

SBFA, INC. OFFICIAL RULES & REGULATIONS:

- 1. RULE CHANGES:** A lot of effort has been put into the changes of our Official Rules and Regulations for the upcoming year in Superior Bass Fishing Association, Inc. Our Board Members will enforce these rules. The decisions made by these officials will be final in every matter.
- 2. INSURANCE:** During competition, all boaters must provide an insurance binder of \$100,000.00 of liability insurance on the boat being used in competition. This binder must have an effective date and expiration date. SBFA, Inc. must have a current binder at all times on file for a competitor to be eligible to fish in any SBFA, Inc. tournament.
- 3. REGISTRATION:** All teams entering to fish an SBFA, Inc. tournament must have an entry form with complete entry fee monies in to SBFA on no later than 6:30 p.m. on Friday night before the draw meeting. There will be a \$20 late fee for monies collected after the 6:30 p.m. deadline.
- 4. PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY:** Any person with an authorized SBFA, Inc. membership is eligible to fish any SBFA, Inc. event. It will be at the Board Members discretion to reserve the right to deny applications prior to deadline, or extend acceptance date. All monies are due and payable by 6:30 p.m. on the day of the draw.
- 5. RULE VIOLATIONS:** All competitors must agree by signature to a polygraph test if any rule has been violated. A written complaint must be submitted no later than 5 minutes after completion of weigh-in on the day of the infraction.
- 6. SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by all competitors. A Coast Guard approved life vest must be worn (buttoned, zipped, or snapped) any time the main combustion motor is running. Failure to do so will result in disqualification for the day. Tournament officials have the right to delay tournament start due to bad weather or any other conditions that may endanger any competitor. All speed limits not posted will be noted in lake specific rules and announced at the pre-tournament meeting by a tournament official.
- 7. SPORTSMANSHIP:** All competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any violation of these principles will result in disqualification. The use of alcohol or drugs (other than those prescribed or over the counter) by a competitor during any SBFA, Inc. tournament will not be tolerated, and will result in immediate disqualification from all SBFA, Inc. functions. All state and federal boating and fishing laws and regulations apply during SBFA, Inc. tournaments.
- 8. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait may be used, with the exception of pork rinds or strips. Only one spin casting or spinning rod (8 feet maximum length from butt to tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snagging or snatching visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked, to be counted as a legal fish. Gaffs may not be used to boat fish at any time. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited.
- 9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** All boats must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower may not exceed the HP rating.
- 10. BOAT & MOTOR:** All boats must have a factory installed kill switch and aerated live well system. The kill switch must be attached to the driver's body at all times when the combustion engine is running. Only boats 16 feet or longer may be used during competition for maneuvering and fishing. No auxiliary gas tanks will be allowed. No boats with stick steering will be allowed. All boats must also be equipped with working lights. Noncompliance will result in a last out and/or wait until full daylight, to be decided by our tournament officials.
- 11. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat will be given an inspection by a tournament official and given a numbered permit and a copy of lake specific rules, which must remain in the boat during competition. These items must be filled out (if needed) and returned at check in on the last day of competition.
- 12. NO TOUCH RULE:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except a team's boat must not touch another competitor's boat.
- 13. OFF LIMITS:** All waters in the lake specific rules or posted as off-limits or no fishing areas by federal state agencies will be off-limits. Only the water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to the tournaments contestants. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Tournament waters off limit to fishing Monday - Friday the week prior to the tournament date.
- 14. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Contestants must not depart from the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Trailing boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials. In case of a break down, a contestant or contestants must return in another competitor's boat.
- 15. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There will be only one official checkpoint, which will be determined by the tournament officials, and the contestants will be notified at the pre-tournament meeting. After check-in, all boats are to go directly to the designated weigh-in area. On the last day of competition, the boater must return all forms requested by the director and staff.
- 16. SCORING:** Tournament winners shall be determined by a combined two-day total weight. There is a 5 bass limit for each boat each day, unless otherwise specified. The official length for bass shall be determined by the board and announced at the tournament briefing. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed in. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the team. At no time shall a team have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. In the event a team has reduced more than the above described, limit to possession, shall cull the largest bass first down to the limit described. At no time shall a competitor mangle, mash, maul or otherwise alter a fish to get it to measure the legal limit. After check-in, a team must present all legal fish in their possession to the weigh master to be counted, measured, and weighed. Once the weigh-in is complete, one of the competitors must sign their weigh slip.
- 17. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH:** Each team is expected to keep his or her bass alive. The few bass that don't make it may be used for scientific study or for charity.
- 18. PENALTY POINTS:** For each dead bass the team will be penalized .25 pounds of weight. This will be taken off the total weight of the day. The board members will have sole authority to assess penalty points.

19. LATE PENALTY: All teams must be checked in by the official time, those who aren't will be assessed a 1 pound per minute penalty. After 15 minutes, the total day's catch is lost. There will be no excuses for being late. Official time is the team's responsibility. The official check-in time will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting and a blast-off

20. TIES: IN the event of a tie, both teams will split the winnings of the two spots evenly. They will receive the same number of points at the highest position. If the trophies are involved, they will flip a coin for position. In the event of a tie for first place, the two teams will have a fish off. The team who catches and lands the first legal fish will be determined the winner. There will be an SBFA, Inc. Board member in each boat to record the time of the catch. In the event of a tie for Team of the Year, each team (involved in the tie) will have their total weight from each of the five tournaments added together and then we will come up with an average. The team with the highest average will receive Team of the Year.

21. ALTERNATES: Alternate anglers for a team need to be named by first tournament. Alternates can be used by any team during the year, not necessarily on the same team each tournament. If an alternate fishes a tournament, he/she needs to pay the SBFA Membership Fee before entering the tournament.

22. S.B.F.A., INC. RIGHTS: SBFA, Inc. reserves the right to publish or have published any pictures, results, standings, penalties etc. Good conduct of all contestants is required during any television taping sessions.

23. TEAM OF THE YEAR: To be in the standing for Team of the Year, the team must fish all 5 tournaments. The Team of the Year is the team with the most points after 5 tournaments (excludes open tournaments).

24. GRAND QUALIFICATIONS: Each Team who fishes 4 of 5 regular season tournaments (excludes Open Tournaments) will qualify to fish the Grand Championship.

25. TEAM DEFINITION: A team consists of two partners and an alternate. Once a team member has fished during the year at an SBFA tournament, not to include opens, that team member is not eligible to fish as a member of another team.