2026 Official Wednesday Night Rules
Team Format, 12.5" minimum, 1 fish

Revised May 2026

The following rules apply to the 2026 Wednesday Night Summer Series Tournaments. These rules may differ from the Suskie Bassmasters full day tournament rules. These rules will be posted on the Suskie website at www.suskiebass.org. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to Suskie Bassmasters directors, officers, and designated officials. In the event of a rule violation, Suskie directors and/or officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments and events. All official decisions are final. Penalties for violations may include, but are not limited to the following: Loss of catch for the day of the violation, Disqualification from the tournament in question, Disqualification from future Suskie events either a specific number of events, or specific time frame, or a lifetime disqualification. Any different or additional penalties as determined by Suskie officials.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY These tournaments are open to members of Suskie Bassmasters and their guests. Persons 16 years old and older can obtain a full yearly membership in Suskie Bassmasters for **$30 per year**. Children under 16 years of age can join without a membership charge, but still must pay the tournament entrance fee. Junior anglers (under 16) are eligible to win all prizes, awards, and are eligible to qualify and participate in the championship. Any angler who turns sixteen (16) during the active season shall be permitted to continue competing as a junior for the remainder of that season (grandfathered status); however, such anglers must obtain and possess a valid fishing license in accordance with applicable regulations. Guests can also utilize a Two-time only Day Pass for $5.00 (plus applicable tournament fees) in lieu of a full membership to fish a Suskie Bassmasters sponsored tournament. Subsequent participation (3rd Tournament) by a guest in any Suskie Sponsored event requires full membership fee (plus applicable tournament fees). Day Pass guests are eligible for all tournament prizes on the day of the tournament but not Lunker or Small fish of the year prizes.

2. TEAM DESIGNATION / CHANGES / FLOW OF POINTS Team designation shall be declared at the time of registration and will be considered the official format for that tournament. Each team must designate a Captain, First Mate, and/or Other. Any requested change to a team's format or designation must be submitted to a Board member no less than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled start of the tournament and is subject to Board approval. No changes to team format or designation shall be permitted after the final week of the regular season under any circumstances. Points follow the Captain. If two Captains are involved, allocation must be determined with valid cause. If two First Mates are involved, points remain with the boat. The Board will resolve discrepancies; all decisions are final

3. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT Anglers participating in any Suskie event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the event in which they are participating. Anglers shall at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on Suskie Bassmasters, its members, officers, directors, representatives, tournaments, or sponsors. Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of tournament fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to any of the above listed penalties or combination thereof, deemed appropriate by Suskie Bassmasters.

4. COMPETITION Any Suskie Director or assigned official must be granted access to a competitor's boat at any time during an official competition. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Officials any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. By participant's signature on the membership form, each competitor agrees to abide by all tournament rules.

4. REGISTRATION Tournament registration begins at 4:00 pm. Launch is 5:30 pm. Weigh-in is at 9 pm (unless otherwise changed by the Directors for safety reasons). **All participants MUST be between the Market Street Bridge and the northern edge of the Amphitheater façade before 9pm.** Anyone observed coming in late to a weigh-in will be disqualified. All participants should check their measuring sticks to the OFFICIAL stick at registration. There will be an OFFICIAL measuring stick at registration. Entry fee for weekly Wednesday Night Tournaments is $15. Your entry fee will include:

a. Wednesday Night payouts.

b. **Suskie Championship:** A portion of each week's fee will go to the end of the season championship. To qualify for the

championship, the captain and first mate must finish in the top 15 based on weight. A 3rd person for that team must fish a minimum of 10 out 13 weeks. If a week is cancelled, the qualifying weeks will be adjusted. If a captain or first mate cannot make the championship, they may be replaced with any active member that has fished in at least 5 weekly tournaments. In the event one of the top 15 teams do not show up on Championship Day, the next eligible team present the morning of the championship will be allowed to participate. We will fill all empty spots but will not exceed 15 teams participating in the Championship. Entry fee will be $15. Children under 16 years of age can join without a membership charge, but still must pay the tournament entrance fee. Junior anglers (under 16) are eligible to win all prizes, awards, and are eligible to qualify and participate in the championship. Junior anglers must be under the age of sixteen (16) and are required to participate in at least one (1) tournament during the season to be eligible for the championship, under this designation. Any angler who turns sixteen (16) during the active season shall be permitted to continue competing as a junior for the remainder of that season (grandfathered status); however, such anglers must obtain and possess a valid fishing license in accordance with applicable regulations.

