

# Nor-Cal Bass 2009 Pro-Am Rules

*Dated December 23, 2008*

## **Rule Changes**

Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to Nor-Cal Bass. The decisions of Nor-Cal Bass shall be final on all matters. Additional rules may be added to adjust to individual tournament locations. Any contestant, who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, receives a law enforcement citation for safety, speed zone violation, violates any fish and game laws shall be disqualified. Disqualified contestants will receive no refund of any monies paid for said event. Nor-Cal Bass Reserves the right to change these rules at anytime before the new season begins.

## **Participation and Eligibility**

Open to anyone 16 years of age or older, (Under 18 years will require a parent or guardian release form), that meets the requirements contained within these rules. Eligible individuals will hereby waive and release all other contestants, hosts, sponsors and tournament officials from any and all claims of injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this tournament. There are NO restrictions on sex or race. Nor-Cal officials reserve the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and also have the right to extend the acceptance time. All contestants must possess a valid California Fishing License. All Contestants are subject to and may be required to take a polygraph test before any tournament winnings are paid to said individual.

## **Safety**

Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved type 1, 2, or 3 life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped and/or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitors reach their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be means for immediate disqualification. All contestants shall provide their own life vest. All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch, and said switch must be attached to boat operator's life vest at all times that combustion engine is operating. All boats must be equipped with navigational lights that must be in and operational until competitors reach their first stop in the morning. Competitors without operational running lights will blast off last.

## **Sportsmanship**

Competitors in Nor-Cal Bass tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Outside scouting assistance during the tournament and hole-sitting will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from this tournament and all future tournaments conducted by Nor-Cal Bass. The transmitting of information with any radio-transmitted device (i.e. CB radio, two-way radio or Cellular phone) concerning any aspect of the taking of fish during a tournament is prohibited. This includes information relative to location, type of lures employed, number of fish caught, water depths, temperature or any other information that could help another improve their position in the tournament. Use of underwater cameras during tournament hours shall be prohibited. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification for this and all future Nor-Cal Bass tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants (prescriptions are accepted) are allowed during fishing hours. Any infractions of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification and forfeiture of said individual's entry fee. No two boats may touch or appear to touch during tournament hours. This includes non-contestant boats as well as tournament boats.

## **Tackle and Equipment**

No rod longer than 8 ft. will be permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. "No live baits" or "prepared baits" will be permitted with the exception of pork strip rind, etc. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however only one is permitted in use at any given time. In the event of hang-ups the lure must be retrieved immediately or the line severed and retrieved later, but the fouled rod cannot be left in the water even though hung-up. All bass must be caught live and in a sporting manner. Fish must be caught in a

# Nor-Cal Bass 2009 Pro-Am Rules

*Dated December 23, 2008*

sporting manner and must be hooked directly by bait that is tied to competitor's line and attached to competitor's rod and reel.

## **Boat and Motor**

Fishing boats may be used that are 15 ft or more in length. No barges or similar cumbersome craft shall be permitted. Motors must be 40 HP or greater. Engines may not exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat. It having been determined that boats equipped with "stick steering" present a greater than normal safety hazard, no boat with said steering shall be permitted during tournament hours by any competitor. Nor-Cal Bass officials shall make the definition of "stick steering". A small electric trolling motor is required for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All boats must be equipped with a functional depth finder. Every boat must have a functional live-well space, aerated to adequately maintain a live limit catch of bass. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. All boats must meet BIA and Coast Guard requirements. All boat owners are required to have personal liability insurance. Upon complaint, tournament officials may deem a boat unsafe.

## **Boat Operation and Expenses**

Am's do not choose fishing locations nor do they operate the trolling motor unless they have the approval of the Pro. Am's are not required to share expenses for the day's fishing and Pro's will not ask for compensation. However, the am contestant is encouraged to contribute some financial assistance to the pro towards the day's expenses. Pro should instruct partner on boat operation in cases of emergency.

