

# **NORTH OKLAHOMA CITY BASSMASTERS 2015 TOURNAMENT RULES**

(Revised December 2014)

## **A. Lake Selection:**

1. Tournaments are held once per month February through October, except the April or May tournament in which each day of the designated weekend will be considered a separate contest and the end-of-the-year Championship will be a two-day tournament.
2. Tournament lakes are determined by member vote at the November meeting. Members submit lists of up to twelve (12) lakes with no lake being entered more than three times on a single ballot. Votes are tallied and the top twelve (12) lakes are ranked - nine (9) tournament lakes and two (2) alternates. A vote is taken to determine which of the top nine lakes will be the location of the spring two-day tournament and which will be the October Championship. Then a vote is taken to fish any other lake twice. If a lake(s) is fished twice then the lowest ranked lake falls off the list, maintaining a total of nine (9) lakes plus two (2) alternates.
3. The Tournament Committee arranges voted lakes and dates announcing the final schedule by year's end. Except two-day events, all tournament will be the Saturday following monthly meetings unless that date conflicts with holidays or OBN events in which case the tournament may be earlier or later in the month on an available weekend. If a tournament is moved, Chapter meetings should be moved if possible to the preceding Tuesday for the partner pairing.
4. The monthly tournament lake will be off limits on Monday thru Wednesday prior to the Saturday tournament with official practice days on Thursday and Friday prior to the Saturday tournament except Mystery lake tournaments which are off limits until the morning of the event. Thursday and Friday will be the official practice days for the other tournaments. During official practice and tournament days, all Chapter rules must be followed.
5. The Tournament Committee arranges lakes and dates announcing the final schedule by year's end. Except two-day events, all tournament will be the Saturday following monthly meetings unless that date conflicts with holidays or OBN events in which case the tournament may be earlier or later in the month on an available weekend. If a tournament is moved, Chapter meetings should be moved if possible to the preceding Tuesday for the partner pairing.
6. Launch site, take-off & weigh-in times will be announced at the meeting prior to each tournament. Times may change without notice due to weather or other conditions.

## **B. Eligibility to Participate:**

1. You must be a member in good standing (no delinquent dues, fees, or expenses to previous partners, have attended at least one Chapter meeting/function), or a guest.
2. Entry fees must be paid to the Chapter Treasurer at the meeting prior to each tournament for a person to be included in the partner draw.
3. Each member or guest must declare their status as boater or non-boater. Partners are paired at the meeting prior to each tournament by random draw, matching boaters and non-boaters as possible. If two boaters are paired they decide which boat to use; if not, a coin toss will decide.

During the spring two-day tournament, each day of the weekend is a separate tournament and there will be a repairing of partners after the first day weigh-in. The fall Championship is a team event with the same partners paired for both days.

4. In the event of having an odd number of contestants in the draw, a single angler may 1) recruit and fish with a member that was not in the draw, 2) bring a guest, or 3) pay a double entry fee and fish alone (see E.8 for more details).

5. Members not paying entry fees at the meeting may still fish but they must contact the Tournament Director to be paired with the first available member that declares a desire to fish that tournament. If no other members are available then the member has the option of or bringing a guest or fishing alone.

6. Each member can bring one guest per year. If the guest joins, then the member can bring another guest. Family members do not count as guests but can fish only when all members that wish to enter the tournament are accommodated.

7. Draw order will determine take-off order. Team(s) not in the draw will be the last boat(s) for take-off.

### **C. Boats, Equipment & Permitted Fishing Locations:**

1. Boats must be 17 feet or longer and equipped with a working kill switch and livewell(s) capable of maintaining two partner's limits of bass in good condition. Motors must be no larger than U.S. Coast Guard regulations allow.

2. Prior to fishing a tournament, boaters must provide the Chapter a copy of their boat insurance policy showing watercraft liability with a minimum of \$300,000 coverage. The policy declaration page must show a start and stop date and serial numbers for both boat and motor.

3. The monthly tournament lake will be off limits Monday thru Wednesday prior to the Saturday tournament. Thursday and Friday will be the official practice days. During official practice and tournament days, all Chapter rules must be followed.

4. During the off limits and official practice days and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who is deemed an "expert" on the tournament waters by tournament officials, unless they are a contestant in the tournament or an immediate family member. During official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not skin dive or scuba dive on the tournament waters. During the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather info. Each contestant agrees to report to the tournament committee any violation or infraction of these tournament rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.

5. All contestants must wear USCG-approved PFD (zippered/buckled securely) and the kill switch lanyard must be attached to the driver any time boat is on plane. Eddie Camara must wear his life vest at all times while in the boat during tournament hours and practice days.

