



Trophy Bassmasters

PO BOX 525

KENTON, OHIO 43326

www.trophybass.org



2024 TOURNAMENT RULES

I. THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: will be appointed annually by the Vice President (Chairman). This committee will consist of at least three regular and one alternate member. Their duties are to conduct the drawing, enforce all tournament rules, and conduct the weigh-in of Club Tournaments and the proper care and release of tournament fish.

II. ELIGIBILITY: to compete for points and prize money in a club tournament:

1. Must be a member in good standing of **TROPHY BASSMASTERS**.
2. A member must have previous tournament debts owed to the club paid prior to the scheduled drawing.

III. DRAWINGS: will be conducted by the Tournament Committee immediately following the business meeting of a regularly scheduled meeting of Trophy Bassmasters. Drawings will be for all tournaments falling before the next scheduled meeting.

1. ALL names and money must be turned in at time of drawing. Any member who cannot attend the drawing and wishes to fish must notify a **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER** and have their money paid prior to the drawing.
2. No two members may fish together in two consecutive tournaments or in more than two tournaments in one year unless discussed prior to drawing. If the drawing violates this rule, a re-draw may be made. Prearranged pairings before drawing are allowed.
3. Before drawing begins, fishing times and ramp site will be set. Any special lake rules or conditions will be discussed at this time.
4. Tournament location and date will not be changed after the drawing except by the **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** due to an extreme condition.
5. Any members with a medical condition may fish together by a separate draw if they so desire.
6. If a participant leaves early, please notify the tournament director.

2024 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: Boyd Downey Chairman
Committee: Bert Grubbs; Don Ratcliff; Mike Johnson; John Massara; Dave Morlock



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6. Each member will have 2 tokens per tournament season to be used to exempt themselves from the regular draw and either pair up as they wish or choose to fish without a non-boater. Tokens must be turned in before the draw. Out of state tournaments are exempt from the regular drawing rules.

IV. ENTRY FEE: of **\$15.00** divided: \$1.00 to, BIG BASS, then \$14.00 divided, FIRST PLACE 50% SECOND 30% THIRD 20%

In the event of no winners in a category, the money goes into the CLUB TREASURY.

Big Bass must weigh at least 3lbs or the prize money is carried to the following club tournament.

V. PAYMENT to BOATERS: by non-boaters will be discussed and settled between boater and non-boater before blast off.

VI. Boat and Equipment: Horsepower will be limited to the coast guard B.I.A. plate rating on the boat.

1. The use of outboards over the tournament lake horsepower limit is prohibited.
2. No boat may be used without a minimum of **\$100,000** boating liability insurance. Documented proof should be in the boat at all times and must be submitted to any club member upon request

VII. SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP: All contestants will act in a courteous and sportsman-like manner. Safety and conservation is expected from each participant.

1. Chest type life preservers **MUST** be worn when gas powered motor is running.
2. All tournaments will start **PROMPTLY** at the designated starting time. Any non-boaters left on bank will be paired up or placed in another boat by the TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE.
3. Contestants may not fish tournament water on the day of the tournament prior to the starting signal.
4. Each partner will have the right to fish the front of the boat and choose the water for half the day.

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5. No fishing allowed within fifty yards of an ANCHORED (anchor out trolling motor up) tournament boat.
6. If any member is cited by a law officer for a violation during tournament hours, he is disqualified for that tournament day.
7. Starting time can be adjusted at the tournament site at the discretion of the tournament committee.
8. Paper scoring; a length to weight conversion will be used. All legal sized fish may be brought to scale at angler's discretion and will receive the greater of paper or scale weight. Dead fish penalties will apply.
9. Any off limits will be discussed at the meeting prior to the tournament. Otherwise all waters accessible by water from the designated base boat ramp are open and legal with current licensing.
10. Trailering is allowed on all Lake Erie, Detroit River, and Lake St Clair events unless otherwise stated. Anglers may trailer to any ramp accessible by water within 25 miles of the base ramp. Anglers must start from the base ramp in the morning, by boat number at the designated start time, and must be back at the same ramp by quitting time. Trailering is not permitted on any inland lakes.

VIII. SCORING: Only black bass, largemouth, spotted, and small mouth of lake legal limit in length will be scored unless paper scoring is being used.

