

Freeze Your Bass Blast 2023

Official Rules

The following rules will remain unchanged throughout the event unless State or local laws are in conflict. Interpretation and enforcement of rules will be left to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate including without limitation: disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, and/or entry fee, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Evergreen Bass Club reserves the right to refuse entry.

Participation and Eligibility: Freeze Your Bass Blast is open to all who wish to compete 18 years or older. In the event a contestant is a minor, at least one team member must be 18 years or older. The minor must have written authorization from a parent or legal guardian. For mailed entries a completed entry form and the entry fee must be received by Evergreen Bass Club no later than the February 23rd, 2023. On-site registration will be Saturday morning February 25th, 2023, up until the drivers meeting. On-site registration fees: Twenty (\$25) dollars in addition to the \$200 Entry Fee for registration occurring the day of the event. Evergreen Bass Club will accept late entries with the exception of tournaments with a full field. No entries will be accepted from any angler that has not observed the official off-limits period.

Off-Limits: Tournament waters are off limits Monday-Friday February 20th thru February 24th the week of the tournament. **Permitted Fishing Waters:** No fishing is allowed inside the host marina area. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. Contestants must be able to navigate boat into fishing area without getting out of the boat. All fishing must be done from an inspected boat. No tube or wade fishing is allowed. Boats may not be trailered to and from weigh-in during tournament hours. If you are unable to return to the weigh-in site by boat your catch for the day will not be weighed. Team partners must fish from the same boat. Only the contestants may be in the boat during tournament hours unless specifically approved by the Tournament Director prior to the tournament. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you will be grounds for disqualification.

Safety: Boating safety must be observed at all times. During competition, a US Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on, fastened and the kill switch attached to the driver any time the combustion engine is operative. Inflatable PFDs are allowed as long as they are US Coast Guard approved and meet all US Coast Guard requirements. Boats must obey all state and local regulations including speed and no-wake zones.

Blast Off: It is imperative that all boats have their live wells checked and be in the water before the start of the drivers meeting. The Tournament Director will not delay blast off due to anglers that have not had their live wells checked or have not safely launched their boats. In the event your boat is not in the water at the time your number is called your blast off will be delayed until the Tournament Official re-calls your number. Regardless of blast off time you and your partner will be required to return for weigh-in at the time of your originally assigned flight.

Culling Fish: It is the responsibility of each team to immediately cull their limit to five (5) fish throughout the tournament. No culling is allowed within the host marina. NON-PIERCING CULL TAGS ARE REQUIRED. The use of piercing cull tags is prohibited and will lead to disqualification.

Relief Rule: In the event that an angler must leave the boat during competition to use the restroom the other angler must remain in the boat.

Check in for Weigh-in: An official timekeeper, wearing an orange vest, will be posted at the entrance to the host marina and will log the time that each team returns for weigh-in. The official return time will be logged at the point that the boat enters the host marina. Each team is responsible for holding up their boat number in clear view of the timekeeper. If the timekeeper determines that a boat is late, he/she will signal the boat with an orange flag in order to notify the team that there is a time issue and that they need to see the timekeeper as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the team and the timekeeper to resolve time dispute issues prior to weigh in. If the issue cannot be resolved with the timekeeper, the team should weigh in their fish and immediately report to the Tournament Director that there is an unresolved time dispute. All unresolved issues must be reported during weigh-in. It is the Tournament Director's responsibility to assess the situation and make a ruling. The Tournament Director's ruling is final.

Boat Numbers: All boat numbers must be turned in at weigh-in. Boat numbers must be returned even if no fish are weighed. Scoring: Each team may weigh in five (5) fish with no minimum size limit, unless State or lake limits are more restrictive. A half of a pound (0.50 lb.) penalty will be assessed for each dead fish. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be weighed. Failure to check-in by the designated weigh-in time will result in a one pound (1 lb.) per minute penalty. After 10 minutes that team will forfeit its weight for that day. It is the responsibility of each team to make sure they are identified at the check-in site.

Ties: Big fish will be used to break all tournament ties whenever possible. In the event of a big fish tie tournament monies will be added and divided equally.

Protest: All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing within 15 minutes of the weigh-in. Protests will be accepted from registered tournament anglers only.

Awards: Out of sportsmanship and respect for other anglers Evergreen Bass Club appreciates those who stay for awards presentations. For those unable to attend awards ceremonies, Evergreen Bass Club reserves the right to forfeit claim to merchandise; prize money will be available when checking in at the next qualifier.

Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs: At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs, other than prescription, allowed in the boat or to be consumed.

Sportsmanship: Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any team failing to do so may be disqualified.

Tournament Protection Rule: Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Authority, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to Evergreen Bass Club or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers

(such as rangers, fishery biologists, etc.) during any official practice round or tournament may result in temporary or permanent suspension from all future Evergreen Bass Club tournaments.

Boats and Motors: There is no horsepower limit, however; no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating. All boats must meet US Coast Guard and State regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch attached any time the combustion engine is running and an aerated LiveWell large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition.

Tackle and Equipment: All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner by casting, flipping, or pitching. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Using the electric motor only to stroll or troll is permitted as long as the angler maintains contact with his or her fishing rod. Setting the rod down or in a pole holder while moving the boat with the electric motor is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only (1) rod may be used at one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Nets are allowed and Evergreen Bass Club encourages the use of catch and release style nets.

Conservation: Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition.

Equipment Failure or Emergency: There will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official weigh-in site:

- (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or
- (2) by one or both partners entering the boat of another Northwest Bass tournament contestant and returning to weigh-in site. If one partner remains with the troubled craft, he cannot continue to fish.

Under these two conditions, the contestant's catch may be counted without penalty (except for late or dead fish penalties). Teams who elect to return to official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit that day's catch. In case of a mechanical breakdown that requires a team to swap tournament boats, that team will be eligible to resume competition only under the supervision of an Evergreen Bass Club official. Both team members must be present for a boat inspection before a restart will be granted. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate a tournament official to request a restart.

Insurance: A minimum of Three Hundred Thousand (\$300,000) liability insurance is required of all contestants utilizing their boats in Evergreen Bass Club tournaments. All contestants must sign a waiver absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors, and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have proof of insurance at each tournament.

Information Sharing and Communications: During the off-limits period and during competition, anglers may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone other than the partner they are fishing with or Evergreen Bass Club competitors. Information gathered through publicly available sources, i.e., Google Earth, published maps, etc. is permissible. Involuntary violation of this rule should be reported to the Tournament Director. Appropriate action will be taken on a case-by-case basis. The purchasing of or

bartering for information or the hiring of services will not be permitted after the start of the off-limits period. The sharing of tournament winnings in exchange for fishing information is strictly prohibited and will lead to disqualification. Further, during competition, the use of electronic communications devices including cell phones, CB radios, VHF radios or any other type of communication device to aid in catching or locating fish is not permitted. Such devices may only be used in an emergency or in addressing safety considerations such as weather, river flow conditions, mechanical malfunctions, and lockmaster communications. Such devices may be used in other situations only as pre-approved by the Tournament Director.

Polygraph: To assure sportsmanship and angler confidence polygraph testing will be enforced. All contestants, winners, and non-winners, are subject to a polygraph. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification. Challenged Champions will be tested. Random tests may be conducted at tournaments without prior notice.

Rules are subject to change without notice at any time prior to the start of a tournament. Reviewed: 1-08-2023.