



Champlain Valley B.A.S.S. Club - Tournament Rules and Regulations

Last Revision Date: January 13, 2021

Term. These tournament rules are in effect starting with the first tournament of the season and will remain in effect for the entire season. These rules may only be changed after the last tournament of the year and before the first tournament the following year.

Tournament Rule Revisions. Tournament rules may be amended at any general membership meeting by a two-thirds majority vote of the membership present, and will require notification in writing to all members.

Participation. All tournaments are open to members in good standing whose dues are not in arrears. Any member who has not paid their dues prior to the tournament will not be eligible for points or awards. Dues are not to be paid at the tournament. It is the member's responsibility to pay their dues on time.

Insurance. During official practice and competition days of any tournament, no boater or non-boater may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000, per occurrence, boat owners liability insurance covering the boat being used in the tournament. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in that boat. Random checks may be conducted and any competitor who does not have proof of in-force insurance with \$300,000 coverage may be disqualified. Each policy must show an effective start and end expiration date. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet Champlain Valley BASS requirements. Proof of insurance must be provided to the board secretary prior to the first tournament of the season. [You may submit proof of insurance here.](#)

Boat Ownership. The boater must own the boat that is to be used during a tournament. No borrowed boats will be permitted.

Prospective members and guests may fish tournaments on a space-available basis. They will pay no club fees and are not eligible for points or awards.

Sportsmanship. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship will be disqualified from the tournament they are fishing. All participants will be expected to maintain a clear and respectable distance between boats. Fishing etiquette shall prevail and contestants shall not fish within 50 yards of a boater.

Tackle and equipment. Only artificial lures may be used. However, pork and pork type baits can be used. Anglers may only have one line in the water at a time. Nets are allowed.

Trolling as a method of fishing is not permitted.

Radios/cell phones. Use of boat-to-boat communication radios or cell phones concerning any aspect of taking fish is prohibited during all tournaments. Radios and cell phones will be permitted for use in case of emergency.

Alcohol or drugs. Use is prohibited in or around boats from launch until after docking the boat for weigh-in. Anyone who appears intoxicated prior to launch will be disqualified from the tournament.

Boating safety. Boats will be equipped with standard coast guard approved safety equipment. All anglers must wear approved personal flotation devices any time the combustion engine is running. The boat operator must attach a functional kill switch. Safe boat handling is required at all times. Non-Boaters are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the Boater's boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers

For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Boaters must also ensure that their live wells are operating properly prior to the start of each tournament.

Leaving the boat. Fishing from docks, shore, or other places is prohibited. All fish will be hooked, fought and landed from within the boat. Getting out of the boat to view fish locations is also prohibited. It is permissible to place one foot on the shore or dock to prevent boat damage, but one foot must remain in the boat at all times. Docking and leaving the boat is only permitted for personal or safety needs.

Fish handling. Contestants shall make every effort to handle fish in such a fashion as to assure the safe release of fish caught.

Live wells. All boats must have functioning livewells with aeration systems. Stringers are prohibited. Fish shall not be removed from live wells except in culling situations or at weigh-ins.

Only non-penetrating culling clips and culling beams are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates or is designed to penetrate the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed

Pre-fishing. Pre-fishing will be prohibited on all tournament waters on the day of the tournament. Pre-fishing will be permitted up to midnight of the day preceding a tournament.

Tournament Schedule will be set by the tournament committee and may be changed pending conditions at the lake, or in the best interest of the majority of the Club.

Fishing hours will be selected by the tournament committee and will be listed in the tournament schedule and also announced at the start of each tournament. It is at the discretion of the tournament director to decide what is safe light

Official timepiece will be that of the tournament director. The tournament director will announce the official time at the start of the tournament.

Check-In. All boats may be checked for functional live wells and both anglers must wear approved pfd's prior to blastoff.

Notification of early departure. Any contestant who must leave the water after launch must notify a club member or leave an obvious note on an officer's vehicle. A search party will be formed to look for any boat that fails to check in by the end of the weigh-in.

Legal fish will be largemouth or smallmouth bass of at least 12-inches in length. The club will abide by any modified regulations for specific lakes as designated by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife or appropriate state agency

Paper tournaments. Some club tournaments may be scheduled during the "catch-and-release only" season and be will designated "paper tournaments". During these tournaments, fish are to be weighed immediately after landing, and then released. The weight of the fish is to be verified by the angler's partner and then written down. The best five fish will be used to determine the winner. A fish must measure at least 12-inches. Angler-of-Year and Lunker points will not be awarded during Paper Tournaments.

Official measuring device. The official club measuring device will be a 22" or 18" Golden Rule calibrated at 1/4" increments. All tournament boats must have this or an equivalent measuring device on board to measure fish. A Golden Rule will be available at the weigh-in to measure fish for courtesy-check requests.

Partner pairing. 8 hour tournaments will have a maximum of 2 anglers in a boat, while four hour events could have up to three anglers per boat. The club tournament director, club president, or club secretary will contact club members at least 5 days prior to a scheduled tournament. All members must make every effort to declare their intention to fish within 2 days of the tournament date. Members must declare whether they will fish as a "Boater" or "Non-Boater". Non boaters will be selected on a 1st come, 1st served basis by confirming their intention directly with the club official who called the event. Two nights prior to a scheduled tournament, "Boater" names and "Non-Boater" names will be put into separate hat. Pairings will be made by

drawing a name from the Boater list, then from the Non-Boater list, until all names have been drawn, or one list is empty.

