Tournament Rules and Procedures for Northend Bass Club as of 10/28/26

A. PURPOSE

1. To Standardize & establish violations, penalties, conduct and awards for all club fishing contests.

B. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

1. The tournament committee shall consist of the Tournament Director, the Assistant Tournament Director, Safety Coordinator and any Board Members at the tournament.

C. STANDING RULES & PROCEDURES

1. All contests will be started by the Tournament Director or his appointee. At Tournament Directors discretion there will be an organized shot gun start or a draw start on the 1st day during the drivers meeting. Day 2 will start in reverse order of the draw or a shot gun start at a time designated by the Tournament Director on Day 1. Each boat must have a driver or back seater present at the drivers meeting on 1st day or their boat will start last on both days.
2. Start and stop times may vary due to circumstances. Contests usually end at 3pm on the 1st day and at 1:00 pm on the 2nd day although the Tournament Director or appointee will determine start and stop times for each Tournament day.
3. Fish limits will comply with current Washington State Department of Fish & Wildlife tournament laws and regulations. All fish, BASS ONLY, weighted in, no minimum length.
4. All fish are to be weighed in on the same scale and all weights are to be verified by a Tournament Director or appointee. The weights will be final and will be accepted for entries toward the Tournament Place Position and the Big Fish awards.
5. No tournament participant SHALL FISH within (5) days of a contest on the designated water of the contest. No tournament participant SHALL FISH with any person that has fished within (5) days of a contest of the designated water. Exception, the day before any club member only tournament, pre-fishing is allowed as a practice day.
6. Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork trailers and 100 % biodegradable manufactured baits. No live bait or dead bait is to be used to take bass during contest.
7. Trolling, as defined by TBF Rules, is not allowed as a means of taking Bass during a contest.
8. There will be no fishing from shore. All contestants must fish from an approved water craft.
9. No competitor shall fish within 100 feet of another competitor's boat which is anchored or with trolling motor down. No such competitor shall permit any other contestant to fish within 100 ft circle claimed by him/her.
10. Each contestant shall be responsible to return his or her catch to the water after the weigh-in. No dead fish shall be returned to the water.
11. Contestants are required to bring their own catch to the scales during weigh-in. All tournament fish shall be carried in Tournament approved containers.
12. All waters fished during a contest shall be accessible by water only from Tournament Headquarters launch site. No trailering allowed.
13. An approved Tournament weigh-in form will be filled out with each contestants name, date, fish weigh and water fished. Place points received will be determined and awarded after the tournament and posted on Clubs web site. Forms can be signed by Tournament Director, contestant, and or official of the day but not required as forms will be kept on file by the Tournament Director.
14. All "Guests Participants" will comply with all club rules – No EXCEPTIONS!!
15. Guest will be able to participate in "Club Members Only Tournament" if fishing from a Club Members Boat only with no exception. All contestants must abide by Washington State Tournament Rules.
16. Tournament Tie Breaker: If, after the conclusion of a Tournament there is a tie. The tie shall be broken by big fish.

D. EQUIPMENT

All approved Tournament water craft shall be equipped with the following.

1. A Coast Guard approved personal life jacket for each occupant of the boat. The life jacket must be on and secured at all times while the big motor is running.
2. Some type of ignition kill switch must be attached to the boat driver at all times while the big motor is running.
3. Each boat shall have all Coast Guard approved safety equipment including: fire extinguisher, horn or other sounding device, running lights, approved and vented gas tanks, up to date flares and a approved throw able floatation device.
4. Additionally each boat shall have a properly aerated live well, which may be inspected by the tournament director at any time during the contest.

E. INSURANCE

1. Boater -as the designated boat operator during the official practice or the event, boater certifies that they now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage, excess medical, watercraft liability and/or contractors' insurance having a reasonable limit. Said insurance must cover any and all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the event. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance.

F. VIOLATION & PENALTIES

1. Any contestant, who is late for weigh-in, shall be penalized (.5) lbs per minute. After ten minutes, the entire catch for that day will be disqualified. Tardiness will be determined by the official starting clock.
2. Any contestant bringing more then (5) fish or "the tournament limit" will be disqualified. A fish under the designated minimum size length for that tournament that is brought to the scale for weigh-in shall not count.
3. Each dead fish will be penalized (.25) lbs per dead fish. This will be deducted from the total weight of the days catch not to be deducted off the individual fish weight.
4. Any equipment violations shall be repaired to the satisfaction of the Tournament Committee or his/her appointee prior to the contestant leaving blast off area.
5. Any flagrant rule violations of unsportsmanlike conduct by a participant shall be penalized in accordance with the decision of the Tournament Committee. The penalty shall range from loss of contestants big fish to disqualification.
6. Considering our club is oriented as a family group, excessive profanity can be cause for disqualification. To be determined by the Tournament Rules Committee.
7. An approved Tournament weigh-in form or receipt will be filled out with each contestant's name or boat number, date and fish weighed. A copy of the form or receipt to be given to the contestant. Forms or electronic equivalent will be kept on file by the Tournament Director or Assistant Director.

G. EXCEPTIONS

1. All exceptions to these rules shall be determined by the tournament Committee and all members notified (i.e.) some bodies of water have special size and weight limits, as well as speed limits and fishing area closures.

H. BIG FISH POT

Tournament Big Fish Pot amount will be determined by the Tournament Director.
Any contestant that has had his/her catch disqualified due to tardiness (may not) count his/her big fish towards the big fish pot.

I. POINT SYSTEMS FOR THE NORTH END BASS CLUBS "ANGLER OF THE YEAR"

-Jamboree will not be a club tournament. Starting in 2027, there will be no bonus point toward Angler of the Year.

