

**INDIANA BASS FEDERATION
OPEN DRAW TOURNAMENTS
OFFICIAL RULES FOR 2009**

- 1. Rule Changes:** The following rules will remain unchanged during the year 2009, except for special tournaments conducted by the Indiana Bass Federation (IBF). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and not subject to appeal. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.
- 2. Membership:** The Angler and Co-Angler will need to have (standard competitor) level membership with FLW Outdoors. If not a 2009 member of the IBF there will be a one time \$10 fee.
- 3. Participation and Eligibility:** Participation is open to anglers who are 16 years of age or older. An Angler who enters by the entry deadline and provides a Co-Angler (who also enters by the entry deadline) will receive guaranteed entry and will be drawn with a Co-Angler. Co-Anglers who enters by the entry deadline with an Angler (who also enters by the entry deadline) will receive guaranteed entry. All others will be taken in order of entry (first come, first served). Entry deadline shall be seven (7) days prior to the tournament date. **A completed entry form and entry fee must be postmarked no later than the published deadline for each tournament.** Late entries will be accepted, except tournaments with a full field. All late entries must be accompanied by a \$10.00 nonrefundable service fee and submitted no later than 5:00 pm the day before the tournament. Refunds and transfers may be granted with a \$10 service fee. Refunds or transfers must be requested no later than Friday before each tournament. Anyone with a returned check will be charged an additional service fee of \$35.00. By signing the entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph test. The administration and interpretation of the poly-graph test shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director or his agents.
- 4. Pre-Tournament Practice:** **Official practice will be the Friday before the tournament until the start of the pre-tournament meeting on Saturday at 5:00 pm; for the June 13 tournament practice will be Thursday before the tournament until the start of the pre-tournament meeting on Friday at 7:00 pm.** No competitor may be on the water for the purpose of locating bass or potential fishing water after the start of the pre-tournament meeting. Competitors may **NOT** purchase information or hire services designed to assist them on tournament waters after the entry deadline.
- 5. Registration:** Each competitor must register in person during the official **Registration hours, 3:00pm to 5:00pm, Indianapolis time the Saturday before the tournament.** Failure to register during the prescribed hours will result in a 2-pound penalty assessed to the competitors catch for the tournament or disqualification if the pairings have started.
- 6. Open Draw Tournament Special Membership:** This membership allows a fisher-man to have a substitute attend registration and pairings on their behalf in the event they are unable to attend. The substitute must be at least 16 years of age and will have the same responsibility to register the fisherman, pay for big bass pot, meet the partner, exchange telephone numbers, and arrange a meeting place for the tournament morning. The substitute may not represent more than one competitor. The fee for this membership is \$20.00.
- 7. Pairings of Competitors:** Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of the fishing partners will be made at the pre-tournament meeting, which must be attended by each competitor or their substitute. Any competitor who is not present when their name is called for pairings will be disqualified. Any competitor who refuses to fish with their assigned partner shall be immediately disqualified and shall forfeit their entry fee. It is each partner's responsibility to get checked in and started on time. Tournament officials will have no responsibility for missing partners. Partners must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is complete. If more Anglers than Co-Anglers are entered in the tournament, excess Anglers will be paired together. They both fish as Anglers, but it shall be their responsibility to determine whose boat shall be used with the flip of a coin deciding if agreement cannot be reached other-wise. If more Co-Anglers are entered than Anglers, excess Co-Anglers may change to Angler status by paying the difference in entry fee or have their entry transferred or refunded without service charge. The selection of Anglers in these situations will be determined by guarantee status, date, and time of entry.
- 8. Safety:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver. The preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is in operation during tournament hours. All boats must be equipped with an emergency shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation.
- 9. Sportsmanship:** Competitors in IBF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act that reflects unfavorably upon the IBF tournaments reputation for fairness, courtesy, safety, and conservation shall be reason for disqualification from this and future IBF tournaments. Examples include, but not limited to 1) reported violations by the DNR, 2) failure to wear Coast Guard approved life jackets, 3) fishing off-limits areas or off-limit times, 4) endangering the safety of others, 5) becoming abusive and/or disrupting the harmony of the IBF tournaments. 6) any act of cheating, 7) drunkenness at the pre-tournament meeting or the tournament. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are prohibited at the pre-tournament meeting or at any time during the tournament event.
- 10. Tackle and Equipment:** All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling is not a permitted fishing method.
- 11. Boat, Motor, and Horsepower Regulations:** All boats must be a minimum of 15 feet in length and equipped with wheel steering. No barge, pontoon or other cumber-some craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain at least one properly aerated live well with space to maintain a limit of fish by both competitors. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournaments competition will be 300HP, not to exceed the horse power limitations set by the Coast Guard for each boat. Each boat must have a horse power rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. By signing the entry form, each competitor agrees to submit their boat and/or motor for an inspection by factory trained personnel. Falsifying information on the entry form or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate will be cause for disqualification from this and future tournaments.

