

Official Rules for the I-70 Bass Anglers 2024 Season

Sportsmanship: Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times especially with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contestant, which reflects unfavorably upon the club's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be allowed in the boats. Competitors in tournaments and club functions are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

Rules: The tournament rules are explained below. Interpretation of rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

Participants and Eligibility: I-70 Bass Anglers' tournaments are open to any member that has an active membership and dues are current. All new members are encouraged to attend one meeting and fish in one tournament before the membership votes on the new member. The vote must be unanimous. Membership dues are \$25 for the year. Bass Pass and ANS certificates are required for certain lakes. A guest may fish one tournament before paying dues. Active members will have precedence over guests. The points for the guest will only count if the guest is voted into the club. All members are responsible for ensuring their dues remain current.

Fees, Payback and Expenses: Each contestant will be required to pay \$50 for entry fee to each event. Guests will be required to pay the \$50 entry fee. Entry fees are due prior to the start of each tournament. Members interested in fishing a tournament must declare if they will provide a boat for the tournament or fish as a non-boater. Members attending the club meeting before the tournament will have priority registration. Members wishing to fish the tournament that cannot attend the meeting may fish provided they inform the Tournament Director. Anyone wishing to fish a tournament that did not attend the meeting and did not notify the Tournament Director will be required to pay a \$5 late fee. New members and guests are not subject to the late fee. If there are more non-boaters than boaters for the drawing of partners, the current point leaders will be drawn first. The Tournament Director reserves the right to change pairings to accommodate late entries or cancellations. Non-boaters are required to offer \$30 to the boater to help offset the cost of operating the boat. Non-boaters are required to offer \$80 to the boater to help off-set the cost of operating the boat for tournaments that are a greater distance, such as Wilson, Melvern, Glen Elder, and Perry. The club may vote on higher rates for gas money for tournaments that are considered extreme distance, such as Bone Creek or Grand.

Of each \$50 entry fee, \$40 to big stringer pot, \$5 to big bass, and \$5 to the 5lb progressive pot. In the event of more than one bass is weighed over five pounds, the biggest bass will be the one counted towards the Big Bass and Progressive Pot. After the last tournament, if there is a Progressive Pot remaining, it will roll-over to the next year. At the end of the year, the top six boaters and the next top six point holders will be invited to fish the club classic.

Registration: Each contestant must register with the Tournament Director no later than 1/2 hour before take-off. Failure to register during the prescribed time may result in disqualification. Starting and check-in times will be announced at registration. Once all boats are registered and in the water, take-off will be decided by the Tournament Director. Tournaments will not be delayed to wait on late arrivals.

Meetings: Meetings will be held the first Thursday of the Month from January to September. The January meeting will be to elect officers and vote on any rule changes. The January meeting is for current members only.

Drawing Partners/Starting Order: All Tournaments will be team events. Partners and boat order for each tournament will be determined by a drawing at the meeting. Anyone entering the tournament after the drawing will be added as boaters will go to the bottom of the list and non-boaters will added to the first available spot. The Tournament Director may continue to accept entries provided there are enough boaters/non-boaters. The last boat drawn will be responsible for launching the boats in order to provide enough time between launches to ensure a safe start. Boater/Co-Angler team may fish together no more than one time per tournament season unless unavoidable and approved by the Tournament Director. This would not apply to Jackpot or Milford Lake Team Series tournaments. The first two boats will be responsible for being release boats. If a release boat is not available, then they are responsible for finding another boat to help.

Safety: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver and it must be worn anytime the boat is on plane. The preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely. Extra gas containers of any kind are prohibited. Violations may be reason for disqualification.

No raised platforms are allowed (i.e., step ladders).

The Tournament Director may delay, shorten, or cancel the start of a tournament due to the forecast of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments.

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.

COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

Basic Boat Equipment and Pre-tournament Safety Check: Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each boat presented for tournament may be subject to a safety check. This check may consist of lifejackets, throw cushions, kill switches, functional live wells, lights, and bilge systems. The Tournament Director or his designated appointee shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether safety features are satisfactory.

Boat and Motor: All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Any boat equipped with "stick steering" will not be allowed for use during tournaments. A small motor, gas or electric, may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted except for pork strips, rinds, etc. Only bait-casting, spin-casting, or spinning rods and reel may be used. All other types, to include fly fishing rods, are prohibited. Only one rig is permitted in use at any given time. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner.

