

FLOWER CITY SPORTSMEN TOURNAMENT RULES

Revised 8/7/18

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the club tournaments is limited to members of the Flower City Sportsmen Club and its tournament sponsors unless otherwise determined by the Tournament Committee/Director at or before the time of the partner drawing. Boaters without partners may bring a guest provided that they have not already fished twice within a year. Women are allowed as guest partners. All guests must be communicated to the Tournament Director by the 9:00pm Thursday prior to the tournament. If texting, the club member must receive a response from the tournament director for notification to be accepted and recognized.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

Prior to one day tournaments that body of water may not be fished by participants during the 24 hours prior to blast-off. There is no closed period prior to two day tournaments.

REGISTRATION:

All anglers must have in their possession a current fishing license for the locale. Fishing citations issued during a tournament lead to disqualification for the day. Each person must sign in with the Tournament Director before the draw at the meeting prior to the tournament and pay the entire entrance fee of \$40 per boat for single day and \$60 per boat for 2 day tournaments. Non-boaters who intend to fish will also sign in with the Tournament Director prior to the draw. The TD will disperse their fees to their respective boaters as they are drawn. Non-boater fees are \$20 + \$35 for one day, and \$30 + \$45 for two day events. All fees must be paid in cash. All fees, including lodging, are non-refundable. In dire circumstances a plea for reimbursement may be made, in writing, for the executive committee's consideration. Bear in mind that these fees are exclusive of travel expenses. There are no rules for splitting travel costs but it is hoped that fairness would prevail. \$5 from each boat entry will be taken out for the Lunker payout – the rest is put into the pool for 1st – 3rd payouts. If two boaters pair up both boaters' entrance fees of \$40 or \$60 will stay in the Tournament Payout Pool. The owner or operator of the boat (in the event that the owner is not present) that the pair uses will determine who is the boater, the other will accrue only non-boater points.

SAFETY:

- Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times.
- A Coast Guard approved chest type preserver must be worn anytime the internal combustion engine is operating.
- Boats are to be equipped with a kill switch that must be utilized any time the internal combustion engine is operating.
- 1 livewell must be in working order.
- No open alcohol containers are allowed in contestants boats while the boat is on the water during the tournament, or the time frame immediately prior to the tournament blast-off and check-in until boat has been trailered or docked at the end of the tournament.

INSURANCE:

Boats participating in a tournament or any other club sponsored fishing event must have Marine Liability Insurance with coverage of at least \$100,000. Printed proof of insurance must be presented to the Tournament Director prior to the 1st tournament draw that the boat is to be used in. It is the Boater's responsibility to notify the Tournament Committee/Director in writing in the event of any loss or change of coverage.

SPORTSMANSHIP:

All "Rules of the Water" prevail during tournaments including respect of other fishermen, boaters, and property owners. Participants are expected to exhibit high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.

Defacing or spoiling the environment and/or drunkenness will result in suspension from the current tournament and future tournaments at the discretion of the club membership. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures will be permitted for tournament use. Pork rinds are permitted. Only one rod can be used at any one time. Any rod with a hook in the water shall be considered in use. Use of more than one rod leads to disqualification. All fish must be caught live and in a sporting manner (legal hook to the mouth area). Trolling as a method of fishing is not permitted unless determined otherwise by the Tournament director of the event. Nets can be used for landing legally hooked fish.

BOATS AND MOTORS:

Only boats and motors meeting Coast Guard certification will be permitted for tournament use. All boats must be equipped with an aerated or re-circulating livewell to maintain a live limit of fish for both partners. In the event of a livewell failure during tournament hours, every effort must be made to keep the fish alive and the boater must notify the Tournament Director at the weigh-in immediately upon arrival. Every effort will be made to weigh the fish as soon as possible. Backup pumps are highly encouraged. The Tournament Director may have an extra pump available for emergencies.

BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:

A full discussion shall be held between the two partners immediately after the partner draw as to schedule of operation and travel expenses. Each fisherman will be considerate of their fishing partner while fishing a location. The non-boater will pay \$35 non-boater fee for 1 day tournaments and a \$45 fee for a 2 day tournaments to their boating partner to share expenses for the boat fuel and oil during the tournament, due at the draw meeting.

