



Official Rules / Changes

Participation in the 2009 ACA Collegiate Bass Championship Series constitutes each contestant's understanding of and full and unconditional agreement to and acceptance of these Official Rules. Contestants must obey all State, Federal and local fishing and safety laws. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify any contestant that is determined to be in violation of any term contained in these Official Rules. The Tournament Director's decision not to enforce a specific provision of the Official Rules does not constitute a waiver of that provision or of the Official Rules generally. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight.

Regional Events Format

Each school club may send as many 2-person teams as they like to the regional events. Winners will be determined by the heaviest accumulated weight per two person team.

Championship Format:

The full field will compete both days. Winners will be determined by the heaviest accumulated weight per two person team.

Championship Registration:

Begins on January 15, 2009 and closes on May 18, 2009. All clubs that participate in at least one regional event sanctioned by the ACA will receive guaranteed entry for (2) two person teams in the 2009 BoatU.S. Collegiate Bass Fishing Championship. Schools that do not participate in regional events sanctioned by the ACA are encouraged to register for the championship event but are only guaranteed entry for (1) two person team. Schools may register up to (3) two person teams. A waiting list will be created based on the date and time that registrations are received.

Participation / Eligibility

Participation is open to college students who are enrolled full time in an accredited college or university and are members in good standing of that college or university's institutionally recognized fishing club. Participants must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher. Students who graduated within 3 months of the championship date are eligible to compete. All participants will be required to show a current student ID and a state issued photo ID at registration.

Each team must provide its own equipment including, without limitation, fishing equipment, and a boat, all subject to the restrictions contained in these Official Rules.

All contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license.

Off-Limits / Pre-Tournament Practice

For regional events, the off-limits period will vary. Please check the itinerary for each event to verify the off-limits period.

For the championship event, the tournament lake will be off-limits for 30 days prior to the first official practice day; which will be Tuesday the week of the tournament.

No contestant may be on the tournament waters after the start of the tournament registration, except during tournament hours.

Restrictions

During the off-limits period, official practice days and competition days, contestants may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone except other contestants, and through publicly available sources. Non competitors are not allowed to be in the boat with contestants except in the event of an emergency (rescue, mechanical breakdown, etc.). Beginning with official practice and extending through competition, GPS waypoints may not be provided to contestants by anyone except other contestants. Contestants may not follow a non competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

The purchasing or bartering for information or the hiring of services is not permitted after the start of the off-limits period.

The use of mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB's, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.).

Registration & Pre-Tournament Meeting

Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours of 4:00 – 6:00 p.m. local time on Friday prior to each event. Contestants registering between 6:00 – 6:15 p.m. will be penalized 3 pounds. Contestants registering after 6:15 p.m. will not be allowed to compete.

Pairings

This is a team tournament and all team members must meet the eligibility requirements to compete. Both members of the team must be present during the pre-tournament meeting unless authorized by the Tournament Director.

At the Tournament Director's discretion, team members may be allowed to compete alone in the event of an emergency related to their partner.

Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants must observe “no wake” areas including bridges and other areas identified by the Tournament Director. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device at all times when the combustion engine is in operation, during official practice days and during the tournament days, from take-off to check-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut off device that must be securely attached to the driver’s body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

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 school, event sponsors, the sport of fishing and the Association of Collegiate Anglers. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

Violation of or failure to comply with any of the official rules for the Tournament.

Consumption and/or possession of any alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in are strictly prohibited.

Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.

Suspension/disqualification from any fishing tournament or organization.

In other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in this paragraph.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the registration of a previously accepted application to disqualify a contestant.

Boat and Horsepower Regulations

All boats must be propeller driven, be a minimum of 16 feet in length.

All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted.

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard requires safety equipment.

Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell capable of maintaining alive a limit of bass.

Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in the Tournament will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower set forth on the “Maximum Capacities” placard described below.

Each boat must have a clearly legible “Maximum Capacities” placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on the boat placard or the 250 horsepower maximum set by the Association of Collegiate Anglers. By registering for the Tournament, each contestant agrees to submit his or her boat and/or motor to an inspection by the Tournament Director.

Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or “Maximum Capacities” placard will be cause for disqualification from the Tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future events.

Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in Tournament competition.

Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

Permitted Fishing Methods

All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner.

When sight fishing, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth.

Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rinds.

Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at a time.

Trolling as a method of fishing is not allowed.

Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestant’s may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as “Off-Limits”, “No Fishing”, “No Boats” or “Boats Keep Out” by local, state or federal officials. Contestants are prohibited from casting into these areas or having their boat in these areas at any time. Contestant’s may not fish 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 or a Power Pole anchor with the trolling motor in the up position).

All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat.

The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day.

No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official checkpoint:

By both team members remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or by one or both team members entering the boat of another tournament contestant.

Under these two conditions the teams catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, fish care penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official checkpoint by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch to that point in time in the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the Tournament Director or his designated Tournament Official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the Tournament Director to request a restart.

Official Checkpoints

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the official checkpoint in the afternoon will result in losing credit for that day's catch. All competitors and their boats must be in full compliance with tournament rules before they can depart from the official checkpoint in the morning. All contestants MUST check-in in the afternoon even if they don't have any fish to weigh. All fishing must cease upon check-in in the afternoon.

Late Penalty

Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. The use of livewell additives is encouraged to promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. A half pound (.50 pounds) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Contestants are not allowed to cull dead fish for any reason.

Scoring

Scoring will be determined by the weight of each team's catch.

Only Largemouth, Spotted, Smallmouth, Red Eye and Shoal bass are accepted species.

The limit will be five (5) bass per team. Teams are allowed to have six (6) bass in possession for purposes of culling. Culling must be done immediately. Contestants presenting 6 bass for weigh in will be required to release their biggest bass and weigh the remaining 5. Contestants presenting more than 6 bass for weigh in will lose credit for that day's catch.

The official minimum length limit for bass will be twelve (12) inches, (unless the state law is greater than 12") Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length, will not be weighed and will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each short fish presented.

Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. Both team members must sign the weigh-in slip.

Ties

One-day regional events: In the event of a tie for first place, the winning team will be determined by a 1 hour fish-off. Ties for all other places will be determined by a coin flip or contestants can agree to combine and split prizes. ***Two-day regional events & Collegiate Bass Championship:*** The heaviest one-day catch will break ties on the final day.

Television Coverage

During all televised events, competitors may not fish while using tobacco products when the camera is filming them. Smoking or the use of tobacco products is also not allowed in weigh-in lines.

Insurance

Watercraft liability insurance, with coverage in reasonable amounts, is required of all contestants in the Tournament.

Captions

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.