

# TEXAS BASS FEDERATION

(TEXAS TBF)

Effective 6/1/2016

## BY-LAWS DOCUMENT

### ARTICLE 1 – Name and Purpose

#### Section 1 – Name

This organization shall be called “**Texas TBF**”, located in the State of Texas. The Federation is organized exclusively for one or more of the purposes as specified in Section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) and shall not act so as to impair its eligibility under this IRC section.

#### Section 2 – Purpose

The primary purpose of the Texas TBF, shall be to promote conservation of our natural resources, be involved with youth incentives, and preserve and promote the sport of recreational and competitive bass fishing.

### ARTICLE 2 – Membership

#### Section 1 – Requirements of Membership

a) Membership in the Texas TBF. shall be open to members of TBF, Inc. and meet one (1) of the following requirements

- 1) Join an existing affiliated Chapter Club located in the State of Texas.
- 2) Form a new Chapter Club, which in turn, meets the requirements of TBF, Inc. and Texas TBF.

#### Section 2 – Denial of Membership

a) No person shall be denied membership in the Texas TBF, because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, handicap, age, or sex.

#### Section 3 – Membership Dues

a) Each member in the Texas TBF shall pay their annual dues to their respective affiliated Club, which in turn will submit to Texas TBF. The annual due will include National TBF Dues (currently \$15, FLW Dues (currently \$35, and Texas TBF Dues (currently \$15). Please note that these are the current dues for 2016 and could change going forth.

### ARTICLE 3 – Directors, Elections, Terms of Office, Vacancies, and Eligibility

#### Section 1 – Directors

- a) The Texas TBF will be governed by a Board of Directors composed of five (5) members.
- b) The Board of Directors is empowered to run the business of the Texas TBF.

#### Section 2 – Elections

- a) Each year, usually at the Top 6 Tournament, elections will be held for Directors for the next 2 years. Each club present at the meeting will be allowed 1 vote. In the event of a tie, any proxy votes cast will then be counted. If a tie remains after the proxy votes are counted, we will use flip of a coin.
- b) The current Board of Directors consists of President 2016-2017. Vice-President 2015-2016, Youth Director 2015-2016, Conservation Director 2015-2016, Secretary Treasurer 2016-2017.

### **Section 3 – Terms of Office**

- a) Directors shall be elected for a two (2) year term of office.

### **Section 4 – Vacancies**

- a) Vacancies shall be filled for the rest of its term by a majority vote of the Chapters present at the next regular or specially called meeting of the Federation.

### **Section 5 – Eligibility**

- a) Be a member in good standing of an active Chapter of the Texas TBF., for at least one (1) year prior to nomination.

## **ARTICLE 4 – Committees**

### **Section 1 – Standing Committees**

- a) The President shall from time to time appoint annually from the Federation membership Committee's to review
  - 1) Youth Activities.
  - 2) Environmental / Conservation issues.
  - 3) Tournaments.
  - 4) Membership.
  - 5) Review of By-Laws.
  - 6) Any other special committees as needed.

## **ARTICLE 5 – Removal of Membership/Disciplinary Action**

### **Section 1 – Removal of Membership**

- a) Those clubs and/or individuals who have not fulfilled their obligations to TBF, Inc. or Texas TBF, can be disciplined or eliminated from the membership of the Texas TBF and will forfeit their dues paid. Obligations are as listed.
  - 1) Voluntarily express a genuine membership interest and have or be on an initial roster of no less than six (6) members.
  - 2) Submit a complete and accurate roster of all members as well as a listing of club officers.
  - 3) Pay annual dues as required.
  - 4) Follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation.
  - 5) Conduct in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to TBF National, Texas TBF, all affiliated sponsors, the sport of fishing, and all efforts to promote the sport of fishing.
  - 6) Violation of or failure to comply with any of the bylaws or standing rules for the Texas TBF.

- 7) Consumption and/or possession of any illegal or non-prescribed drug during a TBF sponsored event.
- 8) Suspension/disqualification from any fishing tournament or other fishing organization for convicted illegal activities.
- 9) Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote the Texas TBF, youth, conservation, safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules.