FISHING LOCATIONS:

All angling must be done from the boat with both partners present. Exiting of the boat is allowed for breakdowns, restroom usage, and lure retrieval. Participants can fish anywhere accessible by boat without loading the boat and launching at another site unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Committee/Director. Those tournaments designated as "XXXX Bay" and are waters adjacent to a Great Lake, do not allow for fishing of the main lake or other accessible waters unless otherwise specified. Any property considered to be a marina, a dock system containing 5 or more boat slips, that is posted, or has no fishing signs should not be fished. If competitors are fishing such a structure, posted or not, they are required to leave the area in question if requested to do so by either the marina owner or a resident of that marina. If competitors fail to follow the request to leave the marina and receive a violation from authorities, the competitors in question will be DQ'D from that tournament. Any points awarded towards AOY standings will be void for the tournament the violation originated from.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

Blastoff will be at the scheduled time or at safe light if necessary. Boats not on the water and checked by the designated blastoff time must be checked upon arrival and only if the TD is notified at least 30 minutes prior to blastoff. The TD is under no obligation to travel to latecomers. The responsibility for check-in shall be upon the latecomers. Failure to check in will lead to disqualification. There shall be only one official checkpoint for the start and the end of the tournament. Prior to blastoff, the Tournament or Safety Director will check kill switches, livewell contents, and livewell operation then issue a safety check card with weigh in time on it. Clocks and watches should be synchronized to that of the Tournament Director.

PAIRINGS:

Pairing of contestants will be done by random draw at the meeting prior to the tournament. The order of the draw will be boaters first followed by non-boaters. Two partners will be assigned to each boat. After the draw no member is allowed to join the tournament. Members unable to attend the draw may be represented by proxy providing their entrance fees are in place and that they have satisfied their attendance requirements. Every attempt will be made to ensure that no two partners will be paired twice in a season. If a boater draws a non-boater and they have fished together already, then a new non-boater is pulled until two who have not fished together are found. This will also apply in cases where a boater chooses to fish as a non-boater, either by draw or by choice. The same boater/non-boater pairing will not be allowed unless at the time the non-boater is drawn he has already fished with all remaining boaters in the draw during that tournament season. At the end of the draw, if there is an imbalance in participating members, the following applies:

LEFT OVER NON-BOATERS:

They may choose one of the following:

(A) Be the 1st Non-Boaters drawn at the next tournament.

(B) They can find a non-member boater in good standing of their choice. Their choice must be made by the Thursday night prior to the tournament and notification given to the Tournament Committee/Director. The boater must follow all FCS rules and:

1. Pay fees (Tournament Fees)

2. Have the required insurance. This policy must be shown to the Tournament Committee/Director prior to blastoff.

LEFT OVER BOATER:

If a boater does not draw a non-boater partner, he/she may at his/her option:

1) Fish alone

2) Find a partner outside the club or another boater that also has not drawn a partner provided that he/she has not fished with that boater in a previous tournament. In the event boaters pair up, they may only do so in the same boater/non-boater role once in a season. They may fish together a second time provided they swap boats and roles. If boaters pair up then their boater fee stays in the tournament pot and the two boaters are responsible to work out the Non-boater fee. The Boat owner will be declared the Boater for the Tournament.

PARTNER NO-SHOW:

BOATER:

The boater will fish alone.

NON-BOATER:

The Non-boater will be paired with a boater that is fishing alone and will be paired with the 1st open boat as per the draw. IF there is no open boat the Non-boater will have the option to not fish and be in the top of the next draw or can become the third person in a suitable boat. Boater can volunteer to take the extra non-boater, go to the top of the blast off order or will be selected at the discretion of the Tournament Committee/Director if they feel a boat is not safe to carry a 3rd angler. A Boat can only carry a third party once in a tournament season.

SCORING:

Tournament winners, points and club standings shall be determined by the pound and 100th of the catch of selected species caught by an angler on the waters to be specified for each tournament. The tournament limit shall be the prevailing state limit. Bass that measure the legal limit for that body of water (ie. 12 inches or more) with mouth closed shall be considered eligible. Anglers may elect to have any questionable fish measured prior to the weigh-in, as a courtesy. Undersize fish must be immediately released but accrue no penalty. Once the weigh-in has commenced, any illegal creel, in terms of either size or number, leads to immediate disqualification of the angler(s) for that day. The final decision as to the length of the fish shall be that of the Tournament Committee/Director. Each participant's fish will be weighed only once. Scoring shall be done as follows: Weight = Pounds and hundredths.

DISCREPANCIES AND PROTESTS:

Any tournament issues or discrepancies must be voiced and resolved prior to the conclusion of the weigh-in. If the resolution of a discrepancy is still found to be undesirable, a formal protest can be submitted in writing and signed within 10 days of the tournaments conclusion.

