

CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

RULES: The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Quad Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation the tournament director may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate including without limitation disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the tournament director and tournament committee shall be final in all matters. It is at the director's discretion to make a change where the safety of the contestants is a concern.

TOURNAMENT: THIS WILL BE A TEAM TOURNAMENT!

Participation & Eligibility: Participation in this tournament is open to members in good standing of Quad State Bass Club. Any chapter wishing to participate is at the discretion of the Quad-State tournament officials.

Entry Fees: Entry fees shall be \$350.00 per team (Big Bass fee included). Quad State must receive entry fee and application no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the tournament. All application and entry fees received or postmarked after April 4, 2026, will be considered late. A \$20.00 per team late fee will be imposed. **CASHIER CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS or Zelle Pay ONLY will be accepted after April 4, 2026.** No application or fees will be accepted after 3:00 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026. The refund cutoff is April 17, 2026, at 3pm.

Registration: Teams must register or check-in during registration hours of 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. at location prescribed on the front of application.

Safety: A **throw cushion with 50 ft rope attached is required.** Each competitor is required to wear an U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver. PFD MUST be worn and fastened anytime the combustion engine is running. The kill switch must be attached to the driver while the combustion engine is running. All safety equipment must be on board and in operative condition. If there is serious trouble with any boat or motor, high winds or any type of condition that is a threat to the safety of the contestants and prevents the return by boat, you may return by whatever means are available if you stay in constant sight of your partner. The tournament director will rule on validity of any such transfer and the ruling on such matters will be final!

Breakdowns: Should a tournament boat become inoperable, one member of the boat's team may bring both parties fish to the weigh-in as long as he/she is picked up by another tournament boat. Both members of the second boat must verify the catch of the disabled boat's contestants and sign their weigh-in slips. Each boat's fish must remain separate while in the second boat.

Sportsmanship/Conversation: All tournament boats must remain in tournament water during tournament hours. All tournament boats must have properly adequate live well space to maintain a live limit of fish. All water patrol laws apply. Fishing is allowed anywhere on the tournament lake except in areas posted (i.e. restricted or private) or in areas considered **Off Limits** by the tournament director or within 50 yards of another contestant's boat that is anchored without his/her expressed permission. All angling must be done from the boat!

Federal, State, Local Laws: All federal, state, local laws are in effect at all times and must be obeyed! It is the contestants' responsibility to know these laws.

Alcohol Beverages: No alcohol or narcotics are allowed in boats or may be consumed during tournament until close of scales. Contestants consuming drugs or alcohol prior to polygraph test will be disqualified.

Tackle & Equipment: **NO LIVE BAITS!** Contestants may use pork strips, rinds and artificial trailers. Contestants may not use more than one (1) rod and reel combination at any time. **NO TROLLING ALLOWED.**

Pre-fish Rule: You may pre-fish up to 3 p.m. Friday, April 17, 2026. **NO GUIDE FISHING AFTER Saturday March 29, 2025**

Off Limits: Fishing waters within designated off limits of launch site is prohibited.

Start Time: Starting time shall be determined by the tournament director. All boats will leave and return by water from designated ramp. No trailering allowed except for bad weather or high winds to be determined by the tournament director before the start of the tournament.

Blastoff and Boat Check: Contestants will proceed to designated areas for boat check and blastoff as boat number is called. Contestants not in line when boat number is called will proceed to end of line. Order will be reversed on day two. **Weigh-In: YOU MUST BE CHECKED IN BY 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18 and at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 19.** Contestants, who are not in the official check-in area **ON TIME, will receive one pound per minute penalty up to ten minutes!**

Scoring: Only Largemouth, Kentucky and Smallmouth bass will be counted. Total stringer weight by pounds and ounces or 1/100 lbs. Tournament winners will be determined by the total pounds and ounces accumulated during the two days of competition. **ONLY FIVE (5) FISH PER DAY, PER BOAT WILL BE WEIGHED. Minimum Length Largemouth 14 inches, 14 inches Kentucky Bass. All teams must cull immediately after catching five (5) legal fish.** No more than five (5) fish are allowed in the live well per boat at any time! Bass that appear to be mangled, frozen, mashed or mauled **WILL NOT** be measured or weighed. The official bump board is the "Official Golden Grip Rule" on a flat surface. There will be two (2) Big Bass winners per day. Big Bass winners will be determined by the boats with the one (1) heaviest bass per boat.

Penalty: There will be a penalty of ½ lb. per dead fish weighed in and a 1 lb. penalty per fish that is **NOT** of legal length and a 1 pound per minute penalty for teams late for check in up to ten minutes. After ten minutes no weight for day. **Contestant not in line after final blastoff boat number call will receive no weight for the day.**

Protest: All protests must be submitted in writing within 30 minutes after the official weigh-in time to the tournament director. All decisions by the tournament director are final!

Breaking Ties: The tournament director in order of precedence shall use big bass, number of live bass and flip of a coin in determining tie breakers.

Lie Detector: Proper ID (Social Security & Driver's Lic.) must be presented to receive any winnings or prizes. **ALL MONEY WINNERS ARE SUBJECT TO A LIE DETECTOR TEST & WILL RECEