

COCOA BASSMASTERS OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
2020
TOURNAMENT RULES

The following are the rules of the Cocoa Bassmaster's. The interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee, except for protest of said ruling. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 mins of closing of the scales after that day's tournament.

PARTICIPATION AND ELEGIBILITY:

Only teams in good standing will be eligible to participate for prize money or points in regular club tournaments. For a team to remain in good standing, the team must have all Annual dues and Tournament fees must paid up to date as per By Laws.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

No off-limits will be enforced for any regular club tournament. The Classic shall be off limits from the time the location is determined until the start of the tournament.

REGISTRATION:

Individual tournament fees are \$50.00 per "boat". The cut-off for entries will be at the ramp prior to the start of the tournament. All annual dues and tournament fees must be paid, or arrangements made with the Secretary/Treasurer prior to the start of the tournament however all outstanding monies owed must be paid prior to or at the following monthly meeting or you will automatically be disqualified from previous tournament.

TOURNAMENT PAYOUT SCHEDULE & BREAKDOWN:

Tournament winnings will be paid at the following monthly meeting in form of Cash. Of the \$60.00 per boat entry fee collected, each regular club tournament Thirty (30%) percent of the entry fee money will go to the Club Fund. Of the remaining entry fee money will be paid out as follows:

1st Place 30% 2nd Place 20% 3rd Place 10% Big Bass 10%

SAFETY:

Personal Floatation Devices (PFDs) must be worn any time the boat is being operated on a plane. Anyone observed not wearing a PFD, when required, will be disqualified. Any competitor observed operating their boat without legal lights as required by law will be disqualified. U.S. Coast Guard Maximum Capacity listings will not be violated. It is the Boat owner's responsibility to identify their boat's capacity and to inform the Tournament Director of any pairing that causes these capacities to be exceeded. Non-boaters will ride only in designated seats designed and approved for carrying passengers.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors are expected to follow the highest standards of safety, courtesy, honesty and sportsmanship. Litter is unsightly and very damaging to our fishery. Please make every effort to contain your litter and dispose of it properly. Anyone observed willfully littering, i.e. throwing trash, etc. into waterways, will be disqualified. All club members are expected to conform to state and local laws and regulations. The use of cellular phones, radios, and other communication devices for locating fish or other competitors is prohibited. The use of such devices is permitted only for non-tournament family, work, or emergency communications. Fishing in the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 50 yards (150 feet) of another competitors anchored boat, provided that the trolling motor is out of the water and the boat was anchored prior to the arrival of the said boat. Use of a POWER POLE is to be considered as the boat is at anchor. A boat is considered anchored when the anchor rope is visible over the side (or Power Poles are deployed) and the trolling motor is in the "Up/Stowed" position. Contestants are permitted to leave the boat to utilize restroom, refuel, and eat etc., but no fishing is permitted while outside the boat. Contestants are not allowed to exit their boat to better their position. If you must exit the boat to get a boat off a sand bar you are required to return to the direction you came from. Proceeding in the same direction would be considered bettering your position therefore you will be disqualified. (Exception low water conditions that are unforeseen and all contestants would consider acceptable for normal navigation necessity for all anglers) i.e. angler was unaware of sand bar and there are navigable waters near.

DEAD FISH & PENALTY:

Dead fish may not be culled during a tournament.

Tournament fishermen weighing in a dead fish will be penalized three-tenths (.30) of one pound for each dead fish weighed in.

Dead fish penalty will "only be assessed against total weight", not against a specific fish, i.e. (big bass).

TACKLE;

A contestant can have only one line at a time in the water. All fish must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait!

Fly rods or other equipment not considered casting, spinning or spin casting are not permitted.

NUMBER AND SIZE OF FISH:

Per Florida State Law as of OCT 2017, there is no minimum for Large Mouth Bass and only one over 16" is allowed per angler. Cocoa Bassmaster's imposes a 12" minimum (closed mouth measured on a Golden Rule) and will adhere to the State law for 16" with the exception of permits for fish over 16"

Maximum (5) fish limit per boat.

BOAT AND MOTOR:

REQUIREMENTS:

Insurance is required for every boat minimum: \$300,000.00 liability. A certificate/proof of insurance must be presented to club secretary prior to competing in Cocoa Bassmaster tournaments. Any tournament boat must be minimum 14 feet in length, with minimum 25 h/p. Running lights must be operational at launch or boat will remain at launch site until 10 mins after last boat is released. Kill switch must be attached to driver when on plane. Live wells must be operational and will be checked by an officer of the club prior to start of tournament.