If there are more Boaters than Non-Boaters, the remaining boaters will be paired by random drawing. The first name drawn will be the boater and the second name will be the non-boater. If there is an odd number of remaining boaters, the final boater will fish alone.

If there are more Non-boaters than Boaters for 4 hour events, all Boaters names will go back on the list after the first round of drawing, and another random draw will pair unmatched Non Boaters with Boaters.

Paired Boaters and Non-Boaters will fish for a combined 5-fish bag.

Club official will make every effort to assure no Boater will be required to fish alone more than once per season.

Club official will make every effort to assure no Boater and Non-Boater will be paired more than once per season.

Club official will make every effort to assure no Non-Boater is excluded from more than one event because of the “no 3 anglers in a boat rule”.

Team Format & Bag Limits. The bag limit for club tournaments is five (5) fish per team. Paired Boaters and Non-Boaters will fish for a combined 5-fish bag unless special regulations are in effect.

Co-Angler Fees. Non-boaters are expected to help the boater out with the cost of towing and operating the boat. Payment amounts are \$10 for half-day tournaments and \$20 for full-day tournaments.

Culling of fish. Culling is permissible to allow an angler/team to maintain the heaviest limit. Care must be taken not to exceed the daily bag limit per boat when doing so. All fish must be culled immediately. Culling of a dead fish is not allowed. No fish will be released by a contestant from his or his partner’s boat at the weigh-in site (i.e., no “culling” at the ramp).

Weigh-In. The tournament director or other appointed club member shall conduct the weigh-in, using the same digital scale and fish bag for each angler’s catch. All fish must be brought to the scales in a fish bag with ample amounts of water so as not to cause the fish undue stress. Only the next two anglers in line will be allowed to wait with their fish in a water-filled bag. Otherwise fish must be left in the live well until your turn. The designated weigh-in official will hang an empty fish bag from the appointed digital scale and will tare the scale. Fish will be transferred from an angler’s water-filled bag to the official empty weigh-in bag, taking care to shake off any excess water from each fish. The designated weigh-in official will make final determination of total weight. Fish will be transferred back to the angler’s water-filled weigh-bag and the angler will be responsible for releasing the fish back into the lake immediately. The designated weigh-in official will ensure the official weigh-in bag is tared after each angler’s weigh-in.

Scoring. Fish will be measured in pounds, tenths and hundredths of a pound. Each contestant's biggest fish (smallmouth and largemouth) will be weighed separately. Largest lunker will be used as a tiebreaker.

Penalties shall be assessed as follows:

Contestants that are late or have not checked in by the specified finish time will be assessed a 0.5-pound per minute penalty for up to five minutes; anglers/teams returned over five minutes late will be disqualified.

Weights of dead fish will be included in an angler's total weight. However, a weight penalty of 1-lb per dead fish will be assigned for each fish that cannot be released alive, up to 4-dead fish. If 5-dead fish are brought to the weigh-in, the angler/team will be disqualified from the tournament.

Weights of short fish will not be included in an angler's total weight. In addition, a penalty of 0.25-pounds will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish.

If an angler/team fishes with 6 or more fish in the livewill, or brings 6 or more fish to the weigh-in, a 2 pound penalty for each fish over 5 will be deducted from the total weight of the 5 largest fish.

Complaints or protests must be submitted to the tournament director in writing no later than 30 minutes after the completion of the weigh-in. The decisions of the Tournament Committee will be final in all matters.

Debriefing will take place at the end of every tournament. The top 3 finishers will be required to give descriptions of lures, patterns, techniques and presentations that resulted in their high placement for that particular tournament. Anglers are not required to give detailed descriptions or locations of their actual "honey holes".

The Tournament Director has final say in all matters of the tournament.

Points will be awarded as follows:

Angler-of-Year. AOY Points will not be awarded during Paper Tournaments. Points for Angler-of-Year and all other placings during regular season tournaments will be awarded based on the following scale:

1st - 100

2nd - 97

3rd - 95

the remainder of places will decrease by one point per position.

Each paired Boater and Non-Boater will receive the same points for their respective placing.

Anglers/teams fishing a tournament but **not** weighing in any fish will receive 10-points each.

Final AOY Points calculations will be made by adding the Top 5 finishes for each angler plus 1 point for each lunker.

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st Place, Angler of Year – \$150, Name added to Club Trophy, + 1st Place Trophy

2nd Place – 2nd Place Trophy

3rd Place – 3rd Place Trophy

Other Prizes - \$50 Boater Lunker Gas/Visa Card, given to the boater whose boat comes in with the biggest fish (Boater or Co-Anger) Tournament Random prize pack. Rules will be provided at each tournament.

AOY Pool is based on the number of paid members in the current AOY Season, A portion of each members dues will be allocated to the AOY Pool, which is determined by the board before the season starts

1st, 2nd, 3rd Place – The club members who have the most points accumulated from all non-paper-tournament events will be awarded the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes, respectively. Prizes will be determined and purchased by Club Officials with club funds.

Lunker: At a club meeting following the completion of the tournament season, a drawing will take place for the Lunker Prize. Members will receive one ticket for each Lunker caught during the season. All tickets will go into a hat and one will be drawn randomly for the Lunker Prize. Prize will be determined and purchased by Club Officials with club funds.

Tie-Breaker. In the event of a tie for 1st place, a fish-off will be conducted between all members tied for first place. The time and location of the fish-off will be determined after the last AOY tournament of the year. The winner of the fish-off will earn first place and Angler of the Year. If anglers tie during the fish-off, the angler with the largest single fish will win. If two or more members tie for 2nd place, they will split the 2nd and 3rd place prizes. If two or more members tie for third place, they will split the third place prize.