

## ***Gateway Bass 'n Gals 2020 Official Tournament Rules and Regulations***

**1. PARTICIPANTS:** The Gateway Bass 'n Gals' tournaments will not be open to the public. You must be a member in good standing of the Gateway Bass 'n Gals. An invited guest of a member may fish one (1) tournament without official membership. An individual will not be allowed to fish as an invited guest without official membership if they have fished a Gateway Bass 'n Gal tournament in the past.

**2. ENTRIES:** The Tournament Director must receive the tournament registration form and entry fee by 5:00 pm on the second Friday preceding the tournament. For example, if a tournament falls on Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup>, the entry form and fee must be received by 5:00 pm on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. Entry fee for the tournament is \$25.00. Entries are subject to discretion of the tournament director. There will be a \$5.00 late fee charged if the entry fee is received after the draw date, which will go to the club.

**3. CANCELLATIONS:** Tournaments must have three (3) boats or they will be canceled. Individuals wishing to cancel will **NOT** receive a refund, unless the cancellation is done before 5pm the Friday of the draw. If a Tournament is canceled by the Tournament Director, the entry fees will be returned or credited to the next tournament the member fishes.

**4. TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** There will be no dead water period. If Tournament Director cancels a tournament, the entry fees will be returned or credited to the next tournament. A tournament will be cancelled if there are less than three (3) boats.

**5. SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches her fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be immediate reason for disqualification.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in the Gateway Bass 'n Gals tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conversation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principals may be deemed cause for disqualification. Drunkenness and/or disorderly conduct because of alcohol or drugs will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and all future Bass 'n Gals tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor that reflects unfavorably upon the Bass 'n Gals efforts to promote fishing conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

**7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait will be permitted with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. ***ALL BASS MUST BE CAUGHT LIVE AND IN A CONVENTIONAL SPORTING MANNER.***

**8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** Outboard motors shall not exceed horsepower limitations. Each must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.

**9. BOAT AND MOTOR:** For the safety of all contestants, *ALL* boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. This ignition device must be attached to the drivers' body any time the combustion engine is in operation. This rule does not apply to small engines with tiller steering.

**10. INSURANCE:** Any member or invited guest who uses their personal boat at a tournament must provide a copy of their current insurance information. Said information shall include policy number, policy period and limits of insurance, which must be at least \$300,000.00.

**11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have required Coast Guard safety equipment.

**12. BOAT INSPECTION:** Each boat must be given live well and navigation light inspections prior to the start of a tournament. Kill switches will be inspected before boats leave the dock area.

**13. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:** Non-boaters shall agree to split daily operational charges for gas, oil, etc. with the boat operator for days which they fish in their boat (including non-tournament days). Non-boaters will give the respective boater at least \$25.00 a piece, regardless of the number of occupants. In the event a boater does not have a partner, the club will pay the boater \$25.00 per day for each day the boater has no tournament partner. You are ineligible to receive the \$25.00 per day if you are a late entry to the tournament.

Boat slip and ramp fees will be divided equally among all tournament participants for tournament days only. For a one-day tournament, one night's slip rental and one day's boat ramp fees will be split between all tournament participants for all boats. Since pre-fishing days are optional, the cost for slip rental and ramp fees will not be divided amongst all tournament participants for these days and will be the responsibility of the boater

Each contestant shall retain the right to select fishing waters during ½ (1/3) of the day.

**14. TOURNAMENT PARTNER EXPECTATIONS:** After tournament partners are chosen, both partners (boater and non-boater) shall discuss individual expectations prior to the tournament. Areas of discussion may include (but is not limited to): netting fish, life jackets, docking or tying up the boat, loading and unloading the boat, cleaning the boat after the tournament is over. Since expectations are different for every boater and non-boater – both partners must be comfortable and agree upon what is expected of them. All contestants shall treat each other and their equipment with respect and courtesy. Any disputes or disagreements shall be brought to the tournament director for resolution.

