

BASS CLUB OF FORT WORTH (BCFW) 2025 FISHING RULES

1. All state and federal laws will be in effect.
2. Any infraction of the rules will result in disciplinary action by the Executive Board, up to and including disqualification. In the case of a team effort, the whole team will be subject to the same action.
3. All members shall conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner at all times or face disqualification and/or disciplinary action taken by the Executive Board. This includes drunk and disorderly conduct.
4. All protests must be made, in writing, to the Tournament Director within thirty (30) minutes after weigh-in time and a ruling shall be made by the Tournament Director, and a minimum of two (2) board members present.
5. Non-prepaid contestants are required to notify the Tournament Director via text, prior to the official tournament start time, in order to weigh fish caught in the tournament. No text is necessary if entry fee is paid at the meeting immediately preceding the tournament. Anyone prepaying and not able to fish may have their entry fee refunded or carried forward to the next tournament only if they contact the Tournament Director by phone or text before 8:00pm on the day before the tournament. They may also rollover their entry fee to the next tournament or just leave it in and have it count toward Classic qualification and/or points.
6. Trailering is allowed if entry fee has been prepaid or after notifying the Tournament Director via text.
7. All contestants must check in with the Tournament Director or Assistant Tournament Director by the deadline in order to weigh fish caught in the tournament. Fish must not be brought to weigh in line until the contestant has acquired a weigh in token or other designated device.
8. All tournament participants must be present at weight-in, make arrangements for the Tournament Director to be notified that they are leaving, or they must notify the Tournament Director via text.
9. A member or guest of BCFW may not weigh in fish caught by someone else with the intention of taking credit for such weight.
10. Only members in good standing of the BCFW and their guests will be eligible for tournaments. Guests may fish one (1) tournament per calendar year without having to join the club. Each guest must pay the tournament entry fee and is required to fish with a member of the BCFW. Points earned by a guest for participation in tournament and club meeting attendance will count toward the yearly total if the guest joins the club on or before the next tournament date.
11. Any contestant retaining fish at the beginning of the tournament will be subject to disqualification from the tournament and/or disciplinary action by the Executive Board.
12. Wading and tube fishing will be allowed. Club members may fish from the bank of the tournament lake as long as they do not trespass on any private property.
13. All tournaments will be for Smallmouth, Kentucky (Spotted) and Black Bass only.
14. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait will be permitted. No trolling. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one (1) time. Other rigged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.
15. All fish presented for weighing must meet state measuring requirements in effect at the time of the tournament. Unless it conflicts with state regulations smallmouth bass must be a minimum of fourteen (14) inches on all lakes. Except on special regulation lakes, largemouth and spotted bass must be fourteen (14) inch minimum length. On slot limit lakes, largemouth and spotted bass must be ten (10) inches minimum length. When the special regulation exceeds fourteen (14) inches, spotted bass must be a minimum of fourteen (14) inches. All fish shall be measured on the BCFW straight board with mouth closed and tail pinched. When measuring for minimum length, if the fish touches any point on the line, it is acceptable. When measuring for maximum length on the low side of a slot, if the fish touches any point on the line, it is not acceptable. The ruling of the tournament director or assistant is final on issues of length. For each fish brought in that is one-eighth (1/8) inch or more below minimum length, a one (1) pound penalty shall be deducted from the stringer weight and that fish will not be weighed. On slot limit lakes, any fish that is one-eighth (1/8) inch or more in the slot, a one (1) pound penalty shall be deducted from the stringer weight and that fish will not be weighed. Penalties cannot take stringer weight below zero (0) pounds.
16. There will be a three (3) fish limit, unless lake rules demand less. Each contestant must bring only three (3) fish to weigh in. Fish shall be in weigh-in bags or containers with sufficient water to keep fish in good condition until they are released. Failure to do so shall result in a one (1) pound penalty from total weight.

17. There will be no fishing within one-hundred (100) feet of an anchored or tied boat of another club member, unless approved by the anchored or tied party.
18. All ties will be determined by the largest fish of the stringer. Any further ties will be determined by the flip of a coin.
19. In the case there are no fish caught, or not enough fish caught to fill the tournament places, there will be a drawing at the next meeting to fill the necessary places. All drawn winners will receive participation points only.
20. Special tournaments may be established for special occasions with rules applied to fit the needs of the tournaments. Such tournaments would be subject to approval of the club.
21. Any member fishing another tournament at the same time as the Bass Club of Fort Worth's tournament must weigh in fish at our weigh-in site. No weight slips will be accepted.
22. The tournament shall have a fee of twenty dollars (\$20) per contestant and includes fifteen dollars (\$15) allocated to heavy stringer and five dollars (\$5) allocated to big bass pot.
23. The five dollar (\$5) Big Bass Pot allocation is paid at one-hundred percent (100%) payoff for the three (3) largest bass caught by paid participants in the tournament. Pay back will be first (1st) place fifty percent (50%), second (2nd) place thirty percent (30%), and third (3rd) place twenty percent (20%). Only one (1) place will be paid per member. Each contestant must determine the largest fish of his/her stringer. Tournament allocation shall consist of eighty percent (80%) to contestants with the remaining twenty percent (20%) to cover the clubs expenses. Payout for heavy stringer will be based on the chart below:

ANGLERS	29 or less	30 to 39	40 to 49	50 to 59	60 or more
Finish	5 Places	6 Places	7 Places	8 Places	9 Places
First	30%	27%	25%	23.2%	21.3%
Second	20%	19%	18%	17%	15.9%
Third	15%	14%	13.2%	12.7%	12.2%
Fourth	10%	10%	9.8%	9.5%	9.3%
Fifth	5%	6%	6.2%	6.5%	6.8%
Sixth		4%	4.8%	5.2%	5.6%
Seventh			3%	3.6%	4.1%
Eighth				2.3%	2.8%
Ninth					2%

24. Policing the campground and the weight-in site will be the responsibility of all members before leaving the tournament.
25. All tournaments will be held within one-hundred and fifty (150) nautical air miles of Fort Worth, with one (1) tournament per year, which can be in excess of one-hundred and fifty (150) nautical air miles. This tournament will not be limited to any one (1) month, but decided by a majority vote.
26. Only members and their guests participating in the club tournament will be allowed in the boat. Dependent children, fourteen (14) years of age and under, may fish with their parent or legal guardian without entering the tournament. A plaque will be awarded to the Junior Angler with the heaviest stringer for each tournament. A Junior Angler is defined as not having reached their fifteenth (15th) birthday.
27. Each contestant will receive a two-tenth (0.2) pound penalty off total stringer weight for each dead fish weighed in at the tournament (under Tournament Directors discretion). The two-tenth (0.2) pound penalty also applies to a dead "Big Bass".
28. Each tournament will be mandatory live release, except for Trophy Fish.
29. All tournament contestants must wear life jackets any time the boat in which they are riding or driving is on plane. A kill switch must be attached to the life jacket of the driver when the boat is on plane, unless the boat is not equipped with a kill switch.
30. There shall be an OFF LIMIT imposed on all tournament lakes whereby no contestant shall fish beginning at 12:00am on the day of the tournament and lasting until the official start time.
31. All tournament fishing hours are to be from 6:00am until 3:30 pm, unless changed by a majority vote at the meeting in which the lake is voted in.
32. Participants in the side pots, Seven (7) Pound Pot, and Ladies Six (6) Pound Stringer, must be members in good standing.