

Arlington Bass Club Tournament Rules

I. Team Definitions

A. Division I

1. A team shall consist of no more than two (2) regular members fishing from the same boat. No more than 2 teams per boat.
2. Team members must fish together on at least one of the two days to be considered a team. Individuals fishing alone on opposite days are one-person teams and cannot combine their weight.
3. Anyone wading, bank fishing, tube fishing or fishing from a one-man boat, dock, or pier is considered a one-man team and must fish in Division I.

B. Division II

1. A regular member team shall consist of one (1) female and one (1) male fishing from the same boat or at least (1) regular member under the age of 18 fishing with another regular member or guest.
2. An associate member team shall consist of one (1) Regular member and one (1) or two (2) Associate members. No more than three (3) to a boat.
3. When fishing with two (2) Associate members there will only be one (1) award given per boat.
4. When fishing as an Associate team, fish and weight must be kept separate.
5. A regular member must fish with your spouse, significant other, or an Associate member to be eligible for Division II.

II Schedule and Fishing Hours

A. For regular (optional Day) tournaments, night tournaments, and two day tournaments there will be an optional pot. The pot is \$20.00 per team for Division I. Teams must pay \$30.00 before weigh in. Division II optional pot is \$10.00 per team. Division II teams must pay \$20.00 at weigh in.

B. A team may fish one or both days of an optional day tournament. Each team member may choose their individual weight from either day to count toward the team total and annual standings.

C. Starting and weigh-in times will be as stated on the tournament schedule.

D. On tournament Saturday and tournament Sunday, there will be ABSOLUTELY NO FISHING from 12:01 a.m. till start time. Penalty for doing so will be elimination from the entire tournament weekend, with NO REFUND of pot money. Team fees will still be due if signed up for the tournament. Fishing is permitted on Saturday until the 12:01 AM cut off on Sunday morning. (Night tournaments are the exceptions to the rule.)

E. No fishing permitted Monday through Sunday of the tournament week with anyone who has guided on the tournament lake in the last 12 months, **unless the guide is a member of the Arlington Bass Club.**

F. All tournaments will be on the second weekend of the month unless that weekend conflicts with a holiday. The Executive Committee will then agree on the scheduled date.

III Methods of Fishing

A. Fishing with live bait is prohibited. Only artificial lures will be used while fishing.

B. Fishing with more than one rod at a time is permitted.

C. Trolling is not permitted with a gas-powered motor; however, trolling with the trolling motor is.

D. Wade fishing, bank fishing, tube fishing or fishing from a one-man boat, dock, or pier is allowed by a one-man team.

E. All contestants must adhere to all state, Federal, Fish & Game, and Coast Guard regulations and Laws.

F. A courtesy distance of 50 feet shall be kept from another team's boat to prevent interference.

IV Sign-In

A. Sign-In sheets will be at the club meetings and near the assigned weigh-in area.

B. Prior sign-in is required before fishing any tournament. Anyone signed in is responsible for team fee and optional pot money.

C. Boating to the sign in area for the purpose of signing in is allowed

V Weigh-In

A. Both contestants from team must check in with the Tournament Directors and get in line by the designated time or be disqualified for the day.

- B. All contestants must be at weigh-in site by the designated time or be disqualified for the day.
- C. State legal limits will apply on lakes for largemouth, smallmouth, and Kentucky bass.
- D. There will be a ½ pound each penalty for weighing in a dead fish (at the discretion of the Tournament Directors.) There will be a **ONE POUND** penalty for any illegal length fish brought to weigh in and the fish will **NOT** be weighed and included in weight.
- E. There will be a limit of 5 fish per person with 5 fish counting towards annual weight, unless lake has a lower limit.
- F. Culling fish to your partner or pooling fish for team weight is not allowed.
- G. When separate weight is desired it must be noted on the sign-in sheet.
- H. Fish must be separated prior to entering the weigh in line (even when splitting team weight) and each member may only weigh in fish caught by the member presenting the fish for weighing.
- I. The Tournament Directors will keep official time
- J. We would like to encourage everyone to practice catch and release for the future of our sport. Please do everything possible to ensure fish survival so they may be returned to the lake alive and well.
- K. Trailering is allowed to weigh-in

VI Monthly Awards

- A. Awards will be given to the 3 heaviest stringers and big bass of the tournament in each division.

VII Year-End Awards

- A. Division I: Big Bass of the year and one to each of the Top Six fisherman, based on the annual weight.
- B. Division II: One for every three teams fishing in Division II not to exceed the top three teams, based on annual weight.
- C. Associate Anglers of the Year to the adult Associate member and youth Associate member with the most weight for the year.
- D. Big Bass of the Year caught by an Associate member.
- E. Ladies Big Bass of the Year caught by a Regular or Associate member provided at least three ladies competed during the year. This award will not be given to a lady who would otherwise qualify if she wins the Regular or Associate Big Bass of the Year Award.

VIII Optional Pot and Payout

- A. Division I pot will be divided among the 3 heaviest stringers: 40%, 30%, and 20%. Big bass for the tournament will be awarded 10%. A team may win both heavy stringer and big bass.
- B. Two-day and night tournament pot money will be divided the same as optional day pot.
- C. Division II will have a separate optional pot. It will be on the tournament day and will be divided the same as Division I pot.

