

FOLSOM BASS TEAM

Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. Rule Changes

Tournament rules shall remain unchanged except by a majority vote of the Executive Board and only for the good of the club. The Executive Board shall make interpretations, when necessary, and their decision is final.

2. Participation and Eligibility

- a) Participation in club tournaments is open only to club members in good standing.**
- b) Each contestant must have a valid California fishing license in his or her possession.**
- c) Tournaments shall be fished for individual and team prizes. Teams will be determined by a draw of Boaters and Non-Boaters wishing to participate. Only two (2) persons per boat are permitted.**

3. Partner Pairing and Start Position

Pairing of Boaters and Non-Boaters and tournament start position shall be drawn at the monthly meeting prior to the scheduled tournament. If you cannot attend the monthly meeting, contact a board member prior to the meeting to have your name entered in the draw. The cut-off time for signing up for tournament events will be 5:00 PM Friday preceding the event. The Tournament Director may make exceptions. Late sign-ups will be limited to 2 per year and solely at the Tournament Director's discretion.

- a) Boaters shall be drawn first with start position based on the order of the draw.**
- b) Non-Boaters shall be drawn for pairing with Boaters based on the order of the draw.**
- c) Paired partners may not have fished a club tournament together within the last three tournaments. Should this occur the non-Boater's name would be returned to the draw and another partner picked, unless the non-Boater is the last name drawn.**

- d) Any Non-Boater who wishes to fish a tournament but does not receive a draw at the meeting or whose partner does not make the tournament may receive show up points, for TOC purposes, provided they pay the Club/TOC fee for that event.**
- e) If there are more boaters than non-boaters, boaters have the option to pair up.**
- f) Each tournament is limited to 25 boats. If more than 50 members want to fish, priority will be given based on the draw rankings, with the highest ranked members being allowed to enter the draw. All other members will be waitlisted.**

4. Fishing with a Guest

- a) Each club member in good standing is allowed to bring two (2) non-members each season to fish a tournament with them as a guest.**
- b) A non-member is only allowed to fish a tournament as a guest one (1) time per season.**
- c) At the time of a tournament draw, only members in the top 50 draw ranking positions will be allowed to bring a guest. A boater may request to bring a guest provided there are more boaters than non-boaters in the draw. A non-boater may request to bring a guest with a boat if 24 or fewer boaters have entered the draw. If the number of guests is so great that it would prevent a member from bringing their boat or being paired up at the draw, members wanting to bring a guest will be selected based on their draw ranking and allowed to bring their guest based on availability. If a member's request to bring a guest is denied, he/she may remove their name from the draw and reclaim any tournament fees paid that night.**
- d) The boater is aware that in any unforeseen incidences, the Tournament Director may assign a non-boater to you, therefore excluding your guest from the tournament. The boater may then choose to withdraw their boat from the tournament and forfeit their entry fees.**
- e) After approval by the tournament Director, the boater must sign the guest up for the tournament at the monthly meeting prior to the scheduled event. The guest is required to pay the \$35.00 tournament entry fee. The boater will be fishing for a full share and will be permitted to use fish caught by the guest. The guest will receive a trophy if their team places in the top 3 and is welcome to join the Big Fish Pool.**

5. Payouts and Fees

(a) Tournament fees will be \$35.00 with a Big Fish option of \$5.00. Payback will be approximately 80% of the fees collected minus expenses. Trophies will be awarded to the paying places on a 1 in 5 basis, with minimum of (2) paid places. Big fish option will be a 100% payback including the trophy.

b) Payback shall be based on the number of entries. Big fish option will be paid to two places, at the rate of 70% and 30%.

c) A portion of the fees collected will be retained for club expenses, Angler of the Year Awards, and Tournament of Champions (TOC) Awards

d) Tournament fees will be collected at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament date. Payment must be paid to any member of the board prior to the event. In the event of nonpayment he or she will not qualify for the event and not receive show up points nor points for any fish caught. Any tournament debt must be paid before eligible to fish the next tournament.

e) Any member who commits to fish a tournament and fails to show up by the start of the tournament may forfeit their entry fees. Any member who commits to fish a tournament but is unable to attend may have their entry fees credited (less the TOC and administrative fee) provided they notify a club official and their designated partner at least two days prior to the tournament.

f) If the non-boater is unable to attend the tournament and does not appropriately contact the boater and Tournament Director, the non-boater will still be responsible, at the Board's discretion, for sharing half of the boater's expenses.

