

Elite Force Bassmasters Tournament Rules

The tournament directors, the President and the Vice President shall interpret the rules and regulations set forth in all said tournaments.

- Decisions of these appointed Officers will be final in all matters.

All changes in the EFBM (Elite Force Bassmasters) tournament rules will be made at the January meeting each year only!

- A written proposal may be given to the Secretary at any time during the year to be voted on at the designated meeting. At that time, after a period of discussion the rules may be amended by a majority vote of members present.

- Each member shall choose eight (8) different waters when choosing tournament locations. All sites and dates must pass simple majority vote of the Executive Board. Tournament sites and dates shall be voted on in November. Proxy picks is acceptable before October meeting to be sent to secretary by email or text message.

Tournament sites after being voted on may only be changed due to extenuating circumstances by the Executive Board of Officers. These circumstances will cover anything beyond the control of the club. All permits must be submitted within 10 days of finalizing the schedule.

- Cancellations due to weather or hazardous conditions:

Deemed by the Tournament Director can only be rescheduled by a majority vote of the Executive Board.

- Each Tournament must have a minimum of three (3) boats and participants.

Participants and Eligibility:

Participants in EFBM club tournaments are by invitation only to members in good standing of EFBM. Guests are welcome only if the Tournament Director is aware, agrees and the member requesting a guest is an open boat not paired with a club rider. Club Riders have first opportunity for an open boat position.

Tournament fee: must be paid in cash at the ramp or any time before the tournament. Each tournament entry fee will be \$40.00 with \$10.00 allocated towards the club treasury, \$5.00 towards Lunker prize and \$25.00 towards payouts.

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.
- 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 disabled 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 fish from the front of the boat 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, which the Tournament Directors will determine.

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.

Tournament Hours:

Start time to be determined by tournament directors. Actual blast off subject to change based on conditions of weather and light.

Length of tournament to set by club vote but not to exceed 9 hours.

If there is a weather problem, the Tournament Directors and the President 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.

If a rider has to 3 up (3 in a boat). That boater that was late or did not show up will be disqualified for that tournament (Unless re-teamed up and the boater cannot begin to fish until his rider is in the boat)

Must pay entry fee from tournament missed (if you entered a tournament and did not show up or notify tournament director in advance) or you may be in bad standings until fee is paid. This money will be added to the next tournament pay out.

Tournament Headquarters and Send-off:

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.

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 Tournament Directors and the President 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.

Contestants pair off:

Up to two (2) contestants per boat except for when a rider emergency occurs.

A non-member (other than a prospective member) may not keep or put any fish in the live well during a tournament.

The tournament drawing will be luck of the draw. Boat owners and riders nameplates will be put in separate containers.

If drawing your place yourself in the drawing as a rider when the drawing is held you must go as a rider in that tournament. If a

member is uncertain of status at the time of the draw that member will be considered a rider.

The tournament position of each boat will be determined by the order of the draw.

Upon completion of the drawing if there are any extra boaters they will go as a boater. If anyone wishes to fish after the drawing then they will go as a rider. If no boats are available then that member will not be able to fish.

Whose boat may be used may be by mutual agreement or by a flip of the coin.

Rider emergency takes precedence over non-member riders. To cancel, call Tournament Director or if not available then call another officer and your boater or rider by 9:00PM on the Wednesday before the tournament.

Once a tournament draw is final all changes involving boat owners and riders must be made with the knowledge and consent of the Tournament Director and both members affected.

Conduct of Weigh-In:

Weigh-ins will be conducted by a group of three members.

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

Two Golden Rule measuring boards

Minimum of twenty (20) clean weigh-in bags

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 penalized for fish that do not meet the minimum length requirement.

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 penalty.

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 Tournament Directors. 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 Tournament Directors to review decisions made by the Bag Master.

Contestants select their largest bass that is placed in weigh bag alone and weighed. 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. Weigh Master should solicit contestant's agreement with his call before announcing it to the Score Master. The Weigh Masters call is official. Weights falling between hash marks on the scale dial will be called at the lower hash mark. 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.

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 All regular club tournaments, if an Anglers 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.

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.
- Short fish will result in disqualification.

Point totals will be based on final weight and ranked in order from highest to lowest. Based on 100 points system. We will have 1 scoring sheet to include Anglers and Co Anglers. (100 for 1st place, 99 for 2nd place, 98 for 3rd, 97 for 4th etc., DNW for 55)

In the case of a 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.

Any combination district/club tournament where a EFBM member fished, all fish should be weighed. If a member was disqualified for any reason as a rider, a 3-man committee headed by the Tournament Director will make the final Decision if the members catch is to be recorded in the club talley.

End of the year tie breaker for point's race:

Number of fish

Total weight active in tournaments

Largest fish

100 points for first place, 99 points for second place, 98 for third, etc and 55 points will be awarded for showing with no fish.

Payout

Payout will be calculated to be (1) place for every six anglers involved in that particular tournament.

6- Man Regional Team:

Will be formed from the previous year's 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 2 nights stay to be paid by EFBM is possible, assuming assets are available.

Team 2, 3 etc. will be formed by previous year's Angler of the year standings as well.