

CNY BASS ANGLERS

TOURNAMENT RULES

(revised 2/18/19)

- **RULE CHANGES:**

- *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.*
- *Rule changes will be presented to the tournament director and voted on by the tournament committee. The tournament director will then present the rule change to the general membership.*
- In the event of improper weather or other extenuating circumstances, tournament sites can be changed by a majority vote
- In the event of rule changes, even if for only one particular tournament, it is the responsibility of the participants to ascertain and abide by such changes.
- Appeals may be made within thirty minutes of check-in time to the tournament director before start of tournament.

- **PARTICIPATION:**

- Participation in club tournaments is limited to paid members of CNY BASS ANGLERS. Members can invite, if their respective team member is unable to fish, a guest for (1) regular season points tournament. Guest angler is not allowed to fish the end of the year classic
- A new member must have paid their dues and complete the membership application.
- All participants must be 16 years of age or older.
- ***All boat owners must carry a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance. A copy of the declaration page of their policy must be provided to the Secretary before competing in any tournament.***

- **OFF LIMITS:**

- There will be NO “OFF LIMITS” for any club tournaments unless directed as such by the club tournament director. The tournament director before every tournament will hold a small briefing which may include “Off Limit” waters. Participants will not be allowed to fish these waters.

- **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

- The tournament committee will survey the club membership at the beginning of the calendar year to select the tournament sites and schedule tournament dates.
- 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.
- No state or special tournament will be used as a club points tournament.

- **FISHING RESTRICTIONS:**

- Participants may not fish within 50 yards of another boat that was first anchored unless given permission.

- Participants may not fish within 50 yards of weigh-in area, or as designated by the tournament director.
- Participants may not fish near a gas pump, over the objection of the marina owner, employee or customer.
- Participants may not fish in a marina, over the objection of the marina owner, employee or customer.
- Participants may not fish in a designated off limits area when they possess personal relations with owner and granted permission by said owner. If an area is said to be off limits, it is off limits for all participants of the tournament for that day.
- All fishing must be done within the boat. Contestants must not leave boat to land fish. Boats must stay in the water during tournament day. Participants that experience boat failure and wish to leave early must alert tournament director.
- Contestants may go ashore besides aforementioned, but other member must stay with boat and is not permitted to fish while other member is ashore.

(PENALTY FOR ANY ITEM A-G DISQUALIFICATION)

- **SCORING:**
- Tournament standings will be determined by the pound weight of each Team's catch, measured to the one hundredth of a pound by digital scale. Only Largemouth and smallmouth Bass at least 12" in length will count. (Min size may vary per tournament water)
- The Team 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 Team with the lightest weight. All other Teams who have not caught fish will be given 100 points for participation.
- An 8 oz. (.50 pound) reduction of weight will be taken from the total weight for each dead fish. Dead fish can be weighed towards lunker after penalty.
- All competitors are bound by the statues and regulations as they pertain to fishing in the State of New York.
- At no time shall competitors have reduced to possession more than five bass. If a sixth bass is caught, one bass must be released (culled) before fishing resumes by team. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision. In the event a Team has not reduced to possession of five bass, the largest bass will be culled first until five bass remain. No culling of dead fish. Teams found in violation will also receive a 2 pound penalty.
- Measuring of bass shall be done with the mouth closed and the tail squeezed or rotated (revolved). Measurement is to the farthest protrusion of the tail.
- Any bass that appears to be mangled, mashed or otherwise mutilated will be weighed at the discretion of the tournament director.
- An official 12 inch measuring device will be used at weigh-in. It is the responsibility of each Team to check their measuring device to the official device for accuracy.
- *Only a Team's highest four (5) points tournaments will count toward Team of the Year.*
- *Teams will be assigned a BOAT NUMBER. This boat number will be how points are tallied and scored against other Teams. Teams will receive their respective Team number*

when they sign application and pay membership fee.

- **TOURNAMENT TIES:**

- In the event of ties during a tournament, the higher position will go to the team with the most fish. If a tie still exists, it will be recorded as such.
- The ties will be given all places from the tied position down until a place is taken up for each team 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.
- The next position points will be the next position lower than used by the ties.
- Any prize money will be divided in the same manner.

