

Columbia River Bassmasters (CRB) Club Tournament Rules

Revised: February 6, 2024

1. Participation

All members in good standing and immediate family members (husband/wife, parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, or siblings) may participate in any club tournament. Tournament participants will be expected to honor all CRB and The Bass Federation (TBF) rules and regulations.

1.1 Guests

If an angler knows in advance of the draw that he/she wishes to fish with a guest, the angler must notify the TD in advance of the draw. The guest may not be a current member of CRB. If there is an imbalance of boater and non-boater members in the draw, then the angler desiring to fish with a guest will be granted his/her request if it helps correct the imbalance. After the draw is completed, no guests (except family) can be accommodated unless another angler in the draw notifies the TD that they can no longer fish an event.

2. Draw for Partners

Draw for team partners shall be held at the club meeting immediately prior to the tournament. If a member cannot attend the meeting, they must contact the Tournament Director before the meeting to be placed in the draw. The TD shall maintain a list of all tournament pairings. No two club members may fish together more than once per season until no other options are possible as per TD. Husband/wife, parent/child, grandparent/grandchild, significant other sharing the same address, or siblings may fish as a team and not be entered in the draw. Participants may choose to deviate from the above prescribed draw procedures by 2/3 majority vote of tournament participants. Anyone wishing to participate after the initial drawing shall notify the Tournament Director no later than 48 hours prior to the tournament start time. The Tournament Director shall be solely responsible for the pairing of any added boater and/or non-boater. Any post draw added pair may not fish together but will be allowed to fish.

3. Draw Procedure

The club seeks to ensure that all non-boaters are paired with a boater. The process is as follows:

- A. Place numbers in a container and allow the boaters present to draw a number from the container. Place all numbers back in the container but remove all numbers where a family member or guest are paired up. Allow the non-boaters present to draw from the container for their pairing. The TD will draw for any boater or non-boaters not present.
- B. If paired club members have previously fished together in the current season, the TD will try to prevent it by first holding out the non-boater for the next boater to be drawn. The number drawn by the boater will be the blastoff launch order.
- C. If there is a mismatch in the number of boaters and non-boaters, then the member has the option to bring a guest boater or a guest non-boater as appropriate. If a boater cannot find a guest, then he has the option to fish alone.

- D. In the event that a boater or non-boater is not paired up and the option to fish with a guest or as a boater fishing alone is not exercised, then the person impacted will have a priority for all future events up to the time that all boaters or non-boaters have missed an event due the lack of a pairing. The club Secretary and TD shall maintain a list of all members who have not had an opportunity to fish an event.
- E. If a problem occurs that prevents either the boater or non-boater from fishing the tournament, both shall notify the TD immediately so that an attempt can be made to ensure everyone fishes with a partner.

4. Entry Fee

Entry fee for each tournament shall be \$80 cash *per boat* and shall be distributed as follows: \$15 to the club general fund, \$10 for Big Fish, and \$55 tournament payout. There will be a cash payout at the tournament site for each team paid out equal to one place per three boats up to a maximum of five places. Big Fish for the tournament will also receive a cash payout. One point Big Fish award will be awarded to the member who catches the biggest fish during the tournament. Distribution of prize money shall be in accordance with the formula contained in the official club tournament book. If all teams catch no fish, there will be a 100% refund. All place money not awarded will be deposited in the club treasury. A tie in total weight is broken by the largest fish in each of the tying boats' limit.

Once entry fees have been paid, there will be no refunds to entrants. The TD will maintain a copy of the current payout sheet and tournament regulations. If the club fishes a location that requires a permit, then there will be an additional \$10 entry fee per boat to the club.

5. Sportsmanship

Contestants in Columbia River Bassmasters club tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and adherence to club rules. Any infraction of these sporting principles or rules may be cause for disqualification. All club members have a responsibility to report violations to the Tournament Director or Board of Director Member. Consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, etc. by any contestant during a tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and future club tournaments. Consumption of alcohol while in the boat during tournament hours is not permitted. Courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters.