6. Points

Points will be awarded for each tournament and accumulated throughout the year to determine qualifiers for the TOC and Angler of the Year. Points will be awarded in the following manner:

a) First Place = 50 points, Second = 49, Third = 48 and progressively through 50th place = 1 point

b) Five (5) Participation Points will be awarded to each contestant for each tournament fished

7. Tournament Ties

In the event of a tie, the team with the big fish (between the tied teams) will be awarded the win. The next lower place or places, associated points, and trophies (where applicable) will go to the team that lost the tie-breaker.

In the event of a tie where there is also a tie for Big Fish, the tied teams will receive equal points and trophies (where applicable). The next lower place or places, associated points, and trophies will be eliminated. Cash prizes will be combined and split equally between parties.

The following examples apply:

- a) Tie for Third. The team losing the tie-breaker will not receive a trophy. They will receive fourth place points and will only receive a pay-out based on club pay-out rules (1 in 5).**
- b) Tie for first with a tie in the Big Fish. Both parties receive equal points (50) and trophies. First and second place cash prizes are combined equally and split equally. No points, trophies, or cash prizes for second place.**
- c) Ties for Big Fish will result in an equal split of cash prizes**

8. Tackle and Equipment

Only ONE (1) casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat and ready to use, however, only ONE (1) is permitted in use at any given time.

All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional manner.

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared baits may be used, except for pork type strips, rinds, etc.

The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during competition.

9. Permitted Fishing Locations

(a) Fishing is permitted any place on the designated water that is within the club's tournament fishing locations except within the 5 miles an hour (no-wake zone) that immediately surrounds the launch ramp. This can be changed at the Tournament Director's discretion based on water levels.

At no time shall a contestant be any closer than twenty five (25) yards from a competitor's boat unless mutually agreed upon by both boats.

All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants may not leave the boat to land fish. Exceptions will be for designated special events.

All contestants must leave the pre-designated dock by boat and return to the official dock by boat, except for when the safety of the contestant is involved.

Contestants must abide by all tournament rules, as well as individual lake rules and regulations.

10. Boat and Motor

For the safety of all contestants, boats must be a minimum of (14) feet in length.

Boats must be Coast Guard equipped.

Motors may not exceed BIA regulations in horsepower.

An electric (trolling motor) may be used for maneuvering.

Trolling with big motor is prohibited

Boats must have a functional live well space, properly aerated. This will be inspected prior to tournament time by non-boater or another club member.

Fishing partners are expected to agree to satisfactory arrangements between themselves as to the use of the boat, motor, and expenses before tournament time. (Club suggestions are 1/2 of the daily expenses to be paid by the non-boater). Expenses are boat gas and oil, launch fees, and travel to and from the lake. Unresolved disputes may be presented to members of the Board of Directors for arbitration. Failure to comply will be grounds for expulsion from the club.

Non-boaters should be cognizant of the costs associated with owning, maintaining, and transporting a bass boat when considering shared expenses, including, but not limited to gas, oil, launch fees, live-well chemicals, etc.

The boater and non-boater are also advised to come to an agreement before fishing as to what capabilities and responsibilities the non-boater has regarding controlling the boat, tow vehicle and other equipment. The non-boater should advise the boater if he/she is not able or comfortable controlling the boat or tow vehicle for any reason.

11. Safety

Safety shall be of the utmost consideration during any club event. Every member shall be responsible and accountable for the safety of themselves, fellow members, and the public at large.

Safe conduct must be observed at all times.

Life jackets must be worn any time the combustion engine is operating or until fishing location is reached and engine is SHUT OFF. If equipped, the kill switch shall be utilized. (It is recommended that life jackets be worn at all times during inclement weather).

Each individual is responsible for providing a US Coast Guard approved chest-type life jacket.

Contestants must observe all tournament lake rules and regulations, as well as any California laws and regulations that apply.

