



# PBA Rules

## 1. Participation & Eligibility

- Club events are open to Panhandle Bass Anglers members in good membership standing for the calendar year. Participants may fish one event without obtaining a current membership, if they have never fished a tournament before. This allows for an angler to experience the tournament experience. In the event a contestant is a minor, at least one team member must be 16 years or older. The minor must have written authorization from a parent or legal guardian.
- Open events are open to all public persons that meet the boating and age requirements made by the Panhandle Bass Anglers and local jurisdictions rules.

## 2. Registration

- Pre-registration is encouraged. For mailed or online entries, a completed entry form and the entry fee must be received by PBA no later than the day prior to the tournament. On-site registration will be the morning of the event up until the drivers meeting. In order to encourage pre-registration PBA will charge an additional on-site registration fee of twenty (\$20) dollars. PBA will accept late entries, except for tournaments with a full field. No entries will be accepted from any angler that has not observed the official off-limits period.

## 3. Off Limits

- Tournament waters are off-limits Monday-Friday the week of club tournaments and Monday-Thursday for open tournaments. Tournament off-limits are enforced as above unless the tournament has other stated off-limits requirements on the sign-up form.
- Anglers are not allowed to be on the specific body of water without the verbal consent of the tournament director. This includes pleasure boating, working, or any other activity that could give an angler an advantage that another angler would not have. Any angler participating in the tournament that is caught violating this off-limits period for any reason, without the permission of the tournament director, will be disqualified and asked to no longer participate in future PBA events.

## 4. Permitted Fishing Waters

- No fishing is allowed inside the host marina area. Contestants cannot leave the boat to make a cast or land a fish. All fishing must be done from an inspected boat. Boats may not be trailered to and from weigh-in during tournament hours. If you are unable to return to the weigh-in site by boat, your catch for the day will not be weighed. You may send your fish with another contestant, as long as one of your contestants accompanies the fish.
- Team partners must fish from the same boat. Only the contestants may be in the boat during tournament hours unless specifically approved by the Tournament Director prior to the tournament. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you will be grounds for disqualification.

## 5. Tackle and Equipment

- All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner by casting, flipping, or pitching. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted. Only (1) rod may be used at one time. Every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made.

## 6. Safety

- Boating safety must be always observed. During competition a US Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on, fastened and the kill switch attached to the driver any time the combustion engine is operative. Inflatable PFDs are allowed if they are US Coast Guard approved and meet all US Coast Guard requirements. Boats must obey all state and local regulations including speed and no-wake zones.





## 7. Blast Off

- Same day tournament registration will be halted prior to the start of the drivers meeting. Registration may resume after the blast off if needed. It is imperative that all boats have their live wells checked and be in the water before the start of the drivers meeting. The Tournament Director will not delay blast off due to anglers that have not had their live wells checked or have not safely launched their boats. In the event your boat is not in the water at the time your number is called, your blast off will be delayed until the Tournament Official re-calls your number. In most cases your number will be recalled at the end of the last flight or at the end of the blast off. Regardless of blast off time you and your partner will be required to return for weigh-in at the time of your originally assigned flight.
- If you are unable to make blast off, paid your entry, and still wish to fish the event, you must meet one of the tournament directors on the water in order to have your livewells checked and obtain your permit.

## 8. Relief Rule

- If an angler must leave the boat during competition to use the restroom, the other angler must remain in the boat during that time.

## 9. Culling Fish

- It is the responsibility of each team to immediately cull their limit to five (5) fish throughout the tournament. No culling is allowed within the host marina. No culling of fish that have become deceased during the duration of the time that the anglers have had control of the fish.

## 10. Scoring

- Each team may weigh in five (5) fish with size limit specific to each individual body of water. A half of a pound (0.5 lb.) penalty will be assessed for each dead fish. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be weighed. Failure to check-in by the designated weigh-in time will result in a one pound (1 lb) per minute penalty. After 10 minutes that team will forfeit its weight for that day. It is the responsibility of each team to make sure they are identified at the check-in site.

## 11. Angler of the Year

- Anglers of the Year is determined by points total for the year's events. In order of a tie, the AOY will be subject to weight of the angler's big fish for the year.
- 1 angler of the year point will be awarded to any **ACTIVE** club member that attends any club meeting from the month of January to August. In order to get the point, you must mark your own point and attend the entire meeting. If the point is not marked on the sign in sheet by the end of the meeting, the point will not be awarded, no exceptions.

## 12. Ties

- Big fish will be used to break all tournament ties whenever possible. In the event of a big fish tie tournament monies will be added and divided equally. In the unlikely event of a tie in points for Angler of the Year, the tie will be broken by first using biggest fish of the season. If a tie still exists, biggest stringer of the season will be used.