6. Safety

Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times by all contestants. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in gear and operating except during trailer loading and unloading. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition while the engine is running. For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with some kind of ignition kill switch. The kill switch lanyard must be attached to the boat driver any time the gasoline engine is in gear except during the time when the boat is being loaded or unloaded on the trailer. All boats must have a First Aid kit onboard.

Prior to official launch time, each boater must give a safety briefing to the co-angler. This briefing should include at minimum: Location of the fire extinguisher, First Aid kit and throwable floatation device; how to deploy and use the trolling motor; how to start and operate the main engine; location and use of visual and audible signaling devices. In addition, the Vice President shall conduct a live well check.

7. Tackle

Only artificial lures may be used. No prepared or live bait, other than pork type strips or rinds, is permitted. Only rods and reels are permitted. Only one rod may be in use and in the water at any one time. However, any number of rigged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes. There are no restrictions for rod length.

8. Landing Net

A dip (landing) net is permitted in the boat for use during any tournament.

9. Boat and Motor

There is no minimum length or minimum horsepower requirements to compete in the CRB Events. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated or re-circulating live well to maintain, alive, a team limit catch of fish. An ice chest with an aerator is acceptable upon approval of the Tournament Director. Any vessel deemed "unsuitable" by a Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in that event.

10. Permitted Fishing Waters

No fishing will be permitted in any area designated "off limits" by the TD during the pre-tournament meeting, or within 25 yards of another boat that was first anchored or electric motor in use in that location. A contestant cannot move in on a boat, which is drift fishing, or working an area with an electric motor, and claim that area by anchoring. It is permitted to courteously fish along with another boat at a 25-yard distance out of casting range. All fishing must be done from a boat. All contestants must leave and return to the starting point by boat. Boats cannot be trailered from one fishing location to another during tournament hours.

11. Don Abbott Classic

The Don Abbott Classic will be held after the conclusion of the regular season tournaments. There is no entry fee for this event. Qualification: Paid Members that fish one more than half of the season's events, CRB sponsored Open Events included, qualify to enter at no cost. No guests, including family members, may fish this event. Family Members who are paid CRB members may fish with another paid Family Member without entering the draw. Payouts: Payouts are accrued from a reserve of 15% of the tournament entry fee revenue from all regular season tournaments plus or minus net balance of operating profit forecast by the year's end. Payout schedule: The club pays out on a graduated payout scale of one place per three boats. Draw for CRB Member Classic: The draw process for the Don Abbot Classic shall be the same as the regular point event draws except that guests are not allowed. Boaters without a draw can fish alone or enter as a team with another boater without a draw. If a qualifying member does not draw a partner, the member that fished the most events with highest point total shall be given the highest priority to fish the Don Abbott Classic.

12. Fishing Hours and Location

Tournament hours and location will be announced at the club meeting prior to the tournament but may be changed by the TD for safety concerns or other reasons. Contestants must check in and out at the official checkpoint. If participants depart the official checkpoint prior to weigh in, they must notify the TD by txt and by phone message.

13. Scoring and Limit

Team Scoring will be determined by the total weight of each team's catch or total weight of an individual fisherman if fishing alone. Tournament limits are: 5 fish over 12 inches per team or individual. The TD or appointed assistants shall conduct the weigh-in of fish. No team may bring more than 5 fish to the weigh in. No contestant shall weigh-in their own fish. Winners will be determined by aggregate weight. Succeeding places will be determined by descending weight. Big fish will be determined by their greatest weight. Scoring points will be awarded to team members according to the following formula:

1st place 100 2nd place 96 3rd place 92 4th place 88 And so on, in descending order to the last team that weighs fish. At that point there will be a 20-point drop, then that amount will be awarded to any team(s) that participated but weighed no fish. A tie in total weight is broken by the largest fish in each of the tying contestant's limit. One point will be awarded to the member who catches the biggest bass during the tournament. A plaque will be awarded to members who place but haven't previously received one. Thereafter, place winners will receive a plaque attachment to place on the previously awarded plaque. Plaque attachments will be awarded to each team member up to a maximum of three places. A plaque attachment will be awarded to the angler weighing the biggest fish for each tournament.