- The 2026 Championship date is September 20th with a rain date of September 27th

c. **Team of the Year:** The Team of the Year will be awarded to the team who, at the conclusion of the season, has accumulated the largest total weight of their 10 best tournaments. This cumulative total weight only applies to Wednesday night tournaments.

d. **Lunker of the Year: The** Lunker of the Year will be awarded to the team with the largest smallmouth caught during the regular Wednesday Night Series.

e. **Wild Card:** The wild card will be a weekly award given out to a team that did not place in the top 5. Each week will be a different place holder. If a week is cancelled due to bad weather or high water, that week will be skipped and we move to the next week. The schedule is as follows:

June 17 – 6th place	June 24 – 7th place	July 1– 8th place
July 9 – 9th place	July 15 – 10th place	July 22 – 11th place
July 29 – 12th place	Aug 5 – 6th place	Aug 12 – 7th place
Aug 19 – 8th place	Aug 26 – 9th place	Sept 2 – 10th place
Sept. 8 – 11th place		

f. **Suskie Scholarship:** A portion of each entry fee will be placed into the Suskie Scholarship fund. This money will be used once a year toward a needy person, family, or organization as deemed fit by the Board of Directors. Members may submit suggestions throughout the year.

*** Seasonal time change: All Wednesday Night Tournaments in August will be 5:00-8:30, September will be 5:00pm to 8:00 PM)**

5. Side Pools - Each team has the option to participate in a side pool for the season. They include:

A. Small Smallmouth of the Year: The winner will be determined by the lowest weight smallmouth bass. This fish will count toward your weekly totals. This is NOT a second fish pool. In the event of a tie, the shortest fish will be the tie-breaker. If still a tie, money will be split.

6. SAFETY – As a general guideline, the tournament will likely be cancelled if the river is above 6 ft and rising on the WB gauge or if conditions exist that are deemed unsafe by the Board of Directors. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times based on tournament participants. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten, or cancel the start of an official tournament because of bad weather or other factors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

a. **Launch –** Boats will be placed into one of three groups: Group A, Group B, Group C. Your placement will be determined by the speed of your boat and the number of boats in each group by the Board of Directors. Group B will start as soon as the last boat of Group A clears the Pierce St. or Market St. bridge. Group C will begin when the last boat of Group B clears the Pierce St. or Market St. bridge. Your group may be changed at any time throughout the year.

b. **Pinch Points –** Any boat fishing in a narrow channel, bridge opening or other hazardous areas must give way to the boat on plane passing through.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP - Participants in Suskie tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

a. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs, by any competitor during Suskie tournaments or events, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from the tournament and/or all future Suskie events.

b. 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. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

c. All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and any other municipality, or government entity with jurisdiction on tournament waters.

d. Chemical-substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by Suskie Officials. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a Suskie tournament and/or disqualification from a Suskie tournament after circumstances are reviewed by Suskie official.

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8. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT - Only artificial lures and biodegradable lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during tournaments with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin casting, or spinning rod/reel may be used at one time. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat and ready for use however only ONE per angler in use at any time. All fish must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching, or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. Fly fishing rods are not permitted.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT - All boats must meet all PA Fish & Boat Commission requirements. Anglers are responsible for meeting the requirements of the capacity plate on their boats.

a. All boats must have an operating live well capable of re-circulating water.
b. Participant's boats may be subject to inspection by tournament officials at any time during a tournament.
c. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any competitor during a tournament.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS – Running Limits will be north to the Appletree Launch, south to the Hunlock Launch

11. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT - Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournaments. Competitors must leave from and return to the Nesbitt Park launch or whatever the official launch location is for a particular tournament. Anglers must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In case of a needed restroom break anglers are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must stop until all anglers are back in the boat. All emergencies are to be reported to tournament officials ASAP. Tournament officials reserve the right to all decisions regarding emergency situations.

12. SCORING Winners will be determined by total weight on the official scale, and size if necessary. (See Sec 15) **The limit is 1 bass per team, minimum size of 12 1/2"**. Short fish will not be weighed. Each team captain must bring their own fish to the scale in a separate bag. At no time shall anglers have in their possession more fish than allowed by law. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. Bass must NOT be stringered at any time during a tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed only if they are non-piercing. A total weight system will be used to determine winners. All fish will be measures to the nearest 1/8" on the official scale.

A. Culling. There will be no culling of fish once the boat has left the water. Participants will have no more than 1 fish per team in their live well once weigh-in begins. (A largemouth bass is permitted if entered into the Largemouth Pool). Anyone caught possessing additional fish in their livewell during weigh-in will be immediately disqualified. **All Livewells are to be left open during the weigh-in for random inspection by Tournament Officials.**

13. CATCH & RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED Culling dead bass is prohibited by regulation of the PA Fish & Boat Commission. **DEAD FISH ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE WEIGHED IN.** Tournament officials have sole authority for determination of dead fish. The method in which a fish will be declared dead is as follows: Any fish that appears near death must demonstrate 2 voluntary movements within 10 seconds to be considered alive. A minimum of (2) Director must witness and attest to a fish's behavior to declare it dead or alive.

