

# Southern Bass League

## Tournament Rules

### 1) Tournament Directors:

- a. Decisions of the tournament director are considered final and not subject to appeal, this includes rule interpretation, penalty assignment, disqualification or dismissal.
- b. Tournament directors will take all actions into consideration and will protect the integrity and well-being of the Southern Bass League organization, its members, the facilities we use and the fish we catch.

### 2) Off Limits

- a. All lakes fished by SBL will be considered off limits from Sunday night at 11:59pm CST until Saturday morning when your boat is launched to prepare for blast off.
- b. Off limits will include but not be limited to:
  - i. Being on the water in any capacity, for any reason and for any amount of time.
  - ii. Any action that would gain any advantage of one competitor over another from any dock, roadway or bridge.

### 3) Safety:

- a. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors.
- b. **All contestants must wear a coast Guard approved life vest with a working kill switch attached to the driver when the outboard motor is in gear.**
- c. All state, coast Guard, Federal Parks & Wildlife regulations shall apply.
- d. Boats must conform to all US. Coast Guard, Federal and State regulations concerning safety equipment, outboard motor size, etc.
- e. Competitors will be allowed to leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather, fishing is not permitted during this time.
- f. In the event of equipment failure or other emergency, the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do. Any effort to return to the tournament designated ramp must be coordinated with the tournament director.
- g. The tournament director may delay or postpone until the next day, any tournament if the safety of SBL competitors is threatened by weather, temperature or water conditions, so long as the next day is determined to be safe. This determination will be made as soon as practical and or possible.

### 4) Check ins and blast off:

- a. A designated morning check in point will be provided and marked accordingly in the parking lot of the tournament ramp. All SBL competitors must proceed thru the check in point, prior to launching your boat.
- b. The blast off order will be provided by a random draw thru Fishing Chaos prior to each tournament, each team's boat and flight number will be verified at the morning check in.
- c. When the tournament director authorizes the blast off, each boat number and team member's names will be called, that boat will idle by the blast off boat before accelerating onto plane.
- d. A designated boat or dock will be available for the evening check in. Anyone arriving late for your check in time will be penalized according to these tournament rules.

**5) Angler/Team of the year points:**

- a. Points will be awarded to each team according to final placement.
  - i. 1<sup>st</sup> place = 100pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 99pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 98pts, etc.
- b. Teams that participate but do not weigh in fish will receive 10 points less than the last place team that weigh in fish.
- c. Teams must fish an event in order to receive points.

**6) Tackle & Equipment:**

- a. Only artificial lures may be used.
- b. No live or prepared bait will be permitted except for pork strips, pork rinds, etc.
- c. No trolling with the outboard motor.
- d. All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner.
- e. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed.
- f. Only one rod may be used at a time by each angler.

**7) Citations:**

- a. Any SBL competitor cited by law enforcement officers for violation of State or Federal fishing or boating regulations during tournament hours will be disqualified from the event.

**8) Sportsmanship:**

- a. All contestants are expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.
- b. Purposely denying another SBL boat access to an area on the lake would be considered an unsportsmanlike act the incident must be reported before the closing of the scales.
- c. Any angler who violates these rules or any state or local law or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing or Southern Bass League will be disqualified.
- d. Any act of unsportsmanlike behavior reported prior to the closing of scales, will be decided by the tournament director.

**9) Alcoholic beverages and drugs:**

- a. At no time during tournament hours are alcoholic beverages or drugs allowed to be consumed.
- b. Legally prescribed medications are allowed only if their use does not impair the user to the extent that they are a hazard to themselves or others.

**10) Limits:**

- a. Only largemouth, Spotted and smallmouth bass can be weighed. Each boat will be allowed to weigh-in a five (5) bass limit.
- b. Length/slot requirements will be according to state law as per the lake the tournament is held on.

**11) Penalties:**

- a. Any fish that does not measure will be penalized one (1) pound plus the loss of fish.
- b. Dead fish penalty is one (1) pound. Dead fish cannot be weighed for Big Fish.
- c. Over limit penalty will be culling the largest fish until limit is reached.
- d. Late check in penalty will be One (1) pound per minute up to 10 minutes, anything more than 10 minutes will be disqualified.

**12) Measuring:**

- a. Fish will be measured on a Golden Rule and fanning of tail.

### **13) Tournament Hours:**

- a. Tournament hours will begin when a tournament director and/or other executive board member arrives at the designated boat ramp.
- b. Fishing hours will be after your boat number is called at blast off, until your designated check in/flight time.
- c. Safe daylight will be determined by the tournament directors.
- d. Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. If the tournament director determines a need to change this time, it will be announced during check-in or blast off or weigh in or as soon as practical and possible.
- e. Tournament hours will end when all media obligations have been fulfilled after weigh-in.

