

# **VENTURA COUNTY BASS CLUB**

## **TOURNAMENT RULES**

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## VENTURA COUNTY BASS CLUB

### TOURNAMENT RULES

#### ARTICLE I. APPLICATION

These rules apply to all club tournaments and turkey shoots unless otherwise specified.

#### ARTICLE II. PROCEDURES FOR CHANGE

As prescribed by the bylaws the Ventura County Bass Club, the rules for the conduct of club tournaments are an integral part of the club bylaws. Therefore, any change of these rules shall be accomplished as prescribed in the bylaws.

#### ARTICLE III. DEFINITIONS

1. TOURNAMENT.  
An official club function in which only members participate for the purpose of earning points towards determination of Angler of the Year.
2. TURKEY SHOOT.  
An official club function in which club members and invited guests of the club and individual members may participate. Points are awarded if a member fishes with a guest.
3. LOCAL LAKES.  
Local lakes are defined as lakes Casitas, Castaic, Piru, Pyramid, and Cachuma.

#### ARTICLE IV. TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE AND LAKE DESIGNATION

1. ANNUAL SCHEDULE.  
Tournament and turkey shoot dates shall be scheduled on an annual basis to facilitate the long-range planning requirements of individual club members. There will be a minimum of eight (8) and a maximum of fifteen (15) club sponsored events held during the club year.

2. DEVELOPED BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Annual tournament and turkey shoot schedules will be developed by the Board of Directors for approval by the membership not later than the October meeting.

3. MEMBER INPUT.

The tournament schedule will be developed after consideration of members' input at the club meeting.

4. LAKE CHANGES.

The Board of Directors will entertain timely recommendations for lake change submitted by individual club members, will establish the validity of the request based upon a secret ballot of the membership, and will render a final decision subject to approval by the General Membership. When time does not allow, the Board of Directors will change a lake for safety or lake closure reasons.

ARTICLE V.  
TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION

1. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS.

A tournament will be canceled and a new tournament scheduled for a date approved by the Board of Directors should weather conditions prevent a start.

2. CLOSURE BY LAKE MANAGEMENT.

If the tournament lake is closed by lake management after the start of a tournament, that day shall be considered a full day. However, weigh-in shall not be considered complete until all participants have checked in or the previously designated weigh-in time has been reached, whichever occurs first. If, as part of lake closure action, all participants were notified of a change in official weigh-in time, the new weigh-in time will terminate the tournament day.

3. LOW WATER CONDITIONS.

When a lake with low water conditions is deemed unsuitable for a tournament, the location only may be changed upon a majority vote of the members, if time permits (Article IV.4)

ARTICLE VI.  
TOURNAMENT PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

1. TOURNAMENT HOURS.

Tournament hours will be set by the Tournament Director at the General Meeting prior to the tournament. A launch-and-go tournament format will be used for Individual Points tournaments, and a launch-by-the-numbers tournament format will be used for Partners Draw tournaments.

2. PARTNER DRAW TOURNAMENT PAIRING.

Tournament partners will be determined by drawing.

A. The President will conduct all drawings for tournament partners and the Secretary will maintain annual records of pairings thus established.

B. Request for change in partnership assignment must be approved by the Board of Directors.

C. Launching order will be determined by the Partner Draw order.

D. These rules do not apply to turkey shoots.

E. Any member who is in the draw and is odd-man-out may invite anyone to be a partner.

3. ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS AFTER START.

The Tournament Committee shall have authority to make the decision and to terminate a tournament should weather create unsafe boating conditions after the event has started. In the event of this action, the committee shall notify all participants of the new time for weigh-in and boat recovery.

4. COMPLAINTS.

Complaints arising during a tournament must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director for adjudication before the time for final announcements at the close of the tournament day. The decision rendered by the Tournament Committee in response to such complaints shall be final and binding.

5. BOAT INSPECTION.

Tournament boats may be subjected to inspection prior to and/or after launch and/or immediately prior to commencement of the tournament. Boat shall be CLEAN & DRY, and be in compliance with local lake requirements.