14. LATE PENALTY All anglers must be within the designated waters (see rule 4) by 9pm (8:30pm in August and 8pm in September) in order to weigh-in. Anyone observed coming in late will be disqualified.

15. EMERGENCY SITUATIONS - Late weigh-ins will be not being allowed for ANY boating emergencies. Only those anglers who assisted the anglers in an emergency will be allowed to weigh in late. We encourage all anglers to NEVER leave a stranded boat behind. To that end, if someone assists a stranded boat and it causes them to be late in the process, the assisting angler(s) will not be penalized for arriving late. Tournament officials should be notified of any emergencies prior to weigh-in so they can direct assistance if needed.

16. TIES - In the case of a lunker tie where two or more fish weigh exactly the same on the official scale, the longer length fish will determine the winner. If the tying fish are also the same length then the tie will stand and Place money will be combined and split between the anglers.

17. No Wake Zone. For the safety of all our boaters, the area between Market Street Bridge and the northern edge of the Riverfront concrete wall is designated as a "no wake zone" starting ½ hr prior to weigh-in. There are no restrictions at take-off or during tournaments.

18. LIVE WELLS/HANDLING/WEIGH-IN. OUR GOAL IS NO DEAD OR STRESSED FISH. All boats MUST have an operating live well capable of re-circulating water. When water temps are above 75 degrees re-circulation pumps should be continuously run. Get fish back into the water ASAP. For weigh-in, each team must have a separate bag. Put fresh water in the bag to bring the fish to weigh. After your fish is weighed immediately release it back into the water. **ANYONE OBSERVED MISHANDLING FISH IN ANY WAY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**

19. CHEATING. Anyone caught cheating in ANY Suskie Bassmasters event will be disqualified, removed as a member, and never be allowed to fish future Suskie events. Violators will be subject to full criminal prosecution as dictated by Pennsylvania and U.S law. Refusal to take or failure to pass the polygraph test - FOR ANY REASON - will result in immediate disqualification. All findings of the polygraph results are final

20. PROTEST COMMITTEE The Protest Committee shall consist of 7 (seven) members. Three officers and four regular paid members of Suskie Bassmasters. The Protest Committee shall review and approve all rules and hear all protests. Rules Committee decisions on protests are final.

21. RULES COMMITTEE AND PROTEST PROCEDURES

By entering any Suskie Bassmasters tournament, contestants agree to submit to a polygraph/voice test examination should the competitor be accused of any rule violation. Protests may be registered in person and in writing, before boat launch or after weigh in and before awards are presented. **If it is a problem regarding the weight of a fish or bag of fish, the protest must be made prior to the fish in question being returned to the water**. Any person failing to successfully pass a polygraph/voice test in this or any other tournament will not be allowed entry into future Suskie Tournaments. All contestants agree that in the event of a dispute or protest of any kind, or if requested to do so by the Rules Committee, both team members will submit to a polygraph screening. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph/voice test shall be the responsibility of the Rules Committee or designee. The Rules Committee will choose the individual who administers such polygraph/voice test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test and schedule a polygraph session at the place of Rules Committee's Choice. The day of polygraph examination shall be based on both team members choice and must be completed within 2 weeks following said tournament. Failure to take and pass the polygraph/voice test examination, if required, will result in immediate disqualification without recourse. Protests must be accompanied by $100.00 cash. If the protest is valid, the protester shall receive a refund of the $100.00 protest fee and will be paid a $50.00 Good Samaritan award. Contestants further agree that the results of the polygraph screening will be accepted without further appeal and will be the final decision in said tournament. All contestants agree and understand that protested prizes will be held until the polygraph results are received and any differential in awards will be mailed to affected winners immediately following results. Both team members hereby waive and release any and all claims and causes of action against Suskie Bassmasters, sponsors, and their agents in connection with taking such polygraph screenings. In the event of no polygraph screening, the Rules Committee decision will be accepted. Inconclusive results on a polygraph examination will be

considered to be a failure to pass and will be accepted as such by the examinee. Any angler making an accusation against another contestant without submitting a written protest accompanied by a $100.00 deposit may be subject to disqualification from current and future Suskie events

PROTEST FORM

Name of contestant filing the protest:
Date: **Time of Incident:**
Location/Area of Incident:
List any witnesses:
Note Rule(s) violated:
Provide details of protest:
Signature of Protestor: **I affirm and verify that the statements made in this protest are true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I acknowledge that making false, misleading, and/or inaccurate statements regarding other club members may result in sanctions up to and including disqualification from Suskie Bassmasters events and membership. I agree to abide by the determinations of the rules committee regarding this protest which may include submitting to a polygraph/truth test.** **SIGNATURE:** **DATE:**