



4 Man Team Open Rules

1. **Xtreme Bass:** Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Xtreme Bass rules will apply in all events unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. Tournament director's decision will be final in all matters.
2. **Membership:** No membership required, this is an open event.
3. **Eligibility:** 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.
4. **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.

 - 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.
5. **Team Pairings:** Teams shall consist of 4 anglers. No teams should have fewer than 4 members. Emergency situations will be held on a case by case basis, and the director's decision is final. Teams shall be split into 2 boats. All anglers cannot fish from the same boat.
6. **Tournament Entry Fees:** All entry fee for this event will be \$260 per 4-man team. Twenty (20) dollars of each entry will go to the big bass fund for the tournament. 90% of the remaining \$240 will be paid back at the event.
7. **Pre-registration & Sign Up:** Teams will be assigned team numbers in which entry fees are received. Online registration is available. Cash only at ramp NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT RAMP SIGN-UP.
8. **Order of take-off:** Teams will launch in order of which entries are received. Flights will be separated into two groups A and B. Group A will take off first in order of registration, followed by group B. Group B will take off in order of registration after all of Group A has taken off.
9. **Scoring System:** Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths. The highest weight will be 1st Place and so on.
10. **Fish Limits & Penalty:** Teams must not exceed 10 fish in either partner boat at any one time. Teams must meet prior to weigh in to cull their fish down to their heaviest 10 fish total, 5 per partner boat. Exchanging fish with your partner boat is permitted. 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 tournament approved bags with enough water to keep the fish covered until weigh-in. A tournament weigh-in limit will be (5 per boat) with a possession limit on the water of (10 per boat). No team shall weigh more than 5 fish on the scales at one time. 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.

ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE THEIR OWN WEIGH BAGS FOR TRANSPORTING FISH TO WEIGH-IN.

11. **Life Jackets:** Life Jackets or Vest MUST be worn by all team members any time the outboard motor is in gear and running above IDLE. Kill switch will be connected to boat operator at all times the outboard motor is running.
12. **Tackle & Equipment:** Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork products. No wading or trolling is allowed. All fish must be caught from the boat. 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.
13. **Permitted Fishing Locations and Off Limits:** Anglers may not leave their boat except in a dire emergency. You must fish water that is available to all competitors. No fishing in the turn around basin at Southport Lock. Cutoff for fishing the Southport lock area is the powerlines that cut across Southport Canal. No fishing within 50 yards of any non-team boat anchored, with trolling motor up. No fishing in areas designated off limits by governmental agencies. Contestants may not enter tournament waters to locate bass or potential fishing waters or sightsee after day 1 check in/weigh in, except during tournament hours. Testing equipment on tournament waters after day 1 check in/weigh in is permitted only with prior approval from the tournament director. This only applies for multi-day events.
14. **Team check-in:** Any team checking in after their announced check-in time will be disqualified. It is the angler's responsibility to confirm your check in time.
15. **Tournament Hours:** Safe light until 3:00pm, this may be adjusted by the tournament director. Each team will be assigned a boat number at sign-up the morning of each tournament. At check-in, all teams must return their boat chip prior to their designated check in time.
16. **Emergency or Brake Down:** In the event of a breakdown, one or both anglers may take their fish and enter their teammates boat to return to the launch site. If entering another competitors boat, fishing must cease for both teams on the rescue boat. No fishing shall take place upon entering another competitors boat for either team. Both teams may be subjected to a polygraph test.
17. **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 will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from current and future Xtreme Bass events.
18. **Protest and Polygraph:** Xtreme Bass Series competitors 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.