

FLOWER CITY SPORTSMEN TOURNAMENT RULES

Draft 2/15/2022

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Draft 5/17/2022

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the club tournaments is limited to members of the Flower City Sportsmen Club and invited guests unless otherwise determined by the Tournament Committee/Director at or before the time of the partner drawing.

• Boaters without partners may bring a guest provided that they have not already fished twice within a year and the guest has or fills out an emergency contact form/waiver.

• Immediate family members have unlimited guest status (Parent, Child, Grandchild, Sibling, Spouse or inlaw of the aforementioned relations also includes step children/grandchildren).

• When the club is at full member cap - prospective new members can have unlimited guest status as a nonboater and can fish each tournament if invited by a boater with no partner. Prospective members cannot fish with the same boater more than once per tournament season and must pay the non-boater fee to the boater.

- Women are allowed as guest partners.
- All guests must be communicated to the Tournament Director by 9:00pm Thursday prior to the tournament.
- If texting, the club member must receive a response from the tournament director for notification to be accepted and recognized.

PICKING LAKES:

Every year the membership shall choose lakes from a list provided by the TD and any other nominations from the general membership. In order for a lake to be eligible for nomination as a 1 day tournament, it must meet the following criteria:

- West: Buffalo Boat Harbor, Niagara River, Fort Niagara
- North: Fort Niagara, Lake Ontario south shoreline Bays, Oneida Lake
- South: Finger Lakes
- East: Otisco Lake
- Nothing out of State

There will be a list of Friday/Post Labor day bodies of water, only 2 can be picked each season and must be fished on a Friday or Post Labor day if drawn.

The list shall contain nominations for both 1 and 2 day tournaments. Each member present in good standing shall by secret ballot select 8 one day locations and 4 two day locations. The ballots shall be entered into a bucket and the 7 one day tournaments and 3 two day tournaments drawn from the bucket – the one day selections are for the current year – the two day lakes will be fished in the following year. If a lake is drawn twice, it can only be on the schedule once. The second draw will be disregarded and replaced with the next lake drawn from the bucket.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULING:

- Each season there will be a Friday Tournament on the schedule.
- Only 3 One day bodies of water may be fished in consecutive years.
- No bodies of water for 1 day tournaments will be allowed to be fished 3 years in a row.
- The same body of water for two day tournaments cannot be fished in consecutive years.

INSURANCE:

Boats participating in a tournament or any other club sponsored fishing event must have Marine Liability Insurance with coverage of at least \$100,000. Printed proof of insurance must be presented to the Tournament Director prior to the 1st tournament draw that the boat is to be used in. It is the Boater's responsibility to notify the Tournament Committee/Director in writing in the event of any loss or change of coverage.

BOATS AND MOTORS:

Only boats and motors meeting Coast Guard certification will be permitted for tournament use. All boats must be equipped with a functioning Kill Switch with a lanyard, working navigation lights that must be on in low light situations and an aerated or recirculating livewell to maintain a live limit of fish. In the event of a livewell failure during tournament hours, every effort must be made to keep the fish alive and the boater must notify the Tournament Director at the weigh-in immediately upon arrival. Every effort will be made to weigh the fish as soon as possible. Backup pumps are highly encouraged. The Tournament Director may have an extra pump available for emergencies.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

All "Rules of the Water" prevail during tournaments including respect of other fishermen, boaters, and property owners. Participants are expected to exhibit high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Defacing or spoiling the environment and/or under the influence of Drugs or Alcohol will result in suspension from the current tournament day and future tournaments at the discretion of the club membership. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times.

All tournament participants must obey all fishing regulations (appropriate licenses, special lake fishing regulations, etc.), failure to do this resulting in a Citation from local or state authorities will result that participants disqualification (no fish weighed in and no AOY points for the tournament)

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures will be permitted for tournament use. Pork rinds are permitted. Only one rod can be used at any one time. Any rod with a hook in the water shall be considered in use. Use of more than one rod leads to disqualification. All fish must be caught live and in a sporting manner (legal hook to the mouth area). Trolling as a method of fishing is not permitted unless determined otherwise by the Tournament director of the event. Nets can be used for landing legally hooked fish.

