

Fayette County Bass Club of Tennessee, Inc.



Official Rules and Regulations

2025

Fayette County Bass Club of Tennessee, Inc. Official Rules and Regulations

1. **Safety.** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime a combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
2. **Sportsmanship.** Competitors in F.C.B.C. tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. No alcohol beverages or other stimulants or depressants, shall be allowed in the boats. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament may be deemed cause for disqualification.
3. **Tackle and Equipment.** Only artificial lures may be used. No “live or prepared bait” will be permitted, with exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one (1) casting, spin casting, or spinning rod (eight (8) foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any time, all other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only one (1) is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
4. **Basic Boat Equipment.** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space (PROMPTLY AERATED TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT). Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is “PROPER AND ADEQUATE.”
5. **Boat and Travel Expense.** In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-owner partner at least assume the cost of gas and oil for the competition day (\$60 minimum). It is a requirement to give a 48 hours advanced notice to one’s partner of any cancellation. If no notice is given the partner that canceled is required to pay the participating partner for the cost of travel (\$60 minimum), either boat partner or non-boat partner.
6. **No Show.** In the case a boater does not show up at the ramp for a tournament, the Board of Directors shall determine which boat is capable for safely caring three persons on board, then shall draw straws to see which he will fish with, if a boater does not have a no-boater then automatically they will fish together as team. In the case of three men in same boat then the third man should keep his fish separate.
7. **Tournament Committee.**
 - a. The club shall nominate five members and shall elect three members at large to the tournament committee. The current club president and the immediate past president shall automatically be tournament committee members.

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- b. The tournament committee shall meet in sufficient time for the proposed sites, dates and times to be brought before the club at the regularly scheduled January meeting.
- c. The club membership shall then vote on the proposed sites, dates and times making whatever changes they deemed advisable at the January meeting. Simple majority vote on any proposal shall be all that is required for acceptance or rejection. A complete tournament schedule as adopted shall be published in the February newsletter.

8. Changing Sites, Dates and Times

Once a tournament schedule is adopted, it can be amended only under the following conditions:

- a. By a 2/3 vote of the club provided the changes are made at least the meeting prior to the scheduled tournament.
- b. By acts of God. The tournament committee has the right to cancel and/or amend the schedule of any tournament where they feel unfishable conditions due to floods, inclement weather, dangerous conditions exist, or tournament waters are overcrowded.
 1. The tournament committee shall have the right to postpone the start of any tournament when they feel dangerous conditions exist. Completion time will be determined at the Safety Meeting.
 2. If a tournament is postponed, it shall be the responsibility of the committee to notify at least one member of each team of the postponement. It shall be the responsibility of the notified member to notify their partner of the postponement.
 3. If the selected body of water is unfishable due to floods, the tournament committee should hold the tournament on a fishable body of water, if one is available on the same date and on the same times as originally scheduled. If the tournament site is changed it shall be the tournament committee's responsibility to notify at least one member of each team of the change. It shall be the responsibility of the notified member to notify their partner of the change.

9. Permitted Fishing Location.

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their day's catch to be scored in the tournament.

10. Official Checkpoint.

There shall be only one official point for check out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. This point shall be designated at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament.

11. Scoring.

Tournament winners shall be determined by the total pound weight (measured in lbs – 1.00 lbs) of the team's catch during the day of the tournament. Only largemouth, spotted red-eye or small-mouth bass will be weighed. The catch limit per competitor shall be five (5) or less if specified for a given tournament of the above species and varieties per day. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision. If a team has in its possession more fish than the given limit, then working in order of largest to smallest a fish will be culled until the legal limit is met. The official length for bass shall be twelve (12) inches or the legal lake limit. THE OFFICIAL MEASURING DEVICE SHALL BE A FLAT-BOARD (GOLDEN RULE TYPE). Tournament officials will only verify the length of fish presented for weigh-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure twelve (12) inches or legal lake limit shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited at the discretion of the tournament officials. Each competitor must present his catch to the weigh-in official.

a. Culling Dead Fish – Not Allowed.

Any legal fish caught by a competitor during tournament hours that becomes deceased prior to Check-In cannot be culled.

