

Elite Force Bassmasters Tournament Rules

The Executive Board shall interpret the rules and regulations set forth in all said tournaments.

- Decisions of these appointed Officers will be final in all matters.
- Each member shall choose (5) different waters when choosing tournament locations and submit them to the President.
- The President will then put together a proposed schedule based on locations submitted.
- The schedule will, when possible, include a Club Tournament the Day before a District event at the same location as the District event so all members fishing the District Tournament will be able to use our Club Tournament to pre-fish for the District Tournament. This should help our Club Members participating in District Tournaments compete and have a better chance at placing during the District.
- All sites and dates must pass simple majority vote of the Executive Board. Tournament sites and dates shall be voted on in November.
- Tournament sites after being voted on may only be changed due to extenuating circumstances by majority vote of the Executive Board of Officers with the best

interest of the Club in mind. These circumstances will cover anything beyond the control of the club.

- Cancellations due to weather, hazardous conditions or extenuating circumstances, deemed by the Executive Board can only be rescheduled by a majority vote of the Executive Board. See section below labeled “Tournament Cancellations and Rescheduled” for rules and procedures.
- Each Tournament must have a minimum of three (3) boats and participants.

Tournament Cancellations/Reschedules

There may be a need to cancel or reschedule a Tournament through out the season.

The Executive board, by majority vote can cancel / reschedule any tournament/event they deem necessary for any reason. (As an example, unsafe conditions or extenuating circumstances).

- Rescheduled events may be held as conditions dictate at the same location, a new location, the same date or a new date by the majority vote of the Executive Board with the ultimate purpose of being in the best interest of the Club.

Participants and Eligibility:

Participants in EFBM club tournaments are by invitation only to members in good standing of EFBM. Guest may be eligible to participate, please see section "GUESTS" for rules and procedures.

PAIRINGS:

- Up to two (2) contestants per boat except for when a rider emergency occurs.
- The President will be responsible for the registration of participants in Club Tournaments and the assignment of partners thru random draw.
- Riders will be required to alternate each Club tournament thru Boaters they haven't fished with yet for the year (where possible) before they can fish with a boater they have already fished with in that year.
- The tournament launch order of each boat and pairings for each tournament will be determined by the order of the random draw.
- If an Angler(s) needs to switch over to be a Co-Angler, but is listed as an Angler at the beginning of the year. That Angler will fish from the back of the boat under the Co- anglers rules BUT stay in the Anglers points race.

- To withdraw from an event the member must call the President or another officer and your boater or rider by 9:00PM on the Wednesday before the tournament.
- Once a tournament draw is final any changes needed involving boaters and riders will be made by the Executive Board and both members affected will be notified.

Points System and Club Tournament

- The club will hold a 10 to 13 tournament circuit and members can drop their worst 3 - 4 tournaments based on the overall number of Tournaments.
- The club will charge \$40 fee for all members participating in the tournament.
- \$10 of that fee goes to the Club general account, \$5 dollars to the Lunker Pot and the rest to the Winners of the Tournament to be split 1st: 50% , 2nd: 30% and 3rd: 20%
- Additional places or less places may be paid based on Participation and agreed upon by the majority of the Executive Board members present at the event.
- A 10 tournament circuit: Members can drop their worst 3 tournaments towards their AOTY/COAOTY totals.
- A 11 - 13 tournament circuit: Members can drop their worst 4 tournaments towards their AOTY/CAOTY totals.

- All Members must sign up as IN or OUT by 5pm the Sunday before the Tournament on our website forum or by notifying an Officer if not able to access the website.
- The tournament draw for pairings and launch order will be done the Sunday night before the tournament, after the 5pm signup deadline.
- Members who miss the sign up date, may enter the tournament late one time per year only with a \$10 fee for being late. Once a member uses their one-time annual/seasonal allowance for being late, they will not be able to participate “late” again for the rest of the year if they miss the Sunday sign up cutoff at 5pm.
- Any member who signs up and has to back out of a Tournament, will be charged a \$10 fee that must be paid before they can participate in the next tournament. If that member fails to pay, they will not be allowed to fish a Club event until payment is received.
- If a member signs up but backs out of more than one Tournament in a year, they will be suspended for a tournament of the Executive Boards choosing.
- These rules are not meant to hurt/punish any club member but to help make sure all members are treated EQUALLY at the draw and to prevent any member from trying to avoid/manipulate placement with another member (rider/boater) thru missing the draw and signing up late or being part of the draw but than backing out.

AOTY/CAOTY points will be awarded on a “points” system:

Scoring of Tournament Results:

- Elite Force Bassmasters tournaments will be scored as a Pro- Am format. Anglers against Anglers and Co-Anglers against Co-Anglers for AOTY and COAOTY AWARDS,
- however All members will be fishing against each other the day of the Tournament for the Tournament Winning Pot(s) and Lunker.
- In the case of a Tournament tie, the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition, the largest number of legal live fish, the heaviest single day’s Lunker weight during competition, the second heaviest single day Lunker weight. If a tie still exists, after exhausting all tie breakers, then places are to be combined- Splitting money and points equally. The contestant with the largest fish will be awarded the highest ranking.
- 100 points for 1st place, 99 points for 2nd place, 98 points for 3rd place, 97 points for 4th place and so on...
- Anyone who fishes but does not weigh a legal fish, will receive 55 points for participating.
- If a member is DQ’d for any reason, they will not receive any points.

