

# 2010 STQT TBFRI

## TOURNAMENT RULES

*Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. All protests must be made before the closing of the scales.*

### 1. Participation

The minimum age to compete in the STQT is 16 Years of age.  
Participation is open members of The Bass federation of Rhode Island  
In good standing.  
A Parent/ Guardian Waiver will be required for each event a participant under the age of 18 years enters.

### 2. Pretournament practice

The official practice period will be the Monday prior to the event dates with no off-limits period prior to the pretournament meeting. No contestant may be on tournament waters for the purpose of locating fish or potential fishing waters after the start of the pretournament meeting except during tournament hours.

### 3. Registration and pretournament meeting

Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. Contestants not present for both days of competition will forfeit their entry fee and will not be entered in the following year's state qualifying tournament.

### 4. Pairings

Partners will be paired by draw. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to takeoff.

### 6. Safety

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device any time the combustion engine is in operation and in gear. 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.

## **7. Sportsmanship**

All contestants will be held to the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves and the sport of bass fishing. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A]** Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the official rules.
- B]** Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- C]** Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules,
- D]** Failure to offer aid to people and or vessels in distress.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, will result in disqualification.

## **8. Boat and horsepower regulation**

All boats must be propeller driven, a minimum of 17 feet in length and have a rear deck.

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 safety equipment.

Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants.

Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" plate described below.

Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) plate 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 this plate or the 250 horsepower maximum.

Fishing platforms can not extend above the gunwale. 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.

## **9. 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.

Only one fishing rod may be used at a time.

Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

## **10. 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, federal or tournament officials.

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.

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 the 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 check-in:

1. By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or
2. By both partners entering the boat of another tournament contestant.

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 other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day.

Any contestant returning to the check-in point 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.

Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until the weigh-in slip is signed in order for their catch for that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. If a contestant must violate any part of this rule due to an emergency or for any other reason, their catch for that day will not be counted.

## **11. Official checkpoints**

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

## **12. Late penalty**

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 including any weight to be counted toward a big-bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

### **13. Live fish**

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well and the use of live well additives that promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. The penalty for dead fish are as follows 8oz per dead fish

### **14. Scoring**

Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch during each round of qualifying tournaments.

Only largemouth or smallmouth bass are accepted species.

The limit will be five unless the state or lake limit is less than five; in which case the state or lake limit will prevail. The official minimum length limit for bass will be 12 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 12 inches; in which case, the state or lake limit will prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will disqualify the days catch.

### **15. Ties**

The most fish will break ties the second tie breaker will be heaviest

### **16. Tournament Limit**

Possession of more than the tournament limit except for the momentary condition of culling will disqualify the entire catch.

### **17. Federal, State and Local Laws**

All contestants will follow all applicable Federal, state and local laws that pertain to safety conservation and sportsmanship.

***Tournament rules will remain in effect from the first day of the official practice till the signing of the incoming state team contracts.***