

## **FAIRFIELD-SUISUN BASS REAPERS**

### **By-Laws**

#### **1. TYPES OF TOURNAMENTS:**

- A. Team tournament with the purpose being to find, catch, and land fish for the good of the Team. Two persons maximum constitutes a team per boat.
- B. Five (5) fish team limit.
- C. No member boater shall fish alone as long as a non-boater is available. A single member boater must pay total team entry.
- D. A member may bring a guest and the guest will pay to fish as a participant for monetary place awards. The guest may participate in the daily Big Fish awards. If the guest does not want to participate in the Big Fish Pool, he/she must declare otherwise to a club officer before blast off.

#### **2. TOURNAMENT SELECTION:**

- A. At the May meeting, tournament locations for the following calendar year will be selected by the following process: Two (2) names will be selected from the members in good standing who also had participated in at least six or more tournaments from the previous calendar year (May through April). Following the two names drawn, one (1) month will be selected from the months available to be assigned to those two eligible members. This process will continue until all eleven months have been assigned eligible members. If the eligible membership is such that there are insufficient names to complete the eleven month tournament schedule, all of the eligible members names will be placed back in the draw until all eleven months of the schedule are assigned.
- B. The two (2) members named for each month will select a lake or body of water and the dates of the tournament. Holidays, Special Occasions, Special lake requirements and other Tournaments will be considered in picking dates.
- C. Lake or site selections will be announced at the June meeting in the same sequence as the members' names and months were drawn. No proxy votes are eligible. Officers will assign lakes and dates in absence of members.
- D. Any one lake or site can be selected only 3 times when original selections are made for that calendar year.
- E. A lake or site must be equal to or larger than 2500 acres to be eligible for selection.
- F. In a situation where a chosen tournament location is unavailable, due to circumstances out of club control, officers will make the decision to change the location. The original members that chose that tournament location would then chose another location. Any tournament location may be chosen.

#### **3. TOURNAMENT HOURS:**

- A. Tournament hours will be established at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament. Saturday

and Sunday times do not have to be the same but have to be of equal length.

- B. A specific time is required for blast off. Safe light blast off may not be elected. If conditions of predetermined blast off is unsafe, the tournament director will determine time to blast off.
- C. If tournament director determines original blast off time is unsafe both blast off and weigh in times will be postponed together in 10 minute increments.
- D. Tournament participants are responsible for being aware of the established hours.
- E. Blast off numbers will be drawn during daily tournament check in. Starting at one (1) counting up.
- F. Late returnees will be disqualified unless a club officer is notified prior to end of tournament hours of a mechanical failure or other circumstance leading to a late return.

#### **4. TOURNAMENT FEES:**

- A. Tournament fees are assessed daily as follows: \$40 Entry fee per boat, which includes \$10 big fish pool per boat. Entry fee of \$40 is required and Big Fish Pool fees are considered required unless participant has declared to the tournament director not to participate in the Big Fish Pool prior to blast off. All members are responsible for collecting and turning in the entry fee prior to the tournament.
- B. The payout for monthly tournaments fees will be 100% payback of all fees collected at each tournament. Entry fees to be paid back to three places: 50% for first place team; 30% for second place team, and 20% for third place team. Except in cases identified in item 4C. The Big Fish award is 100% payback to team catching the big fish in all cases.
- C. If only one team catches a legal fish, they will receive 100% of entry. If only two teams catch a legal fish, they will receive a 60/40 split of entry fees.

#### **5. WEIGH-IN AND PENALTIES:**

- A. Minimum length of fish presented to the Weigh Master for official weigh-in at a club tournament must measure 13 inches when measured on a flat board with the mouth open and the tail may be moved. When fishing a slot limit lake, the slot will apply. Every team's smallest fish will be measured. Every team's biggest fish shall be weighed.
- B. Weigh slips from any other tournament will not be allowed at any Bass Reaper Tournament.
- C. Only established limit of five fish is allowed in the live wells at end of Tournament or once boat has been trailered.
- E. No Culling permitted after Tournament hours have ended or once boat has been trailered.
- F. All Dead fish not to be weighed in must be declared to Weigh Master and not used to cull unless they are part of the team's limit. Total not to exceed daily possession bag limits according to DFW regulations.
- D. Non-adherence to these rules and or DFW regulations will result in disqualification (DQ).
- E. If it is determined by tournament director that release boats are required, numbers will be drawn during daily tournament check in. Each release boat will release 3 limits of fish per boat starting at one (1) counting up until all limits of fish are released.
- F. Acting Weighmaster and acting Secretary are exempt from release boat eligibility.

