

REDWOOD EMPIRE BASS CLUB

Tournament Rules, Bylaws & Constitution
Effective January 1, 2026

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Participation and Eligibility

Participation is open to all members and prospective members of the Redwood Empire Bass Club. All rules are applicable and 'in play' from the official check-in time to when the Tournament Director (TD) scales close. Those entered under the age of 18 years must have written consent from a parent or legal guardian and must be accompanied by an adult. There is no restriction on race, gender, creed, or color. A club member must accompany all guests except for the turkey shoot. Members are responsible for the actions of their guests at all times. Guests are limited to 2 tournaments per year, after which they become eligible for membership and are no longer considered a guest. All exceptions must have prior approval from the TD. Anyone who is or has been a Pro, a Semi Pro, or a Guide is not eligible for membership but is allowed to fish in the Club Open.

2. Safety and Equipment

Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times by all contestants. Everyone fishing in club tournaments must wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver anytime the boat is underway and the combustible engine is running. It is **STRONGLY RECOMMENDED** that life preservers are made of solid foam or be of the auto-inflate type. Such flotation devices must be worn and properly fastened when being inspected. In an emergency or when safety dictates, both fishermen may take their catch, get into another boat, and return to the dock. All boats must be equipped with an engine shut-off or ignition 'KILL' switch device that must be attached to the driver whenever the combustible engine is running. All local lake speed limits must be obeyed. Breakdown and rescue procedures are available on the club website and all members are expected to review and adhere to them. All US Coast Guard rules apply.

The use of Alcohol, Drugs, or any Medication that would impair your operation of a vehicle is prohibited during tournament fishing hours.

A random on-the-water safety check will be done annually at the TD's or President's direction. All tournament participants must pass the safety check. The safety check will include: kill switch, charged fire extinguisher, lights, flotation devices, and aerated live well.

3. Sportsmanship

Threats of bodily harm or physical injury will result in an immediate one-year suspension from all club functions from the date of occurrence. Physical violence against another member will result in a lifetime ban except for self-defense. The board will rule on matters of self-defense. The board can impose a lifetime ban at their discretion based on the severity of the offense.

Any club member wearing a club logo, jersey, or hat in public, fishing or not, that disgraces the club in a negative way will be up for disciplinary action by the club board.

Use of alcohol or any illegal, controlled substance found in a contestant's possession during tournament hours while in the boat will result in the immediate disqualification of the offending party and may lead to removal from the club.

The use of underwater cameras is prohibited during tournaments. Receipt of competitive information from non-tournament participants during tournament hours is grounds for disqualification.

Any contestant that displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or violates the fish and game laws will be disqualified.

4. Boat and Motor

All boats entered in the tournament must be at least 14 feet in length and motors must be 18 horsepower or greater with an active live well. If a co-angler draws a boat that he considers unsafe, he may contact a tournament official regarding a redraw of partners. All boats must be equipped with an aerated live well and engine shut-off switch. Each contestant is responsible for furnishing his or her own proper safety vest, and it shall be worn anytime the boat is underway and the combustible engine is running. The tournament officials reserve the right to prohibit any boat from participating in the start if such boat is considered unsafe or the operator unqualified. Boats equipped with motor horsepower in excess of factory (BIA) rating will not be allowed in tournament competition.

5. Registration and Check In

Entry fees for all club tournaments are \$30, with optional Big Fish (\$10 for 1-day tournaments, \$20 for 2-day tournaments) and optional 2nd Big Fish (\$5 for 1-day tournaments, \$10 for 2-day tournaments). Pre-registration can be made prior to the tournament. Last-minute registration can be made at the tournament site. All contestants are expected to have paid to fish 30 minutes prior to blast-off. When paying for a tournament at the launch site, payment must be presented in a sealed, signed envelope including the tournament date with exact change or check. The tournament day or days will be decided by the membership at the club meeting prior to the tournament.

