

Hawg Hawlers Bass Club Tournament Rules

PREFACE

The following rules will be interpreted solely by the club Officers. Any announcements made by the club Officers at the tournament site take precedent over written rules. Any situations arising during a tournament that are not covered by the following rules will be addressed by the club officers present.

A. GENERAL

1. Tournament eligibility requirements:
 - a. All individuals with a paid entry fee and a current paid membership to Hawg Hawlers Bass Club are eligible to fish.
 - b. Participants must have a Tournament Rules acknowledgment form signed and on file with the club treasurer.
 - c. Entrants must have a boat live well with adequate capacity and a pump constantly adding fresh or re-circulating water.
2. Events are "Buddy" Tournaments with teams of not more than 2 registered anglers fishing from the same boat. (**PENALTY #2**)

B. REGISTRATION

1. Tournament registration fee is \$60.00 per boat which includes a "Big Bass" pool for each tournament day.
2. There is an optional \$10 (per boat) Big Bass side pot, half paid to the participating Angler weighing in the heaviest bass of the tournament and half retained by the club.
3. The Treasurer must RECEIVE the tournament registration fee by 5:00 PM on the Wednesday preceding the tournament or an additional \$10.00 late fee will be required prior to take off. This money will be retained in the club treasury, and NOT go toward the payout.

NOTE: Failure to make payment at resorts or marinas during tournaments affects the reputation of our club. If Hawg Hawlers receives notification from any business that a member failed to make payment during a Hawg Hawlers tournament, the Treasurer is authorized to reject any tournament registration from that member until the outstanding bill has been paid in full.

4. Take off positions will be drawn by lot by the club Treasurer.
5. Tournament registration fee will not be refunded within the two days prior to the tournament start date. (Unusual circumstances will be considered by the club officers)
6. In the event that a tournament is cancelled, the tournament registration fee will be carried over to the next tournament or refunded to the team at their request.

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C. TAKE OFF PROCEDURES

NOTE: there are two possible take off scenarios.

Scenario 1 – Live well check when take off number is issued

1. A live well check will be conducted by the Tournament Directors beginning 30 minutes prior to the designated takeoff time. **(PENALTY #2)**
2. A pre-tournament meeting will be held each tournament day approximately 15 minutes prior to the designated take off time. Questions and rule clarifications will be addressed at that time.
3. At least one team member must be present at each pre-tournament meeting. **(PENALTY #1)**
4. The tournament team must be present at the designated take off point (with boat in the water)
 - a. At least 5 minutes prior to the designated take off time. **(PENALTY #1)**
 - b. Prior to the take off of the Tournament Director. **(PENALTY #2)**
5. Volunteer Tournament Directors will direct the takeoff. Teams may not take off prior to their take off position number being called by the Tournament Director. **(PENALTY #2)**
6. If a team is not ready for take off when their boat number is called, they will forfeit their take off position and take off last.
7. Take off positions will be reversed for the second day of a two-day tournament (late entries will remain in last take off positions).

Scenario 2 – Number issued at meeting and live well check during take off

1. Tournament Directors will arrive at the meeting location 30 minutes before tournament start time. Take off position number will be issued to each team at this time.
2. A pre-tournament meeting will be held each tournament day approximately 15 minutes prior to the designated take off time. Questions and rule clarifications will be addressed at that time.
3. At least one team member must be present at each pre-tournament meeting. **(PENALTY #1)**
4. The tournament team must be present at the designated take off point (with boat in the water)
 - a. At least 5 minutes prior to the designated take off time. **(PENALTY #1)**
 - b. Prior to the take off of the Tournament Director. **(PENALTY #2)**
5. Live well check will be conducted by the Tournament Directors during the take-off. **(PENALTY #2)**
 - a. Line up in take-off number order and pass the Tournament Directors **using your trolling motor**. The TD's will check your live well and release you to begin your tournament day. (NOTE: please leave the "big motor" off until you are past the Tournament Directors location)
6. If a team is not ready for take off when their boat number is called, they will forfeit their take off position and take off last.
7. Take off positions will be reversed for the second day of a two-day tournament (late entries will remain in last take off positions).

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D. TOURNAMENT FISHING

1. Fishing is allowed anywhere on the designated tournament waters during tournament hours except in the “No Fishing” area as defined during the pre-tournament meeting or any other area declared off limits by local or other authorities. **(PENALTY #2)**
2. All fishing must be done from the team’s single boat. No fishing from the bank is allowed. Contestants may not depart the boat to enter a fishing area or to land fish or to carry, tow, push, or pull their boat to access fishing areas not otherwise accessible. **(PENALTY #2)**
3. Only artificial baits may be used (pork chunks, attractants, masks, etc. are allowed). All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. **(PENALTY #2)**
4. Only one rod and reel may be used by one angler at any time. **(PENALTY #2)**
5. Grading or culling of fish shall be in accordance with the Department of Conservation guidelines, to include, no culling of dead fish. **(PENALTY #2)**
6. All contestants must leave from and return to the take-off (weigh-in) site by boat. Boats may not be trailered from one location to another during tournament hours except to a pre-announced designated weigh in site. Anglers are encouraged to leave their boats in the water during tournament hours but in the event that a team must trailer their boat during tournament hours, boat and both anglers must not leave the immediate area of the take-off site until the tournament is officially over. **(PENALTY #2)**

E. WEIGH IN PROCEDURES

1. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Kentucky (Spotted) Bass are eligible for weigh in. No more than five (5) fish per team member, per day, are eligible for weigh in.
2. Club officers will have the option to weigh in first to allow time for them to perform their tournament weigh in duties. All members are welcome to watch officers weigh in. The scales will open 10 minutes before the tournament day ends. The weigh in officially ends 5 minutes after last call for fish. Last call will be made when no one is waiting in line to weigh in fish.

