



Official Arizona State Junior Angler Championship Rules for 2009

- 1. RULE CHANGES** • Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. **Protests must be made in writing or verbally to the tournament director within 30 minutes of the official closing of the scales, which is after the end of the weigh-in.**
- 2. PARTICIPATION** • Participation is open only to tournament members of a TBF affiliated club and must have fished at least two club tournaments before the State Championship. Any person entering a tournament under the age of 18 must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. All contestants of legal age must have in their possession a valid fishing license. Any contestant that is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner, boat captain or himself shall not be eligible. **Any person entering a tournament must not be 19 years old by August 31 that year and must be 11 to 18 years old.**
- 3. OFF-LIMITS** • Tournament waters will be off-limits after midnight the night before the tournament. The purchasing of information or the hiring of services will not be permitted after midnight the night before tournament.
- 4. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING** • It is mandatory that all contestants attend the pre-tournament meeting that will be held before the start of the tournament. **Contestants not present for partner pairings and pre-tournament meeting will not be entered in the tournament unless granted special permission from the tournament director. Special permission may be granted only before start of Pre-tournament meeting.**
- 5. PAIRINGS** • Partners will be paired by draw. All contestants must meet with their assigned partners during pairings at the pre-tournament meeting.
- 6. SAFETY** • Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device any time the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- 7. CODE OF CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP** • All contestants/parents are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to TBF, FLW, sponsors, the sport of fishing and FLW Outdoors' efforts to promote the sport.



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7. CODE OF CONDUCT/SPORTSMANSHIP - *Continued*

Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the official rules for the 2009 Arizona State Junior Angler Championship.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Suspension from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 7. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, the tournament director shall have the right to penalize, suspend from competing in Junior State Championship events, permanent ban from competition, forfeiture of tournament winnings or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by the tournament director.

8. BOAT OPERATION • Boat captains will have complete control of boat operation while big motor is running and take contestants to choice of contestants waters to be fished. Each contestant will have control of the front of the boat and run the trolling motor for half of the tournament. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing water for one-half the tournament day. After pairing, contestants will flip a coin to see who has control of the front of the boat first. During tournament hours, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, boat captains, follow a non-competitor's boat or the placing of markers by anyone. The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.) or to communicate with tournament director.

9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION • Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants. **Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will not exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" plate described below.** Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) plate that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer.



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9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION - *Continued*

The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this plate. By signing the entry form, each contestant agrees to submit his/her boat and/or motor to an inspection by FLW Outdoors personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future FLW Outdoors events.

10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS • All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner and according to Arizona State Fishing Regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS • Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by local, state or federal officials or within 50 yards of a competitor’s boat that was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position). All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by both partners entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions the contestants’ catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until the weigh-in slip is signed in order for their catch for that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for rest-room breaks is permitted. If a contestant must violate any part of this rule due to an emergency or for any other reason, their catch for that day will not be counted.

12. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS • There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check out the morning and one official check-in point for weigh-in. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.



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13. LATE PENALTY • Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big-bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

14. LIVE FISH • Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. FLW Outdoors recommends the use of livewell additives that promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. If it becomes necessary for a contestant to cull his catch, every effort must be made by the contestant to handle his own fish. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

15. SCORING • Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces or one hundredth of a pound of each contestant's catch during tournament hours. Only largemouth, or smallmouth bass are accepted species. The limit will be five. Contestants possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch disqualified. **The official minimum length limit for bass will be 11 inches for 15 to 18 year olds and for 11 to 14 year olds.** For 10 and under age group, no minimum size. For Lakes with a slot limit, contestants will follow the slot limit. Fish will not be culled in sight of the weigh-in. Fish will be measured on a golden rule with the mouth closed and the tail pinched. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each non-legal bass presented. Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag.

16. TIES • **For the championship all ties will be broken by big fish.**

17. INSURANCE • Liability insurance, with coverage in reasonable amounts, is required of all contestants and boat captains in FLW Outdoors tournaments.

18. BOAT CAPTAINS • Boat captains will not fish during the official tournament hours; they are there to act as boat captains and observers. With the exception of an emergency situation, boat captains will not assist the contestant in any manner as to ultimately impact the final outcome of the tournament. Boat captains shall not select fishing areas, determine baits, tie knots, cast lines or lures, set the hook, play or bring fish to the boat and/or net any fish.