

DELTA BASS CLUB

TOURNAMENT RULES

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR DRAW TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION – Persons entering club draw tournaments must meet the following requirements:

1. Current member of the DELTA BASS CLUB in good standing – Dues must be up to date in order to fish club events.
2. At least 18 years of age.
3. Prospective members must fish one (1) tournament as a guest.
4. It is the club's intention that all boaters must maintain up to date insurance.
 - a. Club insurance does not cover you on the water.

B. ENTRY FEE & TOURNAMENT DATES

1. Entry fee for point tournaments is \$15.00 per contestant.
2. The draw will be held at the meeting prior to each tournament.
3. The selection of tournament dates is to be made by the tournament committee.
4. Tournament schedule for the following year is to be presented and approved before the end of the current year.
 - a. There will be a total of twelve (12) point tournaments fished in a tournament year.
 - b. All twelve (12) tournaments will be used for the calculation of the Angler and Co-Angler of the year standings.

C. CONTESTANT PAIRING

1. Pairing of contestants shall be done at the meeting prior to the tournament by a draw of boaters matched with non-boaters.
2. Each member must declare boater or non boater status before the tournament draw.
3. Each boater shall fish only twice per year with any non-boater. This is to ensure that everyone has a chance to fish together
4. Other pairing rules
 - a. Boaters signing up late shall be placed at the end of the field.
 - b. More boaters than non-boaters: The Tournament Director will ask for boater volunteer(s) willing to enter the tournament as non-boater(s)
 - c. More non-boaters than boaters: The tournament director will ask for non-boater volunteer(s) willing to enter the tournament as boater(s). This will be limited to twice per year per participating non-boater
 - d. Guests may be invited to fill non boater vacancies. Guests are only eligible for top boat and big fish awards.
 - e. The club officially discourages boaters from fishing alone in club events for the sake of safety. An exception can be made at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

D. TOURNAMENT FISHING HOURS & STARTING PROCEDURES

1. Starting and weigh-in times shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the draw and before blast off.
2. The Tournament Director shall give the official time prior to blast-off.
3. The Tournament Director shall determine the method and time of blast off except:
 - a. The order of blast off shall be determined by the order in which boats are drawn at the meeting.
 - b. The prime consideration in determining the method and time of blast off shall be the safety of all contestants.
4. In the event a member or members arrive at the tournament site after blast off, it will be necessary for the late arrivals to contact the Tournament Director prior to fishing.
5. The last boat drawn will conduct the blast off, at the direction of the Tournament Director.

E. WEIGH-IN

1. The first boat (2 contestants) at blast-off shall be responsible for assisting with weigh-in. This is not an option; it is the responsibility of participating contestants.
2. One contestant shall act as check-in person at the dock, noting that all contestant boats are present at the designated weigh-in time.
3. When weigh-in begins, this person shall call for contestants to remove their fish from live wells and proceed to the weigh-in site, **two boats at a time**, one pair taking their fish to weigh and the next pair getting ready. The other contestant shall assist the Tournament Director with the actual weighing, and communicate with the person on the dock to send the next pair of contestants to the weigh site.
4. No contestant in any point tournament shall allow any fish caught by him/her to be included in the tournament weight of any other contestant. Contestants involved in this infraction shall be disqualified and dismissed from the DELTA BASS CLUB.
5. All boats must be within the designated weigh-in location at the announced weigh-in time and report to the check-in person at the dock.
6. At the declared weigh in time, there is a five minute grace period for people who have not yet checked in at the dock, and a one (1) pound penalty is applied.
7. Any contestant(s) arriving more than five (5) minutes late for the weigh-in, or not reporting to the check-in person, is/are disqualified. It is the responsibility of both contestants to be at the weigh-in prior to the designated time.
 - a. Late arrival due to safety circumstances can be permitted by the Tournament Director.
8. Culling of fish must be done outside the no wake zone of the weigh-in area. Culling dead fish is illegal.
9. Any contestant bringing more than the designated tournament limit to weigh-in will have their catch culled to the correct limit starting with the largest fish in the catch. In addition, a one pound penalty will be imposed for each fish over the limit.
10. No more than five (5) lbs of fish shall be placed in one weigh-in bag and carried to the weigh station.
11. No more than 3 contestants shall be at the weigh-in station at one time in order to minimize stress to the fish.

