



## Five County Bassmasters Tournament Rules

Last Revision: 1/6/2026

**Note: These rules are written for use as guidelines for all members to follow. Anyone found in violation of these rules may be disqualified from tournament competition and may be prohibited from further club activities. In the event that a situation occurs that cannot be resolved by the written club tournament rules, the Five County Bassmasters Board of Directors will review these situations on a case-by-case basis and will make a decision based on the best intentions for the club as a whole. The Board of Directors decisions are final in all matters.**

- Eligibility and Points
  - A. All Five County Bassmasters' members in good standing with the club are eligible compete in club tournaments.
  - B. A member may invite a guest to participate in a club tournament, but the guest must accompany a current club member at the tournament.
    - Guests are allowed to fish as many events per year as they wish.
    - Guest fees for each points-paying event will be \$20 per guest. All guest fees will go directly into the club treasury to be used for a charitable donation of the clubs choosing.
    - A guest under 12 years of age will not be required to pay a guest fee and will not be restricted to the number of events that they may attend.
  - C. Points will be awarded at each tournament for all members competing. 100 points will be awarded to first place, 95 points to second place, 92 points to third place, 90 points to fourth place, 89 points to fifth place and this pattern will continue with a one point reduction per position for those contestants that weigh in a legal sized fish.
    - All points-paying events will be on a team-weight format (Five fish per boat).
  - D. A five(5) point bonus will be awarded to the individual member that catches the lunker in each event.
  - E. All participating members that are unable to weigh in a legal sized fish will be given a minimum of 40 points.
  - F. If members are competing as a team then each member will receive the same amount of points for their finishing position (Except for lunker bonus points).
  - G. You must be present at the event to obtain points.
  - H. The Lunker Award is determined by the individual who catches the largest lunker fish after all points-paying events have been completed.
    - The individual that earns the Lunker Award, will be awarded with a trophy/plaque indicating such accomplishment.
  - I. The Angler of the Year is determined by calculating the total combined points from each points-paying event per year. The individual that obtains the most points after all points-paying events have been completed will earn the title of Angler of the Year.
    - The individual that earns the title of Angler of the Year, based on a predetermined point system, will be awarded with a trophy/plaque indicating such accomplishment.
    - The individual that earns the title of Angler of the Year, based on a predetermined point system, will earn a guaranteed boater slot in the following year Six-Man event.

- Tournament Selection and Times
  - A. The Tournament Committee will meet during the month of September of each year to select dates, times, and locations. The selected tournament schedule will be presented to the membership at the October club meeting.
  - B. The total number of events for the year will be eight(8).
  - C. In the event we are unable to use a selected location, for reasons beyond our control, an alternate location will be voted on during the next meeting following the cancellation. All dates are to remain the same.
  
- Tournament Hours
  - A. Tournament hours will be set during the club meeting just prior to the scheduled event by a majority vote of the members present during this meeting.
  - B. Tournaments are not exceed nine(9) hours.
  - C. It shall be each contestant's responsibility to know and observe the tournament hours.
  - D. The tournament director shall appoint a check in person prior to each event and all contestants must check in with this appointed individual prior to the start of the event for a morning live well and safety check and at the end of the event for an afternoon check in.
  - E. All contestants should be checked in with the tournament director, have their entry fee paid and clear of the morning live well and safety check within 30 minutes of the tournament start time.
  - F. Anyone arriving late for an event must contact the tournament director and locate the closest member upon arrival to clear a live well and safety check before they can start fishing.
  - G. Anyone not off-plane and in the weigh-in area by the pre-determined time will forfeit their catch and will only receive the minimum points for participation.
  
- Starting Positions
  - A. Starting positions will be determined by a draw during the club meeting just prior to the scheduled event.
  - B. In the event we are unable to conduct a club meeting, the selection of starting positions will be the order upon check in on the day of the tournament.
  - C. The tournament director or an appointed tournament director assistant will conduct the drawing.
  - D. Members absent during the drawing may have another member draw for them provided that the entry fee for the absent individual is paid prior to the drawing. All pre-paid entries are non-refundable and non-transferable.
  
