

# Pro-Formance Fishing Tournament Bylaws

Updated 03.28.2014 PDF version

## **ARTICLE I – Name and Purpose**

### Section 1: Name

Pro-Formance Fishing Team of Maryland

### Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluter and call public and political attention to his crime. To improve our skill as bass anglers through fellowship of friendly exchange of expert bass-catching techniques and ideas. And to promote and encourage youth fishing, and love for this great recreation. To function as a dynamic and effective link with other chapters of the Maryland B.A.S.S. Nation (MBN) embracing the principles and purposes of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.).

### Mission Statement:

The Pro-Formance Fishing Team (PFT) was founded in 2000 for the purpose of creating a team of fishermen who collectively will work towards enhancing the fishing skills of the whole team. We recognize that competition is an intricate part of bass fishing but it should never diminish the camaraderie and good of the team.

## **ARTICLE II – Tournament Site Selection**

### Section 1: Selection Process

- (a) The club shall select up to 12 tournaments per season.
- (b) Anglers shall only count up to their best 9 tournaments of the season in the team standings. For example if an angler fishes all 12 tournaments then they must throw out scoring for three of those tournaments.
- (c) Eligible fish must comply with prevailing legal state and local regulations. This includes slot limits and 15” minimum length on tidal rivers.
- (d) One of the TX’s may be at night
- (e) The team may also choose to have an open TX or adjust the format that does not count towards the PFT Mr. Bass standings.

## **ARTICLE III - Tournament Eligibility**

- (a) Member must be in good standing with BASS, MBN, and PFT

## **ARTICLE IV - Tournament Pairings**

### Section 1: Pairings

- (a) All members shall be paired with another member before a guest can be asked to fish
- (b) Each member will receive the schedule of tournaments to be fished for the season
- (c) Tournament drawings will occur at the team meeting prior to the TX or at the TX director’s discretion

- (d) **It is the member's responsibility to notify the TX director of their intention to fish** or not to fish. If you do not notify the TX director it will be assumed that you are not fishing! **No Exceptions! You will not be qualified to fish the event**
- (e) Selection of partners will be made in a random manner by the TX director. When deemed necessary the TX director may modify selections to facilitate equal pairings throughout the season
- (f) It is the responsibility of each member to contact their partner prior to the TX. It is also the responsibility of the participants to notify the TX director if either one cannot fish the event

## ARTICLE V – Fishing Rules

### Section 1: Fishing Rules

- (a) Only artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” or “dead bait” will be permitted, Pork rinds, strips, and scents are permitted.
- (b) Only one casting, flipping, spinning, or fly rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. Other rods as specified above may be in the boat, ready to use, however, only one is permitted to be used at any given time.
- (c) A hung rod will be considered as not in use.
- (d) Trolling with a single rod is permissible
- (e) Anglers are allowed to keep bass only if they are dead at weigh-in.
- (f) If an angler receives a monetary fine during the official TX hours they shall be deemed disqualified and forfeit any entry or lunger fees

## ARTICLE VI – Ease off /Weigh In procedures

### Section 1: Weigh In procedures

- (a) All anglers who participate in a one day TX shall receive a predetermined show-up bonus. If an angler leaves early they are still eligible for the bonus providing they advise the TX director of their departure. A weigh slip must be left at a designated vehicle. If the boater is by them self the boater may put fish of legal size into the live well and have a club member confirm the sizing at the earliest possible convenience.
- (b) There shall be only one official check in station determined by the tournament director.
- (c) Competitors who are not at the official check in station by the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of (1) pound per minute up to 15 minutes, at which time their entire catch including lunger will be disqualified. Penalty to be assed to the largest fish first.

