

# Panhandle Bass Clubs Tournament of Champions

Revised: 2013

- 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 one member from each club, appointed by their club. If a member of the committee is involved in a protest, his or her club shall appoint a new member to take his or her place on the committee.

- 2) Participation in the tournament is limited to eight (8) members from each club, (clubs only) from the panhandle region including north Florida, south Georgia, and south Alabama.
- 3) Any contestant found guilty of violating any of these rules, deliberately hampering another contestant in any manner, or allowing another contestant to violate these rules without informing the tournament committee will be disqualified and their entry fee will be forfeited. Any action by a contestant that reflects dishonor or disgrace upon the tournament will also be disqualified.
- 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 his or her boat. Trolling is prohibited.
- 5) Alcoholic beverages, drugs, (other than prescription) or other stimulants or depressants will not be permitted during tournament hours or at the launch site. The tournament is not considered over until weight in, awards and photos have been completed. Violations will result in disqualification.
- 6) Safe boating must be practiced at all times. Each contestant must wear a coast guard approved life preserver any time the boat is on plane and an engine kill switch must be attached to the operator.
- 7) No contestant shall fish within fifty (50) yards of another competitors anchored boat. Anchored is defined as, trolling motor up in stowed position, anchor down and on tight line, power poles may substitute for anchor, or tied to limb, stump, or stickup, etc. Trolling motor MUST be stowed.

- 8) All contestants are bound by state and local laws. Only five (5) bass (largemouth, spotted, shoal, or Suwannee) will be allowed in the possession of any contestant at any given time. Extra fish brought into weight in will be cause for disqualification. Culling of dead fish is prohibited.
- 9) Only artificial lures may be used with the aid of a casting reel, spinning reel, spin casting reel, or fly rod and reel. Only one (1) rod and reel may be used at any one time. No contestant may ever have at any one time more than one (1) lure in the water. Strips of pork and other prepared bait may be used. Baiting holes or an area is prohibited.
- 10) The tournament shall be held on the last Saturday in October. The launch site is to be determined by the host club, except White City and it will be under the bridge in White City. The site will be designated at the pre tournament meeting for Talquin and Seminole. The rotation of sites will be, 2008- White City, 2009- Lake Talquin, 2010- Lake Seminole, then back to White City. This rotation is for now and all future tournaments. Changes to this rule will require a 75% or more vote at the pre tournament meeting by the clubs in attendance. Locking through will not be allowed.
- 11) Contestants may fish alone or pair up with their other club members. It is the clubs responsibility to pair their teams or fish alone.
- 12) The host club will weight and record the weight for each contestants catch and record them in the record books. Only five (5) bass per contestant will be weighted. (see rule # 8) All bass must be twelve (12) inches or more from closed mouth to tip of tail on a "golden rule" flat board. A short fish presented for weigh-in will be forfeited and a one (1) pound penalty will be assessed against that contestants total remaining catch for each short fish. Additionally, a quarter (.25) pound penalty will be assessed for each dead fish. The host club will be responsible for applying for FWC Waiver Permits at every site (if applicable).
- 13) Every effort is to be made to keep fish alive and in good condition by participating anglers. Once the fish have been turned over to the weight master, those fish become property of the TOC. All fish will be released immediately after weight-in at a site pre-determined by the host team.
- 14) A penalty of one (1) pound per minute will be deducted for contestants who are late to the weight-in. After fifteen (15) minutes the contestant is disqualified. A penalty assessed at this time will reduce the largest fish and its weight towards the lunker award as well as the overall weight.

- 15) The club who records the heaviest total poundage during the tournament will be named "Panhandle Bass Club of the year. The year and name of the winning club shall be added by the winning club to a plate and installed on the champions plaque. The plaque stays in their possession until the next tournament the next year. The winning club will also host the tournament for that year.
- 16) A contestant whose boat breaks down during the tournament may send his catch and his partners catch to the weight-in in another tournament boat. There will be no excuses for being late to the weight-in. Boats may not be trailered during the tournament.
- 17) Any contestant who wishes to protest another participant or the scoring must do so in writing to the tournament weight master at the weight-in and before the winners are determined. Once results are official, protest will not be allowed.
- 18) Participants are required to bring all their trash and litter back to the launch site for disposal. Violators will be disqualified.
- 19) The champions or "host team" will coordinate the pre-tournament meeting for the next year. This meeting is to be set on the last Thursday in August and will be held at the Apalachee restaurant in Bristol. The host club must make every effort to contact the last tournaments teams for attendance. The tournament folder will contain the contact numbers. Any rule changes will be voted on at this meeting.
- 20) The president of the host club will have the responsibility to move or postpone the tournament in an emergency situation, such as storms, high water, etc. Where personal injury or property may occur.
- 21) The entry fee for the tournament is \$400.00 per club (to be paid in cash)  
Pay back will be 100%.  
\$1400.00 will be guaranteed to be paid back to the winning club as long as four (4) or more clubs participate. 10% of the remaining proceeds will go to the lunker pot which is a 60% - 40% split. 90% of the remaining proceeds will be paid to the individual places to be paid out on a one - to - five ratio.
- 22) Should one or more clubs have less than eight (8) contestants (7 minimum), The other clubs will drop their lowest weight, so that the final club weight will reflect an equal number of contestants. Should a club be represented by less than seven (7) contestants, the other clubs shall not be required to drop additional weights and the short club must fish handicapped in relation to the rest of the teams.
- 23) The tournament shall be fished from safe daylight until 3:00 pm central time.  
The establishment of additional flights with staggered weight-in times will be the responsibility of the host club. All teams are responsible for knowing and adhering to starting and docking times.

- 24) Each team captain shall present his teams entry fee and printed roster of team members to the host club tournament director no later than 5:30 am, central time, on the morning of the tournament. late entry may result in that team being put in the last flight.
- 25) The tournament director of the host club has the responsibility to hand over the tournament of champions folder which will contain current rules, club names, contact numbers, weight-in examples, and pay-out example calculations. This folder is to be maintained by the winning club and shall be passed down after the official results on the day of the tournament.
- 26) Cell phone use is permitted in emergency situations only. It is not permitted to use to better your day on the water. The tournament director must also be notified of emergencies.