14. National Semi-Finals Qualification

Depending on club size, a TBF Oregon club may send a number of teams to the National Semi-Finals. Selection of the team must be completed by August 31st of each year or as determined by the The Bass Federation. The qualifications for the teams will be determined based on the previous year AOY/CAOY standings. If an angler in the standings cannot fish the event, then the next angler down the list will be permitted to fish the event.

15. Angler of the Year & Big Fish of the Year

Each year, the club shall provide an award for an Angler of the Year (AOY) and for a Co-Angler of the Year (CAOY). Participants accumulate points as a boater for AOY and as a Non-Boater for CAOY. Club Angler of the Year shall be determined by the most total points accumulated by any member in regular-season CRB tournaments and any CRB-conducted open event (if held). One more than half of the tournament scores will be counted with any additional scores being "throw outs". For example, if 9 tournaments are scheduled, the best 5 are counted; if 10 are scheduled, best 6 are counted. In case of a tie the winner will be determined first, by total number of tournaments fished and if the tie still exists, by the largest weight of the first three tournaments fished by of each contestant who is tied. Angler of the Year and Co-angler of the Year will each be awarded a plaque or trophy and jacket or a prize not to exceed \$150 value. The angler catching the Big Fish of the year will be awarded a plaque. Non-member family members will not be eligible for Angler of the Year competition or Big Fish entitlements at the end of year. They will however, be eligible to share any monetary awards given out during tournament events with their member partner.

16. Expenses

While boaters and non-boaters may agree to any expense sharing they wish, the club recommended procedure is the following. The boater and non-boater fill the tow vehicle and boat prior to departure. Upon return, both are filled again, and the cost shared 50/50. In addition, the non-boater should share the cost of two cycle oil. The suggested rate for oil is \$10 for every 12 gallons of boat gasoline. It is suggested that the angler and coangler agree on how expenses will be shared prior to the tournament.

17. Penalties

Contestants who are not in the official check point area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of the contestants' catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward big fish for that day. TD's time shall be the official time. Culling is not permitted after check-in. Minimum size shall be 12 inches, mouth closed on the longest straight line. One pound will be deducted for each fish under the minimum size.

A contestant or team presenting more than a daily five fish limit shall have the largest fish removed plus a 2-pound penalty. All fish must be weighed in alive. Any fish brought to the scales judged by the TD to be dead will result in an eight ounce penalty for each fish. After fish have been weighed in, they must be released at least one mile from the weigh in point unless the TD indicates that due to safety this is not required. At no point should any release boat live well contain more than 3 limits of fish.

18. Pre-fishing

There will be no cut-off time nor closed waters for pre-fishing prior to a tournament.

19. Blast-off

Blast-off order will be determined by the partner draw order at the meeting prior to the tournament event. Last person or team drawn will handle blast-off as conditions permit.

20. Fishing Licenses and Rules

All competitors must possess a legal fishing license for the state in which they are fishing. In the case of the Columbia River where it borders Washington and Oregon, the joint laws of both states apply. Rules of the licensing state of the competitor must be observed in regard to type of equipment and tackle, hooking methods, etc. Compliance with these rules includes the requirement to display a Tournament Banner on the outboard motor during the contest.

21. Complaints & Protests

Complaints or protests must be submitted in writing no later than 30 minutes after the weigh-in, each day, to the tournament committee. The TD will provide, at request, a Complaint/Protest Form. Decisions of the TD and Board of Directors present will be made at the tournament site and are final. Any rules violated may result in disqualification and/or removal of club membership if the violation meets the criteria defined in the club bylaws.

22. Liability

All boaters must purchase and maintain throughout the season a minimum of \$300,000 Combined Single Incident Liability (CSL) boating liability insurance. All tournament participants must sign a Liability Form yearly. This form shall indicate that the participant shall: In consideration of the privilege of participation in these tournaments, I by my signature, hereby waive and release the tournament officials, Club Board of Directors, The Bass Federation Oregon, The Bass Federation, FLW, BASS Nation and any sponsoring organizations from all claims for injury and/or damage incurred in connection with these events. I agree that tournament hosts shall have the right to take photographs or recording of myself and to use or dispose of such material in any lawful manner. I understand that tournament entry fees are non-refundable and non-transferable. In signing this application, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules and regulations.