12. In event of a boat breakdown or boater's decision not to come to the weigh-in, another member may transport disabled member(s) and their fish to the weigh site. It is the responsibility of the boater who is unable to return to acquire transportation for his non boater and for non boater's fish. Anglers who do not accomplish return of non boater to weigh in site will return money paid to boater by non boater, and in addition will compensate non boater for his entry fee

F. "OUT-OF-BOUNDS" AREA

1. The "out-of-bounds" area(s) shall be designated and announced by the Tournament Director at the preceding club meeting and at the tournament blast-off.
2. All fishing shall be done from the boat. "You must have one foot in the boat at all times".

G. SAFETY

1. Safe boating conduct shall be observed at all times.
2. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened life jacket any time the the main propulsion engine is running.
3. It shall be up to each contestant to provide his/her own life jacket.
4. Each boater is required to be attached to a functioning engine kill switch device any time the main propulsion engine is running.
5. Consumption of alcohol prior to weigh in is strictly prohibited
6. All boats must comply with complete U.S. Coast Guard rules.

H. BOATS AND MOTORS

1. Each boat shall have the following equipment to be allowed to fish in the tournaments:
 - a. Main propulsion engine capable of safely transporting boat occupants to/from tournament activity
 - b. Hull length of not less than 17 feet.
 - c. Live well with aerator sufficient to maintain fish in a live condition. Built-in live wells are not necessary. Boater may use ice chest or other container with aerator.
 - d. Ignition kill switch.

I. BOAT OPERATION

1. It will be left to the discretion of the boat owner as to whether the non-boater shall be permitted to operate the boat or any of its equipment.
2. The non-boater will reimburse the boat owner \$40.00 per fishing day.

J. SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected of each member.
2. Operating the boat in any manner to handicap the other person in the boat is strictly forbidden.

K. TACKLE, EQUIPMENT

1. Only artificial lures shall be used. No live or prepared bait with the exception of pork rind type baits will be permitted.
2. All rods must be 8' or less.

L. SCORING

1. Tournament winners will be determined by total weight accumulated during the tournament.
 - a. A total of five (5) fish may be weighed in by each contestant. At no time shall any contestant have more than his legal limit (5) in his possession, except when culling
 - b. Culling is to be accomplished immediately upon catching the sixth fish.
2. Legal tournament fish shall be: largemouth (black) bass, spotted bass, and smallmouth bass.
3. Minimum length of any fish shall be 12 1/2 inches. The fish shall be measured with the mouth open, on a "flat" fish measuring board. The tournament committee shall have an official board for measurement of any questionable fish. All fish less than 12 1/2 inches weighed in will not be counted.
4. A 1/2 lb. deduction and loss of weight will be assessed for each short fish.
5. Dead fish penalty is four (4) oz for one (1) dead fish, eight (8) oz for two (2) dead fish, one (1) lb for three (3) dead fish, two (2) lb for four (4) dead fish, and four (4) lb for five (5) dead fish.
6. In cases of ties on total weight, the tie will be settled by the largest fish in each contestant's catch.
7. In the case of a tie on the weight of big fish, money will be divided equally.
8. Delta Bass Club points are as follows: 1 point per fish; 1 point per pound, rounded to the nearest pound; 5 points for fishing; 10 points for 1st Place, 9 for second and so on for the top ten. Attending a meeting is 2 points.

M. ANGLER/CO-ANGLER OF THE YEAR

1. Angler of the Year is determined based on all points accumulated during the tournament year.
 - a. This award is applicable to boaters and non boaters.
2. Co-angler of the Year is determined based on all points accumulated during the tournament year.
 - a. This award is applicable to non boaters only.
3. In the event of a points tie for either award, first place shall be shared by the two tied contestants and trophies will be given to both.
4. Co-Angler may retain his non boater status and will receive appropriate non boater points if he is requested by the Tournament Director to participate as a boater due to shortage of boaters in the draw. A non boater is limited to two such appearances per tournament year.

N. TOC & NCCC

1. The top 10 (in points) available anglers will advance to the TOC. TOC is based on each angler's best 9 tournaments from April 1st to March 31st of the tournament year. The top ten in points will fish for the TOC Trophy.
2. NCCC - The Top 12 Tournament (NCCC) will be based on each angler's best 9 tournaments from September 1st to August 31st of the NCCC year.

3. Ties will be broken for the TOC and the NCCC by most tournaments fished and then by biggest bag if necessary.
4. In the event that a qualifying angler cannot fish the event, the field will be filled by the next lower angler in the points. Qualifying gains will go to the respective angler(s). Tournament gains will go to the angler who fishes.

O. CALENDARS

1. Dues/Meeting Calendar – January through December
2. Tournament/Annual Awards Calendar – April through March
3. NCCC Calendar – September