6. LATE STARTERS.

Late starters at club tournaments must check-in with another club member in another boat and inform him that the late starter is on the lake at some time prior to the end of the day. Early departures must checkout with another club member before leaving the tournament lake.

7. FISH WEIGH-IN.

Fish weigh-in and release will be performed by the Tournament Director using the official club scale.

A. Final weigh-in will be conducted at the time and place specified prior to commencement of the tournament day.

B. Unscheduled weigh-ins may be performed throughout the day at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

C. The Tournament Director is responsible to insure that all participants utilize plastic bags in handling fish at the weigh-in.

D. All small fish are subject to measurement during the weighing.

#### ARTICLE VII. MANDATORY DRAW TOURNAMENTS

There will be two (2) mandatory draw tournaments per calendar year. This will apply only to local lakes as defined in the Club By-laws and limited to single day events only. Draw tournaments will be limited to club members and prospective members. Any member who is odd-man-out may choose a partner outside the club for that tournament. Any club member not participating in the draw will not be awarded points for that tournament fished. Draw tournament dates will be determined by the incoming President Elect and newly elected Board.

#### ARTICLE VIII. AWAY (MULTI-DAY) TOURNAMENTS

Away Tournaments are held on lakes other than our Local Lakes (Article III.3), and are three (3) days in duration. These are 2-man team tournaments with a seven (7) fish limit per day.

#### ARTICLE IX. FEES

##### 1. POINT TOURNAMENTS.

There will be no entry fee for members competing in the point tournaments. All participants will be assessed \$1.00 per day regardless of the number of weigh-ins for the big-fish pool.

##### 2. TURKEY SHOOT.

The entry fee for turkey shoots shall be that amount deemed reasonable and necessary to offset the costs of conducting these events. The fee shall be defined for the year, but shall be subject to periodic review by the Board of Directors in order to keep fees abreast of fluctuating costs. A majority vote of the Board of Directors will change the amount of turkey shoot entry fees.

##### 3. COLLECTION OF FEES.

The Sergeant-at-Arms will be responsible for the collection of any fees, including the big-fish pool assessment, associated with tournaments and turkey shoots. Guest's

sponsors are responsible for the collection and submission of fees to the Sergeant-at-Arms.

4. NON-BOATER MEMBER TOURNAMENT FEE.

All non-boaters shall be encouraged to reimburse the boat-owning member sufficient funds to help offset the cost of fishing in a tournament.

ARTICLE X.  
BOATS AND BOATING SAFETY

1. BOATS.

Tournament partners are responsible for providing the fishable boat to be used in the tournament competition. This rule does not apply to turkey shoots.

2. LIFE VESTS.

Each contestant in a club tournament is encouraged to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. A violation for not wearing the life jacket may not be used for disqualification of a tournament participant.

3. KILL SWITCHES.

All boats used in club tournament competition and equipped with electric start must be equipped with an effective ignition "kill switch".

4. MOTOR HORSEPOWER.

No motors with a horsepower rating in excess of the factory BIA rating will be allowed.

5. LIVE WELLS.

All boats should have aerated live wells for club tournaments. For non-point tournaments, the tournament committee may waive this requirement but, in any event, every effort should be made to keep your fish alive for release after weigh-in.

6. COAST GUARD SAFETY REGULATIONS.

All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard safety regulations.

ARTICLE XI.  
FISHING

1. STATE AND LOCAL LAKE REGULATIONS.

All effective state and local lake fishing and boating regulations will apply. Observance of these regulations is the responsibility of the individual angler.

2. PARTICIPANT BEHAVIOR.

All participants will exhibit sportsmanship, courtesy, and safety-mindedness.

