

FELLOWSHIP BASS

RULES AND REGULATIONS

(Revised February 8, 2020)

MEMBERSHIP:

Membership with the Fellowship Bass Club is by invitation. Persons desiring to join must possess good moral standards, and integrity while projecting solid sportsmanship. They can be very competitive but must always adhere to honesty and integrity. Individuals desiring to join the Club should contact a member, ascertain when open tournaments are scheduled (normally in the fall/winter seasons) and then fish those open tournaments. Existing Club members will befriend potential members and provide the prospective member an avenue to membership. And just as membership is by invitation, retention in the Club is always being evaluated by the membership. All members are on probation and subject to having their membership rescinded.

GENERAL:

- Veteran Club member dues are \$100.00 annually, payable no later than two (2) weeks prior to the first scheduled tournament. Checks and money orders should be made payable to Fellowship Bass. Annual dues are distributed as follows: \$40.00 for Angler of the Year Award; \$10.00 for Big Bag of the Year Award, and \$10.00 for the Big Fish of the Year Award. Forty Dollars (\$40.00) is used for operating expenses, including trophies and/or plaques, website costs, registration fees, early opening fees if necessary, and for repair and/or replacement of scales. All side pots are optional.
- New club members' dues (\$110.00) include a one-time \$10.00 scale fee in addition to the \$100.00 annual dues.
- Annual dues must be paid by an individual in order to vote on motions surfaced during the Annual Meeting.
- A schedule of twelve (12) tournaments shall be developed and approved by the membership at the regular annual meeting. The schedule will consist of eleven (11) one day tournaments and one (1) two-day Classic tournament.

The one-day tournament entry fee is \$30.00, payable at time of check-in. This entry fee covers \$25.00 toward the total weight payout and \$5.00 toward the Big Fish payout. A deduction of 10% will be withheld from the total weight purse of each one-day tournament. This deduction is to help cover Club expenses as previously listed.

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GENERAL (cont.)

The two-day Classic tournament entry fee is \$60.00, payable at time of check-in on the first day of the two-day tournament. This entry fee covers \$50.00 towards the total weight payout and both Big Fish (\$5.00 for one each day) payouts. Only the Big Fish payout will be distributed on both days of the tournament. The total weight payout is cumulative and will be awarded on the final day of the tournament. A deduction of 10% will be withheld from the total weight purse of each two-day tournament. This deduction is to help cover Club expenses as previously listed.

- Guests who are fishing in a tournament who desire to compete against other anglers (members and/or guests) may do so by paying the entry fee prior to the start of any tournament.
- The Inclement Weather Committee will determine the status of forecasted severe weather conditions and decide if any tournament should be postponed. Anglers will be notified not later than 72 hours prior to the scheduled tournament when the tournament is postponed. The Annual Schedule may have to be modified to accommodate rescheduling of any postponed tournament(s). An ad-hoc meeting of Club members will be convened as soon as possible following a tournament postponement.

CHECK-IN:

- All tournaments will begin and end at the scheduled time, unless modified to accommodate light, weather conditions, or to eliminate conflict with other club tournament at a ramp. A minimum of eight (8) hours of fishing will be afforded participants.
- All anglers should be at the ramp at least 45 minutes prior to the scheduled start time. Starting position numbers will be assigned as each angler checks in. The last man checked in calls the numbers for release of anglers.
- All boat live wells will be checked prior to launching and/or prior to beginning of tournament.
- If an angler arrives after the start of a tournament, the angler must check in with someone fishing the tournament and submit to a live well check before beginning to compete in the tournament.

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CHECK-IN (cont.)