## **Section 2 – Disciplinary Action**

a) In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined in Article 5 Section 1, the Board will notify an existing member or Chapter that all Texas TBF rights and privileges are suspended until they are placed before the Texas TBF at the next membership meeting for review to determine appropriate disciplinary action, consisting of but not limited to the following.

- 1) Refusal of an application for membership.
- 2) Refusal of an application to compete.
- 3) Deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (minus deposits).
- 4) Disqualify a contestant.
- 5) Place a member on probation for a set period of time.
- 6) A lifetime ban from the organization.

## **ARTICLE 6 – Motions and Voting**

### **Section 1 – Motions**

a) Any affiliated Chapter having voting rights may place motions before the membership by way of their representative.

### **Section 2 – Voting**

- a) All eligible Chapter Presidents or their designees shall vote on all matters before the membership.
- a) In case of a tie, we will flip a coin.

## **ARTICLE 7 – Definitions**

### **Section 1 – Policies**

a) Policies are principles, rules, and guidelines formulated or adopted by an organization to reach its long-term goals. They are designed to influence and determine all major decisions and actions, and all activities take place within the boundaries set by them. (Reference – [BusinessDictionary.com/definition/policies-and-procedures.html](http://BusinessDictionary.com/definition/policies-and-procedures.html))

### **Section 2 – Procedures**

a) Procedures are the specific methods employed to express policies in action in day-to-day operations of the organization. Together, policies and procedures ensure that a point of view held by the governing body of an organization is translated into steps that result in an outcome compatible with that view. (Reference – [BusinessDictionary.com/definition/policies-and-procedures.html](http://BusinessDictionary.com/definition/policies-and-procedures.html))

### **Section 3 – Standing Rules**

a) A standing rule is a rule that relates to the details of the administration of a society and which can be adopted or changed the same way as any other act of the deliberative assembly. Standing rules can be suspended by a majority vote for the duration of the session, but not for longer. (Reference – Robert, Henry M. (2000). Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised, 10th ed., p.18)

## **ARTICLE 8 – Will Codicil**

### **Section 1 –**

a) In the event that the Texas TBF ceases to exist as an organization, ALL monies in the general fund after all debts have been paid, will be distributed to a non-profit organization to be determined at such time by the board.

## **POLICIES / STANDING RULES DOCUMENT**

1. Robert’s Rules of Order will be followed (unless it is different from a Texas TBF By-law, Policies / Standing Rule or Procedure).
2. The Board of Directors shall annually hold at least one (1) general Federation membership meetings each year to conduct the business of the Federation.
3. Additional meetings may be called at the discretion of the President or by a majority vote of the Chapters representative at any regular meeting.
4. The Texas TBF’s operating year shall be from November 1 to October 31.
5. If at all possible, all Board of Directors should attempt to participate in all of Texas TBF Federation regular scheduled meetings.
6. The incumbent Board shall receive written nomination for the Director’s election from any active Chapter. Each Chapter eligible to vote may submit one (1) vote per vacancy ( example: if five (5) vacancies exist the Chapter may submit up to five (5) votes, with no more than one (1) vote per candidate.) The election shall be held, by secret ballot, at the first Federation meeting of each new operating year, usually at the Top 6 event. Only Chapter Presidents or delegates present may vote. In the event of a tie, we will use proxy votes for those that could not attend meeting. All votes shall be opened, read aloud, tallied and reported to the Chapter President and delegates immediately. If a tie exists after the proxy votes, we will flip a coin.
7. Any Director may be removed from office, for just cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the board.
8. The amount of the dues will be determined by the Board of Directors at the first board meeting of the year.
9. Chapters not paying dues will lose all voting rights in Federation business, eligibility for the State Championship that year, and eligibility for all other Federation activities.
10. The Board shall retain powers necessary for the efficient conductance of the Federations business when no General Meeting is in progress.
11. All Directors present will be entitled to vote on all matters requiring vote before the Board, the President votes only to break a tie.