IX Ties

- A. All ties in big bass weights will be decided by the heaviest stringer weights.
- B. All ties for the heavy stringer will be decided by heaviest average weight per fish in the stringer.
- C. All unresolved ties will be decided by a coin flip.
- D. A separate rule covers the Calcutta pot. Ties for the Calcutta are split.

X Tournament Entry Fee

A. Members must pay team fee before they will be eligible to receive any pot money or tournament awards won in a tournament. The entry fee is \$10.00 per team. Exception is made for any Associate entry. They are exempt if they fish with a Regular team.

B. Non-payment of team fee will result in forfeiture of weight for that tournament and disqualification from future tournaments until the fee is paid.

XI Special Tournaments (Couples, Guests, and Children)

A. Weights from the Couples and Children's Tournaments will not count towards yearly totals.

B. Couples Tournament awards may consist of one plate to a Regular member or different smaller engraved plaque for the couple.

C. Sign-in will be required at the Couples tournaments to be eligible for the pot money.

XII Guests

A. A member may fish with up to 3 different guests per year in any regular tournament, but not the November prize tournament or the draw tournament. Guests who are under 18 years of age will not count toward the three-guest total

B. A guest stringer must be kept separate and cannot go toward a member's annual weight.

C. If the guest joins the Arlington Bass Club, the member's guest total is reduced by one.

D. A guest may only fish 1 tournament per year as a guest. Thereafter, he/she must join the Arlington Bass Club to fish any more tournaments. When the guest joins the club he/she will get credit and weight for the tournament fished as a guest.

E. Guest must fish Division I.

XIII Optional Big Bass Calcutta Pot

A. Regular and Associate members may enter the Big Bass Calcutta for \$1 per month (\$11 per year) paid before tournament day begins. All members entering or re-entering the Calcutta pot must pay from the date the Calcutta was last won.

B. The Calcutta Pot, accumulated to date, will be awarded to the Calcutta entrant who catches the largest bass while participating in a regular club tournament, providing it weighs 7 pounds or more.

B. In case of a tie, the Calcutta will be split.

XIV Tournament Rules Violations

A. Tournament rules violations will be submitted in writing and signed to an Executive Committee Member within 72 hours after said violation.

C. The Executive Committee Member will notify the President who will call a special meeting of the Executive Committee to discuss the merit of the allegations and action (s) to be taken.

D. The Board may take the following action (s) necessary to resolve the issue:

1. Request the accused member to meet with the Board to discuss the allegations and present their side.
2. Request the member to submit to a polygraph test. Failure to clear or agree to be tested by polygraph may result in disqualification and/or dropped from the membership roll of the Arlington Bass Club.
3. All matters discussed at the special Board meeting will remain confidential and will not be discussed outside the meeting.

X Prize Tournament Eligibility and Awards

A. A member must enter at least 4 prior regular tournaments per year to be qualified for a prize in the November Prize Tournament.

B. If there are more prizes than the number of qualified members who fish the tournament, the prizes will be offered in combinations to equal the number of qualified members participating in the prize tournament.

- a. In the event there are more prizes than qualified members who catch a fish, the remaining prizes will be distributed by random drawing of those qualified members participating in the tournament that did not weigh in a fish.
- b. A member who has participated in the tournament, but is not present during the selection process, may designate someone to select his or her prize. If a designee is not present, the President shall select the prize for the member. In the absence of the President, any tournament director will fulfill this obligation.

XI Roadrunner or Multiple Lake Tournaments

- A. A Roadrunner Tournament is defined as where two or more lakes can be legally fished.
- B. Legal lakes will be determined by Tournament Directors.
- C. Sign-in Sheets and Weigh In will take place at one predetermined location. This predetermined location will be chosen by the Tournament Directors and will be announced at the Monthly Meeting.
- D. All legal fish will be weighed in. If lakes have different limits for legal fish than fish brought to weigh in must meet those regulations.
- E. All Start Times, Weigh-In Times and check-in rules apply.
- F. All teams not at designated weigh-in location on-time for weigh-in will not have fish weighed.
- G. All fish must be returned to the lake it was caught in, as stated in the Texas Park and Wildlife Rules and Regulation. Failure to return fish to lake of origin will result in an automatic disqualification from the Tournament. This rule is in effect from the start of the Tournament until 12:00 Midnight after final weigh in.
- H. If a person or team fishes multi-lakes in one day, all culled fish must be returned to the lake of origin. Failure to return culled fish back to the lake of origin will result in automatic disqualification from the Tournament.
- I. Exception to returning of fish can be made if fish appears overly stress and further harm could be done to the fish because of the transportation. Exception will be granted on a case by case basis by the Tournament Directors only.
- J. One person or team can carry, return and release fish for other teams. If the designated person or team releases the fish to another lake other than the lake of origin than all individuals or team whose fish were release will be automatically disqualified.

Every Arlington Bass Club member and/or guest is responsible for his or her actions on and off the water. The Arlington Bass Club is not responsible for any Arlington Bass Club member and/or guest.

Revised 4/21/2010

