

The official tournament rules for the Limit Out Marine Potholes Pro/Am event are as follows: Limit Out Marine reserves the right to refuse any entry into its Open tournament at the discretion of the tournament organizer.

1. **Participation and Eligibility** – There are no restrictions as to race, gender, creed or color of any Limit Out Marine Pro/Am participant. Those participating under the age of 18 must have written consent and the release of liability from a parent or guardian, and the approval of the Limit Out Marine Tournament Director. The minimum age for an angler to fish in the Limit Out Marine Potholes Pro/Am is 16. Any angler under 18 must get written permission of the Tournament Director 2 weeks in advance of the tournament, and have a legal guardian complete a release of liability form prior to the events start date.
2. **Insurance & Liability** – It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to carry as well as have proof of public liability insurance covering themselves and their passengers. All contestants are required to sign a waiver absolving the tournament director, tournament staff, sponsors, co-sponsors, tournament host and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained because of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have in their possession proof of insurance to show tournament staff when requested. Failure to show proof of insurance to any tournament staff member upon demand, may result in disqualification for the event.
3. **Good Sportsmanship** – All of us want to have a great time on the water while fishing a tournament. Exuding courtesy toward each other goes a long way to having a more enjoyable day on the water. Please work together to resolve any differences.
4. **Alcoholic Beverages/Narcotics** – Any contestant under the influence of, or in possession of, alcohol, marijuana, or any other controlled, illegal substance in his or her boat will result in the immediate disqualification of the offending party.
5. **Expenses** – Co-Anglers do not choose fishing locations nor do they operate the trolling motor except with the approval of the Pro contestant. Etiquette and courtesy deem that the co-angler offers to share a portion of the day's expenses with the Pro angler.
6. **Safety** – Each boat entered in the Limit Out Marine Pro/Am event must be equipped with a working ignition "Kill" switch, which must be attached to the driver whenever the outboard motor is running. All contestants fishing the Limit Out Marine Pro/Am are required to wear a Coast Guard approved (Type III PFD) life vest or SOS Type V PFD while the engine is in operation during all tournament hours. **No Exceptions.** Drivers are responsible for maintaining, knowing their craft, and operating their boat in a safe and courteous manner.

Unsafe or reckless driving, excessive speed, and violation of local laws will not be tolerated. Boat drivers who purposefully endanger their passengers and/or other boats on the water during the official tournament period face the possibility of disqualification from the tournament and potential expulsion from all Limit Out Marine events.

7. **Licenses & Registration** – Each contestant must have in possession a valid and current Washington State fishing license. Penalty for such an offense is subject to disqualification for that day's catch if a contestant does not have a valid Washington State fishing license. Additionally, contestants must have current, valid registration for their boats as well as have a boater safety card in their possession to be eligible to fish the event.
8. **Pre-Fish** – Anglers are allowed to pre-fish before the event but all anglers must be off the water by **4 PM May 3rd**.
9. **Fishable Waters/Off Limit Areas** – Fishable waters in the Limit Out Marine Pro/Am include any water reachable by boat which is open to all contestants and which is not otherwise restricted by local, state, or federal regulations. All fishing and landing of fish must be done from the boat-**No Exceptions**. A contestant may not leave the boat to untangle a fishing line or lure from any structure (trees, rocks, docks, etc.) or part of the boat. No contestants are permitted to leave their boat in an effort to propel or float their boat to or from fishing waters they could not otherwise reach; however, the use of push poles is permitted. The host marina including the area inside the "no-wake" buoys is off limits to fishing. All off-limits areas will be discussed during the mandatory partner pairings meeting.
10. **Equipment/Tackle/Technique Restrictions** – Each Pro tournament entered boat must be a minimum of 16 feet in length. **Engines may not exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat hull. Vessels not allowed to participate in any Limit Out Marine event include the following: Dual engine outboard vessels, "Stick" steering boats, Air boats and any Jet equipped vessel, all of these are prohibited.** Each boat must be equipped with a functioning, aerated live well. Boats must have rear seat available for co-angler partner should they request one. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait, cut or prepared baits other than pork rind or mammal hide may be used. Fish "attractants and scents" may be utilized. All fishing must be accomplished with one rod and reel combination used at one time, meaning each cast must be made and line retrieved before another cast may be made with another outfit. A contestant may have an unlimited number of rods and reels on the boat rigged and ready to fish. Co-anglers are advised to bring only 6 rods, 1 tackle bag and 1 cooler. Trolling, (the act of manipulating the lure solely by maneuvering the boat under any type of power) is

prohibited. **The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. All boats must have a contest banner wrapped around the engine cowling. If you do not have one you can purchase one from Mardon Resort store.**