Contestants must check in at the official checkpoint 30 minutes prior to blast off. All boats are to be checked by the TD or club officer just prior to the day's fishing for safety equipment, live bait, fish, alcohol, or drugs.

If you are late, you MUST contact the TD prior to the announced blast off time in order to arrange a location on the lake where an on-the-water inspection of your live wells and a safety check (all US Coast Guard rules apply) will take place. If you also have not yet paid your registration fee for the tournament, you must also provide payment to the TD at this time in a sealed, signed envelope including the tournament date with exact change or check. Any contestant that fails to have their boat and live wells checked prior to fishing will be disqualified.

6. Fishing Hours

The fishing hours are to be announced prior to the tournament at registration and announced again just prior to blast-off. Contestants may not start fishing prior to the official starting procedure. Prior to the start of the tournament, no one can be fishing, graphing, or using underwater cameras on tournament waters for 6 hours prior to blast-off for tournaments.

7. Partners

With the exception of the turkey shoot and Summer Series tournaments, partners are chosen by a random drawing of the boaters and co-anglers who signed up for the tournament. Sign-ups are taken at the club meeting just prior to the tournament. This random drawing will also determine the order of blast-off. The TD is automatically the last to blast-off. Members signed up for the tournament have equal status in the draw, whether present at the club meeting or not. Members will have priority in the drawing over non-members or guests. Guests cannot be bumped by a member from a tournament after the random drawing.

Any boater or non-boater uncomfortable with the draw must raise their hand before the draw is complete to request a new partner. An explanation must be provided to the TD. The TD will decide if the request is valid.

When a boater does not have a partner in a tournament, that boater has the right to pick a partner during the last 48 hours prior to the start of the tournament as long as there are no members needing a boat for that tournament. ONE tournament per year, a member is allowed to pick his/her own non-member partner (Guest) to fish with him/her. The intent of inviting a guest is that they may become a future club member. Guests may not be selected specifically to provide a competitive advantage. Guests must be approved by the TD prior to the tournament.

Free choice of partners is allowed for the Club Open. Non-members may also fish the Club Open. Tournament fees for Club Open are as advertised.

Partners must remain together throughout the fishing day and may not leave the boat unless accompanied by a tournament official or in the case of an emergency. Needing to use a restroom is considered an emergency. A contestant may not leave their boat for the purpose of carrying, towing, or pushing their boat to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible.

Maritime law dictates that the captain of the vessel (the boater) has final say about their vessel at all times. This includes who boards the boat, who operates the boat, and where the boat does or does not go. At the discretion of the boater, each contestant may operate the boat from the front seat and may choose the fishing area for one-half of the fishing day. Failure to comply with this rule may result in disqualification. A club member may use his own boat, rent a boat, or borrow a boat for the tournament. If two boat owners do not draw a partner, they can choose to fish individually, they can choose to invite their ONE-time guest, or they can choose to fish together.

It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on the basis of sharing operation expenses. Co-angler partners shall be responsible for one-half of the day's fishing expenses. For example: GAS of the tow vehicle to bring the boat from the pick-up point to the water and back, GAS to run the boat, ramp fees, oil, and bridge tolls.

Any fishing partner who decides to withdraw from a tournament must notify their partner earlier than 24 hours before the tournament. Anyone not giving their partner this 24-hour notice and causing their partner to fish alone is still liable for one-half of the partner's normally shared tournament expenses or a mutually agreed amount, unless the cause for canceling is a serious accident or emergency of some sort. A person who fails to pay these shared expenses will be ineligible to fish any future tournaments until the debt is settled.

Any person found deliberately operating the boat in a manner which handicaps their partner's efforts may be disqualified from the tournament. A contestant may not 'hold' or 'reserve' a fishing area for another

contestant. Infractions of this rule will result in the disqualification of both boat operators involved. The judgment of the TD is final.