3. **ARTIFICIAL LURES.**  
Live bait is prohibited. Only artificial lures may be used.
4. **ROD LENGTH.**  
The maximum rod length allowed is eight feet (8 ft.). Only one rod may be used at a time.
5. **FISH LIMIT.**  
A limit of five (5) fish will be the maximum number of fish allowed per angler. Five (5) fish is the maximum number allowed per team in team-draw and away tournaments.
6. **ELIGIBLE FISH.**  
Largemouth, smallmouth., and spotted bass are eligible for weigh in to determine tournament standings. For special option pools, other species of fish may be weighed (catfish, trout, crappie, etc.) but have no bearing on the tournament standings.
7. **TROLLING IS NOT ALLOWED.**  
Trolling, meaning moving the boat while the main combustion engine is running, may not be utilized to move a lure through the water.
8. **JERKING IS NOT ALLOWED.**  
Jerking, defined as using the electric motor to propel the boat in conjunction with a crank-type lure extended behind the boat and using a jerk-like motion of the arm to impart action to the lure, is not allowed.
9. **NO SHORELINE FISHING.**  
No fishing from the shoreline is allowed. All fishing must be done while in a tournament-approved boat.
10. **OFF LIMIT AREAS.**  
No fishing will be allowed in any area marked "no fishing" or "no boating". No fishing will be allowed in any marina or other areas designated as "off limits" by the Tournament Director. Fishing will be allowed in a "no boating" area as long as the boat is on the outside of the legal boundary marker.
11. **ANCHORING.**  
Anchoring is allowed.
12. **ENCROACHMENT.**  
No boats shall come within fifty ( 50) yards of one another during tournament hours unless mutually agreed to by all parties involved.
13. **USE OF MARKER BUOYS.**  
The use of marker buoys is permitted. However, a fisherman may not use marker buoys to "protect" or "reserve" or make claim to an area of more than a distance of twenty-five (25) yards from his boat. If a fisherman wishes to place marker buoys more than

twenty-five (25) yards from his boat he may do so with the understanding that another fisherman has the right to fish any area that is twenty-five (25) or more yards from any other boat in the tournament.

14. CULLING OF FISH.

Any culling of fish must be done on the water from a boat. No culling will be allowed after your boat is on the trailer, at the weigh-in scales, or inside the marina.

ARTICLE XII.  
WEIGH-IN

1. WEIGH-IN TIME AND LOCATION.

The weigh-in time and place will be announced prior to the start of the tournament.

2. PARTICIPANT REQUIRED TO KNOW WEIGH-IN TIME.

It is the responsibility of each fisherman to obtain the correct weigh-in time from the Tournament Director. You must be in the immediate area of the weigh-in at or before the official end of the tournament. Late arrivals will be penalized and/or disqualified (refer to penalty section).

3. FISH LENGTH REQUIREMENTS.

All bass to be weighed-in must measure 12" in length. Fish will be measured laying flat on its side (fish may be measured from both sides) with close mouth on a flat board. Measurement will be from the tip of the head to the longest lobe of the tail (refer to DFG fishing regulations. Chapter I, Section 1.62 Minimum Size). Should local regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length, or a different bag limit than VCBC standard, the more stringent standard will be utilized. Any short fish submitted shall require the loss of the short fish and the loss of two pounds as a penalty (refer to penalty section).

4. MUTILATING FISH.

Stretching, killing, salting, or mutilating fish in order to make it measure 12" or weigh more will not be allowed and will result in disqualification.

5. TIE BREAKER.

In the event of a tie in the total weight, the fisherman with the single biggest fish will determine the winner.

6. TIES.

In the event two or more competitors have the same total weight and the single biggest fish is of equal weight the points will be divided equally.

7. PROTESTS.

A. Any protest must be registered with the Tournament Director in writing within

30 minutes after the weigh-in. All protests must contain the signature of the person protesting and be dated and timed. Any club member receiving a protest must also note on the protest the receiver's signature, and date and time received.

B. Upon a written protest being received, three members of the Tournament Committee will evaluate the protest, discuss the protest with members involved allowing each an opportunity to tell their view point, and will render a decision on the validity of the protest.