**15. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within fifty (50) yards of a marina gas pump or within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the fifty (50) yard circle claimed by her to the exclusion of any other contestant. All angling must be done from the boat. Take off will be by boat number. Each boat will

draw for take-off position. If there is serious trouble with any boat and/or motor, high winds or any type of condition that is a threat to the safety of the competitors, partners (non-boater) may return by whatever means are available, as long as they stay in sight of their paired partner. The Tournament Officials will investigate and rule on the validity of any such transfer from one boat to another means of transportation. The Tournament Committee's ruling on such matters will be final.

**16. SCORING:** Only largemouth, Kentucky and/or smallmouth bass shall be counted. In regards to size and possession limit, the prevailing statute pertaining to the lake on which the tournament is being held shall bind all competitors. Where no length limit is in effect, the minimum length limit shall be ten (10) inches. Bass presented for weigh in which fail to measure legal length shall be disqualified and accrue penalties at the rate of 0.5 lb. for each bass.

Angler of the Year points: each contestant shall receive two (2) points per fish (creel points). Each contestant will receive ten (10) points for entering and fishing a tournament. Contestants that show up at the tournament but cannot fish because of illness will still be awarded ten (10) tournament points. The top five (5) participants in a tournament will receive 10 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place; 7 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place; 5 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place; 3 points for 4<sup>th</sup> place and 1 point for 5<sup>th</sup> place as well as an award.

The angler weighing in the heaviest bass, by weight, for each day of the tournament will be awarded four (4) points, in addition to the creel points for the fish. The heaviest bass for the entire tournament will be awarded an additional one (1) point, for a total of five (5) points. In the case of a one-day tournament, 5 points will be awarded for Big Bass. If at the end of the tournament year, two or more anglers have the same point total, the tie will be broken by comparing the following categories, in order, until the tie is broken: Creel Points, Attendance Points, 1<sup>st</sup> Place Points, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place Points, etc.

The entry fee of \$25.00 for fishing a club tournament will be paid back 100% to the top three (3) winners.

The payback will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – 50%                      2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 30%                      3<sup>rd</sup> Place – 20%

If only two (2) people weigh in fish, the payback is as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place – 60%                      2<sup>nd</sup> Place – 40%

If only one (1) person weighs in fish – winner takes all.

If no one weighs in fish – 100% of the payback money will be rolled over to the next tournament.

**DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH:** Each competitor is expected to do everything possible to keep her catch alive by means of an aerated containment system. No dead fish shall be released back into the lake. Dead fish must either be taken home, filleted and/or given to the tournament director. **DO NOT STRINGER YOUR FISH.** All Gateway Bass 'n Gals' tournaments promote **CATCH AND RELEASE.**

**17. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are going to be late for take-off will be allowed to fish, if they have notified the cellular phone contact person for that tournament. They must check in with a fellow Bass 'n Gal for live well inspection before they can start fishing. Competitors who do not return to the check-in point at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of two (2) ounces per minute of

her total weight of her catch that day. Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site. However, all fishing must cease at the designated time.

**18. TIES:** In the event of a tie between competitors, each contestant will receive a trophy bar and an equal amount of points.

**19. PROTESTS:** Any protest as to the conduct or score of a fellow competitor must be in writing, signed and filed with the acting Tournament Director within fifteen (15) minutes after the total weigh-in completion.

**20. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:** Tournament partners shall be chosen by means of a draw. You may draw a contestant only once per year. Exceptions to this rule are at the discretion of the Tournament Director. If it is a contestant's first Bass n Gals tournament ever and they consider themselves inexperienced, they can request to opt out of the draw and select their tournament partner for that event subject to approval by the Tournament Director. *It is the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check in before the start of the tournament.* From the beginning of each tournament, partners must stay together and within sight of one another and each other's catch throughout the day until weigh-in is complete. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by her to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such case, both contestants will be disqualified. If the draw is uneven and the non-boater decides to go as a boater after the draw, she must go alone or with an observer.

**21. BUDDY TOURNAMENTS:** The club may elect to hold Buddy Tournaments by a majority of the vote of the membership. A contestant in these tournaments may fish with another member of the club or invite a guest. An Open Tournament may also be held.

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