

2024 CONROEBASS THURSDAY RULES

1. **RULES:** These rules shall remain unchanged throughout 2024. Interpretation and enforcement of CONROEBASS rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director. The Tournament director may impose sanctions as deemed appropriate for rule infractions without limitation e.g., disqualification, weigh deduction penalties, forfeiture of prizes and or entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Tournament Director's decisions are final in all matters. Federal, state, and local water body authority laws and rules must be obeyed at all times.
2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Membership is required to participate in all CONROEBASS Thursday Big Bass Tournaments held March through August 2024. Tournament eligibility and entry is open to all members in good standing. All Tournament participants must be at least 18 years old unless signed for by a Parent or Legal Guardian. This is an individual tournament. You may have up to 3 entrants in the same boat, but you may only weigh-in your fish. No non-entrants can be present in the boat during tournament hours. Membership Fee is \$60 per person.
3. **LIABILITY WAIVER:** Upon entering any CONROEBASS Tournament during 2024, contestants release CONROEBASS officials and sponsors from liability of accidents, losses or thefts. Contestants are responsible for knowing and understanding these rules and signing "2024 Membership Application -Tournament Waiver".
4. **REGISTRATION:** Registration will be on the day of the tournament beginning approximately 45 minutes before take-off. Contestants will receive boat I.D. numbers according to number drawn.
5. **ENTRY FEES:** Regular Entry fee is \$80 per person. Championship entry fees are \$160 per person.
6. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** During tournament hours, no alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs may be consumed while on the water, except prescription medications.
7. **FIREARMS:** Law Enforcement Officers and individuals with current Texas Concealed Handgun Permits are the only persons allowed to carry firearms in a boat or at weigh in.
8. **BOATS & MOTORS:** All boats must meet US Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the boat is on plane operation. Driver & passengers must be seated anytime the combustion engine is running and engaged in gear.
9. All boats must have an aerated live well. All fishing must be done from a previously inspected boat. Any boat that has NOT gone through inspection will not have their catch allowed for that day.
10. **SAFETY:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During tournament competition, a U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PDF) Type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened any time the engine is operating and in gear and the kill switch must be attached to the driver.
11. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Bed fish (sight fish) MUST BE HOOKED INSIDE THE MOUTH. No intentional snagging of fish. Trolling with the aid of combustion motor is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time.
12. All protests must be submitted in writing prior to the official closing of the scales. Actions of all teams (protested and protesters) will be examined and good sportsmanship should include an effort to resolve the situation (in situations that it can be) on the water. The decision of the tournament director will be final. **NO VERBAL PROTESTS will be allowed!**
13. **POLYGRAPH:** Entrants may be given a polygraph test. Failure to submit to a requested test will result in disqualification. Failure to pass such a test will result in disqualification. All contestants with past polygraph issues at bass fishing tournaments will have to be approved by the tournament director prior to entry of any CONROEBASS event.
14. **SCORING FISH:** Each individual may weigh-in one-1) fish per day, a minimum of 16 inches in length, measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. Any contestant(s) weighing-in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one-1) lb. penalty per short fish plus the loss of the short fish. You may check your fish on the tournament board prior to submitting for weight. Any contestant(s) bringing more than one-1) fish to the scales will be disqualified. There will be a ½ pound penalty for any dead fish. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Guadalupe, or Kentucky Bass will be scored. Tournament Directors measuring board will be the "official" board. Ties for cash prizes will be settled by combining two cash awards and splitting the total between tied contestants. Points will be awarded equally for tying contestants. Any contestant(s) weight will not be counted if not checked-in by the designated check-in time.

15. CULLING FISH: No more than a maximum of one (1) fish per entrant may be in a live well at any time. No culling of dead fish is allowed.
16. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS: No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of another tournament boat without mutual consent. Team tournament partners must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Hole sitting, or having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall not be tolerated. Contestants must be able to get the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat. Navigable waters are the only waters to be fished during the tournament. **AT NO TIME MAY A CONTESTANT LEAVE THE BOAT TO LAND A FISH, MAKE THE BOAT MORE ACCESSIBLE TO FISHING WATERS, OR LOCATE BASS (EXAMPLE - FISH ON BEDS).** Bank fishing is not permissible. Restricting natural movement of fish by any means such as but not limited to use of nets, tanks or dams will result in immediate disqualification. Restricting access to waters normally accessible to anglers by any means such as but not limited to felling of trees or placement of obstructions will result in disqualification. All Bass at weigh in become property of CONROEBASS to be released at host weigh in site.
17. INSURANCE: Liability insurance is required.
18. TOURNAMENT HOURS AND CHECKPOINTS: will be given at registration and are the responsibility of each entrant. Any boat ramp may be used; however, all boats will take off in a numbered order at tournament start time from host site. **Contestants must be checked in by the specified end of competition**, not in line.
19. BREAKDOWNS/EMERGENCIES: In an emergency or major equipment failure, you may hitch a tow from any boat on the water but may not bring yours or partners' fish in except in yours or another tournament contestants' boat.
20. PAYBACK: Payback will be one place per every 5 paid entries.
21. AWARDS: **Those who cannot attend will forfeit any claim to merchandise earned in competition.**
22. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION: TEAM TOURNAMENTS: Any individual who has paid membership fees and has fished at least ten tournaments of the regular season. The Championship will consist of the top 40 individuals for the season by pounds and will be a three fish tournament. Championship weight of BIGGEST FISH will count towards angler of the year. The Angler of the Year will be awarded free entries the following year for the same series.
23. ALTERNATES: In the event that someone cannot make the championship we will take the next qualifying entrant.
24. SPORTSMANSHIP: Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and bass conservation are required from every Participant. Participants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. This includes any and all social media content that may be shared now or in the future. Any Participant found compromising the integrity of the sport and/or the Event may be subject to disciplinary action and/or disqualification. The favorable public reputation of the Event, the sport of fishing, the Tournament Director, Staff, sponsors, partners and officials is of paramount importance. Accordingly, Participants shall refrain from making unreasonable attacks, accusations, and comments that disparage the integrity of any CONROEBASS tournament, the sport of fishing, the Tournament Director, Staff, sponsors, partners and officials. This includes but is not limited to the Participants social media accounts and digital sites. Participants shall act in a courteous manner at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non- participants who may be on Event waters. Any Participants attempting to manipulate the outcome of the event or defraud any CONROEBASS tournament will be disqualified.