12. Dead Fish Penalty Points.

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized four ounces (0.25 lbs.) of weight, to be deducted from the competitor's daily score. Each competitor with a dead bass shall be responsible for the proper disposal of their dead bass. Throwing back dead bass into the tournament waters at or near the ramp is not proper disposal. The dead bass penalty will also be applicable to any Lunker fish that are dead when presented to the weigh-in officials.

13. Short Fish Penalty Points.

For each short bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the short fish and one (1) pound of weight, to be deducted from the team's daily score.

14. Late Penalty/ Start Time.

Competitor(s) who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute. The penalized weight will be deducted from the total weight of the competitor's catch, including any weight to be counted toward a "Lunker Award." Any competitor(s) more than fifteen minutes late will lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up LOST TIME. All fishing must cease upon check-in. The starting and check-in times will be established at the meeting prior to the tournament.

15. Type of Tournament.

Each regularly scheduled tournament conducted by the club shall be a boat tournament. The total weight of legal fish caught by both partners determines the outcome.

16. Selection of Partners.

Partners shall be selected by blind draw held in open at the regularly scheduled meeting prior to the tournament. No member shall have the same partner until every one has fished together.

A blank chip will be added for every boater less co-angler.

Exceptions:

a. Requesting a BY.

A member has the rite to request at least one BY per Tournament Season. This allows a member to fish by themselves or to bring a guest. Requesting the BY privilege means that the member shall be held out of the draw and will be assigned a boat position after the draw is complete. In the event a BY is requested by more than one member, there will be a subsequent BY draw to determine boat position.

b. Round Robin BY.

In an effort to try and reduce the number random BYs drawn for a Boater in a given Tournament Season, the following process will be enacted in a round robin manner during the selection of partners:

- If a Boater has drawn a BY and the Boater has not drawn a BY in any previous tournament, then the BY is awarded.
- If a Boater has drawn a BY and the Boater has had a BY in a previous tournament, then the draw continues until the Boater is assigned a Co-Angler; provided there are enough Co-Anglers available in the draw.

Note: Requested BYs will not be applicable to the Round Robin BY process.

17. Tournament Entry Fee, Fruit Jar and Lunker Pot.

A team must have one active club member in order to participate in the Lunker and Fruit Jar Pots.

- a. **Entry Fee.** There will be a Tournament Entry Fee of \$20 per competitor. Anyone fishing a Tournament is required to pay the Entry Fee. This includes any guests. Any competitors failing to pay their Entry Fee will forfeit any and all tournament points (Safety, Bonus, Weight and Lunker). \$10 of the Entry Fee will go to the Club coffers to help fund Club expenses. \$510 will go to the Angler of the Year (AOY) Awards. Boater entries will go to the Boater AOY. Co-Angler entries will go to the Co-Angler AOY.

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- b. **Lunker Pot.** The entry fee for the Lunker Pot of a given tournament is \$5 per competitor. There will be 100 % payback on the money collected to the participating competitor catching the largest fish weighing at least 3.00 lbs. If a tie for the Lunker fish exists, then money collected will be paid out in equal shares to the competitors catching the lunkers that created the tie.

Exceptions:

1. If a qualifying fish is not caught at a given Club Tournament, then 100% of the Lunker Pot money collected will carry over to the next tournament until a qualifying big fish is caught.
2. Any competitor wishing to get in to a Carry Over Lunker Pot must “true up”, pay any back-entry fee(s), to be eligible for a Carry Over Lunker Pot.
3. Lunker Pot funds will not be carried over from one Tournament Season to the other. All Lunker Pot funds will be paid out at the yearend Classic regardless if a qualifying fish is caught or not.

- c. **Fruit Jar Pot.** Any competitor that participates in the Lunker Pot is eligible to participate in the Fruit Jar Pot. The entry fee for the Fruit Jar Pot of a given tournament is \$40 per competitor. The Fruit Jar Pot is 100% pay back to the top 3 eligible places. At least one competitor of a team must have contributed to the fruit jar pot to be eligible to win. The \$40 entry fee will be broken down into the following buckets for payout:

1st Place -- \$20 2nd Place -- \$12 3rd Place -- \$8

Note: All tournament moneys should be paid in full at the next Club Meeting.

18. Determining Club Tournament Winners.

- a. Fruit Jar places will be determined by the Teams ranking from the heaviest to the lightest net total combined competitor weight.
- b. Lunker will be determined by the angler catching the net total heaviest bass.
 - a. Weight shall be record in fractional pounds. (i.e. 1.54 lbs)

Note: Net Total weight equals the Gross Total Weight minus any penalties.