CULLING:

Each boat is allowed a maximum tournament limit of 5 fish to be used in calculating lunger and point standings. The only exception is the Classic, where the boater is allowed a maximum of 5 fish and a non-boater is also allowed a maximum of 5 fish. If paired with another person, you may not catch fish for that person.

After possessing the tournament limit, entrants must cull immediately upon their next catch. Entrants possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his/her catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2.5 pounds for each bass over the limit. Bass are considered in possession once placed in the live well and fishing or travel has resumed.

There is no culling of dead fish at any time. Dead fish must remain in your possession and therefore must be included in your creel and cannot be culled. Any entrant culling dead fish will be disqualified."

WEIGH-IN:

The weigh-in master will make the initial determination as to whether a fish is dead or alive. If challenged, the final decision will be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee/Director. The penalty for weighing in a dead fish is .25 lbs. This penalty will be assessed against their total weight and not against a lunker fish. Every effort must be made to insure that dead or mortally wounded fish are not returned to the water after weigh-in. They should be iced for consumption or mounting. Contestants returning late will be penalized .25 lbs. per minute for each minute late up to 10 minutes. After 10 minutes, the contestant(s) is disqualified. No excuses will be accepted, with the exception of a breakdown. In the event that a breakdown occurs and causes a boat to be more than 10 minutes late, breakdown rules will apply. Boats are to be within the check point area and all poles and lines are to be inside the boat at check-in time. If a boat breaks down, fish can be transported by other contestants and must be accompanied by the person whose catch is weighed.

BREAKDOWNS:

In the event that a boat breaks down and requires rescue, any “Good Samaritan” team assisting will not be assessed late arrival penalties providing the TD is aware of the breakdown. The disabled team will however accrue late penalties if applicable. In the event a broken down boat is more than 10 minutes late, the boat will receive last place points for the tournament. The fish will not be weighed in and no fish points will be awarded. The breakdown must be confirmed by another boat participating in the tournament. Running out of gas is not considered a breakdown. Every effort should be made to notify the Tournament Director of the breakdown prior to weigh-in. In most cases the boater will be expected to complete the tournament in the boat they arrived with. Boats that are deemed unusable can be replaced by a new one, providing that the replacement boat comes from a source outside the group of tournament contestants and not on the day of the breakdown. Swapping of boats will not be allowed. If the boat can't be fished or replaced, early quit or DQ rules apply.

PAY OUT:

Each tournament will be in the format of boat/team competition unless specified otherwise by the Tournament Committee/Director. Total weight of the fish caught by a boat is used to determine their point standing. Cash distribution will be as follows:

- A. Lunker Pool: A pool for largest bass caught will be available based on \$5 from the entry fee collected from each boat. Cash pay out is: Largest Bass - 100%.
- B. Place payouts: All remaining funds will be distributed as follows:
 - 1st place → 50%
 - 2nd place → 35%
 - 3rd place → 15%

Tournament payouts shall include 100% of the entry fees collected for that specific tournament.

BOATER AND NON- BOATER ANGLER OF THE YEAR POINTS:

After each Tournament there will be points awarded to each participant for the place that their boat places. Place Points are below:

1st place – 20 pts

2nd place – 18 pts

3 place – 16 pts

.....

9 place - 4 pts

10 and below are – 2 pts

Not fishing – 0 pts

DQ – 0 pts

Bonus Points for Number of Fish Weighed.

Each angler will be awarded (on top of their place points) one additional point for each fish that they caught that was weighed in by their boat. Max 5 pts - Min 0 pts. It is the responsibility of the individual to tag/mark their fish for scoring purposes.

If the team has two fish that weigh the same and they need to decide which gets weighed for the bonus point – a coin flip will decide and must be done before weigh in time.

Points will be given to participants for a Boater or a Non-Boater depending on what they fished as of that day. These points will apply for “Boater Angler of the Year” or “Non-boater Angler of the Year”. If two boaters pair up after the draw – the boater that is fishing as a Non-Boater will receive only Non-Boater Points for that Tournament.

In the event someone fishes as a guest, or fishes a tournament through the draw as part of their 3 club events leading to submitting for membership, they will receive points towards Angler of the Year as outlined above, provided the join the club as a member during the same tournament season.