Tournament Practice and Off Limits: The regular season tournament waters will have no "off-limits" unless specified by the Tournament Director. The club classic location will be off-limits starting the Wednesday before the tournament.

Permitted Fishing Locations: Fishing is permitted anywhere within the tournament lake except within 50 yards of another contestant's boat that is anchored and the trolling motor is up and in the locked position. No such anchored boat shall permit selected contestants to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed to the exclusion of any other contestant. State law states no fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump. All fishing must be done from the boat. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours.

Official Checkpoint: There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in that afternoon and this point shall be announced at the morning registration. In the event of severe weather, the Tournament Director may authorize trailering. Upon arriving at the weigh-in station any and all fish brought to the weigh-in master shall become the property of the weigh-in master. Only with the permission of the tournament director shall the contestants retain their fish or disqualification will result. Tying up or caging of fish under any circumstances shall result in disqualification and permanent banning from any and all future club sponsored tournaments.

Team Standings Point System: The point's method to determine the 2023 Angler of the Year, Co-Angler of the Year, etc., and shall be awarded as follows:

1 st - 100pts	2 nd - 99 pts	3 rd - 98 pts	4 th - 97 pts	5 th - 96 pts
6 th - 95 pts	7 th - 94 pts	8 th - 93 pts	9 th - 92 pts	10 th - 91 pts

Please contact Tournament Director for complete points system. Show points are 50 pts for any Team who is unable to catch a weighable fish. Ties will be broken by big bass, then number of bass, then by bass alive, and then a coin flip. Attending a club meeting will be awarded one point. The club may vote to have participation in other club functions worth points. AOY and Co-AOY will be determined by the top point holder after the last club/MLTS tournament. There will be seven regular scheduled tournaments from February to September. The best six of seven finishes will count towards AOY points.

Additionally, you may use up to results from the Team Series tournaments (MLTS or WLTS). Club members fishing the MLTS tournaments may receive points based on their order of finish among club members only. The Progressive Pot does not apply for MLTS tournaments.

Penalties: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight ounces. The penalty will be deducted from the fish's weight. The Tournament Director shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall result in a penalty of one pound for each such bass. The penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Contestants who are not at the official check-in point at that appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, starting with any weight to be counted toward "Big Bass" award. Any contestants more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. If weight does not exceed penalty then no points shall be given to that team other than show points.

Scoring: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, and final winners, shall be determined by points earned throughout the season. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted, or hybrids of the black bass species (i.e.: mean-mouth) will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision. In the event a competitor has more than the above-described limit in possession, officials shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with the largest bass first. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. Bass will be measured on a flat measuring board **with the mouth closed**. The measuring board will be a Golden Rule brand. A sink and measuring board will be available for contestants wanting to check prior to presenting their catch for weigh-in. Once presented to the weigh-master, any short fish will be subject to penalty.

Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the Tournament Director. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all legal fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Non-puncturing culling tags or clips are required for all I-70 Bass Angler tournaments. All tournament boats are by state law required to have a live well treatment on board. The tournament weigh-in bags are provided for use **and personal weigh-in bags will not be accepted**. No more than four tournament weigh-in bags may be in use at any time. When in weigh-in line, please dip your bag in the provided tank until your fish are presented for weigh-in.

There shall be no excuses for tardiness, and in no case shall a contestant be allowed to make up "lost time." **All fishing must cease upon check-in.** Fishing is prohibited except during tournament hours.

Club Classic and Awards: The Top Boaters and the next top six point holders will be invited to fish in the club classic. The AOY and the Co-AOY decide the location of the classic. The announcement should be made the Monday after the last tournament. Annual awards will be for AOY, Co-AOY, Classic Champs, Big Bass for the year for both largemouth and smallmouth. The Big Bass of the Year winner must have fished seven qualifying tournaments. Points are the best five tournaments of the year. In the event of a tie for any of the above awards or qualifying for the Club Classic results in a tie, total weight from the six qualifying tournaments will be used to break any ties.

Insurance: Boaters must carry a copy of their boat insurance showing a minimum \$100,000 liability and the expiration date on their person or in their boat. If no proof is available upon request from the Tournament Director may result in disqualification.

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contestant's boat at any time during tournament competition. Any protest must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing, within 15 minutes of completion of the tournament. The Tournament Director will make all final decisions. In the event of a protest involving the Tournament Director, the club President shall appoint three impartial club members to a tournament committee to decide if any rules were violated.

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Horsepower Regulations: When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard HP rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The HP rating must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.