12. A quorum must be present to vote on all matters requiring a vote. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the Chapters representatives.
13. All bylaw change motions must be submitted in writing by a Chapter to the Federation Secretary at a general Federation meeting under new business and must be seconded to proceed. If seconded, discussion will then take place. Bylaw changes will then be voted on at the next scheduled membership meeting.
14. The Secretary will send out notice of any Bylaw motions to all chapter representatives a minimum of 30 days prior to the meeting.
15. Each Chapter at a meeting for any Bylaw or Policies / Standing Rules motions will get one (1) vote, proxy votes will be used only if a tie exists.
16. A 2/3 majority of votes will be required for any Bylaw motion to be passed.
17. The vote for a Bylaw or Policies / Standing Rules motion shall be a roll call vote.
18. All Policies / Standing Rules motions must be submitted in writing to the Federation Secretary at a general Federation meeting under new business and must be seconded to proceed. If seconded, discussion will then take place. A vote then may be taken.
19. A simple majority of votes will be required for any Policies / Standing Rules motion to be passed.
20. Each Bylaw or Policies / Standing Rules motion can only be submitted once per calendar year by said chapter.
21. Procedures shall be a guideline for the Board of Directors, and shall be governed by such.
22. Reference Article 5, Section 2 a) Only a TBF member or Chapter may submit in writing to the board any and all charges of violations committed by a member or chapter at any time. Charges must be detailed, dated, and signed.
23. Reference Article 5, Section 2 a) The Board will determine the disciplinary action to be taken against each charge brought forth.
24. Reference Article 5, Section 2 a) The member or Chapter in violation shall be notified by the board of such violation within 7 calendar days, in writing, by certified mail.
25. Reference Article 5, Section 2 a) A 2/3 majority of votes will be required for any disciplinary action motion to be passed.
26. The President or his appointed committee shall select annually, the Federation event sites and dates.
27. A Chapter must appear on the Federation Roster the current year to be eligible for the State Championship.

## **Procedures**

1. Meetings will be November, and possibly in the spring. The November meeting will be a general membership meeting, where elections will be conducted.
2. All newly elected Directors shall assume office at the conclusion of the November general meeting.

3. The **President** shall preside over all meetings of the Board and general meetings of the Federation, direct all official business, supervise all Federation activities, appoint and be ex-officio member of all standing and special committees, be official representative of the Federation in relationship to other organizations, delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the Federation, and maintain liaison with the TBF, Inc.
4. The **Vice-President** shall assist the President upon request, preside in the absence of the President, and assume the office of the President if it should be vacated. They shall attend National meetings if money is available as well as when requested by the National TBF.
5. The **Secretary/Treasurer/Webmaster** shall record accurate minutes of all meetings. They will be responsible for distribution of the minutes to all Chapters, as well as call meetings of the Federation and /or Board of Directors as directed by the President. He shall receive and disburse all monies upon approval of the Board. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current financial statement including but not limited to an income statement and balance sheet at each scheduled membership meeting. The Treasurer shall prepare and submit an annual budget to the membership for the beginning of each operating year, at the first general membership meeting of that year. He shall also maintain the Texas TBF website. This position will be paid \$100 per year to cover expenses such as Domain renewals, Website hosting, postage, envelopes, etc.
6. The **Conservation Director** shall act as Texas TBF representative to the various local, state, and national conservation issues and efforts.
7. The **Youth Director** shall run the annual youth qualifier tournament.
8. The President shall appoint another director to assume the duties of a vacant office until a successor is elected.
9. Annual dues from members shall be sent to the secretary/treasurer, made payable to the Texas TBF.
10. The President shall present event sites and dates to the membership at the appropriate time.
11. Directors will not be reimbursed for expenses unless approved by the board. Some expenses that may be approved would be required permits, lodging and mileage (at current IRS rate) if a special meeting is called by the Texas TBF, and any other documented federation related expenses that are approved by the board.

## Offices

1. **Registered Office.** The registered office for the Texas TBF shall be the home residence or domicile of the current sitting Secretary/Treasurer, or at the President of the Federation home resident or domicile if the Secretary/Treasurer is incapacitated or has been removed from office in accordance with these Bylaws. The registered office shall revert back to the Secretary/Treasurer's home residence or domicile upon him regaining capacity or upon election of a new Secretary/ Treasurer.

