

2024 Pan American Black Bass Championship Rules

- 1- Competitors shall always be able to prove their nationality by means of passports or National IDs. All supporting documents shall be produced at the registration.
- 2- Each Nation shall be allowed to present from one (uno) to eight (ocho) teams composed of two (dos) competitors. Maximum of two (dos) reserves will be allowed for each Nation. If an angler is replaced with a reserve the substitution shall be final.

COMPETITORS AND STEWARDS MEETING

Boat #'s and take-off/check-in times will be assigned. During this meeting any questions about rules, procedures and off-limits areas will be answered.

Only stewards shall be entitled to:

- verify that the catch is live and complies with the 14" (35.56 centimeters) size regulation. Each steward shall record the bass length and have the anglers sign the catch document. No complaints regarding the catch shall be accepted after the signing of such document. The bass shall be measured with its mouth closed to the tip of its stretched tail, naturally laying;
- authorize, during the competition, changes of boats or motors in the event of a breakage;
- make sure that the anglers do not troll
- 3- Anglers shall exclusively perform no-kill angling. Using any type of artificial lures shall be allowed (including drop-shot, Carolina rig, etc.). Artificial baits may feature a single, double or triple hook with up to 3 hooks (pork rind is allowed). Alabama rigs are not allowed.
- 4- All forms of bass feeding are forbidden. Only alluring substances and surface oils to be spread on artificial baits shall be allowed.
- 5- Using echo sounders and GPSs is allowed. The use of cellular telephones or other communication devices are allowed during the competition.
- 6- The use of landing nets is allowed. Stewards may not assist in the landing of bass.
- 7- The area reserved for the departure and arrival of the boats shall be marked and clearly visible.

- 8- All boats shall return to the start area at the check-in time. In said area, all boats shall circulate at low (idle) speed. It is forbidden to fish in boat start and arrival areas or in any area forbidden to navigation, as well as outside the competition limits zone. If a problem to a boat or to an engine provided by the organizers occurs during the competition - i.e.: break of battery, low fuel, or any kind of other technical problem - the team concerned may be authorized by a tournament official to extend its fishing time. The steward shall check that compulsory life jackets are properly worn when the combustion engine is operating. Only electric trolling motors may be used during the angling activities.
- 9- The distance between boats during the competition shall be of at least 55 yards (50 meters) both during angling and when navigating near another competitor's boat. The distance between boats during competition in a canal or a river shall be of at least 55 yards (50 meters) during angling and of at least 22 yards (20 meters) during navigation, with a speed as low as possible and by the side indicated by the anglers in fishing action.
- 10- Trolling and angling from the bank are forbidden.
- 11- The catching of a bass is only valid if the bass is hooked in its mouth, or between its mouth and the pectoral fins, or between its mouth and its gills. Any bass caught but not hanging from the angler's line shall not be deemed valid and shall be put back into the water.
- 12- Any boat that does not show up on time for its departure shall be authorized to start last, but its return time shall remain unchanged. When the first signal is given - 30 minutes before the departure of the boats - the anglers shall gather at the edge of the departure zone. The roll shall be called, the tournament official shall tell the exact time, so that both the stewards and the anglers may synchronize their watches. Then, the anglers shall be allowed to get on-board their boats, and shall line up at the start. A second signal shall be given for the boats to start heading to the angling area in boat number order starting with boat #1.
- 13- If a boat gets to the finish with a delay of less than 15 minutes, the pair (duos) involved shall get a 2.2 pound (1 kilogram) penalty for each minute it is late. Any pair (duo) arriving with a delay of 15 minutes or more shall be disqualified for the day.
- 14- The boats shall maneuver by using either the combustion engine or the electric trolling motor, but the safety rules and "no wake" regulations shall be complied with at all times.
- 15- All boats shall have on board the compulsory equipment required pursuant to Transport Canada rules and Regulations.
- 16- All boats shall help any nearby boat in trouble or danger. Land docking and docking to the boats of other competitors from the same nation are forbidden without the permission of a steward.
- 17- Deliberate foul hooking of bass is prohibited.

- 18- Competitors may keep and assemble as many rods as they wish but, when angling, they shall only be allowed to use one rod each.
- 19- The competitors shall not be allowed to get any fishing help from non-competitors while on the water.
- 20- Any complaints, except for those regarding the rankings, shall be submitted to tournament officials within 1 hour after the end of the competition day. Complaints shall be lodged verbally, but they shall immediately be confirmed in writing. Should they deem it necessary, the tournament officials may watch any video or look at any picture produced by the delegate of the team filing the complaint. Complaints concerning the ranking shall be lodged within 30 minutes after publishing of the official results. The publishing time shall be recorded in the official result list. All infringements and warnings shall be reported to tournament officials, with the tournament officials being the only authority enabled to disqualify anglers. Any pair (duo) who is imposed a penalty shall be informed immediately. The tournament officials and all stewards shall make sure the Rules are abided by. Hence, they shall have a thorough knowledge of such Rules.
- 21- The length of the rods is limited to 9 feet (2.75 meters).
- 22- Pan/American Championship adopts the World Anti-doping Code applied by C.I.P.S. During a championship, the anglers selected to undergo anti-doping controls must go to the designated place at the indicated time, following tournament officials' guidelines. When an angler selected to undergo anti-doping checks does not report for the controls, the concerned pair (duo) shall be disqualified.
- 23- **WEIGHING OPERATIONS.** Each couple (duo) can bring 5 fish of "legal measure" (14" or 35.56 cm) to weigh each day. Weights shall be recorded in kilos and grams or in pounds and their fractions. The pair (duo) will receive a printed document of their weight. Claims concerning the weight of fish will not be permitted after receiving and verifying this document. The largest fish in each bag will be recorded, as it can be used as a tiebreaker criterion
- 24- **RANKINGS.** The pairs will be ranked according to the best weighs of each day. The final ranking will be the highest accumulated weight during each pair's competition days at the end. The first tiebreaker criterion will be the heaviest bag of any of the competition days. The second tiebreaker criterion will be the weight of the largest fish recorded by the pair.
- 25- **NATION RANKINGS.** The smallest number of couples involving a country shall be taken as the basis for the award of medals by nations, but this number shall not be less than three. Once this number is determined, the total weight obtained by the highest-ranked couples each day of each nation. The 3 nations with the highest total weight at the end of the event will earn the GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE medals for nations.
- 26- **AWARD CEREMONY.** The top 3 pairs (duos) will officially receive medals from: GOLD, SILVER and BRONZE, respectively, regardless of their national affiliation. The 3 winning nations will earn medals for all their participants. All participating Nations will provide their flags and recordings of their national anthems, in 2 full and short versions (approx. 1 minute), During medal award procedures, the winner's national anthem, nation or pair (duo) will be performed and the national flags of the three main countries (duos)/teams will be raised.