

# FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN BASS ANGLERS OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS FOR CLUB TOURNAMENTS

**Rule Changes:** The following rules of tournaments will remain unchanged during the tournament year. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. The decision of the tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

**Participants & Eligibility:** Participation in club tournaments is exclusively for Fellowship of Christian Bass Angler club members.

**Age Limit:** Minimum age requirement is sixteen (16) years of age. This age requirement can be waived on an individual basis based upon the skill-level of the participant in question.

**Attention:** *Under the 2009 "Team" format the age limit of the person is waived as long as the under aged person is fishing as a co-angler under the sole responsibility of the angler.*

**Safety:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament participants. Caution and safety on morning and evening take-off must be observed. Except at ramp and minor boat changes where boat speed does not exceed 10 mph, a life preserver shall be worn at all times when the boat's outboard motor is running. A kill switch shall be used if the boat is so equipped. Running lights are required to be used during all night tournaments while the outboard motor is running. **Boaters must operate their boat in accordance with all Coast Guard and Wildlife management regulations. All boats must have liability insurance.**

**Type of Tackle:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" is permitted; however, pork type strips, rinds, etc. may be used. Only casting, spinning, fly, or spin cast reels and rods may be used. Rugged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes, however, only two rigs are permitted in use and in the water at any one time. Electronic depth finders are permitted.

**Boat and Motor:** An electric motor may be used to maneuver the boat while fishing; however, trolling with gas engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Participants may use their own boat and motor or may rent either or both in the area. Fishing partners are expected to work out satisfactory arrangements between themselves as to the use of boat and motor, and the operational expense thereof.

**Scoring:** There is a five (5) fish limit per team. Only black, largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass will be weighed in. A "meanmouth" bass is considered a spotted bass for the purposes of weighing in. *Under the 2009 "Team" format, partners are fishing as a team and fish are not required to be separated.*

At weigh-in time, no team shall have more than their limit in live well in docking area. A bass will not be counted or weighed that is not at least twelve (12) inches in length. State laws at launch ramp will be observed on length on keepers should state law require a

length in excess of 12 inches. One (1) pound will be deducted for any short fish at weigh-in. Any fish that appears mangled, mashed, or mauled will be measured and credited only at the discretion of the tournament committee. All fish are to be measured by a flat measuring board such as a Golden Rule, ProRule, or Check-It Stick. Measuring boards are to be used and furnished by individual.

**Late Penalty:** Teams who are not within one hundred (100 yards) of docking area at tournament ending time shall be penalized one-half (1/2) pound per minute late - **no exceptions**. After five minutes any tardy team will be disqualified. Boat and motor trouble and other problems will not be an excuse for tardiness. Teams are allowed to bring in the fish of teams with boat trouble. Teams will be given ample time to proceed directly from the dock to the official weigh-in station. **No exceptions**.

**Locking Through:** Locking through is not allowed during club tournaments or dogfight tournaments. Any team found to have locked through will be subject to immediate disqualification.

**Hole Sitting:** Hole sitting is prohibited. Having a contestant or non-contestant sit on a hole will not be tolerated. All contestants involved in this tactic will be disqualified.

**Protest:** Any team wishing to protest the score of a fellow team must do so in writing, to the tournament committee, within thirty minutes after that day's weigh-in time.

**Ties:** In the case of a tie for first place in either division, a tie will be declared and the two teams declared co-winners. The winnings for the overall total weight and second place will be distributed evenly between the two teams.

**Distance between Boats:** A minimum of fifty (50) yards distance between each boat participating in the tournament must be honored at all times. This does not include your usual talking sessions. This simply means not to crowd a fellow team while they are fishing a particular "honey hole" or a point or bank that they got to first. No team boat shall approach within fifty (50) yards of another team boat that is anchored and has trolling motor out of the water unless permission is granted by the anchored boat. Good sportsmanship and conduct should be maintained at all times.

**Don't Kill Your Catch:** In preservation of bass fishing this year, a conscience effort to handle fish in a manner that will prevent injury shall be made, and after all fish have been weighed-in, we will be releasing the fish that are alive. The use of a live well additive is highly recommended such as "Rejuvenade" or "Please Release Me". **Exception:** Trophy fish that a member might want to get mounted.

**Trophies and other prizes:** A vote will be taken to vote on the price and place to purchase trophies, certificates or other prizes for that year. A trophy or certificate will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and big fish. The big fish trophy will be omitted unless the big fish weighs 5 pounds or more.

**Tournament Committee:** Tournament Committee is to proof read rules for the new year before passing them out to members.