



Championship Rules

1. XTREME BASS SERIES:

Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Xtreme Bass Series (XBS) rules will apply in all events unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. XBS reserves the right to refuse any membership or tournament entry fees or entry forms for any reason. XBS reserves the right to make needed changes to these rules in order to ensure the safety, welfare of the Xtreme Fishing Series anglers, and/or the public and preserve the integrity of the Xtreme Fishing Series. Any rule changes will immediately supersede all previously published copies of these rules. XBS officials and directors decisions will be final in all matters.

2. SAFETY:

Safety is of the utmost importance, and anglers must recognize that; Fishing from an open boat is inherently dangerous, and as a result XBS seeks to limit those hazards with reasonable safety rules

- a. Safe boat conduct and speed limits, where applicable, must always be observed by competitors. Anglers must realize that riding in an open boat is inherently dangerous, and all safety precautions must be adhered to.
- b. Tournament officials may delay, shorten, restrict tournament waters, or cancel the start of an official tournament day due to bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
- c. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 immediately and then notify tournament officials. Competitors may leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather conditions when danger may be imminent, at which time all fishing must cease.

3. LIFE JACKETS & KILL SWITCH:

Life Jackets or Vest will be worn by both team members any time the outboard motor is in gear and running above IDLE. Kill switch will be connected to boat operator any time the outboard motor is running and in gear. "Fanny pack" life jackets are not allowed.

4. INSURANCE:

All boats used in Xtreme Bass Series tournaments must have a mandatory minimum of \$100,000.00 liability insurance. This is the user/owners responsibility. Participants should have a copy of insurance readily available for random checks. Failure to supply necessary liability insurance coverage will result in disqualification from the event.

5. ELIGIBILITY & QUALIFICATION:

Participation in the Xtreme Bass Series Championship is open only to current members of the Xtreme Bass Series who have competed in 7 of 9 divisional events within the same division, or 8 divisional events in combination of multiple divisions. Any person age 17 or under must be a team partner with a

parent or a person age 18 or older. Persons under 18 must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the tournament entry form and liability release waiver. All participants must fish with a partner during the Championship. At no time will an angler compete solo during the Championship. For an alternate to fish the Championship, they must have fished at least one tournament with any team during the regular schedule. Any angler that pays \$2,500.00 or more on any one entry fee more than twice a year is not eligible to fish in the Xtreme Bass Series.

6. SEASON BIG BASS POT:

This cash side pot is for the largest bass caught in all of the Xtreme Bass Series divisions for the full season. The one time entry fee is \$40.00 per team and is 100% payback. This fee will have been paid prior to the tournament being fished for a big bass to be eligible. The fee will include all partner substitutions for each team that enters. Big Bass of the Year must be alive at weigh in in order to be eligible. All teams that enter this cash side pot must qualify for and fish the classic to be eligible to win this prize.

7: DIVISIONAL POINTS CHAMPION/TEAM OF THE YEAR:

Xtreme Bass Series has calculated your best 8 tournaments fished in each division to determine the divisional points champion per division. The point champions in each division will fish against each other for the Team of the Year award at the end of season Championship. Team of the Year will receive no-cost entries into one division the following season.

8. FREQUENT FISHING PROGRAM:

Any team that competes in 12 or more divisional events throughout the season will be entered into the Frequent Fishing Program. Qualifying teams will compete against each other at the end of season Championship. The highest finishing qualified team will win the Michael J. Blocher Memorial Award for the Frequent Fishing Program.

9. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES:

Championship entry fee is \$400.00 per team. \$20.00 of each entry will go towards Big Bass side pot during Championship competition.

10. PRE-REGISTRATION & SIGN UP:

Pre-registration is required for the Championship. Qualified teams may register online with a card, convenience fee will apply. Qualified teams may also mail a check or money order along with a paper entry form. If mailing entry with check or money order, it should be made out and sent to: Xtreme Bass Series, PO Box 386 Land O Lakes, FL 34639. Check or money order must be received SEVEN DAYS PRIOR TO BANQUET MEETING.