## ARTICLE VI – Ease off /Weigh In procedures continued

- (d) **It is the responsibility of each competitor to know the official time and weigh in time**
- (e) Safety and good judgment should always be practiced. At the TX directors discretion a late weigh-in may be waived if extreme circumstance warrant. You must make every effort to notify the TX Director of your circumstances.
- (f) Fish length must be recorded (***not live welled***) at the time the fish is caught on the official score sheet.
- (g) The official weigh slip must be filled out completely before turning them in.
- (h) Dead fish may not be culled and must be delivered to the weigh-master for verification and proper disposal.
- (i) Dead Fish Penalties: For each legal, dead bass, presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following, to be deducted from their daily score: 1 dead fish – 4 oz., 2 dead fish – 12 oz., 3 dead fish – 24 oz., 4 dead fish – 40 oz., 5 dead fish – 60 oz.
- (j) **Anglers must submit weigh slips ASAP to the TX director following the end of a tournament.**

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- (k) A start time of 06:00 AM means you should have your boat in the water and be ready to leave at 05:40 AM. An ease off order shall be instituted per pairing order if requested by any competitor. If someone is running late then the Boater and Rider need to communicate and let the TX Director know of the situation. If there is an irrevocable difference between the Boater and Rider than the TX Director shall make a decision.
- (l) Every angler must submit a weigh-in slip in order to receive show-up weight

Section 2: Tie breaking procedures – In case of a tie tournament results and stands shall be determined by

- (a) Total Fish Caught
- (b) Largest Fish Caught
- (c) Largest fish in succession

## ARTICLE VII – Standings/Mr. Bass/RSQT/Awards

Section 1: TX Purpose

- (a) The purpose of the standings is to determine the teams Mr. Bass representative for the year
- (b) Angler's receive credit for their best 9 TX's fished out of the 12 tournament season tournament standings will be determined by the following scoring method:  
Winner receives 30 points and each successive finisher who catches a fish receives 1 point less.  
In addition bonus points are awarded for the following accomplishments.  
1 point for the win  
1 point for the lunker  
1 point for the most number of keepers or achieving a five fish limit –  
This can be awarded to as many fisherman who achieve the task.  
Not catching any fish is scored 3 points less than the lowest competitor who caught a fish.
- (c) Only Largemouth, Smallmouth Bass, and Spotted Bass qualify.
- (d) The fishes weight will be determined by using the Golden Rule method
- (e) Measurement shall be from a closed mouth to the tip of the longest part of the tail. **Another eligible PFT member must validate all fish measuring.** If a member is fishing solo or with a guest the fish must be live-welled until the catch can be measured
- (f) Each boater is responsible for owning their own Golden Rule
- (g) The TX director shall instruct the team on the proper method of measuring prior to the start of each season
- (h) There shall be a five bass limit, or as per state regulations
- (i) All competitors are bound by the prevailing local, state, and federal boating and fishing laws
- (j) Per TX rule changes on 01.11.2014 we will continue to fish in a single Boater/Rider division.
- (k) At each PFT tournament there is an optional lunker pool. The fee to be determined by the team
- (l) Contestants must pay lunker fee to the TX director or designate prior to launch to be considered eligible
- (m) Payouts per TX shall consist of \$60.00 for first and \$30.00 for second.
- (n) A plaque will be awarded to the angler catching the largest bass (lunker) each year
- (o) Plaques will be awarded for seasons first, second, and third place angler
- (p) A plaque will be awarded to the angler with the largest creel of the year in a single TX.
- (q) A plaque will be awarded to each winner in the team tournament

## ARTICLE VII – TX, Lunker and Mr. Bass, Payouts

Section 2:Mr. Bass reimbursement

- (a) At the conclusion of the season the top two PFT anglers with the best finish will be eligible for a predetermined amount of compensation to fish the MBN Mr. Bass TX. If an angler is unable to fish then compensation will be provided to the next eligible angler who can participate in the tournament.

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The angler with the best finish has the choice whether to fish as a boater or rider. Contestants will be awarded compensation if they adhere to one of the following:

- Fish all days of the contest
- Fish one day and mutually agree with the other PFT member not to fish the last day and formally notify MBN TX officials of their decision.
- If the Boater has pre-fished and then is unable to fish due to circumstances beyond his control. The merits of the circumstances will be determined by the board consisting of the President, Vice President, and Tournament Director via vote.
- If an MBN technicality in pairing prevents one of the PFT anglers from participating.

I have read the TX rules and fully understand them.

Signed:

Date: