

Morgan County Bass Club

Monthly Fish-Off Rules

October 2016

1) Interpretation of these rules shall be exclusively left up to the Board of Directors. Their word is final.

2) **Bad weather:** Under bad weather conditions, the club officers and the fish-off committee will decide when conditions are unsafe. If possible, all members planning to fish will be notified before they leave home if the fish-off has been cancelled or moved to the alternate location. Also, if upon arrival at a fish-off site the club officers and fish-off committee determine weather conditions are unsafe, the site of the fish-off can be changed at that time.

3) **Trailer of Boats:** Boats may be trailered back to the launch site for safety reasons without penalty to the boat team providing they arrive at the launch site before the stated quitting time. Points will not count if the team is late.

4) **Starting Time:**

A) The official time keeper will be the president. The time keeper will give a signal at the time to start.

B) Takeoff will be one boat at a time. At the club meeting each boat team will be paired and receive a takeoff number by random draw. The team that draws the last number will be the starter of that fish-off. As the starter calls each boat number the boat will acknowledge and idle past the starter's boat for a distance of approximately 10 yards then proceed to bring their boat on plane. As each boat planes off, the next boat number will be called.

5) **Quitting Time:**

A) All boats must be at the dock at quitting time. Boat teams returning to the dock late will not be awarded points for their fish caught during the fish-off.

B) In case of mechanical trouble, a team may tow the boat of another participant in the fish-off who has mechanical trouble, without penalty to the helping team if they are late.

C) Failure to notify another participating boat of intentions to continue to fish or leave early and not make the weigh in will result in a 300 point penalty for each member of the team. All boats must be accounted for by quitting time.

6) **Participation:** Participation in the monthly club fish-off is open only to active club members, honorary club members, and invited guests.

7) **Partners:**

A) Selection of partners shall be by drawing at the regular monthly meeting prior to the fish-off. The owners of boats fishing together can determine among themselves about whose boat to use.

B) Guest: Each member is allowed to bring a guest to a club fish-off three times per year. A member is charged with a guest when he leaves his name out of the drawing for partners for a club fish-off then chooses to participate in a club fish-off.

C) In the event that two boaters are paired up together, they may choose to fish by themselves and not be charged with using guest. If one of the boaters chooses to bring a partner, he will be charged with a guest.

8) Notification of partners and Intention to fish:

A) If a member is unable to attend the club meeting and wants to fish in the fish-off, the member must contact an officer or club member in order for their name to be included in the draw.

B) If a member draws a partner and then is unable to fish, the member must notify that partner at the earliest possible moment.

9) Site selection:

A) The fish-off committee will select two places and two times. These will then be voted on by the members present at the meeting to determine the fish-off location and time.

B) A fish-off cannot be held at a new ramp site at night, unless, the site in question has been used in a day time fish-off.

C) The club shall not fish any given lake more than 4 times in a year.

D) A tournament designated as a go-anywhere on the same lake will be limited to 2 times in a year. Boats may be launched at any location on the lake and may not leave the launch area until the designated start time. Boats must be at the designated ramp for weigh-in according to the rules in paragraph 5.

10) Conflicts: No fish-off location will be used that will conflict with any open tournament on Smith Lake or the Tennessee River if possible.

11) Type tackle: Artificial bait only. Pork type baits may be used. No trolling will be allowed. Dip nets can be used to aid in landing of fish.

12) Boats and Motors: Any boat and motor that is acceptable to both contestants and meets minimum state safety requirements may be used.

13) Boat operation: Safe operation is mandatory. Any contestant found operating a boat in an obvious manner to handicap his partner or the boat of another contestant shall be disqualified from the fish-off.

14) Live wells: Live wells may be checked by the president or any member of the fish-off committee prior to the start of the fish-off.

15) Weigh-ins: Weigh-ins must be presided over by the president or his delegate while club officials record the weight. All fish must be clean and free of debris for weighing. All fish must measure 12" or more in length or meet established lake length requirements. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed on a belly type board. The president must measure any fish that is close. Each member will be responsible for the purchase of his own measuring board.

16) Limits: There will be a 3 fish per man, 6 fish per boat limit. If one partner of a team catches more than 3 fish and the other partner catches less than 3 fish, the team can still weigh 6 fish for overall weight, however only 3 fish can be weighed for club points. The team must immediately cull a fish when a 7th fish is caught and added to the livewell. The penalty for bringing more than 7 fish to the weigh-in shall be that the largest fish be culled by the president until the 6 fish limit is reached. The fish culled shall come from the partner whom exceeded their 3 fish limit.

17) Scoring:

A) Scoring will be on the point system. Points will be awarded for bass up to the daily club limit at 1 point per 1/100th of a pound. Points will also be awarded for participation at the rate of 60 points for each fish-off attended and 40 points for each meeting attended.

B) Dead fish that are weighed will result in a 1/2 pound penalty (50 points) per dead fish.

18) **Ties:** In case of a tie the money for the places involved will be added together and divided equally among the teams involved.

19) Entry and Prizes:

A) Entry fee will be \$40 a boat team.

B) The entry fee will be split up and paid out, per boat, as follows:

9 boats or less:

\$15 – 1st place

\$10 – 2nd place

\$4 – Big fish

\$6 – Club fund

\$5 – Annual tourney fund

10 boats or more:

\$13 – 1st place

\$9 – 2nd place

\$5 – 3rd place

\$4 – Big fish

\$4 – Club fund

\$5 – Annual tourney fund

C) Prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place finishers in Angler of the Year will be awarded 50%, 30%, and 20% respectively of the year end club funds. These awards will be paid after all club expenses are paid in full.

D) Fish caught in any club function will be considered for big fish of the year. Minimum requirements for big fish of the year are as follows: Largemouth (5 lbs), Smallmouth (4 lbs), and Spotted Bass (3 lbs).

20) Sportsmanship, Conduct, and Safety:

A) Life jackets must be worn on takeoff and any time boat is on plane.

B) All boats and motors must be equipped with an operational kill switch and it must be attached during takeoff and any time boat is on plane.

C) Alcoholic beverages must not be consumed at any club fish-off or any regular monthly meeting. Any club member who arrives at the fish-off site and is obviously under the influence of alcohol will be sent home. Violation of this rule could result in termination of the violator's membership.

21) We ask that all participants be at the fish-off site at least thirty minutes before the starting time.

22) The club fish-off will be the weekend immediately following the regular monthly meeting. In the case when a TBF tournament is scheduled the same weekend as a club fish-off, the club fish-off will be rescheduled to one week later.

23) The club fish-off date can only be changed by vote of club 2 meetings in advance of the date of the change.

24) A club fish-off can be no more than 12 hours in length.

25) In the event of a postponed fish-off the pairing of partners will remain the same. The location and the time of the fish-off will be decided by the club at the regular monthly meeting prior to the make-up date.

26) Amendments to the fish-off rules will be made in October.