- A random "Boat Safety Check" will be done prior to the start of each tournament. A number will be selected at random prior to assigning starting numbers. The boat to which that number is assigned will be subject to this check. The Boat Safety Check will consist of:
 - Life Vest
 - Fire Extinguisher
 - Throw Cushion
 - Kill Switch and kill switch cord

TOURNAMENT CONDUCT:

- All tournament participants are required to abide by state laws and Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Regulations.
- Any rule infraction observed during scheduled tournament hours must be reported to the Weighmaster, Tournament Director(s) or a Club Officer immediately upon returning to launch site.
- Life jackets and kill switch cords are both to be worn anytime the outboard motor is "in gear" during scheduled tournament hours.
- Running light and anchor light must be turned on prior to blasting off for each tournament.
- Check-in will stop thirty (30) minutes prior to the start time of each tournament. *NOTE: Any angler/boat not checked in by this time will be checked in after other anglers have been released.*
- The Morning Prayer will be delivered thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each tournament.
- Following the Morning Prayer, the individual releasing boats will position his boat at least two hundred (200) feet away from other boats, preferably in a No-Wake Zone.
- Those anglers that have checked in will proceed to position their boat in a line, in the order of release, as per the number they are assigned upon check in.

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TOURNAMENT CONDUCT: (cont.)

- Anglers will idle (no wake) toward the release boat and will pause on either side of the release boat until such time as the release boat signals or instructs the paused boat to proceed. The boat released will then idle (no wake) an additional seventy-five (75) feet from the release boat prior to accelerating onto plane.
Note: If the boat being released desires to depart in the opposite direction, that boat must idle not less than two hundred (200) feet past the last boat in line waiting to be released. The boat may then accelerate onto plane.
- A sand/gravel pit with a barrier blocking its entrance is considered closed and off-limits. Any angler observed fishing within a "closed" pit will be disqualified from the tournament.
- Minors fishing with Club Members and other Club Members are both allowed to assist each other on a boat, i.e., to net a fish. Guests who have elected to compete in the tournament and who have paid the entry fee, may assist Club Members in landing/netting a fish.
- All culling must be done within the scheduled tournament hours.
- The format for tournaments is that each angler competes against the other anglers in the tournament. Two anglers fishing from the same boat compete against each other and are not teammates.
- All waters connected to the Chickahominy River, the James River, and the Appomattox River are in-bounds and open to all anglers when a tournament is being held on either the Chickahominy or James Rivers. If an angler chooses to fish the Chickahominy Lake, he must use the locks. Anglers are not allowed to trailer their boats from the river to the lake.
- Anglers are not allowed to trailer their boats from one launch site to another during tournament hours.

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TOURNAMENT CONDUCT: (cont.)

- If an angler returns after the official tournament ending time the angler is automatically disqualified. Anyone observing an angler returning late must immediately notify the Tournament Director(s), the Weighmaster or one of the Club Officers. Appeals regarding late arrival and disqualification must be submitted immediately to the Tournament Director(s), Weighmaster or one of the Club Officers.
- In the event an angler has boat problems, another angler may voluntarily elect to carry/return that contestant's catch to the launch/weigh-in site so long as the legal limit of fish is not exceeded.
- Infractions of any rule can result in disqualification. Appeals to disqualifications must be submitted immediately to the Tournament Director(s), Weighmaster or one of the Club Officers.

WEIGH-IN:

- Weigh-in will be conducted in the order of the tournament starting positions beginning with the first position. Exceptions to this may be necessary to protect fish or for other circumstances as approved by the Weighmaster and/or tournament director.
- If an angler weighs in a dead fish, 8 ounces (1/2 or .500 lb.) will be deducted per dead fish from his total weight. If the dead fish is the angler's biggest fish, 8 ounces (1/2 or .500 lb.) will be deducted from that fish when being considered for big fish honors of the day.
- If an angler weighs in a short fish, the angler loses that fish and the largest fish from his creel. Fish will be measured with their mouth closed. Measurement will be from the mouth to the end of the tail fin, tail pinched. Fish may be measured on both sides and the measurement most advantageous to the contestant will be used.
- Legal tournament fish include: Largemouth Bass, Kentucky Spotted Bass, or Smallmouth Bass. In compliance with Virginia State Law no more than five (5) fish per day may be in the possession of a contestant.