- Boating Partners
  - A. Members may fish alone or with another member or guest as their partner.
  - B. It shall be each individual's responsibility to arrange his or her boating partners.
  - C. Boaters should consider non-boaters when planning for tournament events.
  
- Entry Fees
  - A. Entry fees will be \$50.00 per boat for all events. All pre-paid entries are non-refundable and non-transferable.
    - A mandatory \$5.00 per individual is to be paid at each event to be used for a lunker payout. The single largest fish at each event will be awarded a lunker payout during the afternoon weigh-in.
    - Guest fees for each points-paying event will be \$20 per guest. All guest fees will go directly into the club treasury.
  - B. Tournament winnings will be paid back based on a pre-determined, club approved, payback schedule. Payout is based on one(1) payout position for every four(4) boats entered.
  - C. In the event that no one weighs a legal sized bass during the tournament event all entry fees will be refunded.
  - D. In the event of a tie in total weight, the tie will be broken by the team that weighs in the heaviest individual fish.

- E. An optional side pot for end of year payout is available for an entry of \$25 per individual. This payout will be for the individual that has the highest total score (points) at year's end after dropping one(1) of the lowest points scored at any event. A zero(0) score can not be dropped.
- F. An optional lunger side pot for end of year payout is available for an entry of \$10 per individual. This payout will be for the individual that has the largest lunger fish caught after all points-paying events have been completed.
- Creel Limits
  - A. All tournaments will have a five(5) bass per boat limit. Upon catching your sixth(6th) fish, you must cull down to a five(5) fish limit at that time. At no time can you have in your possession more than the five(5) fish limit. All culling must be done before afternoon check-in.
  - B. Minimum size limits for all events, except when local or state laws require longer length limits:
    - Three(3) fish at a minimum of 14" in length.
    - Two(2) fish at a minimum of 12" in length.
  - C. Weighing any fish that is not of legal size is prohibited.
  - D. There will be a 1.0lb(one pound) penalty plus the loss of the fish for anyone attempting to weigh a fish that is not of legal size.
  - E. There will be a 0.5lb(one-half pound) penalty for anyone attempting to weigh a dead fish.
  - F. Culling of dead fish at any time is prohibited.
  - G. All fish must be brought to the weigh-in area in a suitable weigh bag with an adequate amount of water to sustain life of the captured fish.
- Safety and Equipment
  - A. All members will participate in club tournaments at their own risk and responsibility.
  - B. Life jackets must be worn and appropriately fastened for all individuals on the boat at any time the combustion engine is running during the tournament event. Boat operators must wear a properly fastened shut-off device at any time the combustion engine is running. This includes launching and loading the boat.
  - C. All boats must have their running lights on until they reach their first fishing location. Boats with light problems will be warned of this rule violation and will be expected to have their problem solved before the next tournament event.
  - D. Live wells must be in working condition and capable of sustaining a tournament creel limit.
  - E. The Five County Bassmasters will assume no responsibility for any injury or loss that anyone may have.
  - F. No cellular phones or other mobile devices can be used at any time during tournament events to share information and/or fishing locations. The use of these devices is intended for emergency use only.
- Sportsmanship
  - A. Any club member acting in a negative or unsportsmanlike manner while participating in club events will be reprimanded for their actions and may have their membership terminated by the Five County Bassmasters Board of Directors.
- Regional Qualifier Tournament
  - A. Regional (Six-Man) qualifiers are determined by year end point standings.
  - B. The club will cover the entry fee cost for the top 6 anglers for the Regional Qualifier Tournament.
- Miscellaneous
  - A. These rules shall be in effect for one year and may be reviewed and changed, according to our chapter bylaws, during the first meeting of each year.