

Official Rules / Changes

Participation in the Limit Out Performance Marine Big Bass Tournament constitutes each contestant's understanding of the full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. Contestants must obey all State, Federal and local fishing and safety laws. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any contestants that is determined to be in violation of any term contained in these Official Rules. The Tournament Director's decision not to enforce a specific provision of the Official Rules does not constitute a waiver of that provision or of the Official Rules generally. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, entry may be refused to any individuals. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official check-in time.

Participation / Eligibility

Participating teams must provide their own equipment including, without limitation, fishing equipment and boat; all subject to the restrictions contained in these Official Rules. All contestants must have in their possession a valid Washington State freshwater fishing license.

Registration/Drivers Meeting Information for all tournaments

Teams wishing to register in person at the event location will have to pay in cash only, no checks will be accepted. Check in/late registration are 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM Friday prior to the event and 4:00 AM to 5:00 AM Saturday the day of the Big Bass Tournament event. There will not be any more registrations accepted after 6:00 AM Saturday the day of tournament. Each team must register or check-in, in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. A team member must be present during the pre-tournament meeting unless authorized by the Tournament Director. Blast off will be at safe light to be determined at check in on Friday. Drivers meeting will be 30 minutes before blast off on Day 1 of the event. Day 2 blast-off will be in reverse order by boat number. **Driver's meeting will be held on the water.**

Big Bass Tournament format/rules

This is a two-day, Team Big Bass tournament. Day 1 Weigh-ins go as follows: 1st Hour 8:00 am to 9:00 am, 2nd 9:01 to 10:00 am, 3rd 10:01 to 11:00 am, 4th 11:01 to 12:00 pm, 5th 12:01 to 1:00 pm, 6th 1:01 to 2:00 pm, and 7th 2:01 to 3:00 pm, 8th 3:01 to 4 pm. Day 2 Weigh-ins go as follows: 1st Hour 8:00 to 9:00 am, 2nd 9:01 to 10:00 am, 3rd 10:01 to 11:00 am, 4th 11:01 to 12:00 pm, 5th 12:01 to 1:00 pm, 6th 1:01 to 2:00 pm. This is an Open Tournament where a team may consist of one or two contestants in the same boat. The only exception this doesn't apply to is when one or two team contestants brings a child less than 12 years of age in the boat. No team may weigh more than one bass per weigh-in session. Only one bass per weigh-in is allowed. Bass entered into each hourly session do not carry forward. Each team's biggest bass is entered into the overall standings. Bass may be weighed in by either of the team contestants. No more than three (3) bass in possession at any time during official tournament hours.

Shootout Tournament Format/Rules

This is a 5 Fish 2 Day Team Tournament. Teams will consist of 1 or 2 people. The Top 10 teams with the largest 5 fish weights from Saturday will advance to Sunday for a 10 team Shootout. There is no-off limits other than after Saturday's tournament time. Biggest Bass from each day will win an award.

Weigh-ins

Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass is the accepted species. We strongly recommend "No Puncture Culling Tags be Used" it's highly suggested to use Accu-Cull Elite Tags, T&H Conservation Cull System, DD26 Cull Bandit, or some other similar cull system which can be purchased at Limit Out Marine at the store or at www.limitouttackle.com. The official minimum length limit for bass will be twelve (12) inches. Bass presented for weigh in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length, will not be weighed. All bass brought to weigh-in site must be in a bag with water sufficient to cover the bass.

No Off-Limits

No dead fish will be accepted at the weigh-ins

Two Pole Endorsement not to be used at the Shootout or Big Bass Event

Late Penalty

For every minute a team is late, a 1 pound penalty will be assessed for each minute late and after 5 minutes late, the entire limit for that day's catch will be disqualified.

No contestant may be on the tournament waters after the start of the mandatory tournament registration.

Restrictions

During the official competition days, contestants may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone except other contestants. Non competitors are not allowed to be in the boat with contestants except in the event of an emergency (rescue, mechanical breakdown, etc.). GPS waypoints may not be provided to contestants by anyone except other contestants. Contestants may not follow a non - competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

The purchasing or bartering for information or the hiring of services is not permitted after the start of the official practice period.

The use of mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to cellular phones, marine radios, two-way radios, CB's, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.).

Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants must observe "no wake" areas including posted bridges and other areas identified by the Tournament Director. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device at all times when the combustion engine is in operation, during official practice days and during the tournament days. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

Sportsmanship

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, their event sponsors, and the sport of fishing. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: Violation of or failure to comply with any of the official rules for the Tournament. Consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in are strictly prohibited. In other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in this paragraph.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the registration of a previously accepted application to disqualify a contestant.

Boat and Horsepower Regulations

All boats must be propeller driven, be a minimum of 14 feet in length.

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.

Boats must contain a functioning aerated live-well capable of maintaining alive, a limit of bass.

Each boat must have a clearly legible U.S. Coast Guard "Maximum Capacities" plate that includes a

maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on the boat placard. By registering for the Tournament, each contestant agrees to submit his or her boat and/or motor to an inspection by the Tournament Director.

Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or "Maximum Capacities" plate will be cause for disqualification from the Tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future events.

Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in Tournament competition.

Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

Permitted Fishing Methods

All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.

All bass must be hooked inside the mouth.

Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rinds.

Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at a time.

Trolling, defined as moving the bait with the assistance of the combustion engine, as a method of fishing is not allowed.

Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestant's may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries of tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off-Limits", "No Fishing", "No Boats", "Boats Keep Out", etc. by local, state or federal officials. Contestants are prohibited from casting into these areas or having their boat in these areas at any time.

Contestant's may not fish within 50 yards of a competitor's boat that was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or a Power Pole anchor with the trolling motor in the up position).

At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat.

The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day.

No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official checkpoint:

By both team members remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or by one or both team members are entering the boat of another tournament contestant.

Under these two conditions the teams catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, fish care penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules).

Contestants who elect to return to the official checkpoint by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time in the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the Tournament Director or his designated Tournament Official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the Tournament Director to request a restart.

Official Checkpoints

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. That checkpoint is the host marina. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the official checkpoint in the afternoon will result in losing credit for that day's catch. All competitors and their boats must be in full compliance with tournament rules before they can depart from the official checkpoint in the morning.

Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a functioning aerated live-well.

The use of live-well additives is encouraged to promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. **Bass must be alive to be weighed-in; no dead fish will be accepted at weigh-ins.**

Ties

Prizes will be split equally in case of a tie.

Teams that Tie for the overall big fish award will have the opportunity to decide if they would like to have a one (1) hour fish-Off or to split the grand prize equally

(All Teams involved will have 15 minutes to make that decision. If a decision can't be made awards will be split equally. If teams are still tied after one (1) hour fish-off awards will be split equally.)

Truth verification test

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the release form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification. Truth verification tests will be used at the Tournament Director's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the Tournament Director.

Insurance

Watercraft liability insurance, with coverage in reasonable amounts, is required of all contestants in the Tournament.