

## Bloomington Normal Bass Club Tournament Rules 2010

1. The rules will stand as printed. If there is any question about any rule, the final decision and/or interpretation will be determined by the rules committee. Any protest regarding any Bloomington Normal Bass Club tournament must be received by the Tournament Director, or his designated director, no later than ½ hour after the tournament ends - in writing.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the rules committee by drawing time at the club meeting prior to the tournament. Any person entering the tournament with a non-boater, will be guaranteed the use of their boat. The drawing of partners will be at the conclusion of the club meeting. If an odd number of entrants are received, the odd man drawn will have the option to fish alone, bring a friend (for a \$5.00 cost) or they may elect not to fish and get his/her entry fee returned at that time.
  - A. As in the past, a member may enter a tournament and sign up with his/her spouse, including in-laws, immediate family member or grandchild under the age of 17. In certain special cases other children may be afforded the opportunity to fish with a club member, upon the approval of the tournament committee prior to the sign-up meeting.
  - B. Children, immediate family member or grandchild under 17 has the option of fishing with a parent in all scheduled tournaments at no charge. Prizes will be awarded to children 15 and under catching keepers. **Anyone over 17 years of age will be required to pay an entry fee, this includes family members fishing together.**
  - C. If a club member signs-up with a child or family member and either (child/family member) cannot fish, the club member will be paired with a non-boater if one is available, only ONCE during the tournament year, will the club member be allowed to fish alone in the boat. Should this incident happen a second time, even if it involves a different family member and no partner can be found at the ramp, the entry fee will be returned and the contestant will not be allowed to fish/compete in said tournament.
  - D. If a minor, 17 years or older, wishes to enter the open draw for partners, they may do so provided that they:
    - a. Are a member in good standing.
    - b. Secure the co-signature of a parent or guardian on both membership application and tournament sign-up sheets.
  - E. All other members wishing to enter and fish in our tournaments may do so as follows:
    - a. Sign up with tournament committee, one hour prior to official starting time of tournament. That member may fish only with a member of their immediate family.
    - b. If a contestant has signed up at a club meeting with a member of their family as a partner, and that family member cannot fish; the contestant will be paired as **2D** above.
    - c. If the contestant cannot fish, then their spouse can only be paired with another contestant as per rules 4A & 4B if requested.
    - d. Senior members aged 60 or over may participate and sign-up together. All other rules shall apply.
  - F. New members must pay membership dues at meeting prior to fishing a tournament. No memberships sold at ramp.
3. When a contestant has signed up and been paired with a partner and does not participate, the following guidelines will apply:
  - A. If a contestant does not notify the tournament director of his intent not to fish prior to 5 p.m. the Friday preceding the tournament, he may forfeit his entry fee. If tournament director is notified accordingly, then the entry fee will be credited toward next tournament.
  - B. If, after 5 p.m. Friday and/or on the way to the tournament; an illness, accident or other problem occurs, the decision as to the penalty will be up to the tournament committee.
4. When a contestant's partner cannot fish and complied with rule 3A , then said contestant has the following options:
  - A. If he/she is the only contestant having this problem then they may fish alone.
  - B. If two or more contestants have this problem, they will be paired together, and in case of an odd number remaining, revert back to rule 4A. If both members being paired have boats, then the

member signing up at the meeting for open draw will be able to use his boat as first option. If both members signed up at the meeting, then a coin toss will determine which boat will be used.