C. Upon a finding that the protest is valid, further deliberation will be necessary. All extenuating circumstances, severity of the violation, and any life safety issues will be considered when developing an appropriate penalty. The penalty shall be imposed prior to the announcement of the tournament standings.

D. The entire protest matter will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and will be presented to the membership at the next club meeting. The review by the Board of Directors is to obtain all the facts for presentation and is not intended to change or alter the Tournament Committee's findings. The Tournament Committee's findings are final.

### ARTICLE XIII. LAUNCH PROTOCOL

#### 1. LAUNCH AND GO.

A launch-and-go will be defined as starting a tournament by allowing the participants to launch their boats and leave to start fishing at safe light. The definition of safe light is 30 minutes prior to sunrise as recognized by the Department of Fish and Game. Under no circumstances should a club member operate his boat in a hazardous manner due to limited visibility.

#### 2. REGULAR LAUNCH FORMAT.

In all other launch situations for the club a regular launch format should be utilized. A regular launch will be initiated 5 minutes after two-thirds (2/3) of the boats fishing the tournament are on the water. When two-thirds (2/3) of the boats are on the water, the tournament director will notify everyone that launch will be in five minutes. After 5 minutes, the launch will proceed in an orderly fashion by having all boats idle by the tournament director's boat or his designee in the correct launch sequence.

### ARTICLE XIV. GENERAL

#### 1. LEAVING BOAT DURING TOURNAMENT.

No fisherman may leave the boat once the tournament has begun except in an emergency, to use the phone, go to the snack bar, or go to the restroom. If a fisherman must leave the boat for any of the above reasons, he should be accompanied by his

partner or the two fishermen should remain in plain sight of one another (in the restroom excluded) so as to insure that the person in the boat can pick up the fisherman on shore as soon as he has finished his business on the shore.

2. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, ETC.

No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants (prescriptions excepted) will be allowed during tournament hours.

3. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE DECISIONS FINAL.

The decisions of the tournament committee will be final in all matters.

NOTE: If you have any questions or are unsure what a rule means, ask one of the Tournament Committee members. IGNORANCE IS NO EXCUSE.

ARTICLE XV.  
TOURNAMENT AND TURKEY SHOOT STANDINGS

1. POINTS.

Tournament winner and runners-up through twentieth (20th) place shall be determined by the weight of their catch, plus earned bonus weight for the entire tournament period.

2. TURKEY SHOOT.

Turkey shoot standings shall be determined by the weight of one day's catch.

3. BONUS OUNCES.

A bonus of two (2) ounces shall be awarded for each fish counted toward total weight and released alive after weigh-in. These bonus ounces will be added to the participant's total fish weight to determine maximum weight for score.

4. TOURNAMENT BIG FISH.

The largest fish, as determined by weight, shall be declared the BIG FISH of the tournament.

5. TIES IN STANDINGS AT YEAR END.

Ties in point standings at the end of the tournament year shall be resolved in favor of the angler having the heaviest total individual (not team) tournament weight for the entire year. The loser of the tie will then assume the next lower position in the point standings.

ARTICLE XVI.  
PRIZES AND AWARDS

1. TOURNAMENT TROPHIES.

Trophies will be awarded to FIRST, SECOND, THIRD, and BIG FISH winners in club tournament competition.

2. TOURNAMENT POINT CALCULATION.

Tournament points shall be awarded in accordance with the following table. To qualify for a position point, participants must weigh in fish. To qualify for participation points (also known as show-up points), a member must actively make an effort to fish in the tournament - merely showing up will not result in any points. All points shown include 5 show-up points.

PLACE	POINTS	PLACE	POINTS
First	25	Eleventh	15
Second	24	Twelfth	14
Third	23	Thirteenth	13
Fourth	22	Fourteenth	12
Fifth	21	Fifteenth	11
Sixth	20	Sixteenth	10
Seventh	19	Seventeenth	9
Eighth	18	Eighteenth	8
Ninth	17	Nineteenth	7
Tenth	16	Twentieth	6
		Participation	5

3. YEAR-END STANDING CALCULATION.

An angler's best six (6) tournament place finishing points count toward final Angler Of The Year standings.

