

# THE BASS FEDERATION - ARIZONA

## TOURNAMENT RULES

REVISED 1-18-2017

### 1. Rule Changes:

- A. Rules will be reviewed and changed if needed on an annual basis.
- B. Rules will be finalized and go into effect January 10, 2012 except where noted.

### 2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Designated participants and representatives must be in good standing with an Arizona State Federation affiliated club, 16 years old to operate watercraft, and 14 years to participate.
- B. Participants must be a member of The Bass Federation (TBF) and the FLW Outdoors.
- C. All participants shall provide proof of membership upon request.
- D. Participants must designate a primary club of competition prior to fishing their first Federation Qualifier Tournament of the year.
- E. Failure to comply with 2 D will result in primary club being determined by the first club named at the first tournament fished by the participant.
- F. The formation of a “paper club” is no longer allowed by TBF National rules. All clubs must conduct a minimum of 1 tournament a year to remain in good standing (2017 forward)**
- G. All TBF-AZ members have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having a limit of **no less than \$300,000** and covering the dates and participation in all events attended.

### 3. TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

- A. Off limits starts at 4:00 P.M. Friday night prior to the tournament. (revised, clarity)**

### 4. FISHING RESTRICTIONS:

- A. All Arizona Game and Fish regulations must be followed at all times.
- B. No fishing in any water designated as “OFF LIMITS” by any official government agency or tournament director.

C. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, Co-Anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard. Boaters may NOT request that the Co-Angler not fish. Co-Angler may not encroach the front deck without an invite or permission by the Boater.

D. Co-Anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day nor share information about their Boater's location or tactics with any other Boater.

E. No fishing within 50 yards of another competitor's boat if anchored or secured in a fixed position, with the trolling motor up. No boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yard circle claimed by him to the exclusion of any other competitor.

F. Artificial lures only, no live bait.

G. No trolling allowed. (Trolling defined as continual use of combustion engine to move baits.)

H. Use of electronic two way communications during tournament hours to gain fishing information is prohibited.

I. At no point during competition hours may a competitor have more fish than the tournament limit in his/her live well. Culling of dead fish is prohibited.

#### 5. REGISTRATION:

A. **Each contestant must be paired when signing up. It is strongly encouraged that you commit to partner for the year.** Registration (tournament entry) must be paid by the Tuesday prior to a Qualifier. Registration will not be accepted after Tuesday night. All tournament options are to be paid at the time of registration. Draw will take place at the Tuesday night meeting prior to the Qualifier. **(Revised)**

#### 6. SAFETY:

A. All U.S. Coast Guard rules apply to each participant.

B. Each boat shall be equipped and operated according to the "Laws of the Water" on which the tournament is held. C.P.F.D.'s must be worn (Zipped or buckled) and kill switches will be attached anytime the "BIG" motor is in operation except times of launching and retrieving of the boat on and off the trailer.

D. Life jackets (P.F.D.'s) must be Class III 50 MPH impact rated.

E. Working kill switches are mandatory.

F. At no time during official tournament hours (tournament hours are from safe light until scale closes) will the use of alcohol or illegal substance be allowed.

G. Maximum horse power to be limited to manufacturer's maximum horse power.

H. Engine bands must be attached to the big motor at all times during tournament hours. Boater is responsible for the band-if lost the cost of replacement is \$20.00.

I. Failure to comply with any of the above safety rules will result in full tournament disqualification.

#### 7. TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS:

A. A specified location from which the tournament will start and finish will be designated as tournament headquarters.

B. Weigh in location will be designated by the tournament director.

#### 8. SCORING:

A. Scoring is determined by pounds and hundredths of a pound.

B. For each dead fish, a penalty of .50 pound (8 ounces) will be deducted from the total weight of all fish weighed by participant for the day.

C. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass are permitted.

D. Minimum size limit is 12 inches. Except for Colorado River Lakes, (13inches).

E. Five (5) bass limits will be weighed per participant per day of the tournament.

**1. A culling tag is to be used to identify the angler's "Big Fish". If a culling tag is not utilized, the angler will forfeit the opportunity to weigh in the "Big Fish" category. (2017 forward)**

F. Measuring device at weigh in will be the official Federation weigh-master golden rule board.

1. A courtesy measuring board (Golden Rule) will be available for competitors to check fish against an identical board used at weigh-in. No fish will be checked at weigh-in by the Tournament Director or Tournament Official for size confirmation. Fish are measured close mouth and pinched tail. **\*\*See Culling Rules\*\***

G. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed and tail pinched.

H. Penalty for short fish will be a two (2) pound deduction from the total tournament weight and loss of the short fish.

I. Penalty of one pound per minute up to fifteen (15) minutes will be given to contestants arriving late for the weigh in.

J. After fifteen (15) minutes contestants will be disqualified for the day.

**K. Ties are broken by contestant's declared big fish weight, number of fish caught, number of fish alive, and if needed a coin toss. (defined tie breaker)**

L. If more than the daily limit of five (5) fish is brought to the weigh-in scale, that competitor will be disqualified for that tournament day

M. All and any culling must be completed prior to acknowledgement of the check-in boat and must be done outside of the check-in area.

N. All Contestants must check in with the on the water boat upon completion of the flight time of their fishing day. Anyone not weighing fish must declare a zero-weight to the Tournament Director or Weigh Master.

#### 9. BREAKDOWNS:

A. In case of a boat break down, one contestant may enter the boat of another contestant or tournament official with the catch of both contestants involved for the purpose of proceeding directly to weigh-in. The other contestant may remain with the disabled boat. At that time, fishing is done for the day for both contestants of the disabled boat.

B. Motor band is to be turned to the "orange side" indicating distress.

#### 10. PAIRING OF CONTESTENTS:

A. Two contestants (one boater, one non-boater) will be paired by draw.

C. Two contestants may not fish together more than one day per tournament.

D. Any contestant drawing a contestant who is a tournament committee member or is in the check in boat may be required to be at weigh-in before 1st flight is due in.

#### 11. TOURNAMENT START AND FINISH TIMES:

A. Blastoffs will be done in single file.

B. P.F.D.'s will be worn and kill switches attached for take off.

C. There will be three (3) flights, safe light until 3:00PM, safe light until 3:15 PM and safe light until 3:30 PM and may be changed at Tournament Directors discretion.

D. The boater who is assigned the #1 position for blast-off will be the Day 1 check in boat. The boater assigned the last boat position will act as the Day 1 launch boat calling out the launch order. This is reversed on Day 2. \*Effective 10/2010\* **(Will not apply to 1 day tournaments)**

## 12. RULES INTERPRETATION:

A. Any violation of the AZTBF Tournament Rules or “Unsportsmanlike” conduct may result in disqualification from this and any future AZTBF Tournaments.

B. All decisions on any rule infraction are made final by the selected Tournament Director/Tournament Committee.

C. Any circumstance not inclusive of AZTBF Rules will refer back to TBF National/FLW rules. This will be decided upon by the Executive Board.

## 13. PROTEST PROCEDURES:

A. Protests will be accepted and ruled on by the tournament committee if received verbally or written within one half (1/2) hour of the scales closing. Both the angler/co-angler being protested and the angler/co-angler protesting must be present.

## 14. SLOT LIMIT RULES:

A. On lakes with a slot limit rule. The Tournament will be an “Over and Under” Tournament. Acceptable fish will be between 12-13 inches or 16 inches or over.

B. All bass will be measured with mouth closed and tail pinched.

C. All other tournament rules apply within the guidelines of AZTBF, TBF/FLW. Rules.