- C. If said odd number contestant in either rule 4A or 4B cannot secure a boat, the committee will return his entry fee upon request.
5. Safety and sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation are expected from each contestant fishing our events. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the boat during tournament hours. Not following this rule will result in disqualification.
6. All contestants should be at the starting point at least 30 minutes prior to take-off time to allow check-in with the tournament committee.
  - A. Fishing hours will be announced at time of drawing.
  - B. Take-off procedures will be announced at meetings and will be strictly followed.
  - C. Bass live wells will be checked in lot, kill switches on water prior to take-off.
7. If a contestant is late for check-in and take-off has started, the following will apply:
  - A. Must notify a member of tournament committee, who will inspect his boat prior to begin fishing. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
  - B. You are only allowed to be late once during the tournament year.
8. If you and your partner leave the lake prior to weigh-in time and do not notify a participant of tournament who will be at the weigh-in, you will lose 10 classic points unless a true emergency exists.
9. Contestants who fail to appear at the official weigh-in area on time will be penalized 1 pound for each minute they are late. Contestants with fish who fail to arrive at weigh-in within 15 minutes of official deadline will lose all weight credit for that day. Boat or engine problems will not be valid excuses for late arrivals.
10. If there is serious trouble with any boat or engine, high winds or any condition preventing return by boat you may return by whatever means available, as long as you stay in sight of your paired partner. Under no circumstances, will you leave your partner. Violation of this rule will disqualify both contestants.
11. Only artificial lures are to be used. No live worms, minnows or any other live bait of any kind is allowed. Pork rinds, pork frogs, eels or strips are permitted. The use of an underwater camera is prohibited during tournament hours.
12. All bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted) must be 14 inches long or over to qualify to weight. If a longer or shorter length is imposed on tournament waters, that length will be observed. Fish will be measured from the tip of nose with mouth closed to longest point of tail using the official club bump board. Once bag of fish is turned over to the weigh master, he and he alone has the control of bumping fish and his decision will be final. If an attempt is made to weigh in a short fish as determined by weigh master, a penalty of 25 Classic points will be assessed. Said fish will not count in total weight of the day's catch and contestant will lose 1 pound per short fish from day's weight.
  - A. A contestant and he/she alone can ask for a courtesy bump, prior to the weigh master starting their turn at the scales. Without penalty.
  - B. The smallest fish or all of the fish in the contestant's bag will be measured prior to being weighed.
13. Largemouth bass weighing 6 or more pounds and Smallmouth or Spots weighing 4 or more pounds may be kept without penalty, although we do stress catch and release. All other live fish must be returned to the water. If this rule is not strictly followed; you will be disqualified from this tournament. There will be no stringing of fish under penalty of disqualification. All boats must be equipped with some form of aerated live well capable of sustaining two limits of fish.
14. All fishing must be done from boats. All fish must be landed by contestants from within the boat. All boats must stay in the water during fishing hours, unless specified at the meeting. No trailering of boats from one location to another will be permitted unless specified at the meeting.

15. Tournament contestants cannot fish within 50 yards of another contestant's boat which is anchored on a spot or fishing a shoreline first, without consent of said boat. Questions regarding off-limit areas for a particular site will be answered and determined at the meeting prior to open draw.
16. Boat partners are expected to work out an agreement, as to boat operation, giving equal front deck time to both. Each contestant is expected to share boat operation 50 percent of the time. The person who is operating the boat, has the privilege of selecting route and fishing areas. In the event one chooses not to operate the boat and his/her choice is satisfactory to their partner, the contestant waiving the privilege still has the right to choose the route and fishing areas 50 percent of the time. Anyone found deliberately to be operating the boat in such a manner as to handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified from the event.
17. Due to the cost and maintaining a boat, the person not furnishing the boat, will pay a share of gas and oil costs for the day as well as splitting the cost of launch fees, etc. with the owner. Guidelines for cost:
  - A. 1HP --- 25 HP -----\$15.00
  - B. 30 HP --- 60 HP -----\$20.00
  - C. 65 HP --- UP ----- \$25.00
18. All contestants must have in their possession an U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or vest, and must wear it anytime the gas engine is running. All engines in use in our tournaments must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch and cord fastened to the operator whenever engine is running. If found in violation of this rule, the contestant can be disqualified.
19. Electric motors (Trolling motors) are permitted for moving boat into and along fishing areas. Trolling of lures is prohibited.
20. No person may use more than one rod at a time, but there is no limit on number of pre-rigged rods in boat.
21. It is prohibited for any contestant to offer fish to his/her partner. It is also prohibited for any contestant to accept fish not actually caught by him/her or suggest his partner give up a fish as a gift. Not following this rule will be reason for disqualification from this and all future tournaments of BNBC.
22. For the tournament committee to disqualify any contestant, it should be noted that the protester needs to warn the violator that some transgression has occurred, and that if not ceased, they can be protested.
23. **All contestants may have proof of insurance (\$300,000 Liability minimum) on file with Tournament committee prior to the use of their boat.**