6. Safe boat operation will be observed at all times. Boaters must operate their vessel in a safe and courteous manner and are required to observe all boating regulations, signs and rules set forth by USCG, Oklahoma Lake Patrol or local authorities. Any violation of Federal, State or local laws will result in immediate disqualification.

7. Check-in will begin thirty (30) minutes prior to each tournament. Running lights, kill switch and livewell aerators must be working or a team will not be allowed to fish until such problems are corrected. A pre-launch meeting will be held immediately prior to take-off to cover rules, safety, and the Official Time. The team in last take-off position will serve as the start-boat.

8. If arriving after take-off, a team must check in with another Chapter member for livewell check. Late teams that have not paid entry fees are ineligible for Big Bass pot.

10. Trailering to another launch site may be allowed for safety reasons (wind warnings or small-craft advisories issued by the National Weather Service for the tournament site). If approved, a team may drive to the alternate ramp after the pre-launch meeting, but may not leave to fish until the designated take-off time.

11. Depth finders, light, oxygen and temperature meters, trolling motors and other devices are permitted. Trolling with the gasoline engine is prohibited. Only one rod and reel may be used at a time. Only artificial lures may be used except that pork-type trailer baits are allowed.

12. Fishing locations are anywhere on the lake except 1) 25 yards from another contestant without mutual consent; 2) 25 yards from a functional gas dock; 3) areas designated by the Tournament Director or restricted by Federal, state or local authorities.

13. Contestants may not leave the boat to cast, hook or land a fish, however landing nets are permitted.

14. The Tournament Director may make additional rules as necessary for the safety of participants and public. Announcements shall be made at the pre-launch meeting.

#### **D. Weigh-In**

1. Only largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be weighed. Anglers participating in regular-season tournaments will observe a three (3) bass limit per person, unless state or local laws declare that fewer fish may be retained per person. In such cases, anglers will be allowed to use the paper format (defined below in D.4.) to record length(s) of up to the number of fish required to fill their three-fish limit. No more than three (3) largemouth or smallmouth bass per person are allowed in the livewell at any time. Culling is allowed but must occur immediately. Culling of dead fish is prohibited. Contestants cannot catch fish for their partners. Teams may keep unlimited numbers of spotted bass for personal harvest but is recommended that any spotted bass not going to be weighed as part of the angler's bag be placed on ice so that water quality in the livewell can be maintained for fish that are to be released after weigh-in.

2. During the end-of-the-year Championship tournament the limit will be five (5) black bass per team per day, team weight.

3. Tournament length limit will conform to state or local regulation unless waived or modified by lake authority. If no length limit is stipulated by law or on lakes with slot length limits, a 10-inch minimum length will be enforced.

4. A paper weigh-in format will be used for all fish on all lakes fished in July and August. This format is defined as measuring each fish on a flat board, mouth closed, longest length to the nearest 1/4 inch, rounding down; recording that length, then immediately releasing the fish. Partners verify and record each other's catch. Boats must carry a measuring board calibrated in 1/4-inch increments from a minimum of 10 inches to at least 22 inches (longer is preferred).
5. On lakes with slot length limits, a combination format will be used which allows contestants to use the paper format to measure, record and release fish in the slot length range but still retain up to three fish in the livewell, below or above the slot to be presented for weigh-in. The contestant's weight for the day will be the total from the three largest fish either paper or weighed.
6. In the event that a member must fish alone they may retain six (6) legal-size fish for the day but must present all fish for weighing (no measurements). The largest three (3) fish are counted for points.
7. Teams leaving early must notify another contestant or leave the Officer's a note.
8. Once a team is within the designated check-in area boundary they must present all fish for weighing. Anglers will choose and present to the Weigh Master the largest fish in their bag to be weighed for Big Bass. Total weight in pounds and hundredths will be recorded for each partner separately then the team total will be determined by combining each partner's weight (Championship tournament is team weight as noted in D.2.). Each member is responsible for having their weight recorded correctly.
9. A late penalty is assessed if a team is not within the designated check-in boundary by cut-off time. The Tournament Director will announce such boundaries at the pre-launch meeting. For the first five (5) minutes after cut-off, the penalty consists of loss of the team's largest fish. After five (5) minutes, the total catch is disqualified.
10. Once fish are presented to the Weigh Master and short fish are found among the creel, short fish will not be added to the creel but will be weighed and that weight deducted from the individual's and team's total.
11. Teams weighing dead fish will receive a one-half (0.5) pound penalty per dead fish.
12. Tie-breakers: The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition; 2) the individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition; 3) the individual with the biggest bass weighed in during the competition; 4) a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner for points purposes but prizes and awards will be split equally.
13. All fish will be released after weigh-in, except trophy bass at the angler's discretion. On lakes with slot-length limits or increased spotted bass bag limits, members are allowed to keep a legal limit of sub-slot or spotted bass (see D.1. above).
14. Protests must be made within fifteen (15) minutes after the last fish has been weighed. The Tournament Director makes all decisions. If a ruling is contested, it is referred to the Officers present at the tournament for a final decision.