8. Tackle

Only artificial lures can be used. No prepared or live bait, other than pork rind strips, is permitted. Only rods and reels are permitted. They must be casting, spinning, spin casting, or fly rod outfits. The rod may not exceed eight and one-half feet in length. Only one rod may be used at one time. However, any number of rigged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes. A net may be used to land a hooked fish. 'Hooked' fish must always be hooked inside the mouth, per DFG regulations.

9. Permitted Fishing Waters

No fishing is permitted inside the designated launch area. No fishing is permitted within 50 yards (approx. 8 boats end to end) of another contestant's boat unless both boats are in agreement as to proximity of each other, or if each boat is fishing a different dock. All fishing must be done from a boat to land fish. All contestants must leave and return to the tournament launch area by boat. Boats cannot be trailered from one fishing location to another during tournament hours unless approved by the TD due to mechanical failure.

10. Culling

No culling is permitted inside the designated area or 50 yards of the weigh-in site, as specified by the TD. The culling of dead fish is prohibited and will result in disqualification.

11. Penalties

Contestants who have not checked in at the official checkpoint prior to blast-off or prior to weigh-in, on time, will be disqualified (see Rule 5). Boat and motor problems are no excuse for tardiness.

Anyone weighing in any fish smaller than the 13-inch minimum size length will lose the weight of that fish and have one-quarter pound (0.25 lb) subtracted from the remaining total weight of bass, for each fish weighed that is less than 13 inches in length. Bass will be measured on a flat board, mouth open, and a swish tail.

It is the goal of the club to release alive all tournament-caught bass following the weigh-in. The amount of one-quarter pound (0.25 lb) will be subtracted as a penalty for each bass not presented 'live' -- as judged by the weigh master.

12. Disqualification and Appeals

Disqualification (DQ) can occur for any one of the following reasons:

- Observed failure to wear life vests when boat is underway and big motor is running
- Consumption of alcohol or any illegal substance while boat is in operation
- Evidence of cheating and/or poor sportsmanship
- Culling of dead fish

- Violation of local lake rules and speed limits
- Failure to observe DFG rules and ordinances
- Failure to have a boat's safety gear and live well checked
- Receipt of competitive information from non-tournament participants during tournament hours
- Bringing 6 fish to the scales in a team tournament or individually

Appeals of DQs are the right of any member but must be submitted to the TD, in writing, within 1 week of notification of DQ. Decisions of appeals will be communicated by the TD and/or President within 1 week of receipt of the written appeal.

A DQ has no points; in other words, a DQ counts as zero toward total year-end points. Only tournaments with points are allowed to be thrown out. Contestants are not allowed to throw out DQs.

13. Official Boats

Officials may be on the lake during tournament hours and can approach or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests from media representatives.

14. Live Wells

Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide proper aeration to maintain fish in good condition, as fish will be released alive after the weigh-in. Modified coolers as live wells are not allowed. The REBC strongly recommends the use of chemical additives in live wells; however, it is not required.

15. Scoring and Awards

Club members will receive one point for each club meeting they attend. Proof of attendance at club meetings will be based on a separate meeting sign-in sheet that is different than the tournament sign-up sheet.

A limit is five (5) bass per boat for team tournaments, and ten (10) bass per boat (5 per angler) for draw tournaments.

Competition for a draw tournament is based upon each individual's effort, with scoring determined by total weight of each participant's catch for the event.

Team tournament competition is based on team effort, with scoring determined by total weight of each team's catch for the event.

First place will be awarded 50 points, Second place will be awarded 40 points, 3rd place will be awarded 35 points, 4th place will be awarded 30 points, 5th place will be awarded 29 points, and each subsequent place will decrement by 1 point. In addition, 5 points will be awarded for Big Fish as long as you paid in the Big Fish Option. Participants must pay in the Big Fish Option to be eligible for Big Fish pay and points. 100% payback of Big Fish option and 5 points will go to the individual who caught the Big Fish of the tournament so long as he/she paid in. 100% payback of 2nd Big Fish option will go to the individual for 2nd Big Fish so long as he/she paid in. No additional points for 2nd Big Fish. All tournament participants that show up to weigh-in, on time, that have zero fish will be awarded 10 points off the lowest score. For example, if the lowest points awarded are 45, participants with zero fish will be awarded 35

points. In the event of a tie at weigh-in, the tie is broken based on the draw/team with the biggest fish.

