

CNY Bass Anglers Tournament Rules

Adopted July 2011

1. **RULE CHANGES:**

- a. The rules set forth herein are to apply to all club tournaments. The interpretation shall lie solely with the tournament director and a committee selected by the tournament director.
- b. Rule changes will be presented to the tournament director and voted on by the tournament committee. The tournament director will then present the rule changes to the membership.
- c. In the event of improper weather or other extenuating circumstances, tournament sites can be changed by a majority vote of tournament committee members that are present.
- d. In the event of rule changes, even if for only one particular tournament, it is the responsibility of the participant to ascertain and abide by such changes.
- e. Appeals may be made within thirty minutes of check-in time to the tournament director for consideration by himself and the tournament committee.

2. **PARTICIPATION:**

- a. Participation in club tournaments is limited to paid members of CNY Bass Anglers. Potential members, or guests, may request to participate in club tournaments through the tournament director or any club member. Potential members and guests must pay an entry fee and will compete for prize money only, their presence will be ignored in regard to Angler of the Year point standings and all other rewards.
- b. Guests may participate in up to two tournaments in a single season. If they decide to join as a paid member, all subsequent tournaments will accrue Angler of the Year points.
- c. A new member must have paid their dues and complete the membership application at least one week prior to a scheduled tournament, or they will be considered a guest.
- d. All participants must be 16 years of age or older.
- e. All Boaters must carry a Minimum of \$300,000 Liability Insurance. A copy of the Declaration Page of their Policy must be provided to the Tournament Director at or before the May Club meeting of each year.

3. **OFF LIMITS:**

- a. There will be NO "off limits" for any Club Tournaments unless directed as such by the Club Tournament Director. "Off limits" is the period of time that tournament waters are not to be entered by contestants.

4. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

- a. The tournament committee will survey the club membership at the beginning of the calendar year to select the tournament sites and schedule the tournament dates. The tournament committee shall schedule events where priority will be given to

the Club Trail first (1st); the New York State Bass Chapter Federation second (2nd); other trails as they may be deemed appropriate.

- b. Tournament boundaries will be established for all tournaments by the tournament director. Tournament sites, dates, and boundary information will be distributed to members by the tournament director at the morning safety briefing prior to the tournament start.
- c. No State or special tournament will be used as a club point tournament.

5. **FISHING RESTRICTIONS:**

- a. Participants may not fish within 50 yards of another boat that was first anchored. (anchored means - anchored with trolling motor removed from the water.)
- b. Participants may not fish within 50 yards of the weigh-in area, or as designated by the tournament director.
- c. Participants may not fish near a gas pump, over the objection of the marina owner, employee, or customer.
- d. Participants may not fish in a marina, over the objection of the marina owner, employee, or customer.
- e. ***PENALTY FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE (a - d) INFRACTIONS IS THREE (3) POUNDS.***
- f. All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not leave their boat to land fish. Boats must stay in the water during the tournament day. All contestants must leave the official dock by boat.
 - 1. (PENALTY - DISQUALIFICATION)
- g. Contestants may go ashore only by mutual consent, and must stay within sight of each other. The partner who does not give consent, must clearly state this to his partner before he goes ashore.
 - 1. (PENALTY FOR GOING ASHORE WITHOUT CONSENT IS TWO (2) POUNDS.)

6. **SCORING:**

- a. Tournament standings will be determined by the pound weight of each competitor's catch, measured to one hundredth of a pound by digital scales. Only Largemouth and/or Smallmouth Bass at least 12" in length will count.
- b. The competitor with the heaviest catch will be awarded 250 points. The next heaviest catch will receive five points less. This point reduction will continue until the last man with the lightest weight. All other competitors who have not caught fish will be given 100 points given for tournament participation.
- c. A four (4) ounce (0.50 pound) reduction of weight will be taken from the total weight for each dead fish. A fish is considered alive if it displays any movement of any kind on its own during inspection at weigh-in.
- d. All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations as they pertain to fishing in the State of New York.
- e. At no time shall competitor have reduced to possession more than five (5) bass. If a sixth bass is caught, one bass must be released (culled) before fishing is

resumed by that competitor. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision. In the event a competitor has not reduced to possession of five (5) bass, the largest bass shall be culled first until the five smallest bass are left. Competitors shall not cull dead fish.