## **Permitted Fishing Locations**

Fishing on the tournament waters are permitted anywhere accessible by boat, except: within 50 yards of a main refueling dock of a marina, or any other area designated off-limits by lake or tournament officials, or within 50 yards of another competitors boat working a specific area. The use of marker buoys is permitted. However a contestant may not use marker buoys to protect, reserve or make claim to any area of more than a safe casting distance or 50 yards from his boat. If a contestant desires to distribute marker buoys in excess of the 50-yard limit, they may do so with the understanding that others have the right to fish any areas located more then 50 yards distance from any boat. Contestants may not use 50 yard rule to block access to any cove as long as passing contestant does not start fishing until 50 yard rule is met. Contestants may not use 50 yard rule to lay claim to two banks of any cove. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants may not leave their boat for the purpose of carrying, towing, or pushing their boat to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible. Contestants may not get out of their boat to reduce weight or floatability for the purpose of gaining access to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible. Contestants may not depart from boat to land fish. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in cases of dire emergency. In such an emergency, other competitors or a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials may remove competitors. Under conditions cited above, the only other exception to partner separation is as follows: Competitors A and B has a totally disabled or sinking boat, either one requiring a tow. Partner B may enter into competitors C and D's boat with A and B's marked catch for return trip to official checkpoint. Boat must remain on tournament waters. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited.

## **Pre-Fish & Off Limits**

There will be no off-limits or official practice days before any Nor-Cal Bass Pro-Am event.

## **Official Checkpoint**

There shall be only one official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon; this checkpoint shall be designated at the draw. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Fishing hours will be announced prior to the tournament and at registration. During the pairing of partners each team will be given a start number (weigh slips will be kept by tournament officials to prevent loss). A tournament official will inspect all boats for safety equipment, live bait, and alcohol and colored ribbon will be placed on boat. No fish shall be weighed in without proof of boat check. At the time

# Nor-Cal Bass 2009 Pro-Am Rules

*Dated December 23, 2008*

of checkout all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules set forth by the tournament officials. All competitors must checkout and check-in at the official checkpoint. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Disqualification will result from "culling" inside the five mile per hour buoys at the official check-in point. There will be a tournament official posted at the tournament check-in point and each team will be responsible to drive by announcing their boat start number. This allows tournament officials to verify each competitor's return. Contestants may not weigh in until there is an official available to start the weigh in.

## **Penalties**

Contestants who do not check in at the official checkpoint at the official starting time of the draw will be assessed a 2 lb. penalty and allowed 15 minutes to arrive. If at that time they are still not present, they will be disqualified. Vehicle trouble or other problems are no excuse for tardiness. Contestants who do not check in at the official checkpoint at the end of the tournament will be assessed a 1 lb. penalty per minute for a total of 5 minutes. If at that time they still have not arrived they will be disqualified. Anyone weighing in a fish smaller than 13 inches in length will have 1 lb. per short fish deducted from their remaining weight. Short fish will not be weighed. Measuring will be done with the fish's mouth open at a 45-degree angle on a "Willie-go-Board". Any fish weighing more than 5 lbs. shall be in a bag by itself. Once a contestant has turned in their bag of fish to the tournament officials, those fish then become the property of Nor-Cal Bass and cannot be added to or subtracted from. Any contestant weighing in a larger limit than specified as the tournament limit shall be disqualified. Any dead fish weighed in shall have a 20/100<sup>th</sup> of a pound for each dead fish subtracted from the contestant's total weight. If dead fish is competitor's big fish, then 20/100<sup>th</sup> of a pound will be deducted from his weight in the calculation of big fish. Any contestant disqualified from any event for any reason will forfeit their entry fee for that event.

## **Pairing of Contestants**

Two contestants will be paired as a team, (pro and amateur) to each boat by an open draw. Announcement of partners will be made at the draw, which must be attended by all contestants. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at the mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament Officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. Contestants will be allowed one no questions asked redraw per tournament which must be immediately requested when drawn. When contestants paired as a team checkout at the beginning of the tournament, they must stay together and within sight of each other and their catch throughout the day and until the weigh-in is complete.