CLASSIC:

At the end of the tournament season a Classic will be held. Anglers must qualify to participate in the Classic by meeting any of the following qualifications:

Boater Only Qualifications:

- a) 1 Win and fish in 6 tournaments
- b) 120 Boater PTS

Boater fishing as boater and non-boater:

- a) 1 Win and 51 pts in the non-boater class along with fishing in 6 combined tournaments
- b) 90 NON-boater pts
- c) 2 Wins and 6 tournaments as a NON-Boater

NON-Boaters:

- a) 2 wins and 6 tournaments
- b) 90 NON-boater Pts

In the event that there are more NON-boaters than boaters – the Club president will ask for club boaters who have not qualified in the Classic to volunteer to take NON-boaters. Depending on how many volunteers are in will depend on how many Extra NON-boaters will get in. In the event of not enough volunteers – the lowest ranked NON-boaters are left out of the Tournament. A random draw of the extra NON-boaters by rankings to pair with the volunteer boaters.

The qualifier may only fish in the role in which they accomplished the tournament win, unless they also qualify as a boater through the point system. Any angler qualifying to fish as a boater must fish as a boater provided their boat is functional. Tie breakers for points and rankings will be determined first by number of wins that angler has that season, and then by the number of fish weighed in that season. If still tied, a coin flip will determine the higher ranking. Pairing will be done with the first ranked boater fishing with the last ranked non-boater, the second ranked boater with the 2nd to last ranked non-boater, and so on until the field is complete. This is not a team tournament. Each person keeps their own 5 fish for weigh-in. Boaters compete against each other, and non-boaters compete against each other. Boater entry fees go into a pool for Boater payout, non-boater entry fees go into a separate pool for non-boater payout.

Participants will meet the morning of the classic, each participant may place the name of the lake they would like to fish in a hat, provided the lake was not on the current seasons schedule, and is within an hour and a half of Rochester. The lake drawn from the hat will be the site of the Classic.

TIES:

There will be no ties for any tournament points standings. Ties will be broken by average weight per tournament. In the event of a tie, the anglers involved will split the appropriate position money. Live fish wins in case of a tie with dead fish.

TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION

In the event of rain, wind, or lightning it shall be at the discretion of the individual entrants whether to continue or not. Weigh-in would be at the scheduled time. However, in the event of extreme weather or other unforeseeable safety issue, the Tournament Committee/Director may cancel an event prior to blastoff. Such tournaments do not have to be made up. Every effort will be made to find a safe and agreeable blowoff location or alternative.

EARLY QUIT:

If you elect to quit early, it is mandatory that you notify the Tournament Committee/Director. If you elect to quit fishing and leave, it is mandatory that the Tournament Committee/Director be notified before you leave the tournament site. Boat will be disqualified from that days Tournament – if two day tournament they will be DQ for that day.

If for any reason, a NON-BOATER elects to leave the tournament early, the boater may elect to keep the non-boaters fish but **cannot** cull them or elect to release them and replace them with future fish caught. The Non-Boater will be DQ'd from the tournament. The Boater will continue to fish alone.

If for any reason, a BOATER elects to leave the tournament early, if there is an empty slot on a boat that the non-boater can fish on, the non-boater may elect to keep the boaters fish but **cannot** cull them or elect to release them and replace them with future fish caught. The non-boater will NOT be paired with new boater but will fish as his own entity. The Boater will be DQ'd from the tournament.

SKUNK FEE:

If you get skunked at a tournament you have to pay \$1.00 to the club treasury and your name goes in the newsletter. The money collected during the year will go to the “Most Skunked Award” to be given at FCS banquet.

PICKING LAKES:

Every year the membership shall choose lakes from a list provided by the TD and any other nominations from the general membership. In order for a lake to be eligible for nomination as a 1 day tournament, it may be no more than 80 miles from Rochester, NY. The list shall contain nominations for both 1 and 2 day tournaments. Each member present in good standing shall by secret ballot select 8 one day locations and 4 two day locations. The ballots shall be entered into a bucket and the 7 one day tournaments and 3 two day tournaments drawn from the bucket – the one day selections are for the current year – the two day lakes will be fished in the following year. If a lake is drawn twice, it can only be on the schedule once. The second draw will be disregarded and replaced with the next lake drawn from the bucket.

INTERPRETATION OF ANY RULE CONTAINED IN THIS DOCUMENT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE/DIRECTOR. IN THE EVENT THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS NO MAJORITY OR CANNOT BE ACCESSED, ALL DECISIONS REST SOLELY WITH THE DIRECTOR. IN THE EVENT OF THE DIRECTOR’S ABSENSE, THE ASSISTANT TD SHALL TAKE HIS ROLE.

FINAL NOTE:

In the interest of safety, cost, camaraderie, and congestion at boat launches, it is strongly recommended that you try to pair up with some other participant going to the tournament preferably your partner. This facilitates several things: discussion of strategies, splitting of travel costs, safety by numbers, and reduces the number of cars without boats at a given launch. Please help out where you can.