## 13. Check in for weigh-in

- An official timekeeper will be posted at the entrance to the host marina and will log the time that each team returns for weigh-in. The official return time will be logged at the point that the boat enters the host marina. Each team is responsible for holding up their boat number in clear view of the timekeeper. If the timekeeper determines that a boat is late, he/she will signal the boat in order to notify the team that there is a time issue and that they need to see the timekeeper as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the team and the timekeeper to resolve time dispute issues prior to weigh in is concluded. If the issue cannot be resolved with the timekeeper, the team should weigh in their fish and immediately report to the tournament director that there is an unresolved time dispute. All unresolved issues must be reported and resolved before weigh-in is concluded. It is the tournament director's responsibility to assess the situation and make a ruling. The tournament director's ruling is final.





#### 14. Protest

- Complaints or infractions will be dealt with by tournament director. All protests must be written on paper and turned into the tournament director before the weigh in has concluded. Any protests after the weigh in has concluded or not written will not be accepted.

#### 15. Awards

- Out of sportsmanship and respect for other anglers, PBA appreciates those who stay for awards presentations. For those unable to attend awards ceremonies, PBA reserves the right to forfeit claim to merchandise; prize money will be mailed.

#### 16. Sportsmanship

- Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any team failing to do so may be disqualified.

#### 17. Tournament Protection Rule

- Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the tournament authority, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to Panhandle Bass Anglers or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, fishery biologists, etc.) during any official practice or tournament may result in temporary or permanent suspension from all future PBA tournaments.

#### 18. Boats and Motors

- There is no horsepower limit, however; no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating. All boats must meet US Coast Guard and State regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch attached any time the combustion engine is running and an aerated live well large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition.

#### 19. Equipment Failure or Emergency

- There will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official weigh-in site: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one or both partners entering the boat of another Panhandle Bass Anglers tournament contestant and returning to weigh-in site. If one partner remains with the troubled craft, he cannot continue to fish. Under these two conditions, the contestant's catch may be counted without penalty (except for late or dead fish penalties). Teams who elect to return to official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit that day's catch. In case of a mechanical breakdown that requires a team to swap tournament boats, that team will be eligible to resume competition only under the supervision of a PBA official. Both team members must be present for a boat inspection before a restart will be granted. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate a tournament official to request a restart.

#### 20. Insurance

- A minimum of Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000) liability insurance is required of all contestants utilizing their boats in Panhandle Bass Anglers events. All contestants must sign a waiver absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors, and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have proof of insurance at each tournament.

#### 21. Information Sharing and Communication

- During the off-limits period and during competition, anglers may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone other than the partner they are fishing with. Information gathered through publicly available sources, i.e., Google Earth, published maps, etc. is permissible. Involuntary violation of this rule should be reported to the Tournament Director. The sharing of tournament winnings in exchange for fishing information is strictly prohibited.

#### 22. Rule Changes

- Rules are subject to change without notice at any time prior to the start of a tournament.





23. PBA waiver and Release:

- In consideration for Panhandle Bass Anglers allowing me to participate in its tournament(s), I acknowledge and agree as follows:
  - i. I understand and acknowledge that fishing is a dangerous sport, the risk of which include though not exclusively, drowning, collisions in the water and injuries from hooks and other fishing materials. I voluntarily assume responsibility for any and all of these risks, identified and not identified, and all risk of injury or death or damage to myself or my property or to others, including spectators and their property, arising from my participation in these tournaments.
  - ii. I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless and indemnify Panhandle Bass Anglers and its shareholders, officers, directors, members, managers, agents and employees, the host, sponsors and tournament officials, and its partners, agents or employees, and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament from any and all liability claims, demands, actions or rights of action which are related to, arise out of, or are in any way connected with my participation in this tournament, including specifically but not limited to the negligent acts or omissions of Panhandle Bass Anglers, its shareholders, officers, directors, agents and employees, the host, sponsors, and tournament officials, and its partners, agents or employees and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament, for any and all injury, death, illness or disease and other damage or loss to property suffered by myself or others. In signing this document, I acknowledge and agree that if anyone is hurt or property is damaged while I am engaged in this event, I will have no right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against Panhandle Bass Anglers its shareholders, officers, directors, agents or employees, the host, sponsors, officials and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament even if they or any of them negligently caused the bodily injury or property damage.
  - iii. Any suit brought by me against Panhandle Bass Anglers as a result of my participation in this tournament will be brought in state or county court in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho where the principal office of Panhandle Bass Anglers is located. Should it become necessary for Panhandle Bass Anglers or someone on its behalf to incur attorney fees and costs to enforce this agreement or any portion thereof, I agree to pay the reasonable costs and attorney fees thereby expended, or for which liability is incurred.
  - iv. I have sufficient health, accident, and liability insurance to cover any bodily injury or property damage incurred by myself or others as a result of my participation in this event.
  - v. I have no past or present medical or psychological condition that might affect my participation in the tournament in such a way as to cause harm to myself or to others.
  - vi. I give Panhandle Bass Anglers exclusive rights to any and all photos, video, and audio recordings of any event and may use or dispose of such materials in any manner they see fit.
  - vii. I have read and understand the Official Rules of these tournaments located on the Panhandle Bass Anglers website. I will obey all rules and understand that any violation may result in immediate disqualification without refund of my entry fee. I also understand that Tournament officials may reject my application for any reason and in that event, will refund my entry fee.

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