

Last Cast Anglers Rules and Guidelines

1. Eligibility

- **Membership Requirements** - Participation in Last Cast Anglers (LCA) tournaments is open only to members of the LCA. Boaters must maintain a minimum of \$300,000 Marine Watercraft Liability Insurance during any and all LCA tournament events.
- **Team Make-up** - This is a team tournament trail, consisting of two (2) anglers of either sex. Partners will enter and fish as a team. Participants under the age of eighteen (18) must be paired with an angler of legal age who will assume responsibility in all matters.
- **Substitution Exception and Solo Fishing** - In the event that a member can not participate with his/her regular partner, he/she will be allowed to fish with an approved substitute, pair with another member who is also missing his/her partner or may fish alone. The "team" will be allowed (2) substitutions or pairings during the year without "year end" penalty. The "team" is allotted unlimited "solo" appearances without penalty. If a "team" can not meet these requirements, they may still participate for the day's prize money but will not be eligible for year end awards inclusive of any year end lunker awards. Substitutes must be a LCA member in order to participate. Pairings will result in applicable points being awarded equally to the two teams in question. Determination of how and when to count a tournament as an "exception" is the responsibility of the Tournament Committee.

2. Rules of Competition

- **Rules Understanding** - By participating in LCA tournaments, every contestant agrees to these tournament rules and confirms an understanding that a violation of the rules may be cause for disqualification.
- **Rules Exceptions** - The rules will remain unchanged except for special requirements necessitated by local regulations or conditions. Any changes will be made by the Tournament Committee and, if possible, announced prior to the start of the tournament.
- **Tournament Committee Duties and Obligations** - The Tournament Committee has the right to enforce all tournament rules. Tournament Committee members have the right to approach and board any tournament boat at any time including at the time of registration and weigh-in to ensure that these rules are being adhered to.
- **Rules Interpretation** - The interpretation and application of the rules is the sole responsibility of the Tournament Committee. Their decisions will be final. Tournament Committee decisions are determined by a vote of Tournament Committee majority rule.

3. Registration

- **Check In** - Team members should appear at the sign-in table no later than (30) minutes before starting time. Tournaments start at 7:00 am unless otherwise specified.

4. Boat, Motor and Equipment

- **Kill Switch & Coast Guard Regs.** - All boats are to be equipped with a functional kill switch that must be in use whenever the combustion engine is operating. . Every boat must have all equipment required by the US

Coast Guard. Spare gas tanks must be Coast Guard approved.

- **Boat Length & Motor Horsepower** - Boats must be fourteen (14) feet or more in length. Horsepower of the outboard may **not** exceed that listed on the boat rating plate installed by the manufacturer.
- **Trolling Motor** - A small electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering.
- **Bilge and Aeration** - Each boat will have an operating bilge pump and a properly aerated live-well efficient enough to support a live tournament limit of bass. The Tournament Committee has the responsibility for determining whether live-well aeration and capacity are proper and adequate.

5. Safety

- **Operation and PFD** - Each competitor will operate his/her boat in a safe and sane manner. All competitors are required to have Coast Guard approved chest type life preservers (personal flotation device or PFD) that must be worn securely fastened when the combustion engine is running. Suspender-type vests must be worn on the outside of all garments, and cannot be removed unless there are other acceptable type vests readily accessible in the boat.
- **Kill Switch** - Boater must have the kill switch attached to his/her person whenever the combustion engine is running.
- **Age of Operator** - No competitor under the age of eighteen (18) will be allowed to operate a tournament boat, except for loading or unloading it from the trailer. It is permissible for a competitor under the age of 18 to operate the trolling motor.
- **Firearms** - No firearms of any type are permitted aboard a participant's boat (except for marine flares).
- **Safety Violations** - A violation of safety rules shall be a reason for disqualification. The Tournament Committee may modify or change a rule in response to a legitimate safety concern.

6. Boat Identification

- **Tournament ID Number** - Each boat will be assigned an identifying number by way of random draw. This number determines the order in which to start the tournament.
- **Tournament Ribbon** - A Tournament Committee member will attach a ribbon to a participant's trolling motor after having checked the boat's live-well(s) for emptiness.

