

Official 2024 WSBF Big Bass Team Open Rules

Rule Changes: The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification.

Participants & Eligibility: All Big Bass Team Open event entrees may be as a two person team or as a single entry. Partners are at the sole discretion of each boat captain. All anglers are required to have a current Washington State fishing license. The Official Entry Form must be properly completed and signed no later than April 6th 6AM Pacific standard time. Application for entry can be found at: WWW.Wabass.org

Entry Fees: Entry fees are \$400 per team. Team is considered as a single entry or two person entry in each boat.

Big Fish Eligibility: Each team entry can weigh in one (1) eligible fish per contestant, for consideration in the Big Bass Team Open prize event. One (1) \$10,000* grand prize will be awarded to the person weighing in the biggest eligible fish caught during the Big Bass Team Open event. An eligible fish is defined as any living largemouth or smallmouth bass caught in competition waters, and must remain alive as determined by tournament director at time of weigh in.

Off Limits Period: There will be a practice period one day prior to the first day of the tournament (Friday April 5, 2024 safe light to 3pm). The tournament waters will be **OFF-LIMITS** to all competitors Wednesday and Thursday prior to the official Friday practice day. During the official practice, 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 a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director 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

Day of Registration/Check-in: Each competitor must check-in in person with official tournament staff between 4AM and 6AM the morning of competition. All boaters are required to sign the WDFW AIS form. All boaters will receive their boat number for blast off order at this time. A random draw at the boaters meeting will determine the starting boat number. Failure to check in will result in disqualification from the event.

Draw & Drivers Meeting: The draw for boat blast off position will be held at the Driver's Meeting, immediately following the close of registration and check-in. Flights may be assigned at the discretion of the tournament director due to safety concerns and number of entries.

Penalties:

- A 1 pound per minute late penalty will be imposed for each minute an angler is late to the official weigh-in site.
- A dead fish is automatically disqualified to be weighed for the Big Bass Team Open prize.

Boat Check: Boat checks will be done by drive-by inspection at blast off. Boat check will consist of open live-well check, kill switch attached, all life jackets on fully zipped up or buckled. Note: Current flares, horn, fire extinguisher and any other coast guard required equipment are required to be on board. Any issued ticket/violation of Coast Guard, state or national laws will be automatic disqualification.

Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE (1) fishing rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to land bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. It is highly recommended that non puncturing cull tags be used by all anglers.

Tournament Waters: Will be established by the Tournament Director. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Tournament Director prior to start of competition. When anchors are used there are no distance or area restrictions on other anglers. Competitors are expected to extend professional courtesy and use good judgment when entering an area that is being fished by another angler. Any water within the boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **OFF-LIMITS**. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director will be **OFF LIMITS** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

Safety: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

Sportsmanship: Competitors in TBF/WSBF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WSBF tournaments. 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. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical-substance use and or drunkenness shall be grounds for disqualification. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS

SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination if deemed necessary.

Disputes: All disputes or to contest the results must be submitted in writing to the tournament director no later than 30 minutes following the closing of the scales.

Ignorance is no excuse!

Read and Know These Rules!

*\$10,000 prize is based on a 35-boat field. Prize money will be adjusted according to an 80% payout equivalent to number of participants. Continuous places paid out are based on participation, up to as many as twenty-two (22) \$1000 prizes with a full 100-boat field.