

# **SMITHVILLE BASSMASTERS**

## **2024 TOURNAMENT RULES**

1. It is the responsibility of each participating member to understand and have full knowledge of these rules. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament committee.
2. Partners will be drawn at the Club meeting prior to the tournament or assigned by the tournament director at the tournament sight. Boaters and non-boaters will be paired first. In the event that there are not enough non-boaters to complete the parings, the extra boaters can choose to fish alone in their boat or be paired with the next boater in sequence. If a non boater is left over, the largest of boats will be drawn to have three to a boat. Late entries will be paired at the ramp.
3. Each tournament contestant shall pay an entry fee of fifty dollars (\$50), an additional five dollars (\$5) may be charged for 2<sup>nd</sup> day Big Bass on a 2-day tournament that count as one tournament. With fifteen dollars (\$15) going to the Classic, five dollars (\$5) to Big Bass, three dollars (\$3) to the Club's general fund and twenty-seven (\$27) for the tournament placement payout.
4. Entry fees are due at the meeting prior to the tournament and no later than at the ramp prior to take off. Notification must be made to the tournament director or any board member prior to the tournament for a refund or to transfer the money to another tournament. Failure to notify either the tournament director or a board member with result in a forfeiture of your entry fee.
5. There will be a pre-tournament meeting 30 minutes prior to the scheduled take-off time. This is a mandatory meeting, in which either the boater or non-boater must attend. Communication between the boater and non-boater prior to this meeting is important. Various announcements may be made at this meeting and roll call and final pairings will be made.
6. Late contestants must notify a club member so he may notify the tournament director of their arrival time. The tournament director must know contestant is late prior to the tournament meeting. It will be the sole judgment of the tournament committee, whether we launch without a late contestant, wait for the contestant to show up or when to disqualify late contestant.
7. Any member who fails to show up for a tournament that they are entered in, without notifying their partner, Club president or tournament director will at the tournament committee's discretion, miss the next tournament.
8. Detailed instructions will be provided by the tournament director. It is up to the tournament director to call take-off time based on safe light and/or weather conditions. The last boat will call the take-off.
9. The #1 boat will be the check-in boat at the conclusion of the tournament. Promptness is expected at the weigh-ins. Contestants must check-in with the check-in boat prior to the official check-in time and must be within the no-wake buoys of the take off site. If no buoys are present the tournament director will designate a check-in area. If you have already put your boat on the trailer, you must notify the check-in boat at the dock or have someone notify the check-in boat you are off the lake. The check-in boat will notify the tournament director of a late boat. There is no grace period and the check-in boat has the official time. Being late to check-in will result in disqualification of the boater and non-boater. It is the

responsibility of both contestants to watch the official time. The tournament director or his designate will announce the official time. If you have to leave early for an emergency situation, you must notify another member so they can alert the check-in boat you are off the water.

10. Only artificial baits or lures may be used. Pork type baits may also be used. No trolling is allowed. Only one rod may be in the water at a time and that cast must be retrieved before using another rod.
  - a. Fish caught while sight fishing (visually looking at the fish) must be hooked inside of the mouth to be considered a legal catch. Fish hooked outside of the mouth must be returned to the water immediately and will not count towards the angler's limit. Fishing partners can be consulted to verify any hook locations that may be questionable – if an angler is fishing without a partner, the honor system will be followed.
11. You are permitted to fish anywhere on the lake, except within 50 yards of any gas dock or another contestant's boat. The tournament director will designate any other off limit areas at the pre-tournament meeting. Fishing may be allowed within the no-wake buoys of the take-off area, this will be announced at the meeting before take-off. If no buoys are at the take off area, the tournament director may designate an off-limits area around the take-off ramp.
12. Only largemouth bass, Kentucky bass (spots), or smallmouth bass will be weighed in. The number of keeper bass to be weighed in shall be one less than the state limits for the tournament lake. In case there is no limit for the lake, the weigh-in limit shall be five (5) bass.
13. Length limit shall be the state limit for that particular lake, but no less than 12 inches.
14. Short fish brought to the scales will result in the removal of the short fish, and a two (2) pound deduction from the contestant's total weight for that tournament. If there are no other fish weighed, 10 points will be deducted from the contestants best of six (6) tournaments at the end of the year. There will be no courtesy board measurements.
15. Measurement of fish shall be with the mouth closed and the tail pinched or fanned. The official measurement board will be the "Golden Rule". Unless otherwise instructed, once the fish have been handed to the tournament officials, the contestant must step back so the weigh-in can be conducted properly. If the contestant desires one fish to be weighed for big bass, the request must be made to the tournament weighing official prior to weighing total catch.
16. All mangled, mauled, or discolored fish will be counted at the discretion of the tournament director or designate.
17. Each dead fish weighed in will result in a half (.5) pound deduction from the contestant's total weight for that tournament. To fish the tournament, you must have properly operating live wells. If a live well breaks down during the tournament, you will be allowed to transfer fish to another tournament boat as long as they are tagged or separated to be properly identified as each contestant's fish. The use of some type of catch and release formula in live wells is strongly recommended.
  - a. The cull rule for dead fish outside of the no cull months is that tournament participants must weigh in any dead fish.