**6. SAFETY RULES:**

- A. All Coast Guard Regulations will be obeyed at all times.
- B. Life jackets will be worn anytime the boat's gasoline motor is running, except inside the 5-mph zone at end of tournament hours. Participants are responsible to insure he/she has a life jacket.
- C. No drinking of alcoholic beverages, or taking any substances that would impair ability to operate a boat during tournament hours.
- D. There will be a first-time warning when violation of Safety Rules observed and a disqualification (DQ) on second failure during the course of the tournament. This procedure will apply to all tournament Safety Rules.

**7. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- A. Never approach within 200 feet of another boat unless permission is given by that boat.
- B. Do not cut in front of a participating boat moving parallel with the shore. Always do as you wish to be done to you. Use good judgment.
- C. Uncorrected poor sportsmanship or behavior will be grounds for club expulsion.
- D. It is the boat owner's responsibility to operate the boat when the gasoline motor is in operation. Unless delegated to another person by the boat owner.
- E. There will be no electronic communication on the lake or body of water benefitting the angler during a Tournament except in case of emergency.

**8. AWARDS:**

- A. Points will be awarded based upon a forty (40) point system with forty (40) points awarded to the first place with each team member receiving the same point award. Points awarded will decrease by one point for each consecutive place. Ties will be broken by each tied Team's Big Fish for that tournament unless the teams refused to weigh in a Big fish, then the first team weighing in breaks tie. In the case of tied big fish the overall weight of the tied teams will break the tie. For those Teams present that did not weigh in any fish, the points available following the last Team to weigh-in fish will be divided by two and awarded for participation. One additional point will be awarded to the Individual catching the biggest fish during the given tournament weekend.
- B. Each fiscal year there will be an award for the Annual Biggest Fish and the Annual Biggest Stringer. All members will be deemed to be participating in this contest unless they give notice of not wanting to participate within the first thirty (30) days of the new fiscal year. The fee for participation is \$10 for Annual Biggest Fish and \$10 for Annual Biggest Stringer. New members must choose to participate or not upon their admission into the club after the prescribed probation period.
- C. Mr./Ms. Bass will be the highest award issued annually by the club and will be presented at the Annual Awards presentation. Mr./Ms. Bass will be awarded to the club member who receives the most points during the club's fiscal-year fishing season. From the eleven (11) tournaments,

the top nine (9) will be considered for points to determine Mr. /Ms. Bass. Big Fish will break ties first for the tournament year and second by Big Stringer for the tournament year. Mr. /Ms. Bass will receive the Mr. /Ms. Bass plaque for one year. Awards for first, second, and third place points will be awarded on the basis of 50/30/20 of dues paid for the year.

- D. Annual Big Fish and Annual Big Stringer awards are the calculated amounts paid during the fiscal year for these optional award pots. Tiebreaker for Annual Big Stringer is the Big Fish from those tying bags.
- E. A \$100 Annual High Participation award will be given out at the Annual Awards presentation. This award is given to the person who attends the most monthly tournaments in the year. If there is more than one person who has participated in the same amount of monthly tournaments, all qualifying names will be entered into a drawing to determine the winner.

#### **9. FISHING EQUIPMENT:**

- A. Only artificial lures may be used. No prepared or live bait, other than pork rind, is permitted.
- B. Only rods nine (9) feet in length or less and equipped with reels of individual choice may be used.
- C. The technique for use of the tackle is unrestricted as long as it complies with the DFW regulations.
- D. No trolling with the gasoline engine.
- E. Nets may be used to assist the fisherperson in landing of fish caught with rod and reel.

#### **10. EXPENSES:**

- A. Prior to any tournament, the boater and non-boater will come to an agreement for the equitable split of all expenses incurred while traveling to, participating in, and returning from a club tournament.