## **Point System**

Competition is based on a shared weight format with scoring determined by the total weight of five (5) fish per team during the event. There will be two separate divisions (Pro and Amateur). Competitors will compete within their own division. Point system is based on a 100-point system with 100 points awarded to the winner in each division. Ten (10) show points will be awarded to all contestants that fish the event. Points will be awarded to the highest position determined by weight. In cases of a tie for a position, both contestants will receive the same points and if there is any money involved, both places will be added together and split 50/50. If trophies are involved, they will be decided by the flip of a coin. Tie for the big fish pot will be decided in the same manner. Any contestant disqualified from any event for any reason will forfeit all points awarded them for that event.

## **Registration**

Entry deadline will be on Thursday of the tournament week. Entries received by mail after the deadline will be subject to a \$20.00 late fee unless they have been postmarked one week in advance of the tournament. It is the responsibility of each contestant to ensure that Nor-Cal Bass has received their entry. Entries accepted after deadline will only be from paired partners and they must each pay the \$20.00 late fee. No pairing of partners will be done by Nor-Cal Bass after deadline has passed, but we will give you name and phone number of any available partners. Nor-Cal Bass will help contestants find a partner by keeping an availability list but it will be the responsibility of the anglers to contact each other to ensure entry. Priority for match-ups will be in the order of payment for the event. Contestants who have

# Nor-Cal Bass 2009 Pro-Am Rules

*Dated December 23, 2008*

not paid will not be paired nor will their name go on the availability list. Amateurs who pre-sign with a pro will be guaranteed entry into the tournament unless their sign-up partner does not show on the morning of the tournament. **Contestants are required to check-in during the official check-in time. Those not checking-in at the close of official check-in time will be assessed a 2 lb penalty and allowed 15 minutes to arrive. After 15 minutes, late contestant will be disqualified. Disqualified contestants will forfeit their entry fee.** Contestants unable to fish an event must notify Nor-Cal Bass 24 hours in advance of the tournament in order to have their entry fee moved to the next event. Refund of entry fee will be at the discretion of Nor-Cal Bass. Pro's that no-show for a tournament will forfeit their entry fee. The Am he signed up with, or was assigned with will be eliminated from the event. Am entry may be transferred to next event or any remaining event. Am's that no-show for a tournament will forfeit their entry fee. The pro he signed up with or was assigned with will have the choice to fish the event alone or have his entry fee transferred to the next event or any remaining event.

## **Official Boats**

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

## **Damages**

Damages of any nature to a contestant's boat, equipment, or tackle during a Nor-Cal Bass supervised event are the sole responsibility of that contestant.

## **Protest**

Any protest must be registered with the tournament director within 30 minutes of the completion of the weigh-in. Protest must be in writing on official protest form that is available from Nor-Cal Bass officials. Nor-Cal Bass officials will review the Protest and make a decision. All Nor-Cal Bass decisions are final and binding.

## **Tournament of Champions**

The top 10 pro and amateur finishers from each of our two divisions (Motherlode, Delta) will qualify for the Championship Tournament. The top 20 pro and am qualifiers for the championship tournament will be based on the best 4 of 5 events fished in each of their respective divisions, (10 pro and am from the Motherlode and 10 pro and am from the Delta). Anglers that fish all 5 events will keep their 10 show points in the calculation of total points. Angler of the Year will be based on total points for all 5 events with both Motherlode and Delta crowning a pro and am division champion. The Championship tournament will be a two-day event with contestants drawing separate partners each day of competition. The winners in each division will be based on their total weight for the two days of competition. Qualifying spots are based on total points for the year. In the event of a tie for the last spot, total weight for the year will be the tiebreaker. If a qualifying competitor is unable to fish the Championship Tournament, then the next position will be taken.

## **Travelers Division**

The top 10 anglers pro and amateur will qualify for the championship tournament from the travelers division. Travelers Division qualifiers must fish a minimum of 6 tournaments combined out of the two divisions. Qualifiers will be based on total points for their 6 best events. In the case of less than 10 qualifiers, wildcard spots will be selected from the two divisions to fill the 10 qualifying spots, all wildcards will be selected from all non-qualified anglers from both divisions.