

# West Tennessee Elite Bass Club



Official Rules and Regulations  
2017

## **Article I. Safety**

**Section 1.01** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his/her fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

## **Article II. Sportsmanship**

**Section 2.01** Competitors in WTEBC tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament may be deemed cause for disqualification.

## **Article III. Tackle and Equipment**

**Section 3.01** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live or prepared bait" will be permitted, with exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one (1) casting, spin casting or spinning rod (eight (8) foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any time, all other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use: however, only one (1) is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a convention sporting manner.

## **Article IV. Basic Boat Equipment**

**Section 4.01** Every boat must be safe and functional and have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a working bilge pump and live well space for 10 fish. (PROPERLY AERATED TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMEN USING THE BOAT). Weigh Master shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether a boat is seaworthy and if aeration and capacity is "PROPER AND ADEQUATE". Both boater and non-boater must have means of identifying their fish.

## **Article V. Boat and Travel Expense**

**Section 5.01** In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-owner partner at least assume the cost of gas and oil for the competition day (*\$30.00 minimum*). It is a requirement to give an advanced notice to one's partner by 9:00 pm Wednesday before the tournament of any cancellation. If no notice is given by the partner who cancelled they will be required to pay the other participating partner for the cost of travel (*\$30.00 minimum*) - applies to boat partner and non-boat partner.

## **Article VI. No Show**

**Section 6.01** In the case a boater does not show up at the ramp for a tournament, the Board of Directors shall determine if there are boaters that do not have a non-boater then they will draw straws to see which boat will fish with the non-boater. All persons in a boat will be required to identify their fish. If there are not any boaters without a non-boater then, unfortunately, the non-boater will not be able to fish this tournament. In this case, their tournament fees will carry over to the next tournament.

## **Article VII. Tournament Committee**

**Section 7.01** The Tournament Committee will consist of the Club officers and board members.

**Section 7.02** The Tournament Committee shall meet in sufficient time for the sites, dates and times to be brought before the club at the regularly scheduled November meeting.

**Section 7.03** A complete tournament schedule as adopted by the Tournament Committee shall be published in the committee meeting minutes and provided to the Web Master for publishing on the club's web site [www.wtebc.com](http://www.wtebc.com) Live wells will be checked prior to blast off by a member of the Tournament Committee. If you arrive after blast off then you will be required to contact another member participating in the tournament and arrange a meeting place for them to check your live well before you can start fishing.

## **Article VIII. Changing Sites, Dates and Times**

**Section 8.01** Once a tournament schedule and launch site is adopted, it can be amended only under the following conditions:  
**(a)** by acts of God. The Tournament Committee has the right to cancel and/or amend the schedule of any tournament where they feel unfishable conditions due to floods, inclement weather, or dangerous conditions exist.

*(i) The Weigh Master or Club Officers shall have the right to postpone the start of any tournament when they feel dangerous conditions exist. If the tournament start is delayed, the length of tournament time will remain at 8 hours (if possible), not to exceed 3:00 p.m.*

*(ii) If a tournament is postponed, it shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to notify at least one member of each team of the postponement. It shall be the responsibility of the notified member to notify the other member of the team of the postponement.*

*(iii) If the selected body of water is unfishable due to floods, low water, or other dangerous conditions, the Tournament Committee shall hold the tournament on a fishable body of water, if one is available on the same date and times as originally scheduled. If the tournament site is changed it shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to notify at least one member of each team of the postponement. It shall be the responsibility of the notified member to notify the other member of the pairing of the postponement.*

*(iv.) A 100% vote of the participants at the ramp.*

## **Article IX. Permitted Fishing Location**

**Section 9.01** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat (with the exception of the Beech Lake chain). Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of a dire emergency. Both contestants 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 day's catch to be scored in the tournament.

## **Article X. Official Checkpoint**

**Section 10.01** There shall be an official safety checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. This checkpoint shall be designated at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament. There will be no early blast off unless 100% of the participants are present and checked in.