## Income and Dues

1. **The Use of Funds.** Funds for the support and maintenance of the Federation will be derived from membership dues, fundraisers, assessments, special projects and donations. No donations or financial assistance will be accepted from individuals, businesses, corporations or government

agencies if there is evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the goals of the Federation.

2. Dues. Cost of dues will be considered on a yearly basis by the Executive Committee and presented to the Board for consideration and a vote at the November Board meeting. They payment of club annual dues will start November 1 each year for the next calendar year. Individual membership dues will be paid to the member's Club Secretary.
3. State Tournament Funding. State tournament revenue shall be used to fund state tournament function solely.

## **TOURNAMENT PROGRAM**

**OBJECTIVE:** The Texas TBF, as part of its cooperation with, The Bass Federation and FLW will qualify and provide a twelve man State Team to participate in the Central TBF Divisional Tournament up to 2016. After 2016 Texas TBF will conduct a State Tournament with the Top 6 Boaters and the Top 6 Co-Anglers qualifying for the National Semi-Final and will also be considered the State Team. Also each club in good standing with Texas TBF will be allowed to send a Boater and a Co-Angler to the Regional.

**ENTRANTS:** A club member may qualify to advance to the Central Divisional or National Semi-Final in two ways and that is to qualify either as a Boater or Co-Angler in the State Qualifier each year or to be one of the 2 representatives of a **club in good standing (for 2016 a club in good standing will be the clubs that fished the 2015 Top 6 Tourney and have at least 6 members for 2016)** with the Texas TBF. If anyone in the top 12 cannot make the Divisional or Semi-Final, we will use the next in line until we get 6 Boaters and 6 Co-Anglers. There will be 1 Boater and 1 Co-Angler alternate each year. The President will come up with the Annual State Qualifier(s) lake selection, date, as well as the tournament fee. There will be established deadline each year of the last day in February to have your individual membership dues paid to be eligible to compete in the State Qualifier Tournament program. The Lake selection will be posted March 1. It is preferred that each individual tournament entry fee and form be submitted to your club at which point your club representative will send to Texas TBF on or before the published deadline. The selected lake will be off limits from Monday thru Friday morning at safe light. Friday will be the official practice day. The tournament may be 1 or 2 days which is solely up to the President

**PENALTIES:** Penalties may be assessed against an individual for failure to show up for the tournament after submitting tournament dues and entry form, without communicating to a board member. This contestant would have to pay a \$100 fine. Also a contestant who refuses to fish with their draw partner or does not show up tourney morning without communicating to a board member will be assessed a \$100 fine. These contestants will be banned from Texas TBF events until fine is paid.

**QUALIFICATION:** The selection of the twelve entrants from the State Qualifier to advance to Divisional or Semi-Final will be the highest 6 Boaters and the highest 6 Co-Anglers in standings after the Qualifier. If a tie exists, we will use quantity of fish first and if still tied, we will flip a coin. If one of the Top 6 Boaters or Co-Anglers cannot make it for some reason, the Alternates will be called to attend. If the alternates cannot fish, we will continue down the list until we get the field full. The Texas TBF will establish an amount of cash to be given to the anglers that qualify and for the Semi-Final or Divisional

from the State Qualifier events and actually fishes the Semi-Final. This amount will be announced each year at the State Qualifier.

**LOCATION:** The State Qualifier tournament location and date shall be selected by the President or his committee. It shall not be announced until all chapter rosters are received or the cut-off date established and the location is approved. The tournament cannot be in the same Division two years in a row. Texas TBF will have 3 Divisions.

**BOAT DRAWS:** The Tournament Director shall pair partners through the use of a computer program designed to perform that task. Any cancellations, withdrawals, changes, etc. will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director. Two anglers from the same chapter may not participate in the same boat, or will an angler fish with anyone other than the partner assigned by the Tournament Director. With the permission of the Tournament Director, alternates may be used up to the start of the tournament. Late withdrawals, no shows, breakdowns, etc., will be handled on a first come, first served basis by the Tournament Director.

**TOURNAMENT GUIDELINES:** No Federation point tournament shall be scheduled to conflict with any TBF sanctioned National, Regional or Divisional Federation event including, but not limited to, Youth Chapter Championship, official practice periods, the All American Championship.

