure is not followed, the protest or complaint shall be invalid, and no action will be taken.

**Issue date: Mar 22, 2023**