SAFETY:

• Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times.

• A Coast Guard approved chest type preserver must be worn anytime the internal combustion engine is operating.

• Boats are to be equipped with a kill switch that must be utilized any time the internal combustion engine is operating.

- 1 livewell must be in working order.
- Front and Rear Navigation lights must be in in working order and on in low light times.

• Each contestant cannot use or be under the influence of drugs, alcohol or prescription narcotics (boater only for prescription narcotics) during tournament hours (the time frame immediately prior to the tournament blast-off, during the tournament, and check-in until the boat has been trailered or docked at the end of the tournament.

1. If a contestant is found to be under the influence - it will result in an automatic disqualification for the day. (A prescription narcotic is defined as if you should not be driving or operating heavy equipment while taking).

- All speed limits on the body of water shall be observed. Speeding citations will result in penalties:
- Speeding tickets in a "No Wake Zone" will result in the boater being DQ for the day.
- Speeding tickets in open water will result in a penalty of 2.5 pounds for each citation for the member cited.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION

In the event of rain, wind, or lightning it shall be at the discretion of the individual entrants whether to continue or not. You may pull your boat and re-launch as long as you never leave the blast off launch. If you leave, early quit rules apply. Weigh-in would be at the scheduled time. However, in the event of extreme weather or other unforeseeable safety issue, the Tournament Committee/Director may cancel an event prior to blastoff. Such tournaments do not have to be made up. Every effort will be made to find a safe and agreeable blowoff location or alternative.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

Prior to one day tournaments that body of water may not be fished by participants during the 24 hours prior to blastoff. There is no closed period prior to two day tournaments.

REGISTRATION:

All anglers must have in their possession a current fishing license for the locale. Fishing citations issued during a tournament lead to disqualification for the day. Each person must sign in with the Tournament Director before the draw at the meeting prior to the tournament and pay the entire entrance fee of \$40 per boat for single day and \$60 per boat for 2 day tournaments. Non-boaters who intend to fish will also sign in with the Tournament Director prior to the draw. The TD will disperse their fees to their respective boaters as they are drawn. Non-boater fees are 20 + 335 for one day, and 330 + 455 for two day events. In addition to the tournament fee, there will also be a Classic Fee of \$5 by all tournament participants due at the draw. This fee will be collected and tracked by the Treasurer and kept to be used as a cash payout to the boater and non-boater winners of the Classic (see CLASSIC below).

Boaters: 1 Day = 40+5 = **\$45**, 2 Days = 60+5 = **\$65** (Tournament Fee + Classic) Non-Boaters: 1 Day = 20+5+35 = **\$60**, 2 Days = 30+5+45 = **\$80** (Tournament Fee, Classic and Non-Boater Fee)

All fees must be paid in cash. All fees, including lodging, are non-refundable. In dire circumstances a plea for reimbursement may be made, in writing, for the executive committee's consideration. Bear in mind that these fees are exclusive of travel expenses. There are no rules for splitting travel costs but it is hoped that fairness would prevail. \$5 will be taken out for Classic, \$5 from each boat entry will be taken out for the Lunker payout – the rest is put into the pool for $1^{st} - 3^{rd}$ payouts. If two boaters pair up both boaters' entrance fees of \$45 or \$65 will stay in the Tournament Payout Pool. The owner or operator of the boat (in the event that the owner is not present) that the pair uses will determine who is the boater, the other will accrue only non-boater points.

BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:

A full discussion shall be held between the two partners immediately after the partner draw as to the schedule of operation and travel expenses. Each fisherman will be considerate of their fishing partner while fishing a location. The Tournament Director will distribute the Non-Boater fees to their paired boater after the draw.

