

Bob's Marine Owners Tournament

2026 Official Team Rules

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Rule changes

Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to Nor-Cal Bass and Bob's Marine officials. The decisions of the Representatives shall be final on all matters. Additional rules may be added to adjust to individual tournament locations. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, receives a law enforcement citation for safety or speed zone violation, or violates the fish and game laws, shall be disqualified.

Participation and eligibility

Open to anyone 18 years of age or older (Under 18 years will require a parent or guardian release form) meeting the requirements contained within these rules, and hereby waive and release all other contestants, host, sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament. Tournament officials reserve the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and have the right to extend the acceptance time. There are NO restrictions on sex or race. All contestants must possess a valid California Fishing License. All Contestants are subject to and may be required to take a polygraph test before any tournament winnings are paid to that Team.

Safety

Safe boating conduct must be always observed by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved type I, II, III, or V life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime that the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped and/ or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitors reach their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be means for immediate disqualification. All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch, and said switch must be always attached to boat operator anytime the combustion engine is operating. All boats must be equipped with navigational lights that must be in and operational until competitors reach their first stop of the morning. Competitors without operational running lights will blast off last.

Sportsmanship

Competitors in this tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Outside scouting assistance during the tournament and hole-sitting will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from this tournament and all future tournaments conducted by Nor-Cal Bass. The transmitting of information with any radio-transmitted device (i.e. CB radio or Cellular phone) concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during a tournament is prohibited. This includes information related to location, type of lures employed, number of fish caught, water depths, and temperature or any other information that could help another improve their position in the tournament. Any infractions of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause of immediate disqualification for this and all future Nor-Cal Bass tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants (prescriptions accepted) allowed during fishing hours.

Tackle and equipment

Only artificial lures may be used. "No live baits" or "prepared baits" will be permitted apart from pork strip rind, etc. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. No rod longer than 10 ft. will be permitted, other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however only one is permitted in use at any given time. In the event of hang-ups, the lure must be retrieved immediately or the line severed and retrieved later, but the fouled rod cannot be left in the water even though hung-up. All bass must be caught live and in a sporting manner. The use of marker

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Buoys are permitted. However, a contestant may not use marker buoys to protect, reserve or make claim to any area of more than a safe casting distance or 25 yards from his boat. If a contestant desires to distribute marker buoys more than the 25-yard limit, they may do so with the understanding that others have the right to fish any areas located more than 25 yards distance from any boat.

Boat and motor

Boats may contain motors no larger than the Coast Guard rating specified for them. A small electric trolling motor is required for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All boats must be equipped with a functional depth finder. Every boat must have a functional live-well space, aerated to adequately maintain a live limit catch of bass. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. All boats must meet BIA and Coast Guard requirements. All boat owners are required to have personal liability insurance.

Permitted fishing locations

Fishing on the tournament water is permitted anywhere accessible by boat, except within 50 yards of a main refueling dock of a marina, or any other area designated off-limits by Federal, State, Lake or tournament officials, or within 25 yards of another competitor's boat working a specific area. The 25-yard rule may not be used to lay claim to both side of a dock or series of docks. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants may not leave their boat for the purpose of carrying, towing, or pushing their boat to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible. Contestants may not get out of their boat to reduce weight or floatability for the purpose of gaining access to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible. Contestants may not change fish habitat by placing any object on the tournament waters during off-limits, practice, or tournament periods. Contestants may not depart from their boat to land fish. Boat must remain on tournament waters. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must always remain in the boat except in cases of dire emergency. In such an emergency, other competitors or a rescue boat designated by tournament officials may remove competitors. Under conditions cited above, the only other exception to partner separation is as follows: Competitors A and B have a totally disabled or sinking boat, either one requiring a tow. Partner B may enter competitors C and D boat with A and B marked catch and partner A fishing license for return trip to official checkpoint. There a tournament official will represent stranded partner A. This situation is accepted by Nor-Cal Bass but under some circumstances may be deemed illegal by local Coast Guard or Fish & Game officers. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited. No two boats may touch or appear to touch during tournament hours. This includes non-contestant boats as well as tournament boats.

Official Checkpoint

There shall be only one official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon; this checkpoint shall be designated at the draw. Fishing hours will be announced prior to the tournament and registration. During registration each team will be given a boat number. A tournament official will inspect all boats for safety equipment, live bait, and alcohol. No fish shall be weighed in without proof of boat check. At the time of checkout all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules set forth by the tournament officials. All competitors must check out and check-in at the official checkpoint. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Disqualification will result from "culling" inside the five-mile per hour buoys at the official check-in point. There will be a tournament official posted at the tournament check-in point and each team will be responsible for driving by and announce to official their boat number. This allows tournament officials to verify each competitor's return. Contestants may not weigh in until there is an official available to start the weigh in.

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Penalties

Contestants who do not check in at the official checkpoint at the end of the tournament will be assessed a 1 lb. penalty per minute for a total of 5 minutes. If at that time they still have not arrived, they will be disqualified for the day. Only Largemouth bass, Spotted bass, Red Eye bass or Smallmouth bass will be weighed. Anyone weighing in a fish smaller than 13 inches in length will have 1 lb. per short fish deducted from their remaining weight. Short fish will not be weighed. Measuring will be done with the fish's mouth open at a 45-degree angle on a "Willie-go-Board". Any fish weighing more than 5 lbs. shall be in a bag by itself and no more than 5 fish per bag. Once a contestant has turned in their bag of fish to the tournament officials, those fish then become the property of the tournament and cannot be added to or subtracted from. Any contestant weighing in a larger limit than specified as the tournament limit shall be disqualified. Any dead fish weighed in shall have a 20/100th of a pound for each dead fish subtracted from the contestant's total weight. If dead fish is competitor's big fish, then 20/100th of a pound will be deducted from their weight in the calculation of big fish.

Registration

Contestants may register by paying entry fee and option monies by mail before the tournament. Entries will also be accepted at the tournament location during tournament registration. Contestants unable to fish the tournament must notify officials 24 hours in advance of the tournament to have their entry fees returned. Refund of any fees shall be at the discretion of the tournament officials. Any contestant deciding on the day of the tournament not to fish, or is disqualified from the tournament for any reason, shall receive no refund of their entry fee.

Official Boats

Officials may be on the lake during contest hours and can approach or board any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests from representatives.

Damages

Damages of any nature to a contestant's boat, equipment, or tackle during a Nor-Cal Bass/Bob's Marine supervised event are the sole responsibility of that individual.

Scoring

Final winners shall be determined by pound and 1/100th weight of each team's catch during the competition days of the tournament. All fish shall be weighed on official tournament scales by the official tournament weighmaster, and all weights are final. If contestants do not agree with the announced weight, they are entitled to one (1) re-weigh per day, the 2nd weight will be final even if lower than the 1st weight. Tournament big fish shall be determined by pound and 1/100th weight. If contestants do not agree with the announced big fish weight, they are entitled to one (1) re-weigh per day, the 2nd weight will be final even if lower than the 1st weight. Contestants are responsible for declaring their big fish upon arrival to the scale. Once selected and weighed they cannot request to have another fish in their limit weighed for big fish.

Protest

Any protest must be registered with the tournament director within 30 minutes of the completion of the weigh-in. Protest must be in writing on official protest form that is available from officials. Tournament representatives will review the Protest and make a decision. All decisions are final and binding.