At the club's annual banquet, various awards will be given to members for the previous year's results and for achievements such as Angler of the Year, Co-Angler of the Year, TOC Champion, and Big Fish. Angler of the Year (boater only) and Co-Angler of the Year will be based upon total points accumulated.

Total year-end points will be based on each participant's ten highest scoring tournaments. Each participant's **two lowest scores** will be thrown out at the end of the year. A tournament that is not fished (zero points) can be thrown out. DQs (zero points) cannot be thrown out.

Status as Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the Year is based on highest points from ten out of eleven tournaments for the year in each classification. A tie for either Angler of the Year or Co-Angler of the Year title is decided by largest 5 fish bag throughout the year. If there is still a tie, the title is decided by the biggest fish caught that year by the point leaders in their category.

16. Proper Handling and Disposal of Fish

It is the responsibility of each fisherman to safely handle and release the fish they catch. All bass caught in a club tournament are to be safely released per DFG guidelines and not taken home. The only exceptions are for a dead fish or a bona fide designated trophy fish; these may be taken home.

Any person bringing in a dead fish must take care of it in a responsible way. Responsible means showing respect for the fish and treating it as a resource to be conserved or wisely used.

A contestant must identify a trophy bass at the weigh-in to the TD. If the TD agrees that it is a trophy bass, the angler may take that bass home after the tournament. Release of fish must follow lake, state, and DFG rules.

17. Complaints and Disputes

Complaints must be submitted in writing to the TD no later than thirty (30) minutes after weigh-in (or the TD will record the dispute on paper), else the complaint will not be given due consideration by the Club Officers. The initial written complaint can then be made formal with further written detail but must be submitted within 24 hours to the TD, via email. If email is not an option, you must contact the TD via phone within 24 hours of receipt of the initial written complaint to make other arrangements for the TD's receipt of the final written complaint/detail.

The TD will subsequently notify all Club Officers of the written complaint. The Club Officers will rule on any complaints or disqualification prior to the next club meeting, with the ruling being announced at the club meeting.

18. Rule Interpretations / Tournament Officials

Interpretation of these rules is left to the TD and other Club Officers. They are the Tournament Officials and reserve the right to disqualify or suspend any contestants who violate these rules.

19. Tournament Director / Tournament Responsibilities

In the event that the TD is not present at the club tournament, that role will be assigned in the following order: President, Secretary, Social Director, and Webmaster. In the event that all Club Officers are not

present at a club tournament, the last boat out will be in charge and run the tournament. Any person who takes the place of the TD has the same powers as the TD and their decisions are final. The TD safely blasts-off each boat. After all boats are safely blasted-off, the TD may then blast-off. The TD will have boat partner's help at the weigh-in.

20. Tournament of Champions

In the spring of each year a special tournament will be held for the top 5 boaters and co-anglers in the point standings of the previous year. In the event that one of these top 5 can't make the tournament, the next highest finishing boater or co-angler will be selected to take that person's place.

Boaters and co-anglers will be paired by random draw. Contestants will vote on blast-off and weigh-in times.

The entry fee per participant for the TOC is half of the normal tournament entry fee. The club treasury will match the other half of the entry fee per participant. For example, if the normal tournament entry fee is \$30, TOC participants will pay \$15 entry fee and the club will pay the other half. Note that ALL options are the responsibility of each participant. The club does not pay options. This will be a winner-takes-all Draw Tournament, along with Big Fish winner. It is run by the TD and governed by the Club's Tournament Rules.

21. Tournament Schedule for the Next Year

A separate meeting will be held in September of each year to determine the tournament schedule for the following year. The meeting is open to any member in good standing. All those attending the meeting have the right to vote on the proposed schedule.

