

## **Orlando Bass Club 2018 Tournament Rules**

1. At our scheduled meeting the 1st Thursday of the month, a drawing will be held matching boater and non-boaters. After all the non-boaters have been paired, the remaining boaters have the option of fishing with another single boater or they can fish alone. Some lakes require pairing due to parking and will be know before the draw. If possible a non-boater should not fish with the same boater more than twice in the same year or back to back months. Guests are permitted to fish as long as all members are paired.
2. It is the responsibility of the non-boater to contact the boater paired with prior to the tournament to make arrangements with the boater. The nonboater will pay the boater \$35.00 per day plus any applicable ramp fees.
3. All special case pairings need to be approved prior to the drawing by the Tournament Director. The definition of a special case is anytime you are fishing but not in the drawing.
4. Your boat should be large enough to accommodate 2 fishermen and safely navigate the lakes we normally fish. Minimum power requirement is 60 HP.
5. Livewells must be large enough to handle 10 fish and pump or recirculate water. A bubbler, "keep fish alive" additive and frozen water bottle use are recommended.
6. Life jackets must be worn anytime the big motor is moving the boat. All other rules and laws of the water apply. Failure to do so may be grounds for disqualification.
7. Boat launch is in order of the draw. On 2 day tournaments, the launch is in order of the previous day finish.
8. Common courtesy is expected at all times. Turn head lights off while launching, do not block the ramp, use a minimum of space when mooring and idle away from the other boats before getting on plane.
9. Fish size limits will conform to state regulations unless permits are available. Permits will be provided prior to each tournament. Fish will be brought to the scales in bags, not hand carried.
10. Contestants will weigh-in in the order of launch. When your name is called by the co-ordinator, bring your catch to the scales promptly.
11. A violation of fish size will result in the greater of a 3 pound penalty or weight of the competitor's largest fish plus the weight of the illegal fish as well. This penalty will apply to yearly totals if the competitor's aggregate weight for the tournament is less than 3 pounds.
12. Big bass weigh-in rule. Any bass 5 pounds or greater may be weighed and released immediately after the catch when the following conditions are met: The bass is weighed on a digital scale. Calibration of the scale may be checked and verified by the Tournament Director at the weigh-in. Check the scale to determine pounds and ounces or decimal weight. The weight is viewed and verified by another club

member. Both club members are required to remember the exact weight. If there is no other club member available, the bass must be weighed boat side at the end of the tournament. Otherwise all bass are to be brought in to the weigh-in site to be weighed.

13. There will be a 4 ounce penalty for a dead fish at the weigh-in. If the fish does NOT swim off it is considered dead. You are responsible for removing your dead fish and reporting it to the Tournament Director. You are permitted to cull dead fish during the fishing period times.

14. Fisherman who are late for the weigh-in will be penalized one pound per minute up to 15 minutes. Over 15 minutes and you are disqualified. Exceptions will be dealt with at the Tournament Director's discretion. Non-boaters are generally treated the same as boaters except if the cause was beyond the non-boaters control, i.e., motor won't start, etc.

15. A competitor should not encroach upon the area another competitor is fishing. Common courtesy and good sportsmanship should be observed. Report extreme cases of encroachment to the Tournament Director. Penalties will be determined by a committee consisting of the current and 2 past Tournament Directors. Tournament Directors involved in an alleged infraction shall be excluded from the committee.

16. Non-boaters may have half a day control of where to fish during a tournament. However, long and dangerous runs and times should be considered.

17. Landing nets are permitted during the tournament.

18. Trolling is NOT permitted with the big motor at any time during a tournament.

19. Only one rod and reel may be used at a time during the tournament.

20. Competitors who leave early must advise the Tournament Director in person or by phone. If unable to contact the Tournament Director, you must notify at least 2 other boaters in the tournament. WE DON'T WANT TO GO LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WHO LEFT EARLY. Members should remain at the weigh-in until ALL boats have returned safely.

21. Anyone who shows up at a tournament to fish who was not in the draw, and did not make previous arrangements with the Tournament Director, may do so if there is a boat available or they can use their own boat, but the weight of the competitor will not count for the tournament or towards yearly totals.