

Panama City Bassmasters

Tournament Rules

January 2018

1. The interpretation of these rules and the settlement of disputes not covered by these rules, and the settlement of all protest shall be the responsibility of the tournament committee. The tournament committee will consist of the tournament director, the president and one at large member appointed by the president. The "at large" member shall serve for one year. In the event that there is a protest and members of the tournament committee are not present, the president or the tournament director shall recruit enough members to serve until there are three serving.
2. Participation in tournaments conducted by the Panama City Bassmasters is open only to members in good standing, prospective members, guest, and observers as stated in rule number 13 exception.
3. Any contestant found guilty of violating these rules, or deliberately hampering another contestant in any manner will be disqualified from competition in that tournament and his entry fee will be forfeited. Any action by a contestant that reflects dishonor or disgrace on the club will cause that contestant to be disqualified and his fee forfeited.
4. Courtesy, safety, and conservation as well as good sportsmanship in all aspects is expected from all contestants. All bass must be caught without leaving the contestant's boat. Trolling is prohibited.
5. Alcoholic beverages, drugs (other than prescription drugs), or other stimulants will not be permitted during any tournament.
6. Safe boating conduct must be practiced at all times. Each contestant must wear a coast guard approved life preserver at any time the combustion engine is operating. All boats must be equipped with an ignition kill switch that must be attached to the boat operator any time the combustion engine is in operation. Boats must also be equipped with any other coast guard required equipment. Boats must be equipped with an operating, aerated live well.
7. The boat owner shall allow his partner equal opportunity to fish in the manner of his choice for one half of the tournament hours. This time shall be at the discretion of the boat owner.
8. An angler concerned that an approaching angler is fishing to close should express their concern to the approaching angler or forever hold their peace. Courtesy and sportsmanship should always be used.
9. All contestants are bound by prevailing state and local laws. Only five (5) bass will be allowed in the possession of each contestant at any given time. Furthermore, each contestant shall never have in his possession bass that will not measure according to state or local limits in the state in which the tournament is held.
10. Each contestant shall be responsible for his own tackle. Only artificial lures may be used with the aid of casting, spin-casting, spinning or fly-casting rod and reels. Only one (1) rod and reel

may be used at any time. However, other rods and reels may be rigged, in the boat and ready to use. Strips of pork rind and other prepared bait may be used.

11. Club meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month, and the tournament will be held the following Saturday. The tournament director will determine the tournament hours. The site of each month's tournament will be selected by majority vote of those present and voting on the Monday night prior to the tournament from sites nominated from the floor. The site receiving the second most votes will be the tournaments backup site. The sites shall be selected before members commit to participate. After the tournament site is selected it may be altered only by the tournament committee. If a tournament cannot be held on the scheduled date, it will be rescheduled to another date within the same month. All contestants shall be responsible for knowing and adhering to starting and docking times. Exception: By two-thirds vote of those present and voting, any tournament location may be set a month (at one club meeting for the following month) in advance when it is necessary to secure lodging for away tournaments.
12. Pairing of contestants, except for those tournaments designated for membership drives, or buddy boat tournaments, and tournament takeoff positions shall be by the draw system. Member names fishing tournament and present at meeting will be drawn in a first-round drawing. Member names fishing tournament and not present at meeting will be drawn in a second-round drawing. Any changes or late pairings will be made by the tournament director.
13. No two members shall fish together more than once during a six-month period. Exceptions to this must be approved by the board of directors or their designate. A member rotation will be used for the pairing of non-boaters. All club members and potential members are encouraged to have access to a boat. Exception: When there is a medical necessity an observer or designated fisherman may attend. In this case, anyone who is an observer only and not fishing shall not pay tournament entry fee.
14. Entry fee for all tournaments will be \$25.00 per person which includes \$5.00 to big fish pot and \$2.00 applied to the club treasury.
15. All partners are expected to share expenses equally for vehicle and boat operation. All nonboaters shall pay \$50.00 to the boater towards expenses for the operation of the vehicle and boat and each partner shall pay their own entry fee.
16. The tournament director will weigh and record all contestants' catches and post the results in the record book. Weigh in time will be 15 minutes after tournament stop time or at tournament director's discretion. Only five (5) bass per contestant will be weighed. All bass must meet local laws for length as measured from closed mouth to tip of the closed tail on a standard "Golden Rule" measuring board. Club rules require a bass to be a minimum length of 12 inches. A short fish measured on the official measuring device at weigh-in will result in the fish not being weight and a 2 lb. penalty. A second short fish will result in angler being disqualified that tournament. A 4oz. penalty will be assessed for each dead fish presented at weigh-in. Striped bass or hybrids (sunshine fish) and white bass will not be scored.
17. Tournament payouts will be a 1 in 5 payout schedule. Tournament standings, awards and final winners shall be determined as specified in the by-laws.
18. Ties for any tournament standing or award, or yearly point champion shall be broken by the contestant's heaviest bass. If the heaviest bass are equal, the largest number of bass weighed in

will break the tie. If the numbers of fish are also equal, the winner will be determined by the flip of a coin.

- 19.** A late penalty of one (1) pound per minute will be deducted from a contestant's catch for any contestant who is late for weigh-in, beginning with his heaviest fish first, for a period up to fifteen (15) minutes. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified.
- 20.** A contestant that has broken down may bring his catch and his partner's catch to the weigh-in in another tournament boat. Each individual's catch is still subject to late penalties if the assisting boat is late to weigh-in.
- 21.** Any contestant that wishes to protest the tournament scoring, or unsportsmanlike conduct must do so to the tournament committee at the weigh-in, before the scales are declared closed.
- 22.** All contestants are encouraged to bring their trash back to the launching ramp for proper disposal.
- 23.** The tournament rules may be amended at any regular meeting by a two-thirds vote of the members present. All rules are subject to change except for rules that will affect or change the annual scoring results.