NOTE: Officers will not be allowed to measure or weigh their own fish, their partner’s fish or the fish of any family members.

3. Each team will be issued a boat number when their livewells are checked. That number must be returned to the weigh in area prior to the designated weigh in time for the team to have their weight counted. **(PENALTY #2)**

NOTE: There is **NO GRACE PERIOD at WEIGH-IN** and there are **NO EXCEPTIONS** to this rule.

4. Only fish caught in the designated tournament waters, the day of, and during the official tournament hours, by registered participants competing in the tournament, are eligible for weigh in. **(PENALTY #2)**
5. Only fish submitted at the weigh in by one of the team members catching the fish are eligible for weigh in. Fish must be segregated by team members during the tournament and when presented at weigh in. **(PENALTY #2)**

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6. Mangled, mauled, bloated, or mutilated fish will not be eligible for weigh in.
7. Dead fish will be eligible for weigh in with a ¼ (.25) pound penalty assessed against the team's total weight only.
8. Fish submitted for weigh in that do not comply with specific length limits, for the designated lake (as established by the Dept of Conservation or by the Hawg Hawlers Bass Club) will not be eligible for weigh in. Where no length limit is in effect, the minimum length shall be ten (10) inches. All fish measured will be determined legal by the club tournament chairmen. All weights of fish weighed in will be determined and announced by the clubs tournament chairmen or their designate and shall be the final decisions of the club officers. **(PENALTY #4)**

NOTE: All eligible fish will be measured by a Club Officer, or designate, using the Club's official "Golden Rule". They will be measured in accordance with D.O.C guidelines. The Club's "Golden Rule" is available to club members prior to weigh in. The quantity of legal fish for each angler and the total team weight will be recorded for each day. A "Big Bass" weight will also be recorded if applicable.

9. Upon completion of a team's weigh in, all fish submitted will be returned to the water.
10. Prize money will be paid following the last tournament weigh in. Placement ties will split the payouts for tied positions.
11. Anglers are responsible for supplying their own Weigh-in bags.

F. SAFETY/SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Take off may be delayed due to unsafe conditions as determined by the Club Officers present. In the event of inclement weather or extenuating circumstances, the tournament may be cancelled by the acting President after discussion with the Club Officers present.
2. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. All participants must abide by all of the rules outlined within the Missouri Safe Boating Manual, as well as US Coast Guard navigation rules, Water Patrol boating laws and any laws of the governing bodies for any lakes Hawg Hawlers fish. If a citation is received for **ANY** reason **(PENALTY #2)** applies.
3. On take off, each boat must idle in boat number order (reverse order second day) to the Tournament Directors boat for a life jacket check. All participants must be wearing a serviceable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device with kill switches attached (if available). On confirmation of life jacket compliance, Tournament Directors will approve each boat for take off and send them out. Any boat not in compliance for life jackets and kill switches (if available) **(PENALTY #1)** applies. Any boat that disregards a Tournament Directors instruction to comply with this rule and proceeds with take off **(PENALTY #2)** applies.

NOTE: Hawg Hawlers Bass Club recommends that all participants wear a serviceable U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device at all times during Tournament hours

4. All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. **(PENALTY #5)**
5. Hawg Hawlers encourages all contestants to have a cell phone in their boat for emergency use.

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G. PENALTIES

PENALTY #1 – Forfeiture of team take off position for the day (*bumped to last take off position*).

PENALTY #2 – Team disqualification for the day.

PENALTY #3 – Team disqualification for the tournament.

PENALTY #4 – Two pound penalty per occurrence (*toward the total team weight*).

PENALTY #5 – Assessment to be determined by a meeting of Club Officers and shall be commensurate with the severity of the infraction.

H. INFRACTION AND PENALTY PROCEDURES

1. Infractions must be verified by one of the following:
 - a. Admission by one of the accused team members to a Club Officer,
 - b. Infraction observed first hand by a Club Officer,
 - c. Infraction observed by tournament directors (for life jacket violation on take off *only*),
 - d. Infraction observed by one member of at least two (2) participating teams.
2. Infractions must be reported to a Club Officer prior to the end of weigh in so that penalties may be assessed.
3. Immediately following the weigh in, the Club Officers present will meet in order to:
 - a. Confirm verification of the alleged infraction.
 - b. Inform the team involved in the alleged infraction.
 - c. Receive/review rebuttal from the accused team.
 - d. Determine if the infraction is substantiated.
 - e. Determine the applicable penalty.

NOTE: In the case where a Club Officer is involved in the alleged infraction, or there is a shortage of officers present, a past officer, may be appointed by the ranking Club Officer to participate in the review.

4. Following substantiation of the infraction and determination of the applicable penalty, the Club President or highest ranking officer present shall:
 1. Notify the team members (guilty of the infraction) of the penalty.
 2. Inform them that further action may be warranted (depending on the severity of the infraction)
 3. Other than the rebuttal issued during the infraction assessment process, no further appeals will be entertained.

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REVISIONS

- A. April 23, 2013 – modified document to make it not year specific
- B. January 14, 2014 – added section E-11. Angler is responsible for supplying their own weigh-in bags.
- C. June 9, 2017 – added scenario 2 in section “C. take-off procedures”
- D. June 11, 2017 – clarified Section E, Subsection 5