PAIRINGS:

Pairing of contestants will be done by random draw at the meeting prior to the tournament. The order of the draw will be boaters first followed by non-boaters. Two partners will be assigned to each boat. After the draw no member is allowed to join the tournament. Members unable to attend the draw may be represented by proxy providing their entrance fees are in place and that they have satisfied their attendance requirements. Every attempt will be made to ensure that no two partners will be paired twice in a season. If a boater draws a non-boater and they have fished together already, the non boater will go to the next available boater in the blast off order that they have not already fished with that season, then the next non-boater is pulled and paired with the first available boater they have not fished with starting at the highest boat on the list, until two who have not fished together are found. This will also apply in cases where a boater chooses to fish as a non-boater, either by draw or by choice. The same boater/non-boater pairing will not be allowed unless at the time the non-boater is drawn he has already fished with all remaining boaters in the draw during that tournament season. At the end of the draw, if there is an imbalance in participating members, the following applies:

FISHING LOCATIONS:

All angling must be done from the boat. Exiting of the boat is allowed for breakdowns, restroom usage, lure retrieval and to go to the boat launch area. Participants can fish anywhere accessible by boat without loading the boat and launching at another site unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee/Director. Those tournaments designated as "XXXX Bay" and are waters adjacent to a Great Lake, do not allow for fishing of the main lake or other accessible waters unless otherwise specified. Any property considered to be a marina, a dock system containing 5 or more boat slips, that is posted, or has no fishing signs should not be fished. If competitors are fishing

such a structure, posted or not, they are required to leave the area in question if requested to do so by either the marina owner or a resident of that marina. If competitors fail to follow the request to leave the marina and receive a violation from authorities, the competitors in question will be DQ'D from that tournament. Any points awarded towards AOY standings will be void for the tournament the violation originated from.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

There shall be only one official checkpoint for the start and the end of the tournament, and it will be designated at the draw. Blastoff will be at the scheduled time or at safe light if necessary. Prior to blastoff (at the launch or the official checkpoint), all boats must check in with the Tournament Director or Assistant Tournament Director for a livewell/safety inspection. They will check kill switch lanyards and livewell operation/contents then issue a livewell/safety check card/token. Boaters are responsible for checking in/inspection, and failure to get checked in/inspection will lead to disqualification.

LATE BOATS:

Boats not on the water and checked by the designated blastoff time will be considered late. Late boats may still fish under the following conditions: (1) the TD is notified at least prior to blastoff that the boater will be late, and (2) Late Boats must check in for livewell/safety check with the TD/Assistant TD *before* they start fishing. The TD/Assistant TD is under no obligation to travel to latecomers. The responsibility for check-in shall be upon the latecomers. Failure to check in will lead to disqualification.

LEFTOVER NON-BOATERS:

If there are more non-boaters looking to enter a tournament draw than boaters, a non-boater(s) must make other accommodations, and not participate in the draw. The non-boater(s) who must make the accommodations is determined as follows (in order):

1. Any non-boater that volunteers to make an accommodation

2. Any non-boater that has not met the previous year's membership requirements, if applicable (Making at

least 50% of club functions & meeting ticket sale requirements).

3. The non-boater with the least participation in club meetings and functions for the current year.

They may choose one of the following:

1. IF the non-boater volunteers to make an accommodation (number 1 above) they can defer their spot to the draw for the next tournament on the schedule.

2. Fish the tournament as their own entity on another team's boat provided there is a boater willing to accommodate. Non-Boater must pay the non-boater fee. This will cover the tournament fees (what the boater would pay and go to the tournament pot just like adding a boat), classic fee, and give the remaining to the boater as a non-boater fee.

3. Find a non-member boater of their choice (per normal "Guest" rules). Their choice must be made by Thursday night prior to the tournament and notification given to the Tournament Committee/Director. This boat will blast off last. The boater must follow all FCS rules:

- The Non-Boater pays the normal boater Tournament Fees for the boat.
- The boater must have the required insurance. This policy must be shown to the Tournament Committee/Director prior to blastoff.

LEFTOVER BOATER:

If a boater does not draw a non-boater partner, he/she may at his/her option:

1) Fish alone

2) Find a partner outside the club

3) Partner with another boater that also has not drawn a partner provided that he/she has not fished with that boater in a previous tournament. In the event boaters pair up, they may only do so in the same boater/non-boater role once in a season. They may fish together a second time provided they swap boats and roles. If boaters pair up then their boater fee stays in the tournament pot and the two boaters are responsible to work out the Non-boater fee. The Boat owner will be declared the Boater for the Tournament.