11. BANQUET DINNER AND MEETING:

All teams are required to attend the Championship banquet dinner and meeting. All teams will have pre-registered ahead of the meeting to allow ample time for head count for dinner and planning.

12. BOAT NUMBERS:

Divisional Points Champions will draw for one of the first 12 boat numbers for day 1 launch. Launch order will be by random draw during Championship check-in before the start of the banquet dinner and meeting. Day 2 launch will be in order of finish on day 1.

13. SCORING SYSTEM:

Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths of ounces. The highest weight will be awarded 1st Place, followed by each descending weight being 2nd place and so on. In the case of a tie for first place, there will be an added fish off in order to determine the winner of the boat. For ties for the rest of the field, the money will be added together for those spots and split evenly between the teams.

14. FISH LIMITS & PENALTY:

All contestants must use care in handling and keeping fish alive for release after weigh-in. All fish will be brought to the weigh master in plastic bags with enough water to keep the fish covered until weigh-in. Tournament permits will be pulled for all events. There will be no minimum or maximum length with permits. A tournament limit will be (5) fish. Teams must not have more than (5) fish in the live well at any time. In the event that permits are not available, state and/or local rules will apply. Fish will be measured on a PRO RULE with mouth closed and tail compressed (pinched) in accordance with state law. No culling of dead fish. No culling at ramp or in host marina. No retaining bass in live well and not weighing those fish, this is the same as culling at the ramp. Dead fish penalty will be .50 pounds per dead fish. If a team violates state and or local law by bringing fish to weigh-in that do not meet accordance to state and/or local law the team will be disqualified, if applicable. No weight will be awarded if the net weight after penalties is zero or less. Teams may ask the tournament director for a courtesy check, if desired prior to presenting fish for weigh-in.

Teams will be required to use XBS Weigh Bags during the championship. Teams are not to bring fish in personal weigh bags to the weigh stage.

15. EVENT BIG BASS

Big Bass must be weighed and released alive in order to count towards event Big Bass side pot. A dead big bass will not be eligible to win this side pot. Standard dead fish penalty of .50 pounds will be assessed to total weight of bag as outlined in item 14. There will be 2 big bass prizes awarded each day. Only one fish from a teams bag will count towards big bass, however, a team can weigh multiple fish to establish big bass for their bag.

16. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:

You may not fish on or from any structure above the deck. All fishing must be done from boat deck. Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork products. No wading or trolling is allowed. All fish must be caught from the boat using traditional rods and reels. All traditional rods & reels are allowed including fly rods and flipping poles. Only one rod and reel may be used at any given time by each angler. No rod may be left unattended with line or lure in water.

17. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made. You must fish water that is available to all competitors. In the event of a needed restroom break or a refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease. Please alert tournament director if these instances occur. No fishing within 50 yards of any boat anchored, with trolling motor up. No fishing in areas designated off limits by governmental agencies or tournament officials. No fishing within 50 yards of Launch Site. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing.

There are NO off limit days for practice. During the event, there will be an off limits period from the beginning of the pre-tournament meeting until the morning of launch, and again following the conclusion of weigh in on day 1 until the start of day 2.

18. TEAM CHECK-IN:

Any team checking in after his announced check-in time will be disqualified

19. TOURNAMENT HOURS AND CHECK POINT:

Safe light until 3:00pm, this may be adjusted by tournament director. Official time will be stated by tournament director the morning of each event. Each team will be assigned a boat number and boat chip. There will be one designated spot for check in. All teams must check in at the check station by their stated check in time. At check-in, all teams must return their boat chip prior to their designated return time. Failure to check in at the check-in point in the afternoon by the stated check in time will result in the day's catch being disqualified. Standing around the weigh-in area, but not checking in will result in disqualification of the day's catch. It is encouraged to arrive early for check in. Break down, acts of God, weather, lock malfunction, blockage of waterways by natural or unnatural causes, etc. that prevent teams from making it to the check in area on time will not be granted an extension for check in time.