Tournament Director

1. Shall select volunteers to fill the positions below and supplement the Tournament Committee formed by the Board of Directors and the Tournament Director.
2. Take charge of all committee members and be responsible with all issues relating to tournaments.
3. Boat Checker: Will perform boat check and take-off in morning. Uses boat in last flight
4. Boat checker Evening: Will check in boats at the ramp. Uses boat in first flight
4. Cull Master (measurer): Measures fish, presents legal fish to Tournament Director. Uses boat in first flight.
5. Weighmaster: Weighs all legal fish. Uses boat in first flight
- 6 Recorder: Records all weight. Uses boat in first flight

## **Texas TBF Official State Qualifier Tournament Rules and Regulations**

### **TOURNAMENT PROGRAM:**



1. All Chapter club members who have paid all annual dues by the established February deadline will be allowed to compete in the State Qualifier tournament so long as they submit an entry form and tournament dues by the established deadline. It is up to each Club to designate an even number of Boaters and Co-Anglers.

2. **WHO MAY COMPETE:** Any Texas TBF member at least 16 years of age. If under 18, the contestant must have approval from their legal guardian or parent. Anyone not previously banned from competition by Texas TBF or TBF unless reinstated.

3. **ENTRY FEE:** The entry fee for a one or two day tournament shall be determined by The Board of Directors. The lunker pool for each tournament will be optional and would be collected by a member. NO REFUNDS will be given for persons entering and unable to attend the tournaments unless written notification is given to the Tournament Director at least 14 days prior to tournament start time. Only checks will be accepted for payment.

4. **APPLICATION & DEADLINE:** A completed and signed application form with entrance fee must be postmarked on or before FRIDAY (2) WEEKS PRIOR to the tournament. If you register as a boater you must carry proof at all times in your boat of liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000 per occurrence. Late entries not accepted.

5. **OFF LIMITS:** All tournament waters are the designated body and its tributaries only, or any other areas identified by the Tournament Director. The lake will be off limits beginning Monday morning up until 5:00 am on Thursday morning. The lake will also be off limits after once you weigh your fish on the first day until take-off the next morning.

6. **REGISTRATION/PRE-TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN:** Contestants must finish checking in 1/2 hour before the 1<sup>st</sup> flight take-off. If a contestant cannot be there by that time and has not called anyone, he will forfeit his weight for that day. If he has a partner, the partner if a co-angler will be put on another boat. All efforts will be to only have 2 per boat, however 3 will not be against the rules so long as boat capacity is not exceeded. Fish must be marked as to not confuse whose fish is whose. If he is a boater and we have no non-boaters to go with him, he will be able to fish alone. It is the responsibility of both boater and the co-angler or observer to contact each other prior to tournament day. It is also their same responsibility to meet prior to boat launch to assist in the launching procedure.

7. **TOURNAMENT BRIEFING:** All tournament contestants will be briefed on official information, pertaining to that specific tournament, at the Friday night meeting prior to tournament. Information such as off limits, staging areas, and flight times will be stated at such meeting. The Friday night meeting is not mandatory so long as you have designated someone to relay the rules and pairing info.

8. **BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:** A full discussion must be held between the two paired anglers prior to the departure as to the fishing schedule and the operation of the boat. The gas, oil and launch fee shall be split 50/50 between boater and co-angler, however cannot exceed \$25 per day. The Boater can only fish from the front of the boat and the Co-Angler must fish from the back of the boat. The only exception to this rule is to land a fish that has been hooked. The Co-Angler has no say so as to where to

fish. Also the Co-Angler is not to share info with the boater of another boater's water or methods of catching. Any Boater found operating the boat in an obvious and deliberate manner to handicap or help his Co-Angler, shall be disqualified. All contestants must have a discussion prior to take off concerning safe operation of the boat or any physical limitations one party may have that could hinder the normal operation of the boat. Observers are not required to contribute to the expenses listed above and are not permitted any control of the boat or fishing locations.