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS

Mission

To improve skills of Bass Anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass catching techniques and ideas, embracing the highest principles and purposes of fishing.

Sec. 1 - Requirements for Membership

Acceptance of membership is by a simple majority vote of the active club members. To become a club member a person shall:

- Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership and be at least 18 years of age. This requirement may be waived upon a 2/3-majority vote of the membership.
- Attend three (3) consecutive club functions or four (4) club functions within three (3) months. This includes tournaments and meetings.
- Have on file with the club secretary: a signed application for membership; proof of insurance if a boater; and a signed Waiver of Release form.
- Pay all dues and fees in full upon acceptance.

Sec. 2 - Membership Cost

- Initiation fee is \$25.00. This is a one-time, nonrefundable fee for new members.
- Membership dues shall be \$60 annually, with dues being payable in January, with a thirty (30) day grace period. All dues and fees are payable on or before the February meeting.
- Any previous members who do not pay their dues by the February meeting will automatically lose their membership and will not be allowed to fish any tournaments until their dues are paid.
- Dues will be pro-rated for new members who join mid-year.
- Club Officers who have served a full year term will not have to pay membership dues the following year.
- Previous club members may rejoin by paying the full annual dues.
- All dues and fees are nonrefundable.
- Any club member in good standing with paid-up membership that purchases a club jersey will get one tournament fee waived one time on any one-day tournament. This is not per jersey purchased; this is one time only.

Sec. 3 - Business Meetings

- There will be a monthly business meeting of the Redwood Empire Bass Club.
- Any constitutional or tournament rule change(s) can be made at the November meeting only with a 2/3-majority vote. No guest speakers or raffle for the November meetings.

Sec. 4 - Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility

Officers and their duties:

President - Presides over all meetings and directs all official business; appoints and directs all committee functions; supervises all club functions during the year.

Vice President / Tournament Director - Acts as program chairman; assists the President and presides in his absence; acts as Tournament Director and weigh master during club tournaments; files appropriate contest reports with DFG after each tournament; posts official tournament results in a timely manner; passes club information to the Web Master in a timely manner to post on the website.

Secretary / Treasurer - Maintains accurate minutes of all meetings and club functions; maintains accurate financial records; gives reports of the club's financial record at each meeting; maintains annual DFG permits.

Social Director - Handles raffles at meetings; organizes the Annual Awards Banquet; obtains awards and prizes for club functions; oversees the Club-on-Club tournament dinner and raffle when REBC is the host; maintains a log of the cash in-flows and out-flows for each raffle.

Web Master - Maintains the club's website in a timely manner, including current tournaments, standings, any video content, and other club related information.

Elections. The election of Officers shall be held annually at the first regular meeting during the month of November. This allows time for outgoing officers to provide incoming officers with knowledge transfer including training, passwords, code, financial records, and transfer of physical REBC owned property. Elections shall be by simple majority of members present. Elections for each office shall be held separately in the order listed above.

Eligibility to vote. Each member in good standing is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are not permitted.

Term of Office. The term of office is for one year, which shall begin on January 1st and end on the last day of December.

Vacancies. In the event of an office becoming vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the remaining term of the individual vacating the office, if deemed necessary by the remaining Officers.

Eligibility for holding office. To be eligible for an office a member must: be an active member in good standing for 12 consecutive months; have attended at least 3/4 of the club meetings and 3/4 of the club functions; have shown an active interest in all club functions; and have had no gross violations of sportsmanship.

Members ineligible to hold office in the future. Refer to the President's binder for names of members who are ineligible to hold office due to lack of judgement in their prior role in office.

Sec. 5 - Method of Amending the Constitution

See Section 3: Business Meetings. Amendments require a 2/3-majority vote.

Sec. 6 - Removal of Membership

A member shall be dropped from the membership roll for the following:

- Failure to pay dues and fees within the prescribed time limit, unless approved by the Officers of the club.
- Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace on the club, and approved by a 2/3-majority vote of members of the club.
- Physical violence against another member will result in a lifetime ban except for self-defense. The board will rule on matters of self-defense.
- Refer to the President's binder for names of removed members.

