

# Boot'Legg Anglers Tournament Rules

*Effective February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2005*

**RULES:** These rules will remain unchanged throughout the season. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, forfeiture of entry fee and prohibition from participation in following tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and/or the appointed Officer's shall be final in all matters. Protests infraction must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official weigh-in time in each tournament.

**PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Tournament participation is open to anyone 16 years of age or older. Anyone younger than 16 years of age will need to be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian. Any person entering a tournament that is under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian prior to entering a tournament. Proof of age is the responsibility of the competitor. Tournament officials reserve the right to refund any entry fee, if they shall choose for any reason not to accept the angler's entrance.

**ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE:** In agreeing to participate in any Boot'Legg Tournament Events, as an adult or as a parent/guardian of a participant, competitors agree that their general health is good and that the participant is not adversely affected by exercise and that the participant is capable of performing an activity of this nature.

In consideration of participating, the participant(s) assumes ALL risk of any injury. Participants will indemnify and hold harmless, from any and all liability, action, cause of actions, claims, and demands of every kind of nature whatsoever that the participants have or which arise of or in connection with participating in the Boot'Legg Tournaments, Boot'Legg and/or its affiliates will not be responsible or held liable.

It is likewise assumed and agreed that the participant will have in their position the appropriate safety equipment during the Tournament event and that is the responsibility of the participant(s) or parent/guardian to make sure the criteria is met. Parent/Guardian will provide proof of permission to participate in the Tournament event. Proof of participation will be the responsibility of the competitor.

Prior to competing within any Boot'Legg Tournament Event, anglers will be required to read, understand and sign the Liability & Release upon registration before participating. Without the angler's signature, the Boot'Legg Trail will not allow the angler(s) to participate in the event being held.

**VIOLATIONS:** Any person has been found convicted of violating a major tournament rule in this or any other tournament, the Tournament Director will have the option to review the situation and may opt to **NOT** allow entry into the current or any other Boot'Legg Tournament Events. The result is immediate removal of entry or disqualification without recourse.

**SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times. During the official competition, each competitor is required to possess a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver (PFD) and throw cushion/ring buoy. Violation of not possessing the required PFDs will result in disqualification.

Any boat having a gas tank and/or motor attached will require a fire extinguisher on board. Any lake that allows for gas motors will require a cut off safety device. In the case of emergency, all boats must have onboard a sound producing device in the case of distress.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be cause for disqualification. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash back to the dock for disposal.

Be courteous to other competitors by not violating the competitor's fishing waters. This is more of a "Gentlemen's Agreement," that must be conducted. Give yield to competitor's fishing by allowing them room to fish; by that, allow competitors the room to maneuver without having to deviate from the line of fishing or by allowing more than enough casting distance without lines crossing. Should competitors encounter one another, the competitor present first has right of way, others must hold their boat steady. Of course, this is a "Gentlemen's Agreement," however, should this continue to occur with certain competitor's and it is known; the Tournament Director has the authority to not allow the competitor, in violation, to compete in any other Boot'Legg Events. Any competitor that allows any other competitor to

fish within that Casting Zone of their boat has suspended the "Gentleman's Agreement" and opened the water to all competitors.

Conviction of a felony or other crimes involving immoral acts, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any participation and disqualification.

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. No fly rods or rods over 8 ft. are allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.

**BOAT:** All boats must be equipped with a properly aerated or re-circulating livewell to maintain a live limit catch of bass by contestants. All angling must be done from the boat and anglers must stay on tournament waters during tournament hours. Anglers are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during the tournament. Competitors must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR TO DISLodge THEIR BOAT FROM A HAZZARD. (Exception: Nature call).

All boats and boaters will adhere to the City Codes for Norfolk and Portsmouth Reservoirs as well as the local requirements provided by Beaver Dam Swamps Parks & Recreation. Any anglers caught in violation to the City Codes and Local Regulations will be disqualified for that event.

**PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament Directors shall establish tournament waters at the tournament briefing and define any known OFF-LIMIT areas. Fish must be caught on the designated tournament waters only and not on any adjacent waters to the tournament location. Any water within tournament boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS.

**OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There will be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon, as designated by the Tournament Director. Competitors not at the checkpoint at the designated time will be DISQUALIFIED.

Official start and weigh-in times will be provided on the schedule and announced prior to Blast-Off. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 8 hours fishing time. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the Tournament Director will make the appropriate decisions to ensure the Angler's safety prior to blast off. Weighin will OPEN at the designated weighin time.

**SCORING:** The weight of each competitors catch will determine tournament standings and placement. Only largemouth bass will be weighed. The creel limit shall be five (5) fish. At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling must be done immediately upon catching a 6<sup>th</sup> fish. A contestant that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately.

Minimum length will be 12 inches (Golden Rule Measure) unless the prevailing state/lake rule is larger. Any fish shorter than the minimum length will be penalized. The penalty will be the loss of any short fish not meeting the minimum requirements, plus their largest fish. For every short fish, they will lose their biggest fish thereafter.

A penalty of 4 ounces (.25lbs) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. Penalty weights will be subtracted from the scale weight.

Mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered fish will be grounds for immediate disqualification. No regurgitated baitfish will be weighed. Fish will not be put on a stringer at any time. All fish presented at the weigh-in become the property of the Boot/Legg Trail. All live fish will be returned to the lake and the Tournament Director will appropriately dispose of any dead fish.

**TIE:** In case of a tie, there will be a split of the two places in question. The payouts for those places will be combined and evenly distributed to the contestants. This also applies to the Big Fish payout as well.