

FRESNO BASS CLUB

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **ELIGIBILITY FOR TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION**
 - A. Must be a current member of the FRESNO BASS CLUB in good standing. Must also have paid the annual liability insurance dues.
 - B. Contestants must be at least 16 years of age.
 - C. Family members may be any age
 - D. All Members must sign an insurance waiver.
 - E. Minors under 18 years of age must have their waiver signed by a parent or guardian
 - F. Must have attended one meeting and paid yearly dues prior to tournament to fish.
 - G. Renewing members must renew their membership by the 2nd meeting after their expiration date to remain in good standing otherwise, the member must attend a meeting prior to fishing a tournament.
 - H. 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.
 - I. Boat owner must show proof of current boat insurance.
 - J. All tournament contestants must sign waiver of club liability.
 - K. Guest Prospect – Purpose to increase membership
 1. A Member may have a Guest Prospect fish with them for purposes of recruiting.
 2. Members may fish with more than 1 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 particular 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 may be boaters or non-boaters and not a current FBC member.
 8. In the event that 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.
 - L. 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 may be boaters or non-boaters and not a current FBC member.
 5. In the event that 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.
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 not re-enter and fish the tournament.
- E. Entry fees, including options, must be paid at the meeting prior to the draw for partners. Late sign-ups and entry fees are allowed and must be paid by 7:30PM the Thursday before the tournament. [Except for a tournament that is held the weekend immediately following the meeting. In this case, late sign-ups are allowed up to 9:00PM Friday.] A late fee of \$15.00 shall be assessed, no options are permitted. Contestant must call the Tournament Director, President, or Treasurer. Late is considered after the announcement of the closing of the draw at the meeting.
- F. Progressive Big Fish Pot (PBFP)
- G. Late sign-ups are allowed to enter the PBFP only if they are current. Catch-ups are not allowed
 - 1. No shows or withdraws will forfeit their monies in the PBFP
 - 2. Catch-up monies to PBFP can only be done at the Meeting.
 - 3. For late sign-ups the member has to be current in the PBFP and has to paid with late sign-up. Catch-up payment is not allowed.
- H. The draw will be held at the meeting prior to the tournament.
- I. The selection of tournament dates is to be made by the tournament committee, subject to the following:
 - 1. No more than one tournament shall be held in any one month.
 - 2. 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.
 - 3. 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.
 - 1. In the event the boater does not show at the tournament, the non-boater is placed in the “next available boat.”
 - 2. 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.”
 - 3. Non-boaters signing up late shall be placed in the “next available boat.”
 - 4. The “next available boat” is defined as: the first boat drawn out at the meeting that does not have a non-boater at that draw.
 - 5. Boaters signing up late shall be placed at the end of the field.
 - 6. Contestants that sign up as a boater or non-boater shall remain as such for the tournament with the exception of when there is a need for more boaters.
- B. In the event that 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.
- C. 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.
- D. Paired contestants must stay together throughout the tournament.
- E. 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.”

- F. Family member with late sign up – once the draw is completed the pairing remains as is.
- G. Deny of draw partner – contestant may deny 1st draw however, must maintain 2nd draw partner or not fish the tournament.
- H. Buddy Tournament at Clear Lake, non-boaters that do not partner up will go into the draw

4. WEIGH-IN

- A. 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. 1st boat is the weigh-master.
 - 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. Any contestant bringing more than the designated tournament limit to weigh-in will have their catch culled to the correct limit starting with the largest fish in the catch. In addition, one pound penalty will be awarded for each fish over the limit.

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.
- 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 particular 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 be observed at all times.
- 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.
- 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. A small gasoline or electric powered motor may be used to maneuver the boat while casting. 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 other container with aerator.
 - 2. Ignition kill switch whenever possible.
- E. A Board member shall 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 and oil used during the tournament. Rate will drop to \$30 when pump prices drop below \$3.50/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 maintain at least 50 yards distance from other contestant boats at all times, 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 with the exception of 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 that 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 hooks nor more than three artificial lures (each lure may have three hooks attached) attached thereto.

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
- 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 or not 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 will receive 3 points for attendance at each tournament.

- 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. Three 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. Members participating in a minimum of 9 tournaments will also qualify for TOC
- C. TOC lake location will be determined by the prior TOC participants at the prior year TOC.
- D. 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. 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. Rookie of the Year is a first-time angler in the FRESNO BASS CLUB. A rookie cannot have fished a FRESNO BASS CLUB tournament prior to October of the year preceding the rookie year.
- B. 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. Non-Boater of the Year is an angler that is subject to the non-boater’s draw for partners for the complete tournament year.
- B. 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.
- C. 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: March 4, 2020_final