12. Boat Operation and Expenses: Anglers will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-anglers will fish from the back deck of the boat only. The Angler will have complete control of the boat operation and waters to be fished. Any Angler who, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in a manner that unfairly handicaps the Co-Angler will be disqualified for that day. Anglers paired with other Anglers are entitled to equal time in the front of the boat to operate the trolling motor, and an equal number of hours to fish their selected waters (number of hours include travel time to fishing location). The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie talkies, CB's, ect. to communicate fishing locations or information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the Co-Angler pay the Angler at least \$25.00 toward the cost of gas and oil for the tournament day.

13. Permitted Fishing Locations: Competitors may fish any where on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as off-limits by the Tournament Director, State laws, or DNR rules, or within 50 yards of another competitors boat which is first anchored with the trolling motor up. An anchored boat has the responsibility to inform another competitor when their boat has entered the 50-yard circle first claimed by them. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors must not leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to the waters. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day.

Competitors must leave and return to official check-point by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of an emergency. In case of an emergency, competitors may be removed from the boat to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other's catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate any of these conditions, due to an emergency or other reason, their catch of that day will not be counted in the tournament. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by direction of the Tournament Director.

14. Official Checkpoint: There will be one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official checkpoint for check-in in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point in the afternoon will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

15. Late Penalty: Competitors who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute deducted from the total weight, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any competitor more than fifteen (15) minutes late will be disqualified.

16. Care of the Fish: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly aerated live well. For each legal bass weighed in dead, the competitor shall have **8 ounces (or .50 of a pound,** digital scale weight) deducted from the weight of that fish.

17. Scoring: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards, and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitors catch the day of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, and Smallmouth bass are accepted for weigh-in. The limit will be five (5) fish unless the state or lake limit is less, in which case the state or lake limit shall prevail. The official length for bass is twelve (12) inches unless the state or lake limit is more than twelve (12) inches, in which case the state or lake limit shall prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fails to measure will be penalized at a rate of **one (1) pound** for each such non-legal fish plus that fish being removed from the total catch that day. Any contestant presenting more than five (5) fish to be weighed in will have their creel reduced to the five (5) fish limit by removing the largest fish first in succession until a five (5) fish limit is reached.

18. Ties: In the event of a tie for first and second place, first and second place money will be added together and split between the tied competitors. Both competitors shall be deemed tournament winners. Ties for lesser positions will be resolved in the same manner.

19. Point System: Anglers and Co-Anglers will be scored separately. The point system used will have a maximum of 100 points. Points will be awarded at each tournament. First place will receive 100 points, second place 99, third place 98, ect. on down to 100th place 1 point. After six (6) tournaments the **TOP 40 ANGLERS and CO-ANGLERS** in point standings shall be invited to fish the annual Classic to proclaim the **2008 IBF Classic Champion** in each division. The site for the Classic will be determined by the Tournament Director.

20. Cancellations: Tournament days may be cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. The decision to cancel will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

21. Insurance: All boats used in the IBF tournaments must carry a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance and must have upon request a certificate of proof of insurance.