**(a)** For daytime tournaments, blast off will be at safe light (as determined by the Weigh Master) and will fish for 8 hours (if possible), not to exceed 3:00 p.m. with the weigh-in to commence soon afterwards.

## **Article XI. Scoring**

**Section 11.01** Tournament placement shall be determined by the total weight of the individuals five (5) fish limit.

**Section 11.02** Only legal largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be weighed. The catch limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per individual per day.

**Section 11.03** Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision. If an individual has in its possession more than the stated limit at the scales, the Weigh Master will start culling, starting with the largest bass first, down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be twelve (12) inches or the legal lake limit and will be covered at the safety briefing.

**Section 11.04** THE OFFICIAL MEASURING DEVICE SHALL BE A MACHINED FLAT-BOARD. Tournament officials will only verify the length of fish presented for weigh-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fails to measure twelve (12) inches or legal lake limit shall accrue penalties at the rate of one (1) pound for each non-legal bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament officials.

**Section 11.05** Each competitor must present his/her catch to the Weigh Master to be counted, measured and weighed.

**(a)** If a boater is alone and encounters problems with their boat they can have another competitor bring and present their fish to be weighed as long as their fish can be properly identified (culling system with their initials).

**(b) If there are 2 in a boat, one must accompany the fish as long as the fish can be properly identified (i.e. initials on culling system).**

### **Article XII. Catch and Release**

**Section 12.01 For each legal dead bass presented to the Weigh Master, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. Competitors will not be allowed to cull dead fish. Each competitor with a dead fish shall be responsible for the proper disposal of their dead fish. Throwing back dead fish into the tournament waters at or near the ramp is not proper disposal. A dead fish cannot be considered for Big Bass.**

**(a) After an angler has achieved their 5 fish limit, and catches another keeper fish, they must cull down to their 5 fish limit before they can begin fishing again.**

### **Article XIII. Late Penalty/Start Time**

**Section 13.01 Competitors who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute. The penalized weight will be deducted from the total weight of the competitor's catch, including any weight to be counted toward a "Lunker Award". Any competitor more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up LOST TIME. All fishing must cease upon check-in. The checkout and check-in times will be established at the security briefing prior to the tournament.**

**Section 13.02 Competitors more than 30 minutes late to the pre-determined on water time, without contacting another competitor, will not be eligible to fish the tournament and will forfeit their total entry fee.**

### **Article XIV. Type of Tournament**

**Section 14.01 Each regularly scheduled tournament conducted by the club shall be a boat tournament. The total weight of five (5) legal fish caught by each individual will determine the outcome.**

### **Article XV. Pairing of Contestants**

**Section 15.01 Whenever possible, two contestants will be assigned to each boat, and whenever possible, no two (2) competitors will fish together in consecutive tournaments. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon**

location with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from the tournament and all future tournaments conducted by WTEBC.

**Section 15.02** A member can bring a guest an unlimited number of times to the club's tournaments but cannot fish with that guest in back to back tournaments. Guests are required to pay into the fruit jar pot which will include the 5lbs. or larger big bass pot.

(a) If a member uses their one bye for the year to bring a guest, and if that guest joins the club within the year, the member will not be charged their bye.

**Section 15.03** No non-tournament participants will be allowed in the boat during the tournament.

**Section 15.04** There will be no more than 2 anglers per boat. In the case if there are more non-boaters than boaters, the undrawn non-boaters will be given a bye. All non-boaters who were unable to fish a tournament due to an insufficient number of boaters shall be given the option of either having their entry fee refunded or rolling it over to the next tournament in which they fish. They will then be given priority and will be paired in the order in which they were drawn with the first boaters drawn in the next tournament in which they pay to fish.

**Section 15.05** Each member must declare their angling status (boater or non-boater) at the beginning of the year. If a boater sells or their boat becomes unusable, the boater must remain a boater. The only exception is: if a non-boater purchases a boat they can decide to become a boater, they can return to being a non-boater but must remain as a non-boater for the remainder of the year.