20. EMERGENCY OR BREAK DOWN:

In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 immediately and then notify tournament officials. In the event of a mechanical failure (boat is inoperable) anglers may have their catch counted by one of the following methods ONLY: 1) Boat is towed to the weigh-in site by another boat; 2) One partner may take their team's fish (clearly marked) and board another competitors' boat only for a ride to weigh-in. All Competitors must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. Mechanical failures do not extend established weigh-in times. (No fishing from rescue boat, all fishing must cease once boarding the rescue boat. Both teams may be subjected to a polygraph test).

21. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain a live limit catch of bass. All boats must have an operating kill switch that must be attached to the operator at all times when the outboard motor is running and in gear. Violation of any of the above rules may be cause for disqualification. If running lights are not working you may be held at take off. XBS officials or directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boats that does not meet tournament standards. No airboats, canoes, pontoon boats, or deck boats are permitted. No mud drive style motors are permitted in any XBS event.

22. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Each team is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, safety, courtesy, and conservation. Any team found in violation of these rules or any federal, state, or local laws may be disqualified. The use, possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages during tournament hours, which conclude upon the completion of payout, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from current and future Xtreme Bass Series events. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future XBS tournaments. No

alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.

23. PROTEST & POLYGRAPH TEST:

Xtreme Bass Series members may submit a protest during the tournament morning prior to launch or immediately following the weigh-in of the last team's catch, but before the start of the awards presentation. Protests shall be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit. The burden of proof of a rules infraction will be the responsibility of the angler filling the protest. This deposit will be refunded providing the protest be upheld, otherwise, the deposit shall be forfeited to Xtreme Bass Series. Any member may be required to submit to a Polygraph or truth verification test. Failure to submit to either of these tests will result in disqualification from this tournament and will not be eligible to fish in any future Xtreme Bass Series tournaments. Any angler making an accusation against another contestant without submitting a written protest accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit may be subject to disqualification from current and future Xtreme Bass Series events.

24. CELLULAR PHONES AND RADIOS:

Cellular phones and radios are encouraged for safety reasons. During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergencies or to communicate with the tournament director. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc., however using smart phones during competition to participate in social media is not permitted.

25. BAITING:

"Baiting" of any kind is prohibited. Baiting of brush piles of any kind, legal or illegal, weed lines, lilies, or any other structure will not be tolerated. This will help create a more level playing field for all anglers.

26. Liability Release:

Any angler signing up and competing in an Xtreme Bass Series event agrees to the following:

A. I hereby release Xtreme Bass Series, its officers, agents, employees and sponsors (herein referred to as Xtreme Bass Series) from any and all damages, claims, demands, cost or expenses relating to injury of any person(s) or any property, which I may sustain or which I may cause by reason of participating in or in connection with any and all Xtreme Bass Series events.

B. Covenant not to sue and Waiver of Subrogation: I further agree that I will never sue Xtreme Bass Series for damages on account of any injury or damage I suffer or cause whether known now or which may develop in the future. In the event Xtreme Bass Series is sued because of my actions, I expressly agree to indemnify and hold Xtreme Bass Series harmless from any liability whatsoever, including court cost and attorney's fees, arising with respect to such actions. I understand that in waiving my rights to sue Xtreme Bass Series I am also waiving my rights of recovery from Xtreme Bass Series of my Insurance carrier for any claims they may pay on my behalf. I further understand that by signing this agreement I waive any rights my heirs or relatives have or may have to sue Xtreme Bass Series for liability.

C. Verification of Liability Insurance: I state that I maintain liability insurance on the boat I will use in this or any Xtreme Bass Series event.

D. Truth Verification: Polygraph or truth verification may be given at any time at the discretion of the officers of Xtreme Bass Series. Refusal or failure of polygraph or truth verification will automatically eliminate team members' participation from all future Xtreme Bass Series events.

E. Camera Release: I hereby grant Xtreme Bass Series the unconditional rights to use my voice, photographic likeness and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with all Xtreme Bass Series video/audio production, promotions and/or other compensation in connection with such use.

F. Xtreme Bass reserves the right to refuse membership and/or participation in any event for any reason.