11. **Encroachment** – a “25” yard rule is in effect at all times during competition. No contestants boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant’s boat at any time for the purpose of fishing, unless the opposing contestant has granted permission. A boat moving from one area to another may not “tie up,” “claim,” or “protect” more than a single location at one time regardless of the distance involved.
12. **Size Limits/Bag Limits** – Qualifying fish (Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass) must be a minimum of 12” in length, measured lying flat with the mouth closed on a flat board. The daily tournament limit will be five (5) bass per boat. **Tournament boats inside the check-in area must not possess more than the tournament limit of 5 fish.** Anglers in violation are subject to disqualification for the day, at the sole discretion of the tournament director. Short fish will be assessed a one-pound penalty plus the loss of the short fish.
13. **Sight Fishing** – No camera or viewing devices may be used during tournament hours other than standard available electronics. **The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited.**
14. **Culling** – No measuring, releasing, or culling of any bass is permitted by contestants inside the designated host marina boundaries at any time. If any anglers bring more than 5 fish into the designated host marina, your weight and your partners weight for that day will be disqualified. **At no time will a contestant cull a “Dead” fish during tournament hours.**
15. **Weigh-In** – When presenting fish to be measured, the contestant cannot touch the fish while the official takes the measurement. Once fish are presented to the tournament weighmaster, they immediately become the “official catch” of the contest and they become the possession of the tournament weighmaster to measure, weigh and record as such. Requests for a re-weigh or second opinion will be denied.
16. **Dead Fish Penalty** – It is the goal of Limit Out Marine Potholes Pro/Am organizer to have all fish released alive following the weigh-in. Contestants, therefore, are required to do everything in their power to preserve their daily catch. Deliberate, rough, or careless handling of fish while culling or handling fish is grounds for disqualification. **The penalty amount of .25-pound (4 OZ) will be deducted for each bass presented “not alive” as judged by the tournament weighmaster. Anglers that may have issue with tournament fish may request an early weigh-in time no sooner than 2 hours before the official scales open for the first**

flight. Tournament anglers must contact tournament director to coordinate such needs on a per case basis.

17. **Breakdowns / Emergencies** – Anglers are not permitted to leave their boat or touch another boat, except for emergency or major equipment failure. In the case of a breakdown on the water, the fishing partner may accept assistance in the form of a tow from or a return ride with any other boat on the waters. While in tow, or riding, those contestants accepting assistance, are not permitted to continue fishing. However, other contestants, if rendering assistance, may continue fishing. Should one of the contestants decide to stay with the troubled craft, he may send his catch with his partner to the Weighmaster. The angler who remains with the craft may not continue to fish once he has sent his catch to the Weighmaster. Anglers with fish to be taken to weigh-in may only be transported via another tournament contestant's boat or a method approved by the tournament director.
18. **Cell Phones** – Cell phones or other communication devices, including all forms of text messaging are allowed in boats as **an emergency tool only**; boat-to-boat communication is prohibited except for emergency purposes. Anglers who communicate with others during tournament hours for the purposes of bettering their fishing circumstances will be disqualified by the tournament director. This includes "Spot Blocking" or "Spot Protecting" no anglers shall work as a team to guard or block other boats from entering someone else's water. If a boater leaves a spot, it is no longer his/her spot. We expect everyone to act with integrity and respect.
19. **"Boat Saver"** – Co-Anglers, may at registration declare their boat available as an option in case an extra boat is needed by a Pro in the tournament due to an equipment failure. If needed, the co-angler will be paired with the pro whose boat is inoperative. The Co-Angler drives the boat, at the direction of the Pro, but the Pro may operate the trolling motor and retains the right to select the waters to be fished. Should no other boat be available, both the Pro and his regularly drawn co-angler partner shall be retired from the tournament. Any "official catch" weighed will be theirs to keep.
20. **Late weigh-in** – There is no excuse for being late to the weigh-in. Any contestants (and respective partners) caught returning to the check-in point after the official tournament deadline for their flight, will be penalized at 1 pound per minute for each minute late.
21. **Citations** – Any contestant cited by officers for violation of City, State or Federal fishing or boating regulations jeopardizes his daily catch and may be subject to disqualification by the tournament director.