2. **CLUB CONTEST POINT ALLOCATION:**

50 Points for First Place
49 Points for Second Place

One less point for every proceeding place determined by the weight of the fish caught and if no fish are weighed in by a Member Participant then that member will receive 5 points only for each day fished. No points will be awarded to "Guest Participants".

Note: A member participant that does not weigh-in any fish, can only receive 5 points for that day fished.

3. **TIE BRACKER FOR ANGLER OF THE YEAR:**

If, after the Tournament season, there is a tie for "Angler of the Year", it shall be broken by the following:
1. Total tournament bag weights from only the (4) tournaments used to tally the anglers point score.
2. If there is still a tie then use big fish of year from same (4) tournaments.

J. NORTHEND BASS CLUB STATE QUALIFIER TEAM

1. The "Top 10 anglers of the year" as determined by club tournament points the previous year will make up the "NORTH END BASS CLUB STATE QUALIFIER TEAM" and be eligible to fish the Washington State Bass Federation Qualifier Tournaments.
2. The Club's State Qualifier Team will be set up as Boater / Non-Boater Pairs. The Top 5 Club Anglers will have Boater / Non-Boater option and the clubs "Angler of the Year" will be the Team Captain.
3. The "Angler of the Year" will be appointed "Team Captain". If he/she accepts the position then they will receive the complete "Qualifier entry fee" paid by NORTHEND Bass Club to the state for their participation. In the event that the "Angler of the Year" chooses not to participate in the 'Qualifier Tournament" the equivalent to the Entry Fee will be paid directly to the "Angler of the Year". The other nine (9) qualifiers will support their own entry fee.
4. All members of the clubs state team must be 16 years or older.

K. NORTHEND BASS CLUB STATE QUALIFIER TEAM COMMITMENT

1. All State Team Members must agree to represent Northend Bass Club at all of the State Qualifier Tournaments at time of paying their entry fee.
2. After paying their entry fee, if they cannot participate for any reason, the Club and or the "State" will not refund their entry fee.
3. If team member can find a substitute before cut off date/time for that tournament. They can make arrangement with that angler to recover there fees paid.
4. If no replacement angler can be found. The other boater/non-boater in that pair will not be able to compete in that Qualifier Tournament. The "Club" and or the "State" will not refund their entry fee.
5. If any member drops off the Club team, reinstatement must be approved by the Board of Directors.
6. The Team Captain will be responsible for all communication to the "State" regarding The North End Bass Clubs State Team. He/She will also coordinate Team Meetings and collection of Qualifier Tournament fees.
7. Each member is responsible to communicate with the Team Captain in regards to any change to their participation.

L. NORTHEND BASS CLUB STATE QUALIFIER TEAM ELIGIBILITY

1. Each participant shall have fished at least (2) full two day Club Tournaments from the previous year.
2. Each participant must be a member in good standing as defined by the Clubs by-laws. (Article II, Section)
3. The Board of Directors will make any exceptions.

Team Format - Club Tournament Rule Additions

The following additional rules apply when the Club is fishing as a Team Tournament

-All club tournaments will be 5 fish per boat, per day limit. 2 tournament contestant maximum per boat. Any other persons on board shall be allowed at the discretion of the Tournament Director but will not be considered contestants.

-Big Fish: team must declare which contestant caught the fish weighed as Big Fish for that day. If no declaration is made, the tournament director will assign a contestant from the team to the Big Fish.

-Big Fish Pot: $40 per day, per boat (Subject to change)

-Contestants and teams must be declared prior to tournament start if more than 2 persons are aboard a tournament boat. Any 2 people on the same boat will be considered one team.

-Any club member may compete individually as a "team" on any tournament day provided they compete with no other contestants aboard their boat. Any 2 people on the same boat will be considered one team if one person is a club member.

-Non-contestant's catch shall not be counted toward any team's weight.

-Members may only receive tournament points for fishing as part of a team by fishing at least one full tournament day.

-Non-members (guests) may compete as part of only one team per tournament, only twice per calendar year. If a non-member contestant is deemed not eligible to compete by majority vote of the board of directors or tournament committee, that non-member is disqualified from all tournaments until Board of Directors votes by majority to allow that non-member to compete.

-Points will be awarded to each club member of a team based on team finishing position. Non-members receive no points.
Example:
1st place team: (Club Member) = 50, (Club Member) = 50, 2nd place team: (Member) = 49, (Guest) = 0

-Angler of the year and Female Angler of the year will be awarded by total points of 4 highest point finishes plus any bonus points awarded for Jamboree participation.

AOTY Tie breaker: total bag weights from the 4 tournaments used for point total.
2nd tie breaker: biggest fish weighed during any club tournament for the current year.
3rd tie breaker: biggest one-day bag weighed at any CLUB tournament.
If still tied: co-Anglers of the Year!

-Angler of the Year individual winner may choose a co-award winner and accept the award as a team. (Co-award winner must be a club member)

-Any rule violation by one contestant may result in that contestant's team being disqualified.

-Any exceptions to these rules shall be at the discretion of the tournament director.

Walleye

Walleye – when the club has the proper State Permits for a walleye contest, the following will apply:

- **Five-fish limit:** Each angler may keep up to five walleye of any size for the weigh-in.
- **Culling:** You can keep fishing with five fish in the livewell. If you catch a sixth, you must release one right away, either the new fish or one from the livewell. You can never hold more than five.
- **Release after weighing**: Live walleye have to be released alive into the same water they came from. Organizers can carry fish from the weigh-in site back out to open water.
- **Prize:** Team must select the largest Walleye, team must declare which contestant caught the fish weighed as Big Walleye for that day. If no declaration is made, the tournament director will assign a contestant from the team to the Big Fish. Daily prize will be awarded to contestant with the largest by weight, single walleye.

Tournament Rules and Procedures are subject to change.