7. Sportsmanship

- **Behavior** - Participants are expected to maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship which includes considerate behavior toward other boats and fishermen, whether competitors or non-competitors. A lack of courtesy or poor conservation practices may be cause for immediate disqualification.
- **Alcohol and Drug Use** - The presence of alcoholic beverages in a competitor's boat, the consumption of alcohol, or a drunken condition during tournament hours may be reason for disqualification. The use of illegal drugs is prohibited.
- **Conservation** - Any act that reflects unfavorably on the LCAs' goals of clean water, conservation and promotion of sport fishing may be cause for disqualification.
- **Prohibited Methods of Fishing** - "Trolling" as a method of fishing is prohibited. Trolling is defined as fishing

by trailing any lure, bait or similar device that may be used to attract or catch fish from a boat propelled by either electric or gas motor. "Snagging" as a method of fishing is prohibited. No team may accept fish from any person including other contestants. Teams may **not** have other individuals hold fishing areas for their use. The use of underwater listening devices, video devices and/or fish calling devices of any kind are prohibited (standard depth/fish finders and GPS systems are allowed).

- **Cell Phone Use** - The use of cell phones and/or two way radios to communicate with other competitors during tournament hours is allowed.
- **Team Disqualification** - If one team member is disqualified, the team is disqualified.

8. Tackle

- **Rods and Reels** - Only casting, spinning, and spin-casting equipment may be utilized. Several rods may be in the boat ready for use, but **only one (1)** rod eight (8) ft. maximum length may be used at one time.
- **Lures** - Only artificial lures are allowed. No live bait or prepared baits, except for hand pours, pork rinds, strips, chunks, etc. are permitted.

9. Tournament Times and Authorized Fishing Locations

- **Official Time** - The Tournament Director's method of time shall be the official time.
- **Tournament Waters and Exceptions** - Fishing is allowed anywhere on the tournament waters **except:**
 1. Within twenty- five (25) yards of another contestant's boat without that boat's permission
 2. Within fifty (50) yards of an anchored boat without that boat's permission. An "anchored" boat is defined as one that is held in a stable position by weighted line or attachment to a fixed object with trolling motor up.
 3. Within fifty (50) yards of marina gas pump
 4. In waters designated "off limits" by local law enforcement, other legitimate authorities or the Tournament Committee.
- **In-Boat Fishing Only** - Fishing must be done from a boat. (Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish or to make themselves or the boat more accessible to fishing waters). No "wade fishing" is allowed.
- **Tournament Fishing Time** - Contestants may not fish tournament waters on the day of a tournament prior to their number being called by the start boat. There will be no fishing after the contestant's boat passes the official check-in point at the end of the tournament. All fishing ceases upon check in.

10. Culling of Fish

- **Tournament Creel Limit** - The tournament creel limit for all LCA tournaments is (5) five keeper bass unless otherwise noted prior to the start of a tournament. If more than the tournament creel is found in a team's possession, the Tournament Committee will cull down to the official limit allowed starting with the largest fish first (competitors should be aware that Tournament Committee members may check live-wells on the water during the tournament).
- **Culling Process** - Teams catching a keeper fish after reaching the creel limit must cull immediately, so no excess fish are maintained in the live-well. Postponing the culling process puts greater stress on the fish and will subject the team to penalties described above under "Tournament Creel Limit".

- **Culling Dead Fish** - No team may cull a dead fish under any circumstances. If a keeper fish is placed in the live-well and dies, it must be weighed in. A team which culls a dead fish will be disqualified.

11. Conservation of Tournament Fish

- **Dead Fish Penalty** - Each tournament participant is expected to make every effort to keep his/her bass alive and in good condition to be returned to the tournament waters. .13 lbs., (2 ounces rounded up), will be deducted from the team's weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in (ie .26 lbs. for 2 dead fish, etc).

