

CONROEBASS 2026 NO FFS OPENS RULES (NO FORWARD-FACING SONAR)

*****NO FORM OF FORWARD-FACING SONAR MAY BE USED DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS.**

This includes, but is not limited to, Garmin LiveScope, Lowrance Active Target and Humminbird Mega Live.

(Humminbird 360 IS ALLOWED).***

1) RULES: These rules shall remain unchanged throughout 2026. 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, weight 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, local and water body authority laws and rules must be obeyed at all times.

2) PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Tournament eligibility and entry is open to all members in good standing. All Tournament participants must be at least 18 years old unless waiver/release signed for by a Parent or Legal Guardian.

3) LIABILITY WAIVER: Upon entering any CONROEBASS Tournament during 2026, contestants release CONROEBASS officials and sponsors from liability of accidents, losses or thefts. Contestants are responsible for knowing and understanding these rules and acknowledge so by signing "2026 No Forward Facing Sonar Open Application - Tournament Waiver & Entry Form".

4) REGISTRATION: Registration will be on the day of the tournament beginning approximately 1 hour prior to take-off and will end approximately 10 minutes prior take-off . Contestants will receive boat I.D. numbers according to number drawn.

5) ENTRY FEES: Team Entry fee is \$160 per team with optional \$40 Big Bass side pot.

6) Polygraph Exam: Each Team member, by submitting an entry form, agrees to submit to a polygraph exam and accept the result of said polygraph exam. Should a Team member fail to pass a polygraph exam, Team will forfeit all winnings and face possible disqualification. If alcohol or mind-altering drugs are consumed prior to a Team's polygraph exam, said Team will forfeit all winnings for the tournament. Team selected for polygraph must be available at the designated exam time. Failure to be available will result in possible surrender of daily stringer and/or disqualification. All contestants with past polygraph

issues at bass fishing tournaments must be approved by the Directors prior to entry of any CONROEBASS event.

7) **Alcoholic Beverages and Mind-altering Drugs:** No alcoholic beverages or mind-altering drugs are to be consumed by any team member during tournament hours or until team required to polygraph has been selected. Violation of any of the above will result in disqualification of said team.

8) **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 in 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 with a lanyard. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened) U.S. coast guard approved; personal flotation device anytime the boat motor is operating and in gear during competition.

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!

14) **SCORING FISH:** Each team may weigh-in five-5) fish, 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 all short fish. Any contestant(s) bringing more than five-5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. There is no penalty for one dead fish, but any additional dead fish will cost you 1 pound each. To qualify for the big bass prize, your big bass **MUST** be alive. 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 five (5) fish 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. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land or look for a fish. 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 safelight from host location. 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. For these No FFS Open events Prize payback will be 91% minus the additional cost of Polygraph (up to \$400) when applicable deducted before prize payouts. Optional Big Bass side pot will be paid back at 100% and will pay one place for every ten entries.

21) AWARDS: Those not in attendance at time of presentation may forfeit any prizes or awards.

22) THERE IS NOT A CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THESE OPEN STYLE TOURNAMENTS:

(If 2026 No FFS Opens are a high turn-out experience then ConroeBass will consider an additional formal

Full membership / championship series for 2027)