1. All Fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner. NO LIVE BAIT or TROLLING allowed.
2. Limit shall be five (5) of the above species unless lake or State limits are less than 5. Then a special tournament limit shall be set.
3. Points will be based on a **35** Point System with first place receiving **35**, then second drops three to **32**, third drops two to **30**, fourth will drop two to **29**, fifth down drops one point each place.

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4. A minimum of five (5) points awarded to those who weigh in fish, two (2) participation points for all others.
5. There will be (2) points awarded for the big bass winner at each tournament provided the tournament is among the winner's top 9 tournaments.
6. Members may use a maximum of 9 tournaments to count as points for Angler of the Year and Regional standings

IX. TIES: will be broken in the following order:

1. Largest number of live fish.
- 2- Largest number of fish
- 3- Most weight for a single days catch (less penalties)
- 4- Largest number of live fish in a single day.
- 5- Largest number of fish in a single day
- 6- If tie still exists; all tied anglers receive tied position points then drop to next available spot.

X. PENALTIES: will be assessed at weigh-in as follows:

1. Boats not within fifty yards and within plain view of weigh-in sight at the official quitting time will be considered **LATE** and **WILL BE DISQUALIFIED**. Giving assistance to another boater will be excused.
2. Any boat operator passing another tournament boat in a no wake zone to gain an advantage will result in the operator forfeiting all points for that day, the exception being, if you are motioned on by the operator of the slower boat.
3. One POUND for each **SHORT** fish (more than 1/8 inch under legal limit) presented to be weighed.
4. Four OUNCES (.25) for each **DEAD** fish weighed in.
5. Partners must be notified **TWELVE HOURS** in advance of starting time if you do not intend to fish. If your partner cannot be reached a **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER** must be contacted.

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XI. APPEALS: to any penalty or disqualification must be made to a **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE** member at the weigh-in. Anyone not present at weigh-in must make his appeal within twenty-four, (24) hours.

XII. REGIONAL TEAMS: will be determined by the Angler of the Year club standings at the end of the previous year.

Any member of a Regional team that qualifies for the next level Federation tournament and does not choose to attend the next level tournament must reimburse the club for their portion of the Regional entry fee.

XIII. ANGLER OF THE YEAR: will be determined by the club standings after the last club tournament of the year.

XIV. CASH AWARDS: at end of year will be based on the final club standings, distributed as follows:

1st: \$200.00	4th: \$60.00
2nd: \$100.00	5th: \$50.00
3rd: \$75.00	6th-12th: \$40.00

XV. REVISIONS OF TOURNAMENT RULES:

may only be done after the last tournament of the year and prior to the first tournament of the next year.

XVI. O.B.F. and FLW Rules:

apply when a situation is not covered by these rules

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XVII. CLASSIC:

1. The classic will be a 1 or 2 day open style event following the regular season with no AOY points.
2. The classic will be open to all members in good standing that competed in at least 9 regular club tournaments during the season.
3. The site and starting times will be voted on at the meeting prior to the tournament. The site vote will consist of 2 rounds of voting. Each member votes for their choice the 1st round. The top 2 choices and ties from the 1st round are then voted on during the 2nd round. A 3rd round may be needed if there are several lakes still in round 2 due to ties in round 1. Proxy votes are allowed and can be used in all rounds as long as the choice is still active. Proxy votes cannot be changed after the 1st round.
4. Entry fee for the classic will be \$45.00 per member. This fee can be paid in increments throughout the year or all at once but must be paid in full prior to the event. The entire prepaid fee may be refunded if the member is not able to participate. Optional funding will be \$500.00 from the club treasury and \$20.00 per man entry fee. This option only used when treasury supports it and by a vote of the club at the club meeting prior to the classic.
5. Payouts will be 1st-35%, 2nd-25%, 3rd-20%, 4th-15%, and 5th-5%. Prize money and awards will be paid at the yearend banquet.
6. An optional big bass fee of \$5.00 per person will be collected at the ramp and paid out at the end of the event. Guests are eligible for the classic big bass payout.
7. Boat position will be determined by the final AOY point standings for the year.
8. Non boaters will be paired with the lowest participating boater in the AOY standings. Tokens may **NOT** be used for the classic.
9. Three (3) alternates will be drawn for the classic and will be assigned by their boat position from AOY standings starting from the bottom. Alternates should refrain from bringing guests to the tournament.
10. Following the initial pairings any 2 non-paired boaters may pair up and fish together if they mutually agree. Prearranged pairings before drawing are allowed.

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