PARTNER NO-SHOW:

BOATER: (Non-boater does not show)

- The boater will fish alone.
- The boater will not be required to return any tournament/non-boater fees to the non-boater.

NON-BOATER: (Boater does not show up)

- The Non-boater will be paired with a boater that is fishing alone and will be paired with the 1st open boat as per the draw. IF there is no open boat the Non-boater will have the option to not fish and be in the top of the next draw or can become the third person in a suitable boat. Boaters can volunteer to take the extra non-boater, go to the top of the blast off order or will be selected at the discretion of the Tournament Committee/Director if they feel a boat is not safe to carry a 3rd angler. A Boat can only carry a third party once in a tournament season.
- The No Show boater will need to give non-boater fees to the boater taking the non-boater that was scheduled to fish with that boater.

CULLING:

Each boat is allowed a maximum tournament limit of 5 fish to be used in calculating lunker and point standings. The only exception is the Classic, where the boater is allowed a maximum of 5 fish and a non-boater is also allowed a maximum of 5 fish. If paired with another person, you may not catch fish for that person.

After possessing the tournament limit, entrants must cull immediately upon their next catch. Entrants possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his/her catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2.5 pounds for each bass over the limit. Bass are considered in possession once placed in the live well and fishing or travel has resumed.

There is no culling of dead fish at any time. Dead fish must remain in your possession and therefore must be included in your creel and cannot be culled. Any entrant culling dead fish will be disqualified.

WEIGH-IN:

The weigh-in master will make the initial determination as to whether a fish is dead or alive. If challenged, the final decision will be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee/Director. The penalty for weighing in a dead fish is .25 lbs. This penalty will be assessed against their total weight and not against a lunker fish. Every effort must be made to insure that dead or mortally wounded fish are not returned to the water after weigh-in They should be iced for consumption or mounting. Contestants returning late will be penalized .25 lbs. per minute for each minute late up to 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, the contestant(s) is disqualified. Negative weights will be accessed do to penalties. No excuses will be accepted, with the exception of a breakdown. In the event that a breakdown occurs and causes a boat to be more than 10 minutes late, breakdown rules will apply. Boats are to be within the check point area and all poles and lines are to be inside the boat at check-in time. If a boat breaks down, fish can be transported by other contestants and must be accompanied by the person whose catch is weighed.

SCORING:

Tournament winners, points and club standings shall be determined by the pound and 100th of the catch of selected species caught by an angler on the waters to be specified for each tournament. The tournament limit shall be the prevailing state limit. Bass that measure the legal limit for that body of water (ie. 12 inches or more) with mouth closed shall be considered eligible. Anglers may elect to have any questionable fish measured prior to the weigh- in, as a courtesy. Undersized fish must be immediately released but accrue no penalty. Once the weigh-in has commenced, any illegal creel, in terms of either size or number, leads to immediate disqualification of the angler(s) for that day. The final decision as to the length of the fish shall be that of the Tournament Committee/Director. Each participant's fish will be weighed only once. Scoring shall be done as follows: Weight = Pounds and hundredths and the results will be greatest weight to the least weight (regardless of number of fish caught).

BREAKDOWNS:

In the event that a boat breaks down and requires rescue, any "Good Samaritan" team assisting will not be assessed late arrival penalties providing the TD is aware of the breakdown. The disabled team will however accrue late penalties if applicable. In the event a broken down boat is more than 10 minutes late, the boat will receive last place points for the tournament and receive 0.00 weight for the day. The fish will not be weighed in and no fish points will be awarded. The breakdown must be confirmed by another boat participating in the tournament. Running out of gas is not considered a breakdown. Every effort should be made to notify the Tournament Director of the breakdown prior to weigh-in. In most cases the boater will be expected to complete the tournament in the boat they arrived with. Boats that are deemed unusable can be replaced by a new one, providing that the replacement boat comes from a source outside the group of tournament contestants and not on the day of the breakdown. Swapping of boats will not be allowed. If the boat can't be fished or replaced, early quit or DQ rules apply.