- In order to DQ a participant, it will be by the Majority Vote of the Executive Board Officers that are present at the event based on the circumstances presented.
- AOTY will be awarded to the Boater who has the highest points for the year.
- CAOTY will be awarded to the Rider who has the highest points for the year.
- In the event of a tie, the Boater/Rider with the highest total weight for the year will win AOTY/CAOTY respectively.

Penalties:

- -Exceeding the creel limit of fish with more than a creel limit -possession equals disqualification.
- Dead Fish equals 8 oz. Deduction from total weight for each dead fish.
- Bringing a Short fish to the scale will result in disqualification.

Late Penalty:

- Contestants who are not in the official docking area at the weigh-in time will be penalized one pound for each minute late to be deducted from the largest bass and so on.
- Anyone returning 15 minutes late will lose all credit for that tournament.

- An official time will be designated at the start of each tournament where all contestants will have the opportunity to synchronize their watches.
- Contestants are expected to act in a sportsman like manner. A request for towing and aid should be honored whenever possible.
- The Executive Board who are present will review late arrivals due to circumstances beyond the control of the contestant.
- Ramp conditions permitting, we may wait until all boats are out of the water before weigh-in.

Tournament Hours:

- Start time to be determined by the Executive Board.
- Actual blast off subject to change based on conditions of weather and light.
- Length of tournament to be set by Executive Board but not to exceed 9 hours.
- If there is a weather problem, The Executive Board will decide by majority vote whether or not to have the tournament. The decision will be arrived at by 6:00PM on the day before the tournament.
- All tournaments will begin at the appointed time regardless of late arrivals.

Tournament Launch and Weigh-in:

- The launch area will be the location of the start and weigh-in of the tournament.
- During tournament send-off as your boat number is called you must pass directly by the release boat (please idle past at least 20 yards before you blast off) and be recognized.
- Release boat will be the last boat drawn for launch.

Guest(s)

- Club members that are Boaters can bring a Guest once they have gone thru the Tournament draw and only if they are solo. If thru the draw a Club Rider is placed with them, they will not be allowed to have their Guest fish with them. Member Riders are our priority for placement.
- Any guest fishing with the Club must have the intention or desire to join the Club. Each guest can only come out 1 time and after that will need to join the Club in order to fish with the Club again.
- Any Club Co Angler wanting to bring a Guest(Rider): the guest will need to go into the draw and after all active Club Co Anglers are placed, then they will be placed with the first open Boat.
- From time to time the Club may be short Boaters and the Club, thru the Executive Board majority vote, reserves the

right to bring in outside Boaters in order to help fill the field where needed in the best interest of the Club.

A "Classic" tournament will be held for all paid active club members attaining qualifying status during the regular scheduled tournament season.

- In order to qualify for the Classic tournament, members must participate in a minimum of five (5) Elite Force Bassmasters monthly tournaments for the current year.
- If a member has fished 4 Club Tournaments and want to enter the Classic, that member can join the Classic by “buying in” to the Classic by paying for their 5th Tournament they missed (\$40) as well as the Classic Fee.
- Under no circumstance may an individual fish the Classic with less than 4 Tournaments attended.
- The Classic tournament date and location will be determined by input from the Club Members and a majority vote of the Executive Board.

Safety:

Safe boating conduct must and will be observed at all times by all tournament participants!

- while the gas motor is in operation. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver must be worn and fastened otherwise member will be DQ'd.

- A kill switch in working order must be used on all gas-powered boats unless this boat is used in an Electric Only Lake Tournament. Kill switches may be checked at random prior to launching.
- No boat may pass another within a wake zone. No wake zones will be clarified prior to each tournament.
- Members are responsible for providing their own U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest.
- Members are also responsible for their equipment and use in each club-sponsored tournament.

Sportsmanship:

Sportsmanship courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs or substances are permitted while boats are in the water. Drunkenness and illegal drug use on the part of any contestant during a tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from that and all future EFBM tournaments. Violation of any prevailing local, state, or federal regulations may result in disqualification.

All EFBM rules and regulations must be followed or disqualification will result. In addition, in case of a disable boat is near. The tournament Director has the right to notify any boat with only 1 angler to render assistance in

helping the anglers that wish to continue to fish the rest of the tournament to transfer that member or members in the boat that assisted the disabled boat.

Consequences of not following this rule will result in disqualification of the tournament and suspension of future tournaments.

Tackle and Equipment:

Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait may be used. Only one rod may be used at any time. Other rigged rods may be put in boat for substitute purposes. However, only one rig is permitted to be used and in the water at any one time. A snagged rod is considered a rod in use. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Electronic equipment is permitted. Nets are permitted.