Sec. 7 - Eligibility to Vote on Blast-off / Weigh-in Times

A member must be fishing the tournament being voted on.

Sec. 8 - Insurance & Waiver

- The club shall maintain General Liability Insurance.
- Boat owners shall provide the club with a certificate of insurance. Insurance must be maintained at all times throughout the year in good standing. The personal boat policy must cover the participant while tournament fishing with a minimum liability limit of \$300,000 as required by the club insurance carrier. NOTE: Many boat insurance companies will not cover claims that occur while tournament fishing. Members must confirm with their insurance agent that their policy does not have exclusions for tournament fishing.
- Proof of current, active, valid insurance must be on file with the club prior to fishing any tournament. It is the member's responsibility to remember to provide the club with a paper copy of their policy when it renews.
- Each club member participating in tournaments must sign a 'Waiver of Release Form' each membership year. This is due by the February meeting.
- Each guest or non-member must sign a 'Waiver of Release Form' to participate in any club tournament or Club Open.

RULE CHANGE HISTORY

Rule changes for 2026 (approved at the November 2025 business meeting)

- Update to Scoring and Awards: changed from one throw-out per year to two.
- Update to Scoring and Awards: First place 50 points, 2nd 40 points, 3rd 35 points, 4th 30 points, 5th and lower 29 points minus 1 point each position; no fish 15 points; 5 points for big fish.
- Update to Registration and Check-in: additional \$5 fee added for TOC pot; \$50 buy-in.
- Reduced annual membership dues from \$80 to \$60 per year.
- Draw tournaments are being replaced with a Pro-Am style tournament where boaters fish against other boaters and co-anglers fish against other co-anglers.

Rule changes for 2024 (approved at the November 2023 business meeting)

- Update to Scoring and Awards: changed from two throw-outs per year to one. Clarified how to break a tie for Angler of the Year and Co-Angler of the Year.
- Clarified wording about TOC entry fees.

Clarification of rules for 2023 (board meeting, May 26, 2023)

- Added notation that there are members ineligible to hold office.
- Excluded pros, semi-pros, and guides from fishing club tournaments except for the Club Open.
- Clarified club treasury match of TOC participation fees.
- Boaters without partners can pick their own partner 48 hours prior to a tournament as long as there are no members needing a boat.
- Sportsmanship applies when wearing a club logo, jersey, or hat, whether fishing or not.

Revised rules for 2023 (board meeting, January 4, 2023)

- Reduced annual dues from \$120/year to \$80/year and pro-rated dues accordingly.
- Elections to be held during the month of November.

Rule changes for 2023 (October 2022 business meeting)

- Added \$5 buy-in for 2nd Big Fish with 100% payback. Both Big Fish Options are 100% payback.
- Updated Membership dues from \$60/year to \$120/year.
- Clarified minimum insurance requirements and requirements for a signed Waiver and Release Form by all tournament and Club Open participants.

Rule changes for 2020 (November 2019 business meeting)

- Physical violence against another member will result in a lifetime ban except for self-defense.
- Non-Members are no longer required to pay a \$10 fee in addition to the tournament fee. Tournament fees for Club Open are as advertised.

- Any club member in good standing with paid-up membership that purchases a club jersey will get one tournament fee waived one time on any one-day tournament.

Rule changes for 2018 (November 2017 business meeting)

- Pay out for two Big Fish spots per tournament as long as the participant pays into the Big Fish option. Big Fish gets 70% of the Big Fish option; 2nd Big Fish gets 30%.

Rule changes for 2017 (November 2016 business meeting)

- Club members will receive one point for each club meeting they attend.
- Tournaments will be based on 50-point highest score, minus one point for each place below first. This replaced the 100-point scoring system in 2016.
- Participants with zero fish will receive 10 points off the lowest score of the day.
- Two throw-outs at the end of the year to calculate total year-end points.