PAY OUT:

Each tournament will be in the format of boat/team competition unless specified otherwise by the Tournament Committee/Director. Total weight of the fish caught by a boat is used to determine their point standing. Cash distribution will be as follows:

A. Lunker Pool: A pool for the largest bass caught will be available based on \$5 from the entry fee collected from each boat. Cash payout is: Largest Bass - 100%.

B. Place payouts: All remaining funds will be distributed as follows:

 $1^{\text{st}} \text{ place } \square 50\%$ $2^{\text{nd}} \text{ place } \square 35\%$ $3^{\text{rd}} \text{ place } \square 15\%$

Place payout money is to be split evenly amongst paying contestants. Lunker payout is individual for the one catching the lunker.

Tournament payouts shall include 100% of the entry fees collected for that specific tournament.

BOATER AND NON- BOATER ANGLER OF THE YEAR POINTS:

After each Tournament there will be points awarded to each participant for the place that their boat places. Place Points are below: 1^{st} place – 20 pts + fish Pts

1° place – 20 pts + fish Pts 2^{nd} place – 18 pts + fish Pts 3 place – 16 pts + fish Pts 9 place - 4 pts + fish Pts 10 and below are – 2 pts + fish Pts Not fishing – 0 pts DQ – 0 pts

Bonus Points for Number of Fish Weighed.

Each angler will be awarded (on top of their place points) one additional point for each fish that they caught that was weighed in by their boat. Max 5 pts - Min 0 pts. It is the responsibility of the individual to tag/mark their fish for scoring purposes.

If the team has two fish that weigh the same and they need to decide which gets weighed for the bonus point -a coin flip will decide and must be done before weigh-in time.

Points will be given to participants for a Boater or a Non-Boater depending on what they fished as of that day. These points will apply for "Boater Angler of the Year" or "Non-boater Angler of the Year". If two boaters pair up after the draw – the boater that is fishing as a Non-Boater will receive only Non-Boater Points for that Tournament.

In the event someone fishes as a guest, or fishes a tournament through the draw as part of their 3 club events leading to submitting for membership, they will receive points towards Angler of the Year as outlined above, provided they join the club as a member during the same tournament season.

DISCREPANCIES AND PROTESTS:

Any tournament issues or discrepancies must be voiced and resolved prior to the conclusion of the weigh-in. All Tournament results will be final after the conclusion of the weigh in. If the tournament results or resolution of a discrepancy is still found to be undesirable, a formal protest can be submitted in writing, signed to the Tournament Committee within 10 days of the tournament's conclusion. The tournament committee will then forward all the pertinent information to the Executive committee for a resolution to the protest.

TIES:

Tournament Ties:

- Live fish break ties over dead fish.
- Contestants will split the appropriate position money (combine the two places and split 50/50)

AOY Ties:

• There will be no ties for any tournament points standings. Ties will be broken by average weight per tournament.

EARLY QUIT:

If Boater and Non-boater elect to quit early, it is mandatory that you notify the Tournament Committee/Director. Boat will be disqualified from that day's Tournament – if for a two-day tournament they will be DQ for that day.

If for any reason, a NON-BOATER elects to leave the tournament early, the boater may elect to keep the nonboaters fish but **cannot** cull them or elect to release them and replace them with future fish caught. The Non-Boater will be DQ'd from the tournament. The Boater will continue to fish alone.

If for any reason, a BOATER elects to leave the tournament early, if there is an empty slot on a boat that the nonboater can fish on, the non-boater may elect to keep the boaters fish but **cannot** cull them or elect to release them and replace them with future fish caught. The non-boater will NOT be paired with the boater but will fish as his own entity. The Boater will be DQ'd from the tournament.

SKUNK FEE:

If you get skunked at a tournament you have to pay \$1.00 per day to the club treasury and your name goes in the newsletter. The money collected during the year will go to the "Most Skunked Award" to be given at the FCS banquet.

