

# IEBC TOURNAMENT RULES

## Section 1. Who may participate?

1. All participants must have paid their Inland Empire Bass Club membership and boaters their TBF membership by the preceding regularly scheduled general club meeting (unless special arrangements have been made) and be in good standing.

## Section 2. Safety requirements

1. Participants will operate their boats and in accordance with state and local marine law and must display a tournament banner.
2. Outboard engine horsepower will be at or below B.I.A. rating of the boat
3. Alcoholic beverages and non-prescription drugs are not allowed in boats during tournament hours. Tournament Director has the right to turn away any individual suspected of being under the influence of substances that might impair their ability to be safe on the water.
4. U.S.C.G Floatation devices must be worn by participants at any time the outboard motor is operating , and a working “kill switch” must be attached to the boat operator when the boat is underway.
5. Spot checks of U.S.C.G. required safety equipment may be made. Equipment to include :
  - a. U.S.C.G approved life jackets
  - b. Type IV floatation device
  - c. Fire Extinguisher
  - d. Whistle or horn.
  - e. Marine Flares with current expiration date.
6. Tournament Director has final authority to decide if the tournament will proceed or be canceled if there are reasons such as high winds that cause a safety concern. Typically, winds expected in

excess of 30mph by NOAA will result in adjusted hours or cancelation of the individual tournament day.

### **Section 3. Contest Hours**

Tournament hours will be listed on the club website, but may be changed by the tournament director to conform to alternate time zones and inclement weather. In any case, changes in hours shall be announced as early as is practical.

### **Section 4. Contest Days**

1. Fishing is not allowed on tournament dates except during contest hours for any kind of fish unless you are a youth member or non-tournament angler
2. All club sponsored tournaments have an off-limits for the preceding 5 days of a tournament except when the tournament follows a Monday Federal Holiday where only the preceding 4 days will be off limits or when a special provision is made and published on the club website at least 2 weeks prior to the tournament.
3. The Tournament Director will determine contest headquarters.
4. State fishing regulations will govern except:
  - a) Live or processed bait is prohibited, however pork rind and scent attractants and/or masks may be used
  - b) Each contestant will not exceed a five bass possession or a state possession limit whichever is less.
  - c) All non-targeted species shall be immediately released.
  - d) All bass must be caught in a conventional manner from within the boat.  
Contestants may not
    - i. fish from a dock or the shore, and may not leave the boat to land a fish. Competitors may
    - ii. obtain fuel, repairs or use the restroom facilities at any time during the tournament, No “jerry” cans are allowed in boat.
  - e) Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
  - f) Working live wells must be used during tournaments to house bass. Live wells may be:
    - i. Permanently installed , or be ice chests or similar devices. All devices must be aerated or recirculating and fully operational. The tournament director may inspect live wells at any time. Every effort shall be made to keep fish alive while in a contestants’ possession.
  - g) Fishing is permitted throughout the designated tournament lake, river, or impoundment.
    - i. The director shall notify contestants prior to “blast-off” of any off-limit areas or special restrictions such as “off plane” zones.

- ii. Contestants may not fish within one hundred (100) feet of another contestant's boat which is anchored in position or whose trolling motor is in the water, unless invited by the contestant having dominant position.
- iii. Once
- iv. permission is given to one contestant all contestants must be allowed the same access.
- v. An angler may not prevent another angler from entering a slough or backwater area with only one entrance even when this is closer than 100 feet.
- vi. Anglers passing other anglers to gain access to a slough or backwater must display reasonable respect for the area the positioned angler is sitting (for example: Don't wake the positioned boat). Complaints will be decided at the sole discretion of the tournament director after consultation with witnesses.

## **Section 5.**

1. All contestants shall register at the tournament headquarters no later than one-half hour prior to start time.
2. Contestants arriving after the official start time must check in with any participating club member **PRIOR** to fishing.
3. Entry fee is \$40.00 per boat (Kids under 18 are free, but not eligible for option pots).
4. Option pots may be run by a club member or the tournament director..

## **Section 6. Draw Starts**

1. Boat positions shall be drawn as soon as possible after the last angler registers and prior to the start of the contest.
2. Only registered contestants may be drawn.
3. The contestant drawing the last boat position shall start the boats the first day, in numerical order from a convenient location as determined by the tournament director. The contestant drawing the starting number for the first day will launch the boats in reverse numerical order on day two.
4. Contestants not registered at least 30 minutes prior to official start time of the first day shall not receive a boat position number, and will start last both days.
5. Contestants may not begin fishing until their boat number has been called.