Tie Breaker.

If a Team tie occurs during a Club Tournament, then the following tie breakers rules will be used (in order of listing):

1. Team with the largest number of legal fish weighed
2. Team with the largest number of legal live fish weighed
3. Team with the heaviest single day catch weighed

Note: If a Tie cannot be broken, then any winnings will be split equally among the Teams.

19. Awarding Points.

At the beginning of a Tournament Season Members shall choose their Competitor designation:

Boater or Co-Angler

The Club shall maintain separate points ranking of Members based on their Competitor designation.

1. Accumulation of points per Competitor shall commence at the first tournament and conclude at the completion of the Club Classic Tournament.
2. Members shall be awarded one (1) point per pound for their individual catch at each tournament. For Example: 1.38 lbs. will be awarded 1.38 points.
3. Based on the Tournament Season, all tournament results will be used to calculate a Competitor's year end points. No tournament drop points will be granted.
4. In order for Competitor to be eligible to fish a monthly club tournament, the member must let an Officer know that they will be fishing the tournament prior to the Parings Draw at the Monthly Club Meeting. For the given month.

Competitor Designation Change

If a Member competes both as a Boater and a Co-Angler during a given tournament year, the Member's Competitor designation for the Year End Standings shall be based on the simple majority designation (Boater or Co-Angler) of tournaments fished.

For Example: If a Member competes as a Boater in 5 tournament and as a Co-Angler in 4 Tournaments, then the Member shall be listed as a Boater in the Year End Standings.

In the event a Member fishes an equal number of tournaments as a Boater and Co-Angler, then Member's Competitor designation for the Year End Standings shall be Boater.

Tie Breaker.

If a tie occurs after Year End points have been calculated, then the following tie breakers rules will be used (in order of listing):

1. Member with the higher Unadjusted Year End Points
2. Member with the largest number of legal fish weighed
3. Member with the largest number of legal live fish weighed
4. Member with the heaviest tournament catch weighed
5. Member with the second heaviest tournament catch weighed

Note: Unadjusted Year End Points equals all points accumulated for the Full Tournament Season.

Note: If a Tie cannot be broken, then the Members will be awarded "Co-Champions"

20. State Tournament FCBC Team.

The top 6 members at the end of the year will go to the western state tournament and represent the club. The top 3 Boaters going to the state tournament will receive \$150 for boat and travel expenses. The top 3 Co-Anglers going to the state tournament will receive \$100 for travel expenses. All team expenses will be provided given sufficient club funds are available.

21. TBF Inc National Semi-Finals Tournament.

The top members at the end of the previous Tournament Season will have the first opportunity to accept the invitation to fish the National Semi-Finals Tournament. The number of eligible competitors that can go and represent the Club will be determined by NSF eligibility Rules. The Club will reimburse the entry fees of the anglers who compete provided give sufficient club funds are available.

22. Year End Awards.

At the Club Banquet, the following awards will be presented:

a. Boater of the Year.

A “Boater of the Year” trophy shall be awarded to the member meeting the following criteria for a given Tournament Season:

1. Designated as a “Boater” Member.
2. Accumulated the highest points total among “Boater” Members.

b. Co-Angler of the Year.

A “Co-Angler of the Year” trophy shall be awarded to the member meeting the following criteria for a given Tournament Season:

1. Designated as a “Co-Angler” Member.
2. Accumulated the highest points total among “Co-Angler” Members.

c. Rookie of the Year.

A “Rookie of the Year” trophy shall be awarded to the member meeting the following criteria for the given Tournament Season:

1. Highest accumulation of points
2. Is their first year of Membership with the Club

c. Lunker of the Year.

A “Lunker of the Year” trophy shall be awarded to the member meeting the following criteria for the given Tournament Season:

1. Catching the largest legal bass for the Club

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23. Best Angler at the State Divisional Tournament.

Of the members that represent the Fayette County Bass Club at the TBF state divisional tournament (West), the member with the highest ranking shall be awarded a prize. The prize shall be provided by the club and shall not exceed \$100 in value. If two or more members tie, then each member will receive an equal share of the prize.

24. Amending the Tournament Rules.

The tournament rules may be amended only at the last regular meeting of the year by a 2/3 vote of the members present, unless the Board of Directors determines a change in the rules must be made earlier in the year.