Any individual who acts in an unsafe manner during any club event shall have such conduct immediately reviewed by the Tournament Director. If such conduct is found to be inappropriate the Tournament Director shall impose immediate sanctions against that member including verbal reprimand or disqualification from the current event. The Tournament Director is required to notify the FBT board of such sanctions, with further disciplinary action possible upon board review.

Department of Fish and Wildlife or any other law enforcement agency citations are an automatic disqualification.

12. Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship shall be of the utmost consideration during any club event. Every member shall be responsible and accountable for their sportsman like conduct towards their fellow anglers and the public at large.

Contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.

Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contestants in tournament waters.

No alcoholic beverages shall be consumed in boats or prior to weigh-in.

Any member who acts in an un-sportsman like manner during any club event shall have such conduct immediately reviewed by the Tournament Director. If such conduct is found to be inappropriate the Tournament Director shall impose immediate sanctions against that member including but not limited to verbal reprimand, disqualification, restricted participation and/or expulsion from the club.

13. Scoring

Only Black Bass will be counted toward a total weight.

The minimum size limit shall be thirteen (13) inches measured mouth open and hanging on a flat board at a 45 degree angle, except in tournaments where the Department of Fish & Wildlife rules prevail. The Weigh Master will work the tail to achieve the 13-inch minimum. If the fish does not measure to the minimum length, the angler presenting the fish will receive a one-pound penalty and the fish will not be included in the overall weight. Special exemptions may be made at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

Fish that appear to be mangled, mashed, or mauled in any way, shall be weighed only at the discretion of the weigh-in officials.

A .20-pound penalty will be deducted for any dead fish and increase by .20-pound for each dead fish thereafter. Dead fish must not be culled. Anglers should be knowledgeable in deflating a fish's air bladder and be prepared with ice and/or live well additives as needed.

Dead fish are only eligible to be part of the team or anglers total weight, and are not allowed to be part of the Big Fish contest. The Tournament Director may allow dead fish to be part of other side contests at their discretion.

Every precaution must be made by the individual club member to keep their fish alive. This is to uphold the national CATCH AND RELEASE POLICY.

Weigh-in shall be done only at the scheduled time, using club designated weigh bags. Special circumstances and Tournament Officials agreement may allow for early weigh in provided no participants are adversely affected.

Only five (5) fish per day, per person or per team, will be allowed to be weighed in. Culling fish in the 5-MPH area or designated weigh in site is not permitted and will result in an immediate disqualification.

Any contestants who have not arrived at the official weigh in site by the designated time will be penalized 1 pound per minute up to 10 minutes at which time the contestant will be disqualified at the discretion of the tournament director. One person may weigh in fish if they are in the designated weigh in site by tournament end time.

When a tournament is designated as a team tournament, points will be awarded in the same manner as for individual points with the exception that both team members will receive the same number of points for the tournament. The team tournament payout schedule shall be approved by the membership.

14. Disposal of Fish

Every club member will be responsible for disposing of fish that are not suitable for releasing back to the water. The fish will not be thrown into a garbage can at the weigh in site, nor put back into the water dead or distressed.

15. Tournament violations

Every member has the right to file protest against any member for violation of tournament rules. A member having directly observed the violation must file a protest within thirty (30) minutes of weigh in. The protest must be in written form and discretely given to the Tournament Director*.

The Tournament Director will determine the validity and severity of the infraction.

The Tournament Director may question the person filing the protest and other witnesses as necessary as well as the person being protested. (The matter will not be discussed outside the official inquiry until resolved)

In the event a protest is found to be valid the Tournament Director will impose a penalty against the violator, based on severity, which may include:

- 1) A verbal warning**
- 2) A deduction of points**
- 3) Disqualification from the event**
- 4) Temporary suspension pending board review**

***The Tournament Director will privately notify the violator of his decision.**

Repeat violations may result in disqualification or expulsion.

During Blast-Off or return to weigh-in, the Tournament Director has total authority to warn or disqualify any member for a violation performed in his presence.

These articles are hereby adopted as the regulations governing Folsom Bass Team tournaments and events. The members of Folsom Bass Team are required to adhere to these tournament Rules & Regulations, as well as display responsible sportsmanship at all times.

**Revised 12/03/07, Revised 9/28/11, Revised 01/23/13, Revised 04/07/15,
Revised 9/1/15, Revised 1/16/17, Revised 12/5/17**