



PRESENTED BY BERKLEY

2017 OFFICIAL RULES

Official Rules / Changes

Participation in the 2017 Cabela's Collegiate Big Bass Bash presented by Berkley, (hereinafter, "Big Bass Bash") 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. At the sole discretion of the Tournament Director, entry may be refused to any individual or university fishing club/team. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight.

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.

Big Bass Bash Format

The Cabela's Big Bass Bash presented by Berkley is a two day, individual big bass tournament. There will be four weigh-in sessions each tournament fishing day, Session 1 will close at 9:00am, Session 2 will close at 11:00am, Session 3 will close at 1:00pm, and Session 4 will close at 3:00pm. Anglers must be in the weigh-in line with their fish prior to a session close time. Prizes will be awarded for the 10 heaviest bass weighed in each session, the heaviest bass weighed each day, and the heaviest bass of the event. Up to 3 contestants may fish from the same boat. Contestants are not required to be members of the same collegiate fishing team to fish together in the same boat. Permission must be granted by the Tournament Director in order for any angler to fish alone. The Tournament Director may assign a non-fishing observer to accompany any angler fishing alone. The full field will compete both days.

Big Bass Bash Registration

Online registration begins on Tuesday, January 17th, 2017 at 10am and closes on Wednesday, March 1st, 2017 at 5pm.

*****Students wishing to register in person at the event location will need to notify staff in advance.***

Registration & Pre-Tournament Meeting

Each contestant **must check-in** in person at the designated site during the official on-site registration by 6:00pm. All contestants must be present during the pre-tournament meeting unless authorized otherwise by the Tournament Director.

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 5 months of the tournament 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 angler 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 for the specified tournament waters being fished.

Off-Limits / Pre-Tournament Practice

There will be no off-limits period for this event; however, the first official practice day will be Monday, March 6th, 2017.

Final official practice day will be Friday, March 10th, and all contestants must be off the water by 3pm. No exceptions.

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

Restrictions

During the official practice days and competition day, contestants may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone except other contestants. Non-competitors (family, coaches, etc.) are not allowed on-the-water during practice hours. Beginning with official practice and extending through competition, non-competitors are not allowed to be in the boat with contestants except in the event of an emergency (rescue, mechanical breakdown, etc.). 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 official practice period.

The use of cellular phones will be allowed during tournament hours and used for social media purposes only.

Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants must observe "no wake" areas including **posted** 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.** 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.

Any anglers caught in violation of the rules above, will result in a penalty to be administered by the Tournament Director.

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 jet propelled, and 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 live-well capable of maintaining alive a limit of bass.

Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in the Tournament may 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. 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, defined as moving the bait with the assistance of the combustion engine, as a method of fishing is not allowed.

Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestant's may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries of tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off-Limits", "No Fishing", "No Boats", "Boats Keep Out", etc. 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).

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 the team members remaining in their boat and being towed in by water, by any other boat.

By one or both team members boarding another competitor's boat to be brought to shore.

Under these conditions the team 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.

Late Penalty

Contestants must be in the weigh-in line with their bass in a bag with water prior to the cutoff time for each weigh-in session. Failure to be in the weigh in line by these times will result in not being able to weigh-in your catch for that hour.

Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live-well. The use of live-well additives is encouraged to promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. Bass must be alive to be weighed-in; no dead fish will be accepted.

Scoring

Only Largemouth, Spotted, and Smallmouth bass are accepted species.

The official minimum length limit for largemouth and smallmouth bass will be a minimum of twelve (12) inches minimum, unless state law requires a greater length. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the prescribed minimum length, will not be weighed.

All bass brought to weigh-in site, must be in a bag with water.

No contestant may weigh more than one bass per weigh-in session. Only one bass per weigh-in bag is allowed. Bass entered into each session do not carry forward from session to session. Each contestant's biggest bass is entered into the overall standings.

Bass must be weighed in by the contestant who originally caught the bass and it must be in said contestant's physical possession in the weigh-in line.

No contestant may have more than three bass in possession at any time during official tournament hours.

Cabela's School of the Year presented by Abu Garcia points will be based off each angler's catch in relation to the final standings. Anglers/teams must weigh a fish to earn points. (For example, the largest bass weighed in will earn the maximum amount of points available, the smallest bass weighed in will earn the least amount of points available, but it will still earn points).

Ties

Ties will be determined by a coin flip or contestants can agree to combine and split prizes.

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.

All contestants must allow camera boats to follow, at all times, upon request from the Cabela's Collegiate Bass Fishing Series. Refusal will be grounds for disqualification.

Truth verification test

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the release form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification. Truth verification tests will be used at the Tournament Director's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the Tournament Director.

Insurance

Watercraft liability insurance will be the responsibility of each angler. It must have the minimum coverage that the state requires, and is mandatory of all contestants participating in the tournament.