



TOURNAMENT RULES

1. The sanctioning body of the club is the active officers of the current year. The officers will make any decisions on any discrepancies or grievances. These decisions will be made by more than one officer. If only one officer is present, the officer will contact another officer to discuss and make a ruling. If a decision must be made at that time and only one officer is present and cannot reach another officer, the officer shall make a decision to the best of their ability. If possible, the discrepancy or grievance will be tabled until the board members can meet and discuss the issue and resolve it. Any discrepancies or grievances need to be presented in writing to any of the officers within 30 minutes of completion of the event.
2. LIFE JACKETS: All contestants must wear lifejackets when the big motor is running and the boat is on a plane.
3. BOATS AND EQUIPMENT: Boats must be at least 14 feet in length; coast guard approved, and have a built-in working live well. All vessels must abide by all state and federal navigation laws. No cumbersome crafts (such as barges or pontoons) will be allowed in events. There is no ruling against refueling at a location that sells fuel or at a "fuel stop" at a predetermined location. However, the boat cannot contain a non-professionally installed fuel tank (e.g. gas cans) in the boat during tournament hours.
4. SAFETY: If a contestant's running lights or any other necessary safety item does not work properly, that angler will be allowed to fish an event, but must leave last and be sure that it is daylight enough for all vessels to see them. Anglers without running lights are not permitted to participate in night tournaments until deficiencies are corrected. An angler may enter another boat and fish an event, depending on the circumstances.
5. WEIGH-IN/LATE PENALTY: Weigh in times are 3:00 p.m. CST, unless otherwise determined by tournament director. Anglers who are late for weigh-in will receive a 1 pound per minute penalty up to 15 minutes; after which time, will be considered disqualified.

6. **SHORT FISH/DEAD FISH:** Any angler weighing in a short fish will lose his/her biggest fish and the short fish from their catch. No courtesy measures will be allowed at the official weigh in but an angler may borrow the official ruler to check their catch. Any angler weighing in a dead fish will receive a .25 lbs penalty for each dead fish.
7. **LIMIT/SIZE:** Limits consist of 5 bass per person; species that are considered include largemouth, spotted bass, smallmouth, redeye, and shoal bass. Minimum length is 12" unless the state or lake limit is more, in which case the state or lake limit will prevail. An angler may possess only 1 fish over 22" unless lake rules dictate otherwise or the angler has permits that state otherwise. Fish are measured on a golden rule with mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length.
8. All baits must be artificial; no use of live baits or any other methods of catching fish such as snatching, netting of wounded or sickly fish, gigging, basketing, etc. No catching fish for other competitors.
9. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as legal.
10. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave contact with the boat to land a fish, or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
11. **EMERGENCY:** In the event of a breakdown or emergency, a competitor may send his non-boater or fish to weigh in, or may choose to leave his/her boat and ride with another competitor to the weigh in. No angler will be left on the water. State creel limits will be complied with.
12. **CONDUCT:** All anglers will show respect to other anglers. This means (but is not limited to):
 - No cutting off other anglers during the event (such as cutting off other anglers during tournament run to advance yourself to a better position).
 - Another angler cannot be within fifty yards of another angler if that angler is powerpoled or anchored down with his/her trolling motor in the upright position.
 - No angler will knowingly disrupt another angler for personal gain; this means if another angler is fishing in a spot in which you wish to fish, you cannot show emotions by bogging your motor down and muddying up that spot.
 - If you visibly see someone heading in one direction while fishing, it is not sportsmanlike to pull fifty yards ahead of them and cut them off. You may, however, pull fifty yards behind them and fish behind that angler. Note that consideration needs to be made when the angler is backing down; i.e. boat

pointing up current, but the angler is traveling down current, while fishing current.