PENALTIES:

Any infraction of the rules brought to the Tournament Committee's attention at the weigh-in shall freeze all awards and payments until a resolution is determined by the Tournament Committee.

Any team who presents an undersized fish to the scale for weigh-in will lose that fish and their big fish for that day. Teams may request a courtesy measurement to confirm legal fish length without a penalty, however once turned over as a weighable fish it is deemed property of the club and penalties will be assessed.

Late return for any reason shall result in disqualification.

Requests for disqualification of any tournament angler by another tournament angler due to a violation of the Club's written rules must be reported in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes after the end of the tournament..

Failure to adhere to the rules of sportsmanship or Safety, as outlined in Rules 6 & 7 will result in disqualification.

TAKE OFF AND CHECK IN:

The tournament Director or his designee will establish an official take-off location for each tournament. Take-off shall occur no earlier than safe light and contestants shall proceed into the tournament waters in order of boat draw. The last boat drawn will call boat numbers for take-off, allowing safe distance between boats. The tournament director or his designee will establish an official check-in location for each tournament and ensure that all the participants are aware of the location. He shall be positioned at the official check-in location any time prior to the official check-in time and will remain on station until all boats have checked in and or are accounted for or for at least five minutes. All tournament boats must check-in at the official check-in location at official time or that boat is disqualified.

If a team's boat breaks down during tournament hours, they are responsible for getting their fish back to check in on time. All fish must return in live wells and only in participating tournament boats, and a member of the disabled boat must stay with the fish being weighed.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Fishing is permitted in all legal fishing areas

CONDUCTING THE WEIGH-IN:

The tournament committee shall conduct all weigh-ins. In the absence of all Tournament Committee members, an Executive Committee Officer will assume all weigh-in duties and appoint temporary weigh-in “Officers” if necessary. A Tournament Committee member will make any decisions or problem resolutions final. Only Tournament Committee members or those temporarily appointed will have the authority to carry out weigh-in procedures and make weigh-in decisions. Once fish are given to the weigh-in official, they become the property of the tournament Committee. All live fish will be immediately released. Any fish deemed “trophy Size” by the Tournament Committee might be kept upon request.

RESCHEDULING A TOURNAMENT:

In the event that the tournament committee cancels the tournament, the Following guidelines shall be followed to reschedule the tournament. The tournament shall be rescheduled at the next regular club meeting. The tournament committee shall select the new date for the tournament. The tournament shall be held at the same location as originally scheduled. Tournament fees shall be rolled over to the next regular club tournament or shall be refunded.

POINTS DISTRIBUTION AND PAYOUTS:

Points will be awarded as follows:

- 1st ... 30 points
- 2nd ... 24 points
- 3rd ... 20 points
- 4th ... 18 points
- 5th ... 17 points
- 6th ... 16 points
- 7th ... 15 points
- 8th ... 14 points
- 9th ... 13 points
- 10th ... 12 points

this continues to flow for all teams weighing fish down to 3 points. Any angler weighing in a bass will receive a minimum of 3 points. All teams who participate and do not weigh in a fish will receive 2 points. Big bass gets 1 bonus point added to his/her cumulative tournament points.

CLASSIC QUALIFICATIONS AND PAYOUT:

Qualifier teams for the end of the year Classic must:

- * At minimum one of the team members participate in every tournament through the year. (at least one or the other must be present)
- * Be in top ten end of year standings

Payout for the classic is as follows:

No entry fee for classic!

30% of clubs end of the year finance balance will be allocated for the classic. The payout will be divided by the total weight caught in a dollar figure per pound of fish caught. This dollar figure is then multiplied by the individual weight of each classic contestant weighing in a fish. (for example)... if the total classic pot was \$250.00, and the total weight caught was 25.75 pounds; the payout amount would be \$9.71 per pound of fish each team weighs in So if you weighed in 6.54 pounds, your payout would be \$63.49)

END OF THE YEAR PAYOUTS:

The balance of the money in the treasury at the end of the year will be paid out as follows:

The optional big bass pot amount will be removed first. (Paid out as optional award)

The remaining money will be split as follows:

\$25.00 removed to keep the account active (\$25.00 minimum fee)

30% removed used for the classic payout

70% remaining is used for Angler of the year payout as follows:

Top team of the year 40%

2nd place 30%

3rd place 20%

Big bass of the year 10%