- **END OF THE YEAR TIES:**

- In the event of ties at the end of the year, the higher position, based on 5 best points tournaments, will go to the Team with the most fish for the year. If a tie still exists, the total weight from best 5 tournaments will be used. If a tie still exists, the team with the most points from all 7 tournaments will be given the higher position.

- **PENALTIES:**

- The meaning of the phrase, “in the check point area”, will be defined by the tournament director before each tournament.
- There shall be only one official check in point, and all teams must end the tournament day at this point by boat, by water unless team made concessions earlier in the day to tournament director.
- Teams who are not in the official checkpoint area at the pinpointed time will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute up to 15 min or 15 pounds. At this point Team is disqualified but will receive participation points.
- Official time is kept by the tournament director or their designee. It is the responsibility of each Team/competitor to obtain this time from the tournament director.
- Late arrival due to unexpected mechanical failure or extreme weather 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. One 30 minute grace period will be given to those boaters assisting a fellow member with mechanical failure. After 30 minutes, said boaters will be penalized loss of catch and only given participation points.

- **PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:**

- Paid members can fish with any paid member. Once a pairing is made it is in the best interest of both members to remain a team. Members are only allowed to fish with 2 different people throughout the year (PARTNER AND ONE ALTERNATE). This limitation is in place to safeguard against a possible “ringer” for each tournament venue.
- There will be no triple ups.
- Members can elect to fish as solo Teams. In the event this happens this angler will have the choice of paying full team entry or half team entry. Their choice, dictates how much tournament winnings their eligible for. In the event, the angler pays half and wins, the remaining tournament monies will be respectively calculated and given to 2nd and 3rd

place finishing teams.

- **BOAT OWNERS FEE:**
- Years past when the club was individual it was a nice gesture for non-boaters to give some money to offset boater's fees for the day. The club is now a Team format it still is encouraged for members to help out their respective boaters with fees.
- **BOAT OPERATION:**
- Boats will start in random draw format once registered for tournament. Numbered chips will be drawn as registration is completed. Boats will normally be permitted to leave at 15 second intervals or at intervals specified by the tournament director or their designee.
- **SPORTSMANSHIP AND SAFETY:**
- Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation is expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- All boats must contain safety equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard.
(PENALTY DISQUALIFICATION)
- All boats must be equipped with a fully functional kill switch. (PENALTY DISQUALIFICATION)
- Contestants must wear a life preserver securely fastened at all times while the combustion engine is in gear and the boat is in motion. The driver must have the kill switch attached to his person. (PENALTY – FOUR (4) OUNCES FOR EACH INFRACTION)
- No ALCOHOLIC beverages may be consumed during tournament fishing hours. No alcoholic beverages may be on board a tournament boat during a tournament. (This provision also includes any mind altering substances commonly referred to as “drugs.”)
(PENALTY – PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION)
- Each angler/team is responsible for their dead fish; which is not to be left at tournament site.
- **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**
- Only artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” or “prepared” bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds.
- Only casting, spinning or spin cast rods and reels may be used.
- 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.
- All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
(PENALTY – DISQUALIFICATION)
- **BOATS AND MOTOR:**
- 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)
- Large or cumbersome boats, such as pontoon boats, houseboats or barges, will not be permitted.

- Boats must be equipped with an aerated livewell system of sufficient size to keep catches alive for the duration of the tournament.
- Boats must be equipped with an electric trolling motor
- 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 livewells and space to maintain a limit of 5 bass. Boats must have a working trolling motor. The Tournament director will disqualify a boat with any inadequate issues with the items in this subsection.
- 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.
- **LATE ARRIVALS**
- If a team arrives late, they incur the loss of the tournament time, but are allowed to fish. Before fishing, their boat must be inspected by any tournament contestant (team) for the required safety equipment, and working (empty) livewells. Late Teams also need to check in via phone to the tournament director.
- **MISCELLANEOUS**
- The tournament director and /or the tournament committee reserve the right to make decisions regarding special requests or circumstances regarding any tournament rule or team. The tournament director will notify the members of any such decision as it affects any tournament prior to that tournament.
- Where the rules differ from previously set forth rules, these rules herein shall be the rules in effect.