New Mexico State Bass Team 2012

Tournament Rules

1) RULES. These rules apply to all contestants participating in Sportsman Fishing Club at NMSU. Tournaments, hereafter known as New Mexico State Bass Team. It is the responsibility of each contestant to know and follow these rules. Ignorance of the rules is not a defense for violation of them.

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters.

2) PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY. Membership for New Mexico State Bass Team is open to everyone, at least one member of each team must be 18 years of age or older. A contestant under the age of 18 years must have written consent of parent or guardian to participate in any New Mexico State Bass Team event. Competitors must be current paid members.

3) SPORTSMANSHIP. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, New Mexico State University, tournament sponsors, and the sport of bass fishing. Any contestant, who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules or violates the state fishing laws or lake rules may be disqualified.

4) OFF LIMITS. None, unless otherwise specified by the tournament director prior to the tournament start.

5) PARTNERS. Partners may be switched through the 2nd club event, but must designate a partner prior to the 3rd event. (An event is any club sanctioned event, meeting tournament casting comp, service work, etc.) Members may fish with an alternate partner, but by no means may compete in more than one event with an alternate partner. Alternate partners must be approved by the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR prior to the event. Alternate anglers must be a current member of New Mexico State Bass Team.

6) EQUIPMENT. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment and must meet all Coast Guard regulations. Boat owners must carry proper liability insurance. All boats must contain a properly aerated livewell to maintain a live limit of fish. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device (kill switch), which must be securely attached to the driver’s body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All boats 16’ or over in length must have a float cushion on board. Any vessel deemed “unsuitable” by the Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in the event.

7) SAFETY. Safe boating must be observed at all times. During competition, each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or floatation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation. Anyone found operating a boat in an unsafe manner in the opinion of the Tournament Director may be disqualified.
8) ASSISTANCE.

As per by-law Amendment 1- Assistance in Qualifying tournaments:

Any competition team classified as “competitive” may NOT receive ANY fishing related assistance during the tournament. This includes running the trolling motor (except in emergency conditions). In order to provide for an accurate representation of the Regional tournaments in which we will compete, boaters for “competitive” teams also may NOT fish during competition hours. Also, if a person(s) that is not a member of the team that is occupying a tournament boat is to also occupy the same boat, the said individual(s) must be randomly assigned a boat through a process of draw. Soliciting of information is strictly prohibited ten (10) days prior to the tournament. Soliciting in this context includes, but is not limited to, seeking or obtaining information regarding fishing on the tournament waters from anyone who is not a member of the Sportsman Fishing Club at NMSU. Soliciting can be in the form of verbal communication as well as physical display. Put simply, solicitation is guidance in fishing from anyone who is not a member of our club; it is receiving knowledge that is not publically available.

It is the team members’ responsibility to adhere to and administer these rules, not the boater’s. Each contestant shall provide their own on-the-water assistance if needed.

It is not the responsibility of the Tournament Director or any tournament sponsor to provide assistance in on-the-water repairs or rescues at any time. It is the responsibility of the contestants to notify the tournament director regarding any reasons for not returning to the check in location on time.

9) PERMITTED FISHING METHODS AND TACKLE. All fish must be caught live in a conventional and sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rind. The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. Landing nets are permitted and only one rod and reel may be used at a time. Rods may not exceed 8’ in length.

10) PERMITTED FISHING WATERS. Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by the Tournament Director, local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of any marina gas pump. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

12) EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR EMERGENCY. In the event of equipment failure or emergency a contestant’s boat may be towed to the check-in. At least one member of the team must accompany the fish to the weigh-in site.

13) FISHING HOURS AND LATE PENALTY. Official fishing hours will be announced at tournament sign-up prior to the event. All contestants must check in at the weigh-in site.

Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will lose 1 pound per minute late.

14) LIVE FISH. Contestants shall make every effort to keep all fish alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. A penalty of 0.5 pounds will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The Tournament Director or a designee will make all judgments of fish mortality. Calling of dead fish is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

15) SCORING. Scoring will be determined by the total weight of each teams catch. The limit
shall be five (5) fish per two-angler team, five fish for an angler fishing alone. The official minimum length for smallmouth bass shall be twelve (12) inches and largemouth bass fourteen (14) inches in length unless state or lake size limit is different. Bass will be measured laying flat down, mouth closed / tail fanned.

Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length limit, shall be removed from the catch and a penalty of one (1) pound will be deducted from the remaining weight. At no time shall a team possess more than the tournament limit of fish in a live well at the designated weigh in site, any team returning to the weigh in site with more than the tournament limit of fish will be disqualified.

16) POINT SYSTEM. Points for each event will be awarded, plus the total bag weight, divided by two, of each Team’s catch starting with 100 points for 1st place, 99 points 2nd and descending down by 1 point per place. EXAMPLE: Team Smith and Johnson finish in 1st place with a total weight of 14.00 lbs. They would receive 100 points for 1st place plus \( \frac{14.00}{2} \) lbs. bag weight. (100 + 7.00 = 107.00 points.) 2nd place, 99 +\( \frac{12}{2} \) = 105 points. This system will be followed down for each team that weighs fish. Any team that did not weigh fish will receive the same number of points, corresponding to last place.

17) PROTESTS. All protests must be in writing and submitted to the tournament director no more than 10 min. after the official closing of the weigh scales.

18) TIES. In the event of a tie for the total weight of a team’s catch, the team registering the highest number of fish weighed in, out of five fish limit will win. If this result still leads to a tie the larger “big bass” weight will win the tie. If neither team weighs a “big bass”, a coin toss will break the tie.

19) PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE. There will be no official practice period or off-limits period prior to the pre-tournament registration and meeting.

20) REGISTRATION AND PRE-TOURNAMENT SIGN-UP. Each contestant must register or “sign in” at the pre-tournament meeting.

21) BOATS AND MOTORS. All boats must meet state and U.S. Coast Guard regulations, no engine may be in excess of BIA horsepower rating. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have an aerated live well.

22) NO ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. No alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs are allowed during tournament hours. No alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs are allowed in any tournament boat during competition hours.

23) CITATIONS. Any contestant cited for a violation of State or Federal boating and fishing rules and regulations will be subject to disqualification.
24) **BOAT INSPECTION**. Boat inspection requirements will comply with the New Mexico State regulations. Boaters will be responsible for meeting these requirements.

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director in cooperation with the officers may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.

**TIMES:** (11/4/12)

**Carpool:**

4:30 am KMART on Del Ray

**Pre-tournament meeting:**

5:45 am Marina Del Sur Upper Parking Lot

**Launch:**

6:30 am Marina Del Sur

**Weigh-in:**

3:00 pm Marina Del Sur launch ramp

**Items to bring:**

1. Sunblock
2. Sunglasses
3. Valid NM Fishing License
4. Rods, Reels, and tackle
5. Food and drinks
6. Life Jacket
7. Appropriate Clothes for changing conditions