## **Section 7. Weigh In**

1. All contestants must return to contest headquarters by boat for weigh in on or before scheduled stop time. The official shall keep the only official time. For borderline arrivals, “returned” is defined as “within 100 yards of the launch site with the boat off plane”. The decision of the tournament director regarding late arrivals is final.
2. If a boat becomes disabled, the affected contestant(s) catch may be transported to weigh in by another contestant, with or without the affected contestant. In addition, any contestant who must retire early from contest may leave his or her catch with another contestant: however state possession limits per contestant still apply.
3. One (1) pound penalty will be applied per minute that contestant(s) are late for arrival to weigh in.
4. Only the official weigh in bags, (marked with I.E.B.C) will be allowed to be used to weigh in fish. There will be six (6) to ten (10) bags available, decided by the Tournament Official.

## **Section 8. Weight and Measures**

1. All fish shall be weighed on official club scales, or as designated by the tournament director.
2. A penalty of one-half pound (50/100, 0.5) shall be deducted from any contestant’s total for each fish that is judged to be dead by the tournament director.
3. Total weight and Big Fish shall be officially scored in hundredths of a pound.
4. Awards shall be determined by total weights of legal fish, minus any penalties. If for any reason a fish must be weighed in pounds and ounces, all total weights and Big Fish shall be scored to the lower ounce, then transposed to the lesser hundredths for official scoring. (Example: 7lbs3  $\frac{3}{4}$  oz+=7lbs 3 oz =7.18lbs)
5. Weighing the contestants’ declared Big Fish would break ties.

## **Section 9. Disqualifications**

1. The tournament director shall enforce Inland Empire Bass Club tournament rules, and require all participants to obey jurisdictional fishing regulations.
2. Contestants who receive a citation or an infraction for violations of law shall be disqualified for that day only.
3. Any contest rule broken may mean disqualification for one or both days of a club tournament.

4. The tournament director may disqualify any contestant for violation of Inland Empire Bass Club rules, however the disqualification may be appealed, so the disqualified contestant shall still weigh his/her fish.
5. Protest by contestants shall be made in writing to the tournament director within one hour (60 minutes) of tournament weigh in.
6. No use of cell phones or communications devices are allowed to aid in catching and locating fish during tournaments. They may be used for contacting families or aid needed during an emergency.

### **OPTION POTS FOR CLUB TOURNAMENTS**

1. Typical Option pots are \$20/day/individual. Winners are paid for each day. \$5 of each option pot goes to big fish. The remaining \$15 of each pot is divided among the top daily placing anglers.
  - a. Option pot money is paid out at the end of each day of the tournament.
  - b. For 6 anglers or less 1<sup>st</sup> place receives all the money.
  - c. For 7-12 anglers 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> split the pot (0.65, 0.35)
  - d. For 13 or more anglers 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> split the pot (0.5,0.3,0.2)
2. A mystery weight of \$5/non youth angler is paid out to one winner for the weekend from the club tournament entry fee money. Winners are randomly drawn based on their registration number.
  1. Option pots are decided by those that put into them at each tournament. They are not run by the club.

NOTE: Option pot money will be awarded as close to 30 minutes following the final weigh-in for the day as possible, unless not allowed by the tournament headquarters facility or governing laws in which case option pot money will be paid out at the next regular club meeting. Anglers must be in attendance to receive award money. If not, money will be awarded to the next place angler that is in attendance. If no anglers are in attendance the prize money will be donated to the general club fund.

**Yearly Awards & Angler of the Year** The club keeps track of angler total season finishes in club tournaments. Points are awarded for placement in club tournaments with first place getting 200 points and every place after that getting 2 points less (198 for second, 196 for third, etc). Places are determined by weight total for the 2 day tournaments. Final season standings are based on the best 5 tournaments out of 6 fished by each angler. To be Angler of the Year, every tournament must be fished over the course of a season.

- Club will sponsor BBQ's every time they are logistically sensible.

- Tournament results will be posted on the club website as will season standings up to the last tournament of the year.

The following awards are given each year based on total fishing performance:

1. Top 5 Overall
2. Ladies Division
3. Youth Division (up to age 18)
4. Top Five in each Tournament
5. Big Largemouth Bass
6. Big Smallmouth Bass