4. TURKEY SHOOT PRIZES.

Prizes shall be determined by the Membership prior to the tournament.

5. TROPHY PURCHASES.

Trophies will be approved of and procured by the Board of Directors.

6. MEETING ATTENDANCE POINTS.

Members shall accrue two (2) tournament points for each general club meeting attended. There are twelve (12) meetings per year, totaling twenty four (24) points with a maximum of twenty (20) points counting towards final standings. If the member needs to leave prior to start of the meeting, he needs to notify the secretary of his presence and his early departure prior to leaving.

7. TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION POINTS.

Participation points for tournaments shall be awarded when club member launches with the club during a regular launch, or weighs in at the end of the day with the club, or checks in with any other club boat on the water at any time during the day.

ARTICLE XVII.  
ANNUAL AWARDS

1. ANGLER OF THE YEAR.

The member with the highest point standing at the end of the tournament year shall be the Angler Of The Year. The Board of Directors shall determine the trophy and prizes for this award.

2. FIRST AND SECOND RUNNER-UP.

The members finishing in second and third place in point standings at the end of the tournament year will be designated First and Second Runner-Up, respectively, and will be awarded trophies or plaques and other prizes when available.

3. TOURNAMENT BIG FISH OF THE YEAR.

A trophy will be awarded for the largest largemouth caught during a club tournament, and a trophy will be awarded for the largest smallmouth bass caught during a club tournament.

4. NON-TOURNAMENT BIG FISH OF THE YEAR.

A trophy will be awarded to the member catching the largest largemouth bass and a trophy will be awarded to the member catching the largest smallmouth bass during the year, provided the following conditions are met:

A. The fish must come from the waters within the limits of the states of Arizona, California, or Nevada and must be taken on artificial lure as defined in B.A.S.S. rules.

B. To qualify, weigh-in of the fish must be witnessed by a responsible individual, preferably a club member, DFG representative, or lake concession operator and a signature to that effect be obtained.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD.

A suitable award will be presented to the member who is determined by a closed vote of the membership to have exhibited sportsmanship qualities and special effort

throughout the year on behalf of the club and its members.

6. "THE BIGGEST LOSER" AWARD.

The angler with the LOWEST point standing at the end of the year (minimum of 6 tournaments fished with POINTS EARNED, not show-up points) shall be paired with the Angler Of The Year for the first Draw Tournament of the next year.

ARTICLE XVIII.  
PENALTIES

1. LATE PENALTY.

Tardiness for weigh-in at day's end will not be excused. Late arrivals shall forfeit one-half pound ( $\frac{1}{2}$  lb.) per minute for every minute late to weigh-in up to fifteen (15) minutes. After fifteen minutes there is an automatic forfeit of the right to weigh-in.

2. INTENTIONAL INFRACTION.

Intentional infraction of the tournament rules will result in disqualification for that tournament, loss of points, and/or cancellation of club membership.

3. REFUSAL TO PARTICIPATE.

Refusal by a member to participate in a tournament, for which all planning has been completed, without an excuse acceptable to his partner, will be considered an infraction of these rules and will result in such action against the member, as the Board of Directors shall prescribe.

4. BOAT MECHANICAL FAILURE.

Participants in a tournament may utilize another tournament boat to transport tournament fish to the weigh-in in case of mechanical failure of their boat, or any emergency, which may arise.

5. SHORT FISH PENALTY.

A short fish is defined as a fish that does not measure the required length. All small fish may be boarded by the Tournament Director at weigh-in. Any short fish submitted at weigh-in will not be weighed. Additionally, a penalty for any short fish shall be the automatic loss of two pounds. A short fish determination will require the concurrence of at least two members of the Tournament Committee present prior to imposition of the penalty. Any additional short fish will automatically impose the loss of another two pounds. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final on all matters of measuring and imposing penalties for short fish.