



2018 Club Classic Rules:

1. Spirit of the Rules:

All rules have "loopholes". It is the intention of Club Classic to provide an honest, sportsman like environment. In the interest of good sportsmanship, teams are reminded that the "Spirit of the Rules" will prevail in all judgment cases.

2. Decisions:

All decisions of the Club Classic Rules Committee are final in all matters.

3. Responsibility:

It is your responsibility as a participant/Club to read and comply with all written tournament rules and know any applicable local, state, or federal rules and regulations.

4. 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, their Club, Club Classic, and Club Classic Sponsors. The Club President or Vice President will police their own clubs.

5. Participation:

The Club Classic is open to all Western United States Bass Clubs. Each member of the club who fishes the Club Classic must be a member of their club for a minimum of 6 months, in good standing to participate, and must be attested to by the Club President or Vice President. Any person entering the Club Classic tournament must be 18 years of age at time of registration.

6. Pairing and Teams:

Each club will determine their own pairings and teams. The club President or Vice President will turn in the pairing list by October 14 2018 and have the 2 teams assigned to one of the three flights. Each club sets up their own teams in the order that is best for the club.

7. Permitted Fishing Methods:

- All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.
- Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers.
- Fishing rods may not be more than 8 feet long and only one fishing rod may be used at a time.
- Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

8. Fishing Hours:

Will be determined by the Club Classic Tournament Committee and will be announced prior to the tournament by the Committee Chair.

9. Official Timepiece:

Will be that of the Club Classic Tournament Chairman.

10. Licenses:

Each contestant must have in possession a California fishing license. Penalty for violation this rule is disqualification of the two-person team and that boat's catch for the event.



11. Fish Handling:

Contestants will make every effort to handle fish by the lower jaw. Aerated live wells must be used. Rope or metal stringers will not be allowed (This excludes culling systems). Fish in live wells will not be removed except in a culling situation or at weigh-in. Dead fish will not be culled. All fish culled must actively swim away; if not, they must be retrieved by the contestant, returned to the live well, and sufficient live fish culled to meet legal possession limit requirements.

12. Boating Safety:

Boats must be equipped with standard Coast Guard Safety equipment. Safe conduct while boating is necessary. Life jackets and kill switches must be used when the outboard motor is in operation from boat check until weigh-in. Running lights are to be used at morning blast-Off and whenever they are needed for safe boat operations. If a boat's running lights are not operative, that boat will be sent out after Sun Rise.

13. Pre-Tournament Check-In:

All boats must be checked for functional live-wells, kill switch, and that both anglers have life vests to receive an official signed weight slip from the Club Classic Tournament Committee prior to blastoff. In the event a team is late for blastoff they may still be eligible to fish the tournament if the following conditions of # 1 4 are met:

14. Late Arrivals for Check In:

Must locate a Club Classic tournament committee member and

- Have their live-wells checked and verified as empty before fishing.
- Have Coast Guard approved Life Jackets
- Kill switch is operational.

15. Measuring Devices:

Fish of questionable length will be measured on the Club Classic official flat board at weigh in. Fish will be measured flat, with mouth OPEN and moving tail, and must measure 13" (Thirteen inches) in length.

16. Size Limits/Bag Limits:

Qualifying fish are Largemouth (*Micropterus salmoides*), Smallmouth (*Micropterus dolomieu*), and Spotted bass (*Micropterus punctualatus*). The limit will be five (5) fish per team but never more than the legal daily possession limit. Should local regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length, or a different bag limit than the Club Classic standard; the more stringent standard will be utilized in the tournament.

17. Start and Finish:

All contestants will start and finish at the designed headquarters (usually at the launch site as set by the Club Classic tournament committee).

18. Alcohol Use:

Alcohol and non-prescription drugs (this does not include aspirin) will not be permitted in or around boats through completion of weight in. Anyone who appears under the influence will be disqualified from the tournament.



19. Radios and Cellular Telephones:

Are allowed in boats as an emergency tool only. The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited; except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.) or to communicate with vessel assist. Boat to boat communications is prohibited except for emergency purposes.

20. Pre-Tournament Practice:

There will be no official practice period or off-limits period prior to the tournament.

During tournament hours contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat, or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

21. Leaving Boat:

- All fish will be hooked, fought and landed from the angler's boat.
- 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.
- Contestant may use the lavatory at anytime – they just can't fish while it is being used.
- In the event of equipment failure or emergency there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in:
 1. By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or
 2. By one partner entering the boat of another tournament contestant and transferring their fish to that boat. The fish must be identified.

Under these two conditions the contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to Club Classic rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will be disqualified from the tournament.

22. Permitted Fishing Locations:

- Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state or federal officials or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat that was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position or power pole) or 25 yards not anchored with trolling motor in the down position.
- Off Limits: Host marina and 50 yards from any gas pumps.



23. Scoring:

Will be in pounds and hundredths of pounds. Each team's big fish will be weighted as a tiebreaker.

24. Re-Weighing:

Of fish can only be requested once and only at the scales. The second weighing will be official. Once the competitor has left the scales and accepted his weigh-in sheet, the recorded weight is official.

25. Penalties:

- Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight and including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified from the event.
- Anyone weighing in a fish smaller than the 13" minimum length will have one (1) pound subtracted from the total 4 fish remaining weight.
- Any fish that appears mutilated or altered in the tournament committee's judgment will be deemed illegal and one (1) pound will be subtracted from the total weight for each such fish.

It is the goals of the Club Classic to release live all tournament caught bass following the weight-in. Contestants are therefore required to do all in their power to preserve their daily catch.

- The penalty for dead fish will be .20 (20/100) of a pound per dead fish.
- Complaints or protests must be submitted in writing to the Club Classic committee within 30 minutes after weight-in. A decision of the Club Classic committee members present will be made prior to awards.

26. Courtesy:

- Any contestant who has to leave the water after the launch must notify a Club Classic committee member.
- A search party will be formed to search for any boat not checked in by end of the weight-in.

27. Insurance:

Liability insurance, with coverage in reasonable amounts, is required of all contestants in Club Classic tournaments. The club President or Vice President will verify their clubs insurance.