## **E. Entry Fees, Expenses & Awards**

1. Entry fee is \$50 per person. \$30.00 goes into that tournament's payout. \$10.00 goes into the Championship fund and \$10.00 goes into the Fundraising Fund. At each tournament there will be a \$5.00 Big Bass optional cash side pot that will be paid out at weigh in.
2. The two-day Championship Tournament entry fee is \$50 per person.
3. Members not paying at the meeting are assessed an additional \$5.00 per person late fee that must be paid at the ramp or the angler is ineligible to fish. Late fees are added into the Championship fund. No refunds. No entry fee roll-overs to subsequent tournaments except in cases of dire emergency.
4. Partners agree to share expenses for each tournament. Even if the non-boater travels to the tournament in another vehicle they are expected to pay half of the boater's fuel & oil expenses for the boat & tow vehicle and an appropriate share of other expenses - with a minimum required payment of \$20.00.
5. Payouts for all tournaments will be at the meeting following the tournament.
6. Pay-out will be according to the following schedule:
  - For 9 or less boats: 1st Place will receive 60% of the pot  
2nd Place will receive 40%
  - For 10-14 boats: 1st Place will receive 50% of the pot  
2nd Place will receive 35%  
3rd Place will receive 15%
  - For 15-19 boats: 1st Place will receive 45% of the pot  
2nd Place will receive 30%  
3rd Place will receive 15%  
4th Place will receive 10%
  - Each additional 5 boats will pay another place, percentages adjusted accordingly.
7. If an angler fishes alone the payout is figured on the total moneys received using the percentages above. A single angler is entitled to 100% of any place money they earn if they pay entry fees for the boat (\$100). If they pay \$50, they are eligible for only one-half (1/2) of place money earned, the remaining money goes into the Championship fund.
8. Trophies will be provided for each tournament at recipient's option and expense.

**F. Points:**

1. Angler-of-the-Year is the member accumulating the most points in regular-season tournaments (Championship tournament is excluded because team weight is used). The best seven (7) of nine (9) finishes will determine a member's AOY points. The Chapter will provide a trophy in January. Tournament Points are awarded for finish place in each tournament.

First place	=	100 points
Second place	=	99 points
Third place	=	98 points
Fourth place	=	97 points

Fifth place	=	96 points
Sixth	=	95 points
Subsequent place	=	5 points less (i.e. 7 <sup>th</sup> = 90 points, 8 <sup>th</sup> = 85 points, etc.)

2. Member-of-the-year is the person acquiring the most Participation Points + Catch Points during the year through December. The Chapter will provide a trophy in January.

Participation points include:

- Attending Chapter meetings = 50 points each
- Fishing Chapter tournaments = 50 points each
- Fishing OBFN Qualifiers = 25 points (not per day)
- Making the NOKC Top-6 Team = 50 points
- Volunteer for Youth & Conservation events = 50 points per day
- Volunteer boater for approved charity events = 100 points

Catch Points shall be ten (10) points per fish weighed-in during regular club tournaments (maximum of 30 points per event), excluding the Championship which is a team format with a shared limit.

3. A Big-Bass-of-the-Year trophy will be presented in January to the angler catching the largest bass in the previous year's tournaments. Earliest date will win in case of ties.

### **G. Top-6 Team:**

1. The six (6) members with most tournament points from six (6) of eight (8) Chapter tournaments fished before the entry deadline (October) will make up the Top-6 Team. Ties will be broken by number of fish caught, then weight of largest bass, followed by coin toss. The next eligible member in the ranking serves as alternate. Alternates may practice and attend Team meetings but fish only for big bass on tournament days if not called to serve as a Team member.

2. The Chapter will pay a portion of the Team's expenses (fuel, meals, lodging). The Board of Director's will determine an amount based on the Chapter's financial status.

### **H. Chapter Championship Tournament**

1. Members are eligible for the end-of-the-year Championship tournament if they have fished at least four (4) Chapter tournaments or, have fished three (3) and paid entry fee for a fourth, or have fished two (2) and paid two (2) additional entry fees. Guest and Chapter-sponsored charity tournaments may be included in these totals.

2. Championship tournament will pay out three (3) places.

### **I. Sportsmanship and Conduct**

1. No alcohol or illegal drugs allowed in boat at any time during tournaments. Any member using illegal drugs during or while attending any B.A.S.S.-sponsored event shall be disqualified and have membership terminated immediately. No alcohol may be consumed at launches or during weigh-in activities.

2. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

3. Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. They shall at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of these basic sporting principles and in a manner that will not reflect unfavorably on the Chapter, BASS, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.