

2021 Neuse River Bassmasters –REVISED 4/16/21

Neuse River Bassmasters Tournament Trail

1. The Tournament Committee has authority in the interpretation and enforcement of all tournament rules and its decisions are final. The Tournament Committee for (2021) consists of: Jimmy Hipkiss (director), Eric Brown, Carl Whittington, Randy Brown.
2. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry at its discretion.
3. All competitors must be a member of the Neuse River Bassmasters.
4. All competitors must be (16) years of age or have a legal guardian present at all times.
5. All competitors must have valid fishing license unless they are under the legal guardian's license.

Safety Rules

1. Sponsors and the Tournament Committee are not held liable for any accidents or damages on or off the water.
2. Existing NO WAKE ZONES are as posted; **The RAILROAD TRESTLE (in the Neuse River) IS A NO WAKE ZONE**, otherwise driver discretion applies. SAFETY FIRST!
3. Vessels must have all COAST GUARD MANDATED SAFETY EQUIPMENT!
4. Life jackets must be worn at any time the vessel is underway. Kill switch must be hooked to person or vest.
5. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants or depressants are allowed during tournament hours through weigh-in.
6. B.I.A. rating must be observed. No overpowered engines allowed.
7. Running lights are required as per NCWRC and COAST GUARD LAWS.
8. Vessels shall be no less than 12' in length.
9. Competitors may not leave a vessel to advance the vessel or otherwise; the only exceptions are for bodily functions and safety hazards.
10. No competitor shall cause 3-vessel-wide traffic for any reason in the Neuse River above 43 Hwy or in the Trent River above River Bend Canal without penalty of disqualification.

General Tournament Rules

1. Starting positions are drawn upon entry at each tournament.
2. Live wells are checked prior to blast off.
3. There is a maximum of (2) persons per tournament vessel.

4. The creel limit is (5) fish. Tournament legal fish are (14) inches with up to (2) fish as short as (12) inches.
5. No courtesy measurements are provided.
6. Dead fish penalty is 0.2 lb each. No dead fish are to be culled. Short fish penalty is loss of that fish as well as the creel big fish. Over creel penalty is loss of creel big fish until creel limit is met. Any team that does not meet state regulations is disqualified.
7. Trophies are awarded to the top (3) winning teams and to big fish winner.
8. For vessel break down, (1) competitor may bring their fish in with another competitor. For single man teams, vessel must be secured to prevent free drifting. Alternatively, a single man team may switch places with a second member of another team to return to weigh in. No fish are weighed for a team without (1) team member present for the reading.
9. Boats may be trailered before weigh-in but must stay in the launch area.
10. Check in is at launch site. There is a (1.00) lb per minute penalty for late arrivals with a maximum (10) minutes before disqualification.
11. Tournament time is safe light until (3:00 PM).
12. Each team receives a card including a phone number for emergencies or early check-in. Anyone failing to check in is assessed a one tournament suspension and is disqualified for the current tournament.
13. Blast off location is determined by the Director during registration. The last boat to blast off calls the blast numbers.
14. All contestants are expected to follow the highest standard of sportsmanship courtesy and conversation, observing all state and local regulations.
15. Polygraph or stress test may be given to anyone at any time.
16. Off limits period is Monday through Friday during the week of a tournament and includes all courses of the Neuse Basin downstream of Whitehall Bridge in Seven Springs, NC. Fridays are not practice days.
17. Tackle may include spinning and casting reels and rods (8) feet or less. All artificial lures are acceptable as well as pork rinds and strips. No other live or preserved baits are eligible for use.
18. For any discrepancies or issues not addressed specifically, official BASS rules apply.
19. ALL FISH (BASS) weighed-in, become possession of the tournament director, to be released as seen fit by the Tournament Committee. Under no circumstance is a fisherman allowed to keep a live fish. Fishermen may elect to keep fish that are dead at weigh-in assuming approval of the tournament director.
20. All protests shall be made to the tournament director before scales close.

Qualifying

1. Any members that fish TOGETHER at least (3) times are considered a team. ~~If a member fishes (3) times each with two different members, either combination may constitute the team. Unless specified, the Tournament Committee considers the first combination to qualify only.~~
2. Each team may make use of (2) substitutions OR absences for a team member during a calendar year.
3. Subs must be paid members.
4. Subs do not have to be the same member for each of a team's (2) substitutions.
5. Points are distributed beginning with (60) points for the tournament winner and decreasing by (1) point for every position until all anglers that weigh a fish receive points. Points are not awarded if no fish are weighed.
6. Subs do not accrue points; points given to teams utilizing a sub remain with the team.
7. All teams that finish ranked in the top (20) teams of the points competition are invited to the classic.
8. All teams that fished in at least (3) tournaments, ~~including up to (2) substitutions~~, are invited to the classic.
9. All points accrued by a team during a calendar year will be used to determine qualification and AOY standings.

Ties

1. Ties on big fish are broken by total creel weight.
2. Total creel weight tie are broken by creel big fish.
3. Point ties are not broken to qualify for the classic, but skip the next position(s). A 3 way tie for 5th skips 6th and 7th before resuming. Should the 20th team be in a tie, all those teams tied qualify.
4. Ties on points for the Team Anglers of the Year are broken by results of the Classic.

Fees & Payout

1. A one-time membership fee of (\$25) per person is required to fish, paid at/prior to the first tournament fished, including to substitute for a team.
2. Tournament fees are (\$60) per team to include big fish. No monies are returned if the tournament is canceled but are moved to a makeup day or moved to the classic.
3. Classic entry fee are (\$70.00), to include big fish both days.
4. Payout is (1) place for every (5) boats with a maximum of (6) places paid. Each tournament pays (80%) of entries. Classic accrues (20%) of entries each tournament, minus expenses.
5. Big fish payout is \$10 per entry (included in tournament entry fee).
6. The Team Anglers with the most points accrued during a calendar year receives free entry to each qualifying event of the following calendar year (\$60/event, membership not included).

Classic (All General Tournament Rules Apply With Following Exception)

1. The classic off limits period is (7) days prior to tournament day and includes all courses of the Neuse Basin downstream of Whitehall Bridge in Seven Springs, NC. There is no Friday practice for the classic.