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TOURNAMENT PAYOUTS:

SCHEDULED ONE-DAY TOURNAMENTS:

- Tournament payouts are based on a minimum of 5 anglers competing. Awards will be determined by total weight accumulated during the day of tournament fishing. The top four anglers will receive monetary awards corresponding to their order of finish. Awards will be distributed as a percentage of the entry fees collected at the beginning of the tournament (see attached payout schedules).
 - 1st place - 50%
 - 2nd place - 25%
 - 3rd place - 15%
 - 4th place - 10%
- A trophy or plaque will be awarded to the winner of each tournament.
- A tie in any position (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) will be broken by:
 - 1 - The angler who weighs the largest fish in his creel.
 - 2 - A coin flip when both anglers have only one fish.
- A tie for big fish will be broken by:
 - 1 - The angler with the heaviest total tournament day weight.
 - 2 - A coin flip when both anglers have only one fish.

CLASSIC TWO-DAY TOURNAMENT:

- Tournament payouts are based on a minimum of 5 anglers competing. Awards will be determined by total weight accumulated during the two (2) days of tournament fishing. The top four anglers will receive monetary awards corresponding to their order of finish. Awards will be distributed as a percentage of the entry fees collected at the beginning of the tournament (see attached payout schedules).
 - 1st place - 50%
 - 2nd place - 25%
 - 3rd place - 15%
 - 4th place - 10%
- A trophy or plaque will be awarded to the first four place finishes of the two-day tournament.

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CLASSIC (TWO DAY) TOURNAMENT: (cont.)

- A tie in any position (1st, 2nd, 3rd or 4th) will be broken by:
 - 1 - The angler who weighs the largest fish in his creel for either day.
 - 2 - A coin flip when both anglers have only one fish.
- A tie for big fish will be broken by:
 - 1 - The angler with the heaviest total two-day weight.
 - 2 - A coin flip when both anglers have only one fish.

ANNUAL AWARDS:

- Angler of the Year Awards, Big Bag of the Year Award, and Big Fish of the Year Award will be determined by the final standings at the end of the year's one (1) day tournaments. Each angler's total weight for the eleven one (1) day tournaments will count towards final year-end standings. The top four anglers will receive monetary awards corresponding to their order of finish. Awards will be distributed as a percentage of the total Angler of the Year dues collected at the beginning of the season:

- 1 st place - 50%	- 2 nd place - 25%
- 3 rd place - 15%	- 4 th place - 10%
- A Plaque will be awarded to the Angler of the Year and each of the three runners-up based on the eleven (11) one day tournaments.
- If Angler of the Year ends in a tie, the monetary prize will be shared, with each angler receiving an equal amount of the prize.
 - 1st place tie - 1st and 2nd prizes combined and shared equally by each angler.
 - 2nd place tie - 2nd and 3rd prizes combined and shared equally by each angler.
 - 3rd place tie - 3rd and 4th prizes combined and shared equally by each angler.
 - 4th place tie - 4th prize shared equally by each angler.

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ANNUAL AWARDS: (cont.)

- Big Fish of the Year Award and Big Bag of the Year Award will be determined by the largest fish weighed (Big Fish) and the heaviest bag weighed (Big Bag) during any of the eleven (11) regularly scheduled one (1) day tournaments. The angler weighing the largest fish and the angler weighing the heaviest bag will each receive a monetary prize of the total Big Fish of the Year and total Big Bag of the Year dues collected at the beginning of the season.
- If Big Fish of the Year, or Big Bag of the Year ends in a tie, the prize will be shared, with each angler receiving an equal amount of the prize.

JUNIOR ANGLER RECOGNITION PROGRAM:

The Junior Angler Recognition Program will consist of the following:

1. Fish caught by a Junior Angler will be weighed for each tournament.
2. A Junior Angler's name and the standing of all Junior Anglers will be added at the end of the Standings Sheet only AFTER the angler has weighed fish caught during any tournament.
3. The Junior Angler's name and picture will be added to the website.
4. A Certificate of Achievement will be awarded to each Junior Angler to recognize their accomplishment during a specific tournament.