22. **Standings/Ties** – Final standings in the Limit Out Marine Pro/Am event will be determined by the heaviest cumulative weight for the prescribed tournament period. The cumulative total will reflect the actual weight of the fish caught, less assessed penalties, if any. Pro and Co-Angler will score the total weight of each daily boat catch. Their two-day scores will be added, placing Pros and Co-Anglers in their own division. In the case of a tie, the prize money will be awarded in the following manner: For cash awards, the designated prizes will be added together and split among those tied for a given place.
23. **Lie Detector Testing** – All contestants, by virtue of entry into a Limit Out Marine event, are subject to testing by a lie detection apparatus by authority of the Tournament Director. Should the person selected for a polygraph test decline to submit for such test, or fail the test, there will be no appeal and he will forfeit any awards due.
24. **Protests** – Protests regarding violation of these rules must be declared immediately to the Tournament Director and then submitted in writing within 30 minutes of the end of weigh-in for that day the alleged violation occurred. The Tournament Director will hear protests and the decisions of the Tournament Director will be final. TO AVOID PROTESTS, if you suspect a possible infraction is about to take place, ALERT THE WOULD-BE OFFENDER TO CHECK THE RULES!
25. **Guaranteed Acceptance Policy** – Any co-angler entering the tournament with a Pro contestant will receive a guaranteed entry status in the tournament. To ensure guaranteed status, the co-angler entry form and appropriate entry fees must accompany those of the Pro, and be received in by Limit Out Marine before the tournament entry deadline of April 21st, 2023.
26. **Tournament Check-In** – All Pro contestants are required to check-in with the tournament registration staff during the hours directed by the Tournament Director. Those failing to check in on time could be assessed a 1.00-pound penalty at the start of the first day of competition. NO EXCEPTIONS! Tournament check-in times are set and announced by the Tournament Director.
27. **Rules/Partner Pairing Meeting** – All contestants, unless previously excused by the tournament director, are required to attend the tournament Rules/Partner Pairing Meeting on the evening prior to the tournament or on tournament day. Unauthorized absence may result in penalties as directed by the tournament director. After the pairing of partners is completed, it is the responsibility of the Pro to ensure his co-angler partner is available for the morning start. Should the co-angler partner not show for the start, the Pro may be

required to wait until a replacement is found, or the tournament director grants permission to the Pro angler to go out solo.

28. **Awards Ceremony Attendance** – While generally recognized that attendance at presentation of awards ceremonies is an act of respect, it is not always possible for all to attend. The Tournament Director will mail the purse share and plaque to such individuals who do not make it to the awards ceremony. No other party may pick-up purse checks.
29. **Deposits / Refunds** – A Pro or Co-Angler entry fee will hold a spot in the Limit Out Marine Pro/Am tournament. All entry fees must be paid by April 21st, 2023. There is no provision for refunding tournament entry fees; however, entry fees may be transferred to another like event or to another contestant's entry application if notification is received at Limit Out Marine prior to the event deadline.
30. **Decisions** – All decisions of the Tournament Director shall be final.
TOURNAMENT ETHICS – Honesty and Integrity is expected at all times.
 1. Passing of information during the tournament – It is a violation of tournament rules for the Co-Angler to pass along information to his second day partner regarding the techniques used or waters fished by his first day partner. Further, it is a violation of fair play and professional ethics for a Pro to interview or interrogate his second day Co -angler as to the techniques or waters fished by the Co-Anglers first day Pro partner. Any Co-Anglers that have local knowledge of the tournament waters, may share their spot with a Pro, but once that area is shown to that Pro, the water becomes his/hers for the remainder of the tournament. **Co – Anglers are not allowed to use devices of any type to mark way-points.**
 2. Conduct at Meetings/Tournament – All contestants should do their best to see that those receiving awards are afforded the courtesy of their attention during the awards ceremony. It is the responsibility of all contestants to understand and be constantly aware that their actions and words speak for all organized bass fishing in the eyes of the observing public. In essence we all need to be courteous to one another during meetings and please do not allow profanity at the tournament meetings and the awards ceremony.