12. Weigh In and Scoring

- **Weigh In** - Once fish are presented for weigh in, they become the property of the Tournament Committee
- **Tournament Scoring** - Scoring will be based on the total weight of the bass caught by a team. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye and Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. Points will be given out starting at 100 points with 2 point descending increments - 98, 96, 94 etc. - add one (1) bonus point for every fish alive. Size must be 12 inches with a closed mouth and fanned (or) pinched tail, so long as the closed mouth is touching. Teams not weighing in any fish will be awarded 10 place points less than the last place team weighing in fish exclusive of the bonus points for the live fish weighed. Teams not fishing at all will receive (0) zero points for the day.
- **Courtesy Checks** - Only one courtesy check is permitted; after that - short fish will not be weighed and the team will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each such non-qualifying fish. Decision of the Tournament Committee will be final.
- **Method of Place Scoring** - Tournament Place Scoring will be based on the total weight of the bass caught by each team inclusive of any and all applicable penalties. In the event of a tie, the team with the bigger "lunker" fish will be awarded the higher place. Tiebreakers after lunker, in order, are most live fish, most fish, coin flip.
- **Lunker Scoring** - The team with the heaviest lunker will win lunker. In the event of a tie, the lunker pool will be split (there is no tie-breaker for lunker).
- **Start & Stop Times** - At the start of the tournament, all boats will leave in a controlled take-off from the same location and return to a designated location for check-in and weigh-in. Start & stop times will be announced at the pre-tournament briefing. The tournament director's method of time will be the official time. Any team failing to report in at the end of the day's check in location by the specified Stop Time shall be penalized at the rate of ONE (1) pound per minute late; to be deducted from the team's total weight for the day. The same late penalty will be assessed against the team's tournament "Lunker Award". A team more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose all credit for the day's catch.
- **Exceptions** - If a boat in distress signals for help, you must stop and render assistance. If nothing can be done, one member from the distressed team may bag the team's fish and take them to the weigh-in or the assisting boat may tow the distressed to the weigh-in or launch site. Under these conditions, no penalty will be assessed.

13. Complaints

- **The Process** - All complaints regarding violations against any contestant must be reported verbally to the Tournament Committee for review; this must be done prior to the presentation of the awards. All complaints or violations shall be ruled upon prior to the presentation of the awards.

14. Inclement Weather

- **Safety and Cancellation** - In the event of inclement weather, it is the responsibility of each team to determine how to best keep themselves safe and out of harms way. The Tournament Committee will not penalize a team for taking measures to keep themselves safe. A tournament may be cancelled by the Tournament Committee at any time with or without re-scheduling the same.

15. Year End Scoring

- **Points** - Points awarded for tournaments fished will be added together for year end prize consideration. The same tie-breakers described for individual tournaments will be used for year end tie-breakers. There will be (6) scheduled tournaments. Of these tournaments, only the top (5) finishes will be counted toward year end totals. All applicable eligibility and penalties described within these rules and guidelines apply. Year end prizes to be determined by the LCA Tournament Committee and Officers.

16. Officers and Tournament Committee

- **Positions of Authority and Duties** - The Last Cast Anglers will function with the guidance of its entire membership. Certain "positions" such as President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Tournament Director and Tournament Committee will exist for the sole purpose of "duty" allocation. All positions are volunteer positions unless more than one member wishes to hold a common position, then a vote by the entire membership body (exclusive of subs who may be members) will be held. The top vote getter wins. Members may be allocated duties.

17. Waters to Fish and Rule Enforcement

- **Locations** - The Tournament Committee will ultimately choose the fishing locations and enforce the rules and guidelines for the club tournaments. All the other positions will function as is typical of the positions' role in clubs and such BUT please know that all of our members have a say. We encourage feedback, input and open communications amongst our membership at all times.

18. Membership Conduct and Removal from the Roster and/or Positions of Authority

- **Grievance Policy** - If ever a member or substitute's conduct justifies removal from active LCA member or substitute status, the board members will meet to discuss and determine the same. A majority rule will determine his/her status. If a board member's conduct justifies removal from active LCA status, he/she will abstain from voting and the remaining board members will determine the same. A majority rule will determine his/her status. NOTE: Please know that renewal membership is NOT automatic and the board has the right to deny any and all renewal applicants. We do not anticipate these things occurring but we do wish to protect the integrity of the Last Cast Anglers and this is our means to do so.

19. Club Disbandment

- **Asset Allocation** - If the club ever disbands, all assets will be sold. Any and all monies will then be distributed evenly amongst active members.