For the use of culling tags, piercing of the fish is NOT permitted; tags must be clip or loop style. If an angler is found piercing their fish they will be disqualified from that tournament as well as all possible future tournaments with EFBM upon majority vote of the Executive Board.

Boat and Motor:

Fishing boats may be used that are at least 15 feet in length or the minimum length required by local laws. Any motor may be used that adheres to the particular regulations of the water to be fished. No inflatable boats may be used. Minimum of 25 hp is required with the exceptions of electric lakes only.

A minimum of eight (18) gallons aerated live well required.

Any boat used during an Elite Force Bassmasters tournament is required to maintain a \$300,000 liability insurance policy. Prior to the first tournament all boat owners must submit a copy of boat owner's insurance to be able to use their boat in any tournaments.

Boat Operation and Expense:

- Co-Angler may NOT fish from the front of the boat even if their Angler gives them permission.
- Any contestant found operating the boat in an obvious and deliberate manner to handicap his partner shall be disqualified. The present rider's fee is \$25.00.

Permitted Fishing Locations:

Fishing is permitted any place in tournament water. However, no fishing is permitted within a distance

that would interfere with another boat already fishing a particular location without the consent of the first boater.

- All fishing must be done in the boat. Boats must stay in the water during the tournament day.
- It is not acceptable to get out of the boat in order to push or pull the boat into a more favorable position.
- You cannot leave the boat to land fish.
- All bass must be released in the body of water from which they were caught with the exception of a Trophy Bass.
- Site-specific rules will be discussed prior to each tournament as well as at launch site in the event of severe weather conditions.
- All tournaments that have closed boundaries will be established at the meeting prior to the tournament. Failure to adhere to these boundaries may result in disqualification.
- Fishing gas docks is permitted unless otherwise posted.

Conduct of Weigh-In:

- Weigh-ins will be conducted by a group of three members/Officers.
- Weigh Master calls all fish weights from the official scale.
- Bag Master checks creel limit (number of fish) minimum length and if any fish are dead.
- Score Master Record's tournament weigh-in results and calculates the final score.
- Selection of a tournament crew may be on a voluntary, assigned, or lottery basis.
- Materials Used
 - Official scale with basket attachment
 - Small folding table
 - Golden Rule measuring boards
 - Mesh Weigh-in Bag
 - Small plastic tub
 - Official score sheets
- Weigh-In Preparation
 - Set up weigh-in station at an optional location
 - Verify that the scale is functioning properly and zeroed with the weigh-in bag in the basket.

- Check measuring boards to make sure that they are identical.
- Check availability of weigh bags and scoring sheets.
- Each contestant will bring his catch to the weigh-in station in his own bag.
- Before presenting his catch to the Bag Master a contestant may check his fish against the courtesy board. Once fish are presented to the Bag Master they are subject to official scrutiny.
- Contestants will be DQ'd for any fish that does not meet the minimum length requirement at the scale.
- The Bag Master counts the number of fish, checks the length against the official measuring board and checks to see if any fish are dead.
- Length check: Mouth closed, nose slightly touching against stop, then tail may be fanned or squeezed or petted. If any part of the tail touches the minimum length the fish qualifies as legal. If the tail does not touch the line it is permitted to flip the fish on the opposite side and try again. Any short fish will result in a DQ.
- Live or dead status: Any movements of the fins, gills, gill cover, mouth, body, or eyes will be sufficient to score the fish as alive.

- Dead fish will result in an 8 oz. Penalty.
Dead, mangled, or mutilated fish will be weighed at the discretion of the Bag Master in consulting with the Executive Board present.
- No contestant may physically alter fish in an attempt to make it legal.
- You are not allowed to cull any dead fish.
- Contestants may request the President or Vice President to review decisions made by the Bag Master.
- Contestants select their largest bass that is placed in weigh bag alone and weighed for Lunker.
- Weigh Master calls weight of largest bass, which is recorded by the Score Master.
- All remaining bass are added to the bag and the contestant's entire catch is weighed to determine total weight.
- The Weigh Masters call is official.
- The Score Master records official weight.
- After final weight is called, fish are transferred back to contestants transport bag while weigh bag is deposited in the small can for reuse at the next tournament.
- Contestant is responsible for returning his fish to the water and for the disposal of any dead fish he brings to the scales.

6- Man Regional Team:

Will be formed from the previous year's Angler of the year and Co Angler of the Year standings.

Pennsylvania Bass Federation Regional Teams tournament:

- Top 3 boaters and the top 3 riders from the previous year's points race will be awarded with entry fee's plus 3 rooms for 1 nights stay to be paid by EFBM if possible, assuming assets are available.
- Team 2, 3 etc. will be formed by previous year's Angler of the year standings as well. All expenses will be covered by members in these Teams with no help from EFBM. If the majority vote of the Executive Board determines there are extra funds available to help these Teams, they may vote on how much funds they deem available if any at all.

These Rules / Procedures can be modified at any time by the President or Majority Vote of the Executive Board.