CLASSIC:

At the end of the tournament season a Classic will be held. Anglers must qualify to participate in the Classic by meeting any of the following qualifications:

Boater Only Qualifications: a) 1 Win and fish in 6 tournaments b) 120 Boater PTS

Boater fishing as boater and non-boater: a) 1 Win and 51 pts in the non-boater class along with fishing in 6 combined tournaments b) 90 NON-boater pts c) 2 Wins and 6 tournaments as a NON-Boater

NON-Boaters: a) 2 wins and 6 tournaments b) 90 NON-boater Pts

In the event that there are more NON-boaters than boaters – the Club president will ask for club boaters who have not qualified in the Classic to volunteer to take NON-boaters. Depending on how many volunteers are in will depend on how many Extra NON-boaters will get in. In the event of not enough volunteers – the lowest ranked NON-

boaters are left out of the Tournament. A random draw of the extra NON-boaters by rankings to pair with the volunteer boaters.

The qualifier may only fish in the role in which they accomplished the tournament win, unless they also qualify as a boater through the point system. Any angler qualifying to fish as a boater must fish as a boater provided their boat is functional. If the Boater's boat is not functional, he may borrow a boat. If the boater borrows a boat for the classic, they must provide proof of boat insurance that meets insurance requirements and they must be the operator of the boat for the classic. Tie breakers for points and rankings will be determined first by the number of wins that angler has that season, and then by the number of fish weighed in that season. If still tied, a coin flip will determine the higher ranking. Pairing will be done with the first ranked boater fishing with the last ranked non-boater, the second ranked boater with the 2nd to last ranked non-boater, and so on until the field is complete.

This is not a team tournament. Each person keeps their own 5 fish for weigh-in. Boaters compete against each other, and non-boaters compete against each other. There will be no entrance fee for the classic.

There will be a non-boater fee of \$35 paid to the boater at time of Classic even if the boater that is taking a non-boater is not in the classic.

Classic Payouts:

- Boater winner = 90% of the boater classic fees collected.
- Non-Boater winner = 90% of the non-boater classic fees collected.
- Boater Lunker = 10% of the boater classic fees collected.
- Non-Boater Lunker = 10% of the non-boater classic fees collected.

Participants will meet the morning of the classic, each participant may place the name of the lake they would like to fish in a hat, provided the lake was not on the current seasons schedule and is selected from the 1-day bodies of water selections. The lake drawn from the hat will be the site of the Classic.

INFRACTIONS AND PENALTIES SUMMARY:

Penalties listed in the rules above are official and nothing below constitutes additional rules/changes to rules. Any discrepancies here will defer to the written rules above:

- Under the Influence: DQ for the day.
- Any Fishing Citations: DQ for the day.
- On the Water Speeding Citations:
 - Citations in a "No Wake Zone" DQ for the day.
 - Citations in open water: 2.50 lbs penalty for the day for each citation.
- Marina Infraction: DQ for the day.
- Culling Dead Fish: DQ for the day
- No Check-In/safety/livewell inspection at blastoff: DQ for the day.
- 2 Rods in use at one time: DQ for the Day.

• Late Check-In (for weigh in): .25 lbs. per minute for each minute late up to 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, the contestant(s) is disqualified.

- Culling Infractions: 2.5 lbs penalty for the day for each fish over the 5 fish limit.
- Weighing in Dead Fish .25 lbs per fish that is dead.
- Break down boat last place pts if more than 10 Mins late and 0 fish pts.

INTERPRETATION OF ANY RULE CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE/DIRECTOR. IN THE EVENT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NO MAJORITY OR CANNOT BE ACCESSED, ALL DECISIONS REST SOLELY WITH THE DIRECTOR. IN THE EVENT OF THE DIRECTOR'S ABSENCE, THE ASSISTANT TD SHALL TAKE HIS ROLE.

FINAL NOTE:

In the interest of safety, cost, camaraderie, and congestion at boat launches, it is strongly recommended that you try to pair up with some other participant going to the tournament, preferably your partner. This facilitates several things: discussion of strategies, splitting of travel costs, safety by numbers, and reduces the number of cars without boats at a given launch. Please help out where you can.