

NEW HAMPSHIRE BASS CASTERS RULES AND REGULATIONS

“CAST YOUR DREAMS”

All New Hampshire Bass Casters Trails are open to all anglers who hold a valid fishing license. Those under the age of 16 must have an accompanied guardian who must sign a release waiver to compete.

Each competitor must register in person with tournament officials at the registration area no later than **6:40am**. Starting position will be determined by blind draw at the morning registration.

Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver. This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in operation. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely and maintained in that manner until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut OFF. Violations of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

Competitors are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES OR DRUGS (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) are permitted in the boats or at the weigh-in site. Violation of this rule will be cause for immediate disqualification.

Only artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” will be permitted. The only “prepared bait” permitted is pork strips, rinds, etc.

Only one casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. While other rigs, as specified above may be present in the boat, ready for use, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.

All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner.

All outboard motor boats used **WILL NOT** exceed the horsepower limitations stated on the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate. All boats are required to have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached by the boat manufacturer.

BOAT AND MOTOR: for the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver’s body anytime the combustion engine is running.

Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Electric trolling motors are to be used only to maneuver or position the boat.

Every boat must have all required safety equipment. It must also have a functional bilge pump and livewell space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain a live limit catch of bass by both fisherman using the boat.

Each boat must be inspected by a tournament official prior to the start of the tournament.

Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 50 yards of another competitors anchored boat, unless given permission by the other competitor.

All angling must be done from the boat.

There shall be only one official checkpoint for the afternoon check-in. This point will be designated at the 6:45am meeting before the start of the tournament. At the time of check-in all boats shall identify themselves and will proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area

Scoring is done with digital scales by pounds and hundredths of a pound. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass will be counted. Minimum length limit will be 12 inches, measured on a golden rule. Anglers weighing more than the daily limit will have their largest fish culled by a tournament official. All state limit requirements will be enforced. An 8-ounce (1/2 pound) penalty will be assessed for each dead fish presented at weigh-in.

All State Fish and Game Laws / rules will apply (interstate waters / restricted season).

Bass must not be stringent at anytime during the tournament.

Competitors who are not at the designated checkpoint at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight for the day. Competitors more than 15 minutes late will lose all weight for that weigh-in.

Violations of the above rules / regulations must be reported to the Tournament Committee prior to the completion of the weigh-in and must be in writing. Decision of the Tournament Director regarding tournament rules shall be final.

How does the Midweek / Draw format work:

1. Registration for both boater and non-boaters in the morning.
2. Boaters will pull a boat number that will be placed into a second bin.
3. Non-boaters will then draw from the second bin to determine their boater.
4. If a boater's number is not picked, the boater will fish alone.
5. The boater number drawn will also be the launch number for the boat.
6. Fee – tournament fee is \$20 / \$40 and a (\$10 split lunger) / 90% payout Membership fee is required. Draw has a 100% payout.

How does the Sweetheart / Team Trail work:

1. Boaters and their non boater register in the morning.
2. As the boater registers they pull a number from the bin. That will become their launch number.
3. Sweetheart only: Sweetheart teams are to be husband / wife, grandparent / grandson, adult / child , boater / significant other
4. Fee – tournament fee \$50 and a \$10 split lunger / 95% payout. Membership required. (Membership is based on boater not non-boater)