9. **BOAT INSPECTION:** Boat inspection will end a 1/2 hour prior to start time. In order to have your boat checked you must: (A) Show that your engine horsepower does not exceed Coast Guard rating plate on boat; (B) Have a boat at least 17' in length; (C) Demonstrate a functioning live well capable of sustaining two limits of fish. (C) Demonstrate operable kill switch

10. **LATE ARRIVALS:** Late arrivals who have contacted an officer who fail to make boat check deadline will forfeit their boat number and be placed at the back of the starting field. The Tournament Director will reserve from close of boat check until 15 minutes before start of tournament to make last minute changes or alterations. After that, no boats will be checked in. If you arrive later than 15 minutes before start time and have not secured an OK by the tournament director, you will forfeit your entry fee and not be allowed to participate in that days event.

11. **TOURNAMENT HOURS AND TAKEOFF:** All tournaments will start at designated start and end time. In the case of fog, boats will be idle only, which if exceeded, will cause automatic disqualification for that and all future Texas TBF tournaments. The Tournament Director could hold the start of the tournament due to inclement and unsafe weather conditions. At the beginning of the tournament, each boat will idle past starter boat before getting on plane.

12. **PAIRING CONTESTANTS:** All contestants will be paired with a partner by random drawings of completed applications. No contestants from the same club or relatives will be paired together. If such a pair occurs, contestants must notify the Tournament Director to arrange for a new pairing. No Boaters will be paired together. You will be notified Friday night who your partner will be. It will be your responsibility to contact your partner by phone for a meeting tournament morning. If you cannot contact your partner get a hold of Tournament Director

13. **SCORING:** Contestants will proceed to the weigh-in area with their day's catch in a tournament bag. Scoring shall be determined by a total weight. The tournament winner will be determined by the total weight accumulated during the tournament. A penalty of .5 pounds will be given for each legal bass not kept alive. Legal fish include: largemouth and smallmouth bass only. A penalty of 1.0 pounds will be given for illegal sized fish. Contestants who obtain or use services of an agent to locate fish on Tournament Day or official practice day will be banned from that and all future Texas TBF tournaments. During the tournament day each partner's fish shall be tagged or kept separated throughout the fishing day. At no time shall the contestant have more fish than the legal limit. Periodic checks by the Officials, both State and Tournament, may be made and any contestant having more than the legal limit be disqualified for that day. The weigh in area is off limits to non-tournament officials and all other contestants except those whose fish are on the scales. Once fish are turned over to the Tournament

Officials at the scales, they are then to be handled by Tournament Officials only. State laws supersede all Texas TBF length and number of fish per limits. However, a bass will not be counted or weighed if it is less than the legal limit in length as measured on the weigh-in table. Fish are to be measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together. Fish presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the legal limit shall accrue a penalty of one (1) pound for each fish. Any fish that is mangled in any way will be measured and weighed only at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

**14. TOURNAMENT POINTS:** The tournament winner will receive weight for each day. If we start a points system the winner will receive 100 points and second place will receive 99 points and so on until all points are awarded or no catch is reported. Show up points will be 50. Ties will be handled as follows: (A) During regular point or weight tournaments, points will be distributed equally between the tied contestants; (B) End of the year point standing ties will be broken by: 1) Total weight caught; 2) Total number of fish alive; 3) Heaviest single stringer at any point event fished. If only one tournament and a tie, we will use quantity of fish caught with the most being the winner, and if still tied, we will flip a coin.

**15. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live" or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork or pork type strips, rinds, etc. Only bait-casting, spinning or spin-casting reels and rods may be used. Only one rod may be used at any time. Other rigged rods may be present, but only one shall be in use at any time. If any lure is fouled it must be retrieved or broken off before another rod can be used by that contestant. No rod over the length of 8 feet will be allowed. Electronic depth finders, thermometers, oxygen gauges, PH Meters and water clarity devices are permitted along with hand held nets to land legally hooked fish.

**16. CARE AND DISPOSITION OF FISH:** Contestants must exert all effort regarding care and release of fish. It is the sole responsibility of the angler to keep, consume, or dispose of all fish not kept alive. It is illegal to dispose of dead fish at the tournament site. A contestant shall be granted the right to keep a trophy fish for mounting purposes at the discretion of the Tournament Director and will lose .50 pounds if the fish was still alive. Only fish brought to the weigh-in table in a weigh in bag will be weighed in. If not, they will be returned to the water without being weighed.