### **14) Protest:**

- a. Any protest must be submitted in writing and signed during tournament hours and within fifteen (15) minutes after scales close.

### **15) Ties:**

- a. Any tie will be broken by 1) big fish or biggest fish weighed, 2) number of fish caught, 3) number of live fish released.
- b. Any tie unable to be broken by these criteria will combine the money for the 2 positions and divide the pot equally among the 2 teams. Angler/team of the year points will be awarded according to the higher position, to both teams if a tie cannot be broken. (Example: tie for 5<sup>th</sup> place cannot be broken, the money for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> will be combined and split equally, both teams will receive 5<sup>th</sup> place points).
- c. The tournament director may impose a 60 minute fish-off to determine the higher position.

### **16) Permitted fishing waters:**

- a. Any off limit areas will be explained prior to the tournament.
- b. No fishing is permitted within 50 yards of a marina gas pump.
- c. No fishing within 50 yards of an anchored boat. Anchors include a rope attached to a weighted devise, shallow water poles (power poles, etc.) or the use of spot lock. Any fishing within 50 yards of another angler (SBL member or not) must be agreed upon by both boats, otherwise, first come, first served will apply.

### **17) Culling of fish:**

- a. Culling must be done when the 6<sup>th</sup> fish is caught.
- b. No more than 5 fish are allowed in the live well at any time.
- c. Culling at the ramp is not permitted.
- d. Over the limit penalty will be removal of biggest fish until correct limit is reached and a 1 pound penalty will be assessed.

### **18) Cheating:**

- a. Anyone caught altering the natural weight of a fish, removing and or weighing in any fish from an underwater basket, capture or holding devise, will be permanently banned from all future SBL events and law enforcement will be notified immediately.

### **19) Substitutes:**

- a. All 2-person teams may use any alternate for SBL events.
- b. All alternates are subject to the same requirements, regulations, rules and polygraphs as the members, including but not limited to the off-limits rule.
- c. An alternate will only be eligible to participate in the 2-day championship by fishing 3 of the 5 regular season tournaments.
- d. Alternates must be declared prior to or at check in on the morning of the tournament and sign a waiver form.
- e. Any alternate not declared will result in disqualification for that tournament.

### **20) Assistance:**

- a. The use of mobile communication devices of any kind, to solicit, give or receive fishing information of any kind is strictly prohibited during tournament hours.
- b. The act of “hole sitting” by any boat associated or not with SBL, is strictly prohibited during tournament hours.
- c. Anyone caught in violation of this rule is subject to disqualification from the tournament.

### **21) Age requirements:**

- a. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult with a valid driver license, a valid Alabama Fishing license and a valid Alabama Boater License.
- b. Any team member under the age of 18 and or currently enrolled in public, private or home school must have a waiver signed by the parent or guardian.

### **22) Legal:**

When you submit registration to become a member of Southern Bass League LLC you are emphatically agreeing to the following:

- 1) That team members have read and understand the tournament rules.
- 2) That team members hereby release Southern Bass League LLC, its officers, agents, employee's and sponsors from any and all damages, claims, demands, cost or expenses relating to injury of any person(s) or any property, by which team members may sustain or by which team members may cause by reason of participating in or in connection with any Southern Bass League LLC event.
- 3) That team members agree to a covenant not to sue and waive subrogation: team members further agree that you will never sue Southern Bass League LLC for damages on account of any injury or damage you suffer or cause, whether known now or which may develop in the future. In the event that Southern Bass League LLC is sued because of your actions, team members expressly agree to indemnify and hold Southern Bass League LLC harmless from any and all liability whatsoever, including court cost and attorney's fees, arising with respect to such actions. Team members understand that in waiving your rights to sue Southern Bass League LLC, you are also waiving your rights of recovery from Southern Bass League LLC of your insurance carrier for any claims they may pay on your behalf. Team members further understand that you waive any rights your heirs or relatives have or may have to sue Southern Bass League LLC.
- 4) That team members maintain liability insurance on the boat you will use in any Southern Bass League LLC event.
- 5) That team members agree to submit to a polygraph or truth verification test at any point you are asked to do so by the tournament directors. Team members understand that refusal to take the polygraph or

truth verification test will terminate team membership in SBL immediately. Failure of a polygraph will disqualify the team from that tournament prizes and angler/team of the year points. Failure of more than one polygraph will also terminate team membership.

- 6) That team members agree to release your name, image and or likeness to Southern Bass League LLC for promotional and advertising purposes on any and all advertising or social media venues it chooses to utilize. Teams that finish in the top ten will be required to remain at or near the weigh in area so that additional pictures and interviews can be made.
- 7) Team members understand that Southern Bass League LLC reserves the right to refuse participation to anyone, for any reason, at any time, in any event they host.
- 8) Team members agree that all decisions made by the tournament directors are final and absolute.
- 9) Team members understand that submission of registration implies consent for both members of the team.