***Scoring, Entry Fees & Prizes***

1. Scoring will be as follows:
  - A. Five (5) Classic points will be given to members participating in each tournament.
  - B. 95 Classic points will be given to the winner, 94 to second place, 93 to third place...etc.
  - C. Eight ounces or ½ pound will be deducted from weight for each dead fish weighed in.
  - D. Total weight of legal fish, minus any dead fish, minus any short fish penalties or late (Rule 9) penalties will determine place of finish and points awarded.
  - E. The tournament limit shall consist of five fish of legal size (depending on site rules). No more than five fish or site limit per contestant may be held in live well at any one time. Culling must occur with each successive fish caught before next cast is made.
  - F. Big Bass award will go to contestant with heaviest fish for the day. Penalty ounces for dead fish do affect the outcome of this award.
  - G. Points list will be posted on the web site and at each monthly meeting.
  - H. The points list will determine the 25 Classic Qualifiers.
2. Entry fee is \$50.00 per tournament, per contestant and includes \$5.00 for the Big Bass pot. Entry forms for

tournaments can be picked up at club meetings or off website **bloomingtonnormalbassclub.com** Entry fees may only be carried over 1 time, more than this will constitute a forfeiture of your entry fee.

3. Entry fee monies will be paid as follows:
  - A. \$40.00 per entry will be awarded as explained in rule 4.
  - B. \$5.00 per entry will be for expenses.
  - C. \$5.00 per entry will be awarded to Big Bass pot.
4. Trophies and money will be awarded as follows:
  - A. Trophies for each tournament 1<sup>st</sup> place thru 3<sup>rd</sup> place.
  - B. A Big Bass traveling trophy
  - C. Angler of the Year Award
  - D. Junior Angler of the Year Award. A junior is defined as anyone who has not reached their 17 th birthday by March 1<sup>st</sup> of that year
  - E. Lady of the Year Award
  - F. Cash payout for each tournament:
    - a. 1<sup>st</sup> Place = 50 %
    - b. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = 30 %
    - c. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = 20%

Note: In case of a tie, trophies will be duplicated and money combined & split evenly.

#### **Open Format** - April 25 @ Lake Bloomington, May 1 @ Spring Lake

1. Buddy team format -- We encourage you to bring non-club member, family member or fishing buddy.
  - A. Said people will need to sign correct papers for insurance purposes.
  - B. Everyone must sign-up and pay in advance.
  - C. No trophies – regular club tournament payout – No points for the Classic Tournament
2. All other regular club and tournament rules apply.

#### **Classic**

1. A Classic tournament will be held at the end of the year and has the following guidelines for qualifications:
  - A. The top 25 fisherman for the year are eligible as decided by the points list. The best six of seven scores for each person shall determine the ranking on this list.
  - B. If any of the 25 Classic Qualifiers is unable to attend, alternates will be sought.
  - C. The Classic is a 2 day event held at an undisclosed site. There will be a meeting, the week of the Classic for the contestants, to discuss details of location, lodging and travel. The club will make every effort to acquire reservations for rooms. Ultimately, it will be your responsibility, for your lodging, no exceptions.
  - D. All participants are asked to secure a boat to use in this event. If any participant is unable to find a boat, volunteers will be asked to allow this non-boater to fish from the back of their boat. If no volunteers are found, a drawing will take place. All qualifiers names will be put in a hat with 2 names drawn for this person to fish with for the 2 days.
  - E. Regular BNBC rules shall apply to the Classic.
  - F. Total combined weight, less any penalty ounces, for the both days will determine the winner.
  - G. Family members, wives, children under 18 who qualify, can fish together.
  - H. The Classic location will be off-limits from time of announcement until take-off Saturday morning.
2. Classic Payouts
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup> Place = \$1000
  - B. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place = \$750
  - C. 3<sup>rd</sup> Place = \$500
  - D. 4<sup>th</sup> Place = \$250

Note: Payouts listed above, based on 25 boat field.