- At all times (fishing with the club or non-club events), every angler is considered to be a representative of the *Southern Bass Anglers* (SBA) bass club, and ANY unsportsmanlike conduct will not be allowed. No unlawful or harmful behavior will be tolerated. Any such actions will result in immediate disqualification from the event, and possibly being terminated from membership permanently without refund. SBA strives to be a class act and to set the example for other clubs.
 - If a member is causing issues with another member or the club itself, the officers will meet and discuss the issue, and then meet with all parties. The officers will then reconvene and choose a course of action.
13. GUEST PASSES: Each member will receive two guest passes per calendar year. A pass is used when a member wants to fish with another member or guest without entering the drawing. If a member doesn't draw a non-boater, the member may bring a guest or fish with another member at any time without having to use a pass.
 14. 2-DAY TOURNAMENT: In the 2-day tournament, a boater will only be eligible for a non-boater for one of the two days, unless there is a full non-boater field. For example, if a boater draws a non-boater on day 1, the boater will be removed for the draw on day 2. If the boater does not draw a non-boater on day 1, the member is still eligible to a non-boater on day 2.
 15. TIE: In the case of a tie, the tie goes to the angler with a limit. If both anglers have limits, the tie will be broken by big fish. If no big fish was weighed, the anglers will split the money. It is the angler's responsibility to have their big fish weighed. It is the angler's responsibility to pick out their big fish. It is NOT the responsibility of the weigh master to remind the angler to weigh the angler's big fish.
 16. MEETING/DRAWING: All members planning on fishing the club tournament that are unable to attend the meeting need to contact one of the officers or another member who will be attending the meeting before the next tournament. This is to ensure all members who plan on fishing the following club tournament will be put into the draw for a non-boater, and to assign a boat number. Any member that does not attend the meeting or inform a member that they are going to fish the tournament will be issued a boat number as he/she checks in the morning of the tournament. Members are STRONGLY urged to call before the meeting and inform the club that they are fishing.

17. MEETING/VOTING: Voting on where to fish will take place at the club meeting before the tournament. Voting cards will be passed out to all members present. The ballot will include all major fishing locations, as well as a write-in location. Ballots will be collected and tallied during the meeting. For non-present members to be eligible to vote, payment must be made prior to the meeting, or a representative for the member may pay on his/her behalf to be eligible to cast a vote. If the Apalachicola River is selected as the location, a second vote will be held to determine the landing.
18. RUNNING LATE: If a member is running late to a tournament, the member needs to try to make contact with a member that is at the event and let the tournament director know the member is on the way and will be fishing the event. If contact is not made before the tournament, the late member is responsible to make an effort to try and find a member and let them know that they are fishing the tournament. Entry fees will be due a weigh in.
19. DROPS/AOY: SBA will drop three tournaments a year. These will be the member's three lowest point tournaments or missed tournaments. The first drop will be after the April tournament, the second drop after the August tournament and the third drop after the December tournament. The member with the highest combined points after the three drops will be the AOY of that year.
20. NEW MEMBERS: Any person known to an existing club member or person transferring from another club or tournament trail in good standing with that club or tournament trail can join SBA and start fishing immediately. After that person has been with the club for two months they will be voted on for permanent membership. Any person not known by any member will fish two tournaments as a non-boater, and then will be voted on by the club for membership.
21. ENTRY FEES: The entry fee for regular season club tournaments is \$50; \$40 for the tournament and \$10 for the big bass pot. The non-boater typically pays the entry fee of the boater he or she draws out with (or at the boater's discretion for less). The club's yearly classic entry fee will be voted on at a regular season club meeting.
22. TERM LIMITS: There is a limitation on officer's term of 2 years. Officer voting is done via silent vote.
23. POINTS: SBA points system is: 100 points plus weight from that tournament for 1st, 99 points plus weight from that tournament for 2nd, and so forth. Non-boaters who become boaters during the season shall keep the points they have accrued while non-boaters. Any member of SBA who does not fish a minimum of 3 tournaments in a calendar year will not be eligible for points.

24. MEETING LOCATION: Club meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at Sonny's BBQ (Lynn Haven) at 7:00 p.m., in the back room. The date of the club meeting may be changed because of holidays or other conflicting events that may cause low attendance. Changes to schedule will be announced via a mass text and the web site.
25. SCHEDULE: SBA tournaments are held on the second Saturday of every month. SBA holds tournaments year round, for a total of 12 events. If there is a major event (holiday, inclement weather, etc.), the club will vote on a change of date for the tournament. Majority vote will determine the reschedule date.
26. BASS NATION: SBA is a Bass Nation club, and as such will follow the federation schedule of our region. Additionally, all federation rules will be strictly followed.
27. DUES: Club dues are \$50 per year. Any money requested above the \$50 will be used toward the cost of the SBA jersey.