- f. Only bass which measure equal to or greater than the legal minimum length for a waterway will be counted for weight. Measuring shall be done with the mouth closed and the tail squeezed or rotated (revolved). Measurement is to the farthest protrusion of the tail.
- g. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure equal to or greater than the legal minimum length for a waterway shall accrue penalties at the rate of one (1) pound in addition to the loss of the short fish.
- h. Any bass that appears to be mangled, mashed or otherwise mutilated will be weighed at the discretion of the tournament director.
- i. An official 12 inch measuring device will be used at the weigh-in. It is the responsibility of each contestant to check his own measuring device against the official one to be sure his will be accurate to it.
- j. Only your highest 5 points tournaments will count towards angler-of-the-year and the 6-person team.

7. **TOURNAMENT TIES:**

- a. In the event of ties during a tournament, the higher position will go to the angler with the most fish. If a tie still exists, it will be recorded as such.
- b. The ties will be given all places from the tied position down until a place is taken up for each person included in the tie. The total points for each place taken by the ties will be added up and divided by the number of positions. This will become their point total for the tournament.
- c. The next position points will be the next position lower than used by the ties.
- d. Any prize money will be divided in the same manner.

8. **END-OF-YEAR TIES:**

- a. In the event of ties at the end of the year, the higher position, based on BEST 5 Points Tournaments, will go to the angler with the most fish for the year. If a tie still exists, the total weight from BEST 5 Points Tournaments will be used. If a tie still exists, the Angler with the most points from ALL 7 Points Tournaments will be given the higher position.

9. **PENALTIES:**

- a. The meaning of the phrase “in the check point area” will be defined by the tournament director for each tournament.
- b. There shall be only one official check point, and all contestants must end the tournament day at this point by boat, by water.
- c. Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late. This will be deducted from his total weight for that day.
- d. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose all credit for that day.
- e. Official time is kept by the tournament director or his designee. It is the responsibility of each contestant to obtain this time from him.

- f. Late arrival due to unexpected mechanical failure may be considered by the tournament committee, if witnessed by others or if proof is presented. Those assisting in the return of a disabled boat will not be penalized.

10. **PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:**

- a. Boater/Rider pairings are made casually by the boater, however it is recommended that rider should not pair up with the same boater more than twice in a single points season.
- b. No BOATER will be asked to give up the use of their boat at a tournament, they may compete as a single.
- c. If there is a shortage of boats, the contestants will fish from the same boat (triple-up). The non-boater's names left over after all boats are filled will be placed in the #1 boat on down the line until all non-boaters are assigned to a boat. Exception #1 to this rule will be if the #1 boat owner has previously had a Triple-Up in that season. Exception #2 to this rule will be if a boat is too small or so designed to create a safety hazard as deemed by the tournament director. The decision of the tournament director in either of the above exceptions is final.

11. **TRIPLE-UPS:**

- a. If there is a shortage of boats and a Triple-Up of contestants is necessary, the pairing of those contestants will be done with the following guidelines:
- b. The first non-boater to be Tripled-Up will be placed with the #1 boat providing that the #1 boat owner has not had a Triple-Up previously during the current tournament season. If the boat owner has previously had a Triple-Up, the non-boater will be placed with the next boat owner who has not had a Triple-Up during the current tournament season. This placement of non-boaters will continue until all contestants have been assigned a boat.
- c. No boat owner will be required to have more than one Triple-Up during a tournament season until all boat owners have had a Triple-Up.
- d. Non-boat owners that are required to Triple-Up by draw, will be assigned to a boat after consideration of the "boat owners' Triple-Ups", in such a manner as to minimize the number of each non-boaters' Triple-Ups during the tournament.
- e. The tournament director will insure the placement of Triple-Ups for non-boaters will be done in a fair and equitable manner.
- f. The exception to the regular pairing of contestants will be if a boat owner does not show up for a tournament and has not given notice. The non-boat owner will be assigned to a boat at the launch site in such a manner as to minimize delay and confusion. The above guidelines will be used if possible.