**17. LATE PENALTY:** Contestants not cleared at end of tournament check-in point on time shall be penalized one (1) pound per minute for each minute late. A contestant arriving at the dock more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all weight for that day. There will be no excuse for tardiness and no one will be allowed to make up fishing time. Each contestant will be given ample time to proceed from the dock to the weight station and must not leave the presence of their partner or will lose the credit for their catch.

**18. PROTEST:** A contestant wishing to protest his partners or another angler's actions must do so in writing within ten (10) minutes after the scales close and deliver it to the Tournament Director. Partners not reporting a violation will face the same punishment as their partners.

**19. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing on tournament waters will be permitted everywhere except: (A) Within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's anchored boat first anchored with its trolling

motor in a stored position, an angler may not place anchor down for the sole purpose of precluding another boat from approaching an area, communication between anglers at this point is required; (B) Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish; (C) Within any area declared off limits by the Tournament Director; (D) Tournament boats must not leave the tournament water or be trailered during the tournament hours unless event is a trailering event; (E) Anywhere that you are asked to leave by State Officials or law enforcement officers.

20. **SAFETY:** During Tournament hours, all contestants must wear a Type III life vest approved by the Coast Guard while the boat's gasoline engine is on. This vest must be secure while persons are in transit or automatic disqualification will result. All boats must be equipped with a kill switch system for their gasoline engine and it must be used when the engine is in operation. No wake zones will require the boater to proceed without white water developing from the boat and a wake of less than 3 inches. THERE WILL BE NO PASSING IN A NO WAKE ZONE. All boat owners are to operate their boats in a safe manner and abide by all local, State and federal laws.

21. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected from all contestants. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles will be deemed cause for disciplinary action. Any violation of these rules will be cause for disciplinary action to be decided and taken by the Tournament Director.

22. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances shall be allowed in the possession of any contestants during the tournament hours.

23. **RULE DECISION:** The interpretation of these rules shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final. These rules and regulations are subject to amendment at any time by the Tournament Director and approval by the Texas TBF Board of Directors. Any changes will be made known to the contestants prior to the tournament.

24. **WEIGH-INS:** Both contestants must check in together at weigh in line, even if 1 does not have fish.

25. **BREAKDOWNS:** In the event of a mechanical breakdown, one angler may return alone with both contestants' catch. The following criteria must be met: 1. You must return in another competitor's boat; 2. Catches must be kept separated; 3. You must return in your original flight and be on time; 4. You must advise the Tournament Director of your circumstances before you weigh in.

26. **ETHICAL TOURNAMENT ANGLING:** It is the responsibility of all anglers in the tournament to practice ethical angling. An "Ethical Angler" is an angler who: (A) Protects and preserves the environment. One who does not pollute or disturb the natural order of the lake or river he is fishing on; (B) respects other anglers' rights, both those who are fishing in the tournament and those who are not. He is also courteous, especially when he is a guest on another state's body of water; (C) Practices catch and release; (D) Practices safe boating; (E) Obeys all local fishing and boating laws.

27. **ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS:** During any official competition days of a tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of

communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Competitors may listen only to the marine-band weather information channels.

**28. Global Position System (GPS) Usage:** The use of a GPS by any competitor is permitted, however a GPS may not be used to mark specific locations of the boater by a co-angler and likewise a boater may not mark the GPS locations identified by his co-angler. Any angler found in violation of this rule is subject to disqualification.

**TOP SIX TEAM TOURNAMENT PROGRAM CHAPTER ELIGIBILITY:** To participate in the 6 man TEAM TOURNAMENT a Chapter must:

- A. Be in GOOD STANDING
- B. Have turned in a Preliminary roster
- C. all entries must be either current year members or have submitted next year's dues.
- D. pay the \$450 per team entry fee

This tournament is usually held in November and is a just for fun tournament with 89% payback plus door prizes if any are available. We will conduct our official TBF business at the Friday or Saturday night meeting. We will also go over the rules and the various weigh in times. All monies and door prizes will be given away at the conclusion of the tournament.