## **Article XVI. Determining Winners**

### **Section 16.01 Point Scoring**

(a) The first place contestant shall be the one with the biggest total weight. The second place contestant shall be the one with the second biggest weight, etc. for everyone that caught and weighed legal fish.

**Section 16.02 Fruit Jar and 5lb plus Big Bass Pots (100% Payout)**

**(a) Both the Fruit Jar and 5lb plus Big Bass pots are divided into two (2) categories, one (1) for boaters and one (1) for non-boaters.**

**(b) Contestant from each category with the largest bass (to qualify for 5lb. plus big bass, it must be a minimum of 5 lbs. and alive at weigh in) of the tournament will win the 5lb. plus Big Bass Pot for their designated category. If no qualifying 5lb. plus big bass is weighed, that pot will roll to the next tournament. If no winning 5lb. plus big bass is weighed before the end of the club's regularly scheduled tournament season, the 5lb. plus big bass pot in that division [boater/non-boater] will be forfeited into the club's general fund.**

**(c) Contestants from each category will compete for the Fruit Jar Pot. Winners will be determined by largest total weights for the tournament per category. 1 to 5 boats will pay one (1) winner per category. 6 to 10 boats will pay two (2) winners per category on a 60 - 40 payout. 11+ boats will pay three (3) winners per category on a 50 - 30 - 20 payout.**

**(d) Weight shall be recorded in pound(s) and hundredths of a pound. (i.e. 1.54 lbs.)**

**(e) Contestants must pay their tournament fee into the fruit jar and the 5lb. plus big bass pot to the designated person at or before the pre-tournament meeting. Member's money collected after the meeting will incur a \$10 late fee (which goes to the club's general fund) plus tournament fees. Members that do not pay at or before the meeting must contact the Weigh Master no later than 9:00pm Wednesday before the tournament to be eligible to fish in that month's tournament and must have all tournament fees paid before they are allowed to pre-fish for that particular tournament. Anyone who fails to pay before pre-fishing can cause both boater and non-boater to be disqualified.**

**Article XVII. Awarding Points**

**Section 17.01 The Weigh Master is the official tabulator and record keeper for tournament scores and member standings. In the absence of the Weigh Master, his/her appointee assume his/her duties. This information will be provided to the Web Master to be updated on the web site.**

**Section 17.02 Points shall be awarded to each individual that weighed legal fish during the tournament on the following basis:**



**(a) Based on actually total weight including hundredths of pounds (i.e. 10.49 lbs. = 10.49 points)**

**Section 17.03 Accumulation of points shall commence with the first official club tournament for the year and end with the last official club tournament for that year. After the last tournament, every member's points are tabulated in order to determine the angler of the year and the co-angler of the year.**

### **Article XVIII. Tie Breaker**

**Section 18.01 In case of a tie for first place, the following tie breakers will be used in this order.**

**(a) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the tournament.**

**(b) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the tournament.**

**(c) In the event a tie remains after these two (2) tie breakers are employed: a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner and the Fruit Jar Pot will be equally split.**

**Section 18.02 In case of a tie for Year End points, then the placements will be determined by most fish caught for the year. If there is still a tie then a flip of a coin will determine placement between the tied competitors.**

### **Article XIX. Anglers of the Year (AOY)**

**Section 19.01 The boater with the highest total of points at the end of the calendar year will be recognized as the "Angler of the Year" and a trophy so signifying will be awarded.**

**Section 19.02 The non-boater with the highest total of points at the end of the calendar year will be recognized as the "Co-Angler of the Year" and a trophy so signifying will also be awarded.**

### **Article XXI. Lunker of the Year**

**Section 21.01 A trophy called the "Lunker of the Year" award will be given to the individual catching the largest bass for the year. To be eligible, a qualifying fish must be caught and weighed during a regularly scheduled club tournament.**