

RIVER CITY BASS OF OMAHA, NE.

Official tournament rules and regulations revised from the National B.A.S.S. Tournament Rules.

The following rules of the River City Bass Club (RCBC) will remain in effect for all tournaments. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament directors and their interpretation shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Participation in any club tournament is only open to active or prospective members of RCBC.

2. REGISTRATIONS AND PRE-TOURNAMENT: All tournament competitors must register for each river city bass tournament at the regular monthly meeting prior to each tournament. If a member is not present at the monthly meeting in which tournament pairings commence he is required to send an email (to an officer) preferably, or word (least desired method) or phone message stating his intention to fish the ensuing tournament, if no notice is received from this member it is assumed that he is not fishing.

A TD, using these guidelines, may add contestants to a previously drawn tournament:

A. Boater: If the draw is not evenly paired, a boater shall be allowed, after an email announcement, to apply for the open Co angler spot and be placed on that list by a TD. If the draw is evenly paired, and no other boaters are drawn out of their boat, after the email announcement, a TD may add his boat to the end of the boater list* and he may fish alone. If other regular boaters are previously drawn out of their boat, the boater wishing to join late may offer to replace the first drawn out boater as a co, and the co, now boater, may be added to the end of the list by a TD and fish alone*.

B. Co-angler: If there is an uneven draw, a Co can announce via email and be added to the open boat by a TD. If there is a draw where normal boaters have been drawn out, a Co may replace the first drawn out boater, thus placing the now boater on the end of the list by a TD, and fish alone[^]. If there is an even draw⁺, a Co can be a boater*, if able (boat must meet RCBC guidelines); can find a guest to provide a boat and thus participate as a normal Co (from the last boat position, IAW RCBC rules); or convince a larger boat to take a third person (without expectation of boat control).

*- Not able to claim assistance from RCBC for gas money.

[^]-Able to claim RCBC assistance, and receive ½ share of gas money.

⁺-Obviously, this is the most difficult position to be in, without luck on your side, the end result be that a true Co cannot be added to the current tournament.

All boaters must check in with a tournament director to receive a scale kit. Tournament waters shall be off limits to fishing by all competitors 48 hours prior to a one (1) day tournament. For two-day tournaments no fishing of the lake is allowed eight (8) hours prior to the start of the tournament.

While on the lake during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee or another person deemed a professional expert of these tournament waters by the club officials. Once the tournament dates have been set any changes to those dates and/or locations can only be made by a unanimous vote (to do so) by the participants of that tournament. This vote can occur from the day of the drawing for that tournament, up to the start of the tournament.

3. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct shall be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Competitors must wear a coast guard approved life preserver anytime that the combustion engine is running above no wake speed, and the kill switch lanyard must be attached to the life jacket. Breach of this rule after being warned may result in disqualification from the tournament for the day.

Adverse Weather: In the event of adverse weather, the TD determines if/when it is safe to launch (added 2018). The TD may adjust fishing time based on any delay due to *adverse weather conditions.*

4. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these rules and fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

In cases where an angler feels as though another participating angler has unknowingly or knowingly shown a lack of sportsmanship to the point of taking advantage for their own sake or limiting the ability of another angler to fish fairly, it is the ownership of the angler who feels they are put at a disadvantage to professionally and properly address the issue with the imposing angler. If the issue cannot be fairly resolved by the anglers, then it shall be the responsibility of the angler or anglers at conflict to bring the issue to the attention of the Tournament Director(s) or another officer(s) to determine the next steps (added 2017)

5. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, fish attractants, and variation thereof. Only one casting, spin-cast, or spinning reel and rod may be used at any one time. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however, only one rod and reel is permitted in the water at any given time.

5a. A competitor may use his own boat and motor, or rent a boat and motor at the tournament site. Such possible rental is the sole responsibility of the competitor. A competitor answering affirmatively to the question, "will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make the boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with one who does.

6. **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** *Every tournament boat must have all required Coast*

Guard and B.A.S.S. Nation safety equipment (Added 2018). Any boat used for a club tournament must be deemed safe for the boater and co-angler, by a club tournament director, prior to tournament day.

7. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES: A full discussion shall be held between the two partners prior to morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. This schedule must permit each partner to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters in an equal number of hours. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one half of the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the tournaments directors, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be liable for disqualification. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament boat it is suggested that the cost be split between partners. The person causing damage, if damage is due to negligence or carelessness, shall pay any damage done to a member's boat during a tournament.

8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so, if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Contestants must not depart the boat to land a fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In such as emergency, contestants may be removed from their boat, to a boat operated by other contestants, or a rescue boat so designated by tournament directors. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other's catch/card, under the conditions stated above. Trailering of boats during the tournament is prohibited, unless otherwise designated by tournament directors, or in case of foul weather conditions, or boat failure, etc.

9. OFFICIAL CHECK POINT: There shall be only one official point for check-in, in the morning and weigh-in (when used) in the afternoon and this point shall be designated by the tournament directors. At the time of check-in all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules set forth by the tournament director's. The check-in point is generally considered to be the ramp area. All weights recorded on the first day of a two-day tournament will be announced, by the tournament director, to those fishing the tournament. This announcement can occur at the check-in point or at the evening meal after day one of the two-day tournament.

10. OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT TIME KEEPING: The tournament director shall announce the exact tournament ending time. For example, a tournament ending at 3:00 p.m. will end at 3:00:00 p.m.. Arriving at 3:00:01 will be considered late.

11. LATE PENALTY: Any competitor showing up after the exact check-in time shall incur a one pound per minute deduction penalty (with the deduction coming off the card starting with the biggest bass) up to 15 minutes; after 15 minutes the day's entire catch is disqualified without reasonable excuse if so determined by the tournament director(s). A tournament director must be called any time you cannot make it to the check-in

location on time, to possibly avoid the late penalty. The check-in point is considered to be the vicinity of the ramp. Any further clarification of the check-in area will be determined before blast-off on the morning of the tournament.

12. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: The pairing of partners shall be determined by the tournament committee at the meeting preceding the tournament. The names shall be drawn from a hat, *by first drawing a boater, then drawing a co-angler, until all individuals who are in the draw, have been assigned as a boater or co-angler (added 2017)*. Boat determination shall be decided between tournament partners. If a boater, due to the tournament draw, is picked as a non-boater (*drawn out*), *that boater shall not be drawn out of their boat in any event for the remainder of the season unless all other declared boaters for that event have already been drawn out of their boats during the current season (added 2017)*

*The suggested application: During the draw a member in this guaranteed position would be drawn in a fashion to make sure the member was a boater. For example, if there were four boaters in the drawing with one being a guaranteed boater and that member was not drawn by the third position he would automatically become the third boater.

13. ODD MAN: An odd man fishing a tournament shall be awarded one-half his tow vehicle gasoline expense including boat gas. This situation [odd man] shall not occur to the same person more than one time per year, due to tournament draw. Any boater who is designated as the odd man, shall make his claim to one-half expenses no later than the meeting following the tournament the odd man fished.

14. YOUR CATCH: Only largemouth, spotted, *red-eye (2018)* or smallmouth bass will be counted. All fish must be weighed and released. Whatever scale type is in use by the club shall be carried forward until such time as change is made in its entirety to all scales designated for club tournament uses (i.e. weight in ounces or tenths of a pound). The established conversion from one system to the other is hereby documented as follows:

Fourteen (14) ounces equals nine-tenths (9/10) of a pound. Only fish weighing 14 ounces (9/10 of a pound) or more will count toward total tournament weight.

15. SCORING: tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners, shall be determined by the total number of points of each contestants' catch during the tournament.

RCBC point system is calculated as follows:

1st place = 40 points	4th place = 37 points etc.
2nd place = 39 points	5th place = 36 points
3rd place = 38 points	6th place = 35 points

Points will continue down 7th, 8th and etc. Awards will be given to the first three (3) places; 1st, 2nd and 3rd. Any contestant who does not weigh in a fish in the tournament will be awarded ten (10) points.

In addition to the above, each contestant will be awarded one (1) extra point for each whole pound of fish weighed in, which will be added to the regular points received per place finished. Bonus points earned during multiple-day tournaments will be determined by rounding the total weight of no more than six recorded fish *each day (added 2017)* down to the whole pound, and then dividing the total weight by 1.5, and rounding that weight down to the whole pound again, resulting in an averaged bonus point amount.

