

# 2024 Grace Baptist Fishing Rules

## **Safety-**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device any time the boat is planed out. All boats must be equipped with a factory installed emergency ignition-shutoff device. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or weather conditions. Competitors may leave their boat to seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is imminent.

## **Sportsmanship-**

All competitors are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, conversation, and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves as well as Grace Baptist Church. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but not limited to, the following.

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance prior to and during the tournament hours.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Boat operation in an unsafe or un-sportsman like manner.
- Prayer and devotion will be held prior to the blast off of each tournament.

## **Rules-**

### Fishing methods-

- All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork style trailers.
- Live wells will be checked prior to the start of each tournament.

## **Late penalty-**

- Contestants who are not at the check in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute deducted from total weight, including any weight counted towards

big bass. Any contestant 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight. However, the contestant will still receive points for fishing the tournament that day.

- Any angler that has boat problems during the tournament will be responsible for contacting another angler fishing in the Grace Baptist Fishing Tournament for assistance as well as notifying anyone helping in directing the tournament.
- Any angler having boat issues will be allowed to contact another angler fishing the Grace Baptist Fishing Tournament to move their day's catch to an empty live-well of that anglers boat to be transported to the weigh in.

### **Live Fish-**

- Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. An 8 ounce penalty will be deducted from total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.
- Any dead fish that is weighed in for big fish will result in an 8 ounce deduction for the big fish award. Big fish will be determined as the biggest fish in your possession for that day.

### **Fish Measurement-**

- Fish will be measured on a Golden Ruler.
- Fish will be allowed a courtesy measurement prior to the beginning of the weigh-in.
- Any fish that is found not to be of the legal size limit, will not count and the team will receive an 8 ounce short fish penalty

### **Spotted/Kentucky bass-**

- Bass will be measured as a spotted/Kentucky bass if the fish has a distinct tooth patch on the center of the tongue and the jaw line does not go past the eye of the fish.
- Spotted/Kentucky bass will be allowed a courtesy check prior to the beginning of the weigh-in. Once the weigh in has started if it is not a spotted bass and is not of legal keeping size it will result in an 8 ounce penalty and the fish will not count towards that day's catch.

### **Scoring-**

- Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each teams catch during each tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted/Kentucky Bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass.

- The team daily limit will be 5 bass unless the director determines the conditions would not be suitable to try to keep 5 bass for an 8 hour tournament. If there is a need for change it will be announced prior to blast off and will be changed to a 3 bass limit.
- Once possessing the daily limit of the tournament, contestants must cull immediately upon their next legal catch.
- The minimum length of a bass will be determined by the lake creel limit except for Spotted/Kentucky bass they will be a minimum of 12 inches.

#### **Insurance-**

- Anyone competing in any of the Grace Baptist Fishing Tournaments, will be required to have a minimum of liability insurance on any boat being used. You are required to have proof of insurance and will have to show you have proof of insurance prior to fishing.

#### **Payback and awards**

- Payback or awards will be determined based off the angler's weight during that day's event.
- Any angler fishing who is not 18 years of age must have a parent or legal guardian sign giving consent for them to fish.

#### **Points**

- 100 points will be awarded to highest ranking member of each tournament. 2<sup>nd</sup> place will be awarded 99 points etc. Any anglers who do not weigh a fish in will still receive points for fishing the tournament.
- Each team will be given a number when they register. A substitute will be allowed if one team member is not able to fish an event, but the points will be awarded to the original team.

#### **Fish off**

- The last event for the year will be a TBD event.
- The lake to be fished for the fish off will be announced after the weigh in at the last regular season tournament. This tournament will be a 2 day event (Fri and Sat). The weights will be combined from both days to determine a winner for the 2024 Grace Baptist Fishing Tournaments fish off.
- To be eligible for fishing the fish off teams must fish or pay for at least 5 regular season events.

## **Blast Off**

- Blast off will be based on your boat number.
- Boat numbers will be given at the time of registration the morning of the tournament.
- Teams will be given a chip with their boat number. Each team will be responsible for turning their chip into the designated area.

## **Ties**

- For each team the largest bass of their sack will be weighed. If there are any ties, the tie breaker will be determined by the team with the larger big fish. The contestant with the smaller fish will receive the next place.

## **Rules Violation**

- In the event of rule violation the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including, without limitations, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes.
- Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that an angler violated a rule will be cause for disqualification.
- Rules violations must be reported to the Tournament Director in writing or in person within 15 minutes after the announcement "The scales are closed".