



Peace Valley Bass Anglers Club Tournament Rules

Rule Changes:

These rules will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. Protests must be made in writing within thirty (30) minutes of the official check-in time of each tournament.

Participants and Eligibility:

Participation is open only to members of the Peace Valley Bass Anglers Club. A properly completed and signed official entry form along with the current entry fee must be presented to the Tournament Director prior to but no later than the day of the scheduled tournament. NO REFUND of an entry fee will be made after the opening of each tournament unless there are extenuating circumstances.

Professionals:

Individuals that have fished four or more tournaments requiring an individual entry fee of \$450 or more in the prior twelve months are not eligible to fish in P.V.B.A. tournaments.

Guides:

Individuals who are serving as a licensed guide or have guided without a license for pay on the tournament waters within the past 30 days of the scheduled tournament are not eligible to fish the scheduled event.

Pre-Tournament Practice:

There may be a practice period preceding the day of the tournament. During practice on the tournament waters, a contestant may not have the assistance of a professional guide, any state or federal wildlife officials or any person deemed to be a "professional" by the tournament officials.

Registration:

Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours (1½ hours before safe light local time). Each contestant must also attend a pre-tournament meeting (30 minutes prior to "ooze off"). Failure to attend the pre-tournament meeting may result in disqualification.

Safety:

Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant must wear a serviceable Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PFD). This preserver must be worn; strapped or zippered anytime the combustion engine is operating until the combustion engine is shut down. The boat operator must have a safety-stop/kill switch attached to his person anytime the combustion engine is running. Violation of either the PFD or Safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.

Sportsmanship:

All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Violations of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. NO ALCOHOLIC beverages or UNPRESCRIBED DRUGS are allowed in the boat at anytime. Drunkenness at any official P.V.B.A. tournament activity will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regards to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contestants who are also on the tournament waters. All contestants must bring their trash/litter back to the dock for disposal. Any act of a contestant which reflects unfavorably upon the club's efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean water and sportsmanship shall also be reason for immediate disqualification.

Tackle and Equipment:

Only artificial lures may be used. No live baits or prepared baits will be permitted, with the exemption of pork strips, pork rinds, etc. Only one casting, spin-casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. Maximum rod length is 8ft. All others including fly rods are prohibited. Other rigged rods and reels may be in the boat ready for use. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner.

Boat and Motor:

All boats entered in a tournament must carry an appropriate amount of liability insurance. All boats must be equipped with some type of safety-stop/kill switch. No boat under 14'6" may be used during tournament hours. Each boat must have the required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Each boat must also have properly aerated or recirculating livewell space to maintain a live limit catch of bass by both contestants. Maximum horsepower for all boats will be 235 HP, not to exceed the maximum horsepower limitations set down by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1972. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat and the horsepower may not exceed this rating.

Boat Operation:

Any contestant answering yes to the question: "Will you enter a boat?" Will be expected to make that boat available for the tournament. Partners should discuss boat operation prior to "ooze off". Each partner is entitled to an equal number of hours to fish his/her selected waters. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director operates a boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified. All non-boaters will be expected to pay a partners fee of \$15.00 minimum at each tournament except at the discretion of the boater.

Permitted Fishing Locations:

Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated "Off Limits" by federal, state or local officials or within 50 yards of other tournament contestants, anchored or not. Contestants invoking the 50-yard rule must hold their boat steady. Any contestants allowing any other contestants to fish within 50 yards of their boat has suspended the 50-yard rule and opened the waters to all tournament contestants.

Official Checkpoint:

There will be only one official point for check-in, checkout and weigh-in as designated by the Tournament Director. Contestants will make every reasonable effort to be at the designated point. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late for weigh-in will be disqualified for that tournament day. This penalty will be assessed against both contestants of the boat since each person shares equal responsibility for weighing-in on time. Partners must weigh in together so as to verify their catch/no catch.

Tournament Hours:

Official start/ooze off and weigh-in times will be announced at the 30 minute pre-tournament meeting. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 8 hours fishing time. In the case of anticipated or bad weather conditions, the Tournament Director may cancel the tournament or call for an early weigh-in time.

Scoring:

Tournament standings will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth and/or Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit catch will be 5 fish unless the prevailing State, Lake or River is less. A contestant may not have more than the tournament limit in his/her livewell at any time. Culling must be done immediately. Minimum length requirements will be 12" (measured on a flat board, mouth closed and tail laid on the board in a natural manner) unless the prevailing state rule is larger. A penalty of 2 ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. A penalty of 1 pound will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish. If a "Big Bass" is weighed in dead, a 4-ounce penalty will be deducted from the total weight. A contestant that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately. Mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered fish will be grounds for immediate disqualification. No regurgitated baitfish will be weighed. Fish will not be put on a stringer at any time. Trading or giving any part of a catch to another contestant will result in disqualification for all parties involved. All fish must be returned to the water alive.

Pairing of Contestants:

All assignments of partners will be made by open draw prior to the day of the tournament. Every effort will be made to allow sufficient time for partners to confer prior to the actual tournament. The Tournament Director has no responsibility for finding lost partners. Each contestant is to meet his/her assigned partner at least 30 minutes prior to "ooze off" time. The Tournament Director may reassign pairings prior to morning "ooze off" to accommodate problems or emergencies.

Ties:

In the case of a tie, positions shall be resolved by combining awards and dividing them equally among the tied contestants. Duplicate points will be rewarded to the tied contestants.

Point System:

Each tournament is worth 100 points. Maximum points are awarded for a minimum of 10 contestants. For tournaments with less than 10 contestants, one point per person short of the minimum will be deducted from total points available. Points will be awarded in 1 point decreasing increments depending on place of finish. No contestant weighing in a fish in the tournament will receive less than 75 points regardless of place of finish. All contestants not weighing in a fish receive 25 show points. A perfect score is 800 points. 8 tournaments at 100 points each = 800 points. The annual "Classic" is a "no point" tournament.

Waiver of Tournament Rules:

Due to the uniqueness of the P.V.B.A. Club, there may arise an occasion when the above rules may not be practiced in their entirety. Waiver of any portion of these rules must have the written permission of the Club President and Vice-President.