An annual award shall be given to a club member for his achievements finishing the tournament season with the highest points score (generally the best five tournament scores). It shall be titled the "Mr. Bass" award. Also, the president shall give an annual award to the club member catching the "largest bass of the year"*** during a club tournament. It shall be titled "big bass award". Also, there will be a "big bass award" for the largest bass caught per tournament. Tournament placements will be awarded by total weight for a six (6) fish total.

**This award may or may not include big bass pot (see below); any fish not meeting the weight requirement, will be recognized, but will not win the pot.

The annual big bass pot (\$10 per member paid at dues collection or joining meeting) will be paid to the member catching the largest bass caught during the tournament year equaling or exceeding 5.00 pounds. If no fish exceeding 4.99 pounds is produced, the pot shall roll over to the next tournament year until the weight requirement is met.

16. TIES (Big Bass and/or tournament points): The tournament directors shall be responsible for resolving all ties in accordance with these rules. The heaviest bass breaks all ties (if the biggest bass is tied, then proceed to the next biggest fish, and so on). The heaviest stringer breaks big bass ties. In the event that a tie still exists between two or more participants the points involved shall be divided equally.

Example: Two participants tie for second with one bass that weighs 2 lbs., 2nd place points and 3rd place points would be added then divided by two and each participant would receive equal points; $39 + 38 = 77$, divided by 2 = 38.5 points. If there is a tie for big bass of the year, the big stringer for the day each contestant caught their bass will break the tie.

17. WEIGHING: Weigh all fish on scales provided by the club. Penalty of one (1) pound for any kept fish. Everyone is allowed one (1) fish per year with no penalty.

18. TOURNAMENT STANDINGS:

18.a. The Club's overall point standings are computed from up to the "best" five tournament results. It is possible that a member with four (or less) really good scores can be placed higher than a member with five lesser scores.

18.b State Team: Typically, the top eight anglers, IAW the tournament standings (best 5 scores) constitutes the eight-man (Calcutta) State team.

The top eight RCBC anglers will be funded by the club (entry fee, banquet, applicable lodging) and will constitute the 8-man Calcutta team [Team 1] regardless if a

boater or co-angler.

In cases where a top eight member cannot attend state, the offer of being on the Calcutta team will extend down the overall standing list until the eight-man team is filled.

18.c. Any RCBC member can go to State, regardless of overall standing. Those members not in the top eight (or moved into the top eight) may be placed on RCBC Team 2, and will fund their own way 100%. If team two reaches a significant number, the members of team 2 can opt to pay the team Calcutta.

19. TOURNAMENT START TIME: It is the responsibility of each team (boat) participating in a club sanctioned tournament event to have their boat in the water and ready to participate at the designated start time. If a team is late, they shall lose their designated starting slot and shall be responsible to locate and notify the tournament director of their arrival and participation. They shall be required to comply with the established finish time regardless of their initial start time.

20. TOURNAMENT HOURS: Tournament hours for one (1) day events shall be no more than ten (10) hours in accordance with State laws, to be determined at the club meeting, at the draw. Tournament hours for two (2) day events shall be less than sixteen hours (combined) for both days, to be determined at the club meeting, at the draw.

Should a scheduled two-day tournament be terminated after one day due to weather conditions or other circumstances beyond club control, that tournament shall be deemed to be a one-day tournament. A two-day tournament will not be converted into two one-day tournaments. During a two-day tournament if a boat(s) and/or contestant(s) decide to leave for any reason the remaining boat(s) and contestant(s) can continue the tournament.

The contestant(s) that leave(s) will not be awarded points for day two. All other contestant(s) points would be treated in accordance with the standard two-day tournament rules. Note: a tournament director can override this rule should conditions warrant.

21. RULE CHANGES: Any rule found to be in "conflict" may be amended at any regular meeting as long as a Tournament Director is present and is approved by the quorum. An amended rule must be presented in the annual review for approval by two-thirds of a majority of the membership of RCBC at the regular December meeting. Changes to the above rules must be submitted in written form and approved by two thirds of a majority of the membership of RCBC at the regular December meeting only. Proposed rule changes must be submitted to the club officers before the December meeting is called to order. Once the meeting begins, no additional rule changes will be entertained.

All changes to the rules and regulations will be noted in italics, followed by the year changed, and will be carried as such for two years, for informational purpose.