18. All tournament fish submitted for weigh-in shall become property of the Club for the sole purpose of the immediate release back into the lake. Contestants must use tournament bags to bring fish to the scale. Caution should be used in handling all fish and no fish should be carried to the scale by hand.
19. Contestants will receive points for their catch using the following point system:
- 1st Place..... 100 points
  - 2nd Place..... 99 points
  - 3rd Place..... 98 points
  - 4th Place..... 97 points
  - 5th Place..... 96 points and so on...
- This point distribution will continue down to the last person that weighs a fish. All contestants will receive ten (10) points for participating in the tournament. If you finish first, then you will receive 110 points for that tournament.
20. Ties, money and points, shall be split for that position. End of the year ties will be resolved as per the bylaws; total weight for the best six (6) tournaments. If there is still a tie, it will be broken by big bass of your best six (6) tournaments. If still tied, go to the 7th tournament, and then the 8th tournament.
- Ties during the end of the year championship (classic) shall be broken by the following tiebreakers:
- a. First tiebreaker shall be biggest bass (any day) weighed by either team
  - b. Second tiebreaker shall be highest number of fish weighed in by either team
  - c. Final tiebreaker shall be the heaviest single day weight by either team
21. Distribution will be based upon participation. The Club will payout 1 place for 1 to 9 entries, then add one payout place for every 4 entries up to 12 places for 50 entries. After 50 entries, each payout place will receive \$2.00 per entry. In case the total number of places weighed are less than the total numbers of places that are to be paid, the schedule will reflect the percentage payout for only the number of places weighed. One (1) place for Big Bass will be awarded to the boater with the biggest bass out of all the participating boaters, and one (1) place for Big Bass will be awarded to the non-boater with the biggest bass out of all the participating non-boaters – this will be the total of the big bass entry fees collected for each category. An overall Big Bass of the tournament will be awarded to the angler with the biggest bass for the event – prize will be in the form of a gift card from a sponsor.
22. Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed. Coast guard approved life jackets must be worn and kill switches attached when the combustion engine is running outside the take-off area and the boat is above idle speed (5 MPH).
23. All boaters must provide the designated Club member with proof of current insurance (\$300,000 minimum liability) prior to using boat in any Club tournament.
24. All non-boaters will be responsible for the following:
- a. Providing their own life jacket
  - b. Special ramp and / or launch fees.

- c. Prior to the tournament, agree to equally split tournament gas and oil expense with their respective draw partner. Failure of payment will result in removal of membership from the Club. Payment minimum \$25.00
25. Consumption of alcoholic beverages is not allowed during official tournament hours and until completion of the weigh-in.
26. Protest of contestant's actions must be reported in writing within 15 minutes after the last fish weighed. To properly report a protest, you must contact a tournament official or the tournament director. Failure to do this will void all protests. Any rule violations must be submitted to the tournament director and not verbally announced to the other tournament contestants or directly addressed to the alleged violator.
27. The tournament committee will determine all tournament dates, tournament lakes, launch ramps and take-off sites.
28. Any changes or deviations due to the hazardous or extenuating circumstances shall be decided by the tournament committee and/or the board of directors.
29. The Classic payout will be 100% of the moneys collected during the year. Places paid will be decided at the September meeting or before the Classic. Big bass entry will be paid by the non-boater which will be his share of the gas, oil, etc. for that day.
30. The Club will have a Classic team tournament at the end of the year and members will qualify the following ways:
- a. Top 50% based on the best 6 out of the 8 tournaments, plus event points. Ties will be resolved as per Rule 20.
  - b. A member can get event points the following ways.
    - (1) 3 points for every meeting attended in person, 1 point for each attended virtually (zoom) with an additional 5 bonus points for attending every meeting.
    - (2) 5 points for signing up a new member.
    - (3) 5 points for every sponsor signed up.
    - (4) 5 points for a club event such as new membership drive at sports show or helping with placing conservation habitat.
    - (5) There will be a maximum of 35 points.
  - c. Additionally, members that have paid for all 8 tournaments before each tournament is fished.
  - d. Members qualifying by rules 30 a, b & c will be paired by the top 50% being the boater, if a non-boater qualifies as a boater they will become a non-boater and the next qualifying boater will become the boater. The non-boaters will be paired with boaters by random draw.
  - e. A member who did not qualify may fish the Classic tournament when needed to have an equal number of boaters and non-boaters, based on the next member with the highest classic points of those not qualifying.
31. The Club will have eight (8) qualifying tournaments.
32. The "Angler of the Year" will be decided by the total points of the angler's best 8 finishes out of eight (8) tournaments. Extra points given by the Club will not count towards the angler of the year point totals. The angler of the year will receive free Club dues the following year.

33. No cell phones, walkie talkies, C.B's. or other radio devices may be used to aid or help in locating or catching fish during tournament hours.
34. The club will pay the entry fees for members qualifying and fishing the State Regional Team when funds are available.