12. **BOAT OWNERS' FEE:**

- a. A *maximum* \$30.00 boat fee will be paid directly to the boat owner by the non-boater. Refusal to pay the boat owner after the tournament has ended will result in that person not being allowed to fish another tournament until it is paid.

13. **BOAT OPERATION:**

- a. Boats will start in the order names were drawn at time of registration. Boats will normally be permitted to leave at 15 second intervals or at intervals specified by the tournament director or his designee.

14. **SPORTSMANSHIP AND SAFETY:**

- a. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation is expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- b. All boats must contain safety equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard (PENALTY -DISQUALIFICATION).
- c. All boats must be equipped with a kill switch (PENALTY - DISQUALIFICATION).
- d. Contestants must wear a life preserver securely fastened at all times while the combustion engine is in gear and the boat is on motion. The driver must have the kill switch attached to his person. (PENALTY - FOUR (4) OUNCES FOR EACH INFRACTION).
- e. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed during tournament fishing hours. No alcoholic beverages may be on board a tournament boat during the tournament (This provision also includes any mind altering substances commonly referred to as "drugs"). (PENALTY - PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION).
- f. Each Angler is responsible for his or hers dead fish, not to be left at weigh-in site.

15. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

- a. Only artificial lures may be used. "No live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds.
- b. Only casting, spinning, or spin cast rods & reels may be used.
- c. Rods may be no more than eight feet in length, including butt section. Only one rod may be used at any time. Other rigged rods may be in the boat for substitution purposes, however, only one rig is permitted in use or in the water at any time.
- d. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. (PENALTY - DISQUALIFICATION).

16. **BOATS AND MOTOR:**

- a. Boats may be used that are 16 feet or longer in length. Any motor that does not exceed the maximum horsepower shown on the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate, which must be affixed to each boat, can be used. The plate must be the original, installed at the factory.(PENALTY - DISQUALIFICATION OF THE BOAT)
- b. Boats equipped with 50 hp or less outboard motors are given a twenty minute head start at the beginning of the tournament. This will be based on posted start time or safe light, as determined by the tournament director.
- c. Large or cumbersome boats, such as pontoon boats, houseboats or barges, will not be permitted.
- d. Boats must be equipped with an aerated live-well system of sufficient size to keep both contestants catches alive for the duration of the tournament.
- e. Boats must be equipped with an electric trolling motor (foot or hand controlled).

- f. Tournament ready boat means – Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment on board; it must also have working lights, functional bilge pumps, properly aerated live wells and space to maintain a limit of TEN bass. Boat must have working trolling motor. The tournament director will disqualify a boat with any inadequate issues with the items in this sub section.
- g. In the event a boat has repeated problems the “penalty” will be “disqualification” until said boat is shown to the Tournament Director to be fixed properly.

17. **LATE ARRIVALS:**

- a. If partners show up together late, they incur the loss of tournament time, but are allowed to fish. Before fishing, their boat must be inspected by any tournament contestant for the required safety equipment, and working (empty) livewell(s).
- b. If a boat owner shows up late alone and the tournament has already started, he can still qualify for the tournament if:
 - i. He contacts the tournament director via cell phone,
 - ii. He is willing to find his partner before he starts fishing.
 - iii. He does not fish until he finds his partner.
 - iv. He has his boat inspected by another contestant for the required safety equipment and working, empty livewell(s).
 - v. If he finds his partner and his partner does not choose to fish with him, he can still fish and fish alone if he shows another contestant that he has no fish in his live-wells and he has his boat inspected for the required safety equipment.
- c. If a non-boat owner shows up late and the tournament has already started, he is subject to disqualification and the boat owner may fish alone, providing no other boats have had to Triple-Up. In this case, the first Triple-up would be assigned to this boat, if possible.

18. **MISCELLANEOUS:**

- a. The tournament director and/or committee reserve the right to make decisions regarding special requests or circumstances regarding any tournament rule or contestant pairing. The tournament director will notify the members of any such decision as it affects any tournament prior to that tournament.
- b. Where these rules differ from previously set forth rules, these rules herein shall be the rules in effect.