



2013 W.S.B.F. Qualifier Rules



Rule Changes: The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification.

Participants & Eligibility: All entries *must* be done in boater non-boater pairs. **Only anglers who are members of the Washington State Bass Federation and TBF/FLW National Federation rosters for 2013 are eligible for the qualifier. All State, National and FLW dues must be current.** The Official Entry Form must be properly completed, signed, and a check postmarked no later than March 16th 2013.

Entry Fees: Entry fees are \$300 per angler which covers the whole series of three (3) tournaments.

Late entries will be assessed an additional \$50.00 fee. All entries must be accompanied by a photocopy of the angler's current FLW and Federation membership cards. All boaters must also attach proof of valid and current insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 liability. This insurance must be in effect at the time of the event.

Option Pots: Option pots will be \$40 each day. Big Fish Option will be \$10 each day. Options pay back 100%. Option pots may be paid at the event. Big Stringer Pots will be paid 1 place for each 7 Option Pot entries. Big Fish Option will pay out to the single Big Fish.

NOTE - For Option Pots, Boaters will be competing against boaters and no-boaters against non-boaters. Only for option money, the state team will still be comprised of the top 12 finishers overall.

Off Limits Period: There will be no practice period immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. The tournament waters will be **OFF-LIMITS** to all competitors commencing **5 days prior to the first day of competition.** During the official practice, and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF

ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination if deemed necessary.

Registration: Each competitor must register in person with official tournament staff between 5:00 pm and 8:00pm Friday evening. If an angler is unable to do so during scheduled registration hours, it is the contestants responsibility to designate someone to check them in.

Morning Pre-Flight Check In: ALL contestants must check in before blast-off with tournament officials. Failure to do so will result in the missing anglers team partner being removed from competition for the day. AND failure to check in will also result in disqualification from the event and for the remainder of the year and possibly for the following years events.

Draw & Drivers Meeting: The draw will be held at the Driver's Meeting Friday evening at 8:00pm. **Partners for Sunday on Riffe Lake will be on the back of the Saturday weigh in slip.** Boaters and Non-Boaters will be paired at the drivers meeting for the following days competition. No pair may be from the same club. Each contestant must be present or have someone represent them at the drivers meetings.

Penalties:

- If an individual enters, or is entered by their Club, and does not show up for the tournament the Club will be fined \$50.
- If a Club does not update its tournament roster (*Club rosters from the first Qualifier are carried over to each Qualifier as is, unless updated*), and/or there is a no-show, the Club will be fined \$50 for each.
- If an individual leaves before the final weigh-in the that individuals Club will be fined \$100 and that individual will be banned from all further tournaments that year and the following year.
- A 1 pound per minute late penalty will be imposed for each minute an angler is late to the official weigh-in site.
- A ½ pound will be deducted from any competitor for each Dead Fish brought to the scales.
- 1 pound will be deducted from any competitor for each fish that does not measure 12 inches brought to the scales.
- Any and all fines will be waived in case of a documented emergency.

Boat Check: Boat check will be done each morning on the ramp at site. Boats must be inspected and tagged by a tournament official before blast off. Boat check will consist of live-well check, kill switch, and required coast guard equipment including fire

extinguisher, life jackets, current flares, and horn.

Horsepower Regulations: **MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER** FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL **BE 250 HORSEPOWER**. WHERE REQUIRED, EACH BOAT MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. IN NO CASE MAY THE HORSEPOWER OF YOUR OUTBOARD EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE RATING PLATE OR THE

HORSEPOWER LIMIT SET BY TBF. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to INCREASE THE HORSEPOWER OVER THE FACTORY HORSEPOWER RATING IS FORBIDDEN,

and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from WSBF Sanctioned Events.

BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: *A full discussion MUST be held between the two anglers prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations.* This schedule MUST permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified.

Boat Control: Each boater and non-boater will have full control of the boat for 50% of the tournament period. Control to be defined as where on the tournament waters the competitors are fishing. The time of day must be determined by the contestants before the start of the tournament.

Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to land bass nor be permitted in boat at any time.

Tournament Waters: shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the WSBF Federation Department. When anchors are used there are no distance or area restrictions on other anglers. Competitors are expected to extend professional courtesy and use good judgment when entering an area that is being fished by another angler's). Any water within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **OFF-LIMITS**. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director will be **OFF LIMITS** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

Safety: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

Contestants Must Remain Together in The Boat: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a Tournament Official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by Tournament Officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

Sportsmanship: Competitors in WSBF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WSBF 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 which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical-substance use and or drunkenness shall be grounds for disqualification.

Scoring: **Points shall be awarded based on the total number of tournament contestants that are signed up to fish the three qualifier tournaments. If a contestant does not weigh a legal fish, that contestant will get a score of 0. Example: If there are 70 anglers signed up first place will get 70 points, second place will get 69 and so on. If everyone weighs a fish then last place will get 1 point.**

Read and Know These Rules!