

# Tournament Rules

- **Off Limits:** The TD will notify all contestants at drivers meeting of any off limit waters.
- **Eligibility:** A maximum number of two persons per team with at least one person holding a boaters safety card and both contestants to hold a valid WDFW fishing license.
- **Equipment:** All boats must be equipped with a working aerated live well, all anglers must wear their coast guard approved PFD and be seated in the cockpit area while boat is under power from gas motor. All boats must have the Tournament or contest banner displayed during tournament hours. Anglers are not allowed to stand on top of their pedestal seats, coolers, or motor cowlings to elevate anglers above the deck of their boat. No underwater viewing devices are allowed. Puncture style cull tags are NOT allowed.
- **Dead Fish:** There is no weight reduction penalty for a dead fish, however 2 dead fish in a teams bag will result in disqualification, If the Tournament is a 2 day event the team can not have a total of 3 dead fish for both days.
- **Tackle & Methods:** Only artificial lures are allowed during tournaments. No live bait may be used. All methods of fishing must comply with WDFW Rules & Regulations found in the sport fishing Pamphlet. Snagging or fish on beds or netting of dead fish will result in disqualification. No Fishing is allowed while the gas motor is running
- **Culling & Possession:** No minimum length requirement. A total of 5 Fish limit, Smallmouth or Largemouth are allowed. Culling is to be done immediately upon catching the 6th Fish. Culling in the marina will result in DQ.
- **Catch Tracker:** Per WDFW each boat is required to keep track of all Bass Caught during the tournament. OVBC will provide counters that will be attached to the boat numbers on a lanyard and will be given out during sign ups, each team MUST give back to TD when you are weighing in your bag.
- **Weigh-In:** The TD will act as the official timekeeper. Any team arriving late to the weigh in will be penalized 1 pound per 1 minute late up to 10 minutes. Andy teams arriving 10 or more minutes late without just cause will be DQ. Teams will be considered “checked in” once their boats are off pad and inside the host marina bay. The boat must remain in the water if the fish are still in the livewell.
- **Ties:** Big fish will be used to break any ties, in the unlikely event of duplicate tie both bag & big fish the affected teams will participate in a 30-minute fish off with the largest fish caught during that period determining the winner. The original teams bag can be placed in another contestant livewell while the fish off is happening so the winning team can take pictures when event is finished.
- **Protest:** All protest must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes of the final weigh-in or 15 minutes verbally, Protest will be accepted from the registered tournament anglers only. The Club officers fishing during that event will have final saying for that protest.
- **Drugs & Alcohol:** At no time during the tournament hours should a contestant be under the influence or in position of drugs or alcohol. All Contestants must follow both State & local Drug & Alcohol laws. If any contestant is found breaking these rules they will be DQ.
- **Relief Rule:** In the event that an angler must leave the boat during the event to use the restroom, one angler must remain in the boat at all times and all fishing must cease until both team members are in the boat
- **Sportsmanship:** Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety & conservation. Any team failing to do so will result in DQ.
- **Distance:** A safe casting distance will be maintained between boats. The first boat to that area will establish the perimeter. If you come up to an angler workking down the bank you will be expected to fall in behind the established angler at a safe casting distance. If you allow one boat into that area you have allowed all the boats to fish that area.
- **Livewell Checks:** all live wells must be checked prior to blast off by either the TD or his or her assistant.
- **Liability:** All boaters are required to have their own liability insurance and by registering in the tournament both boater and non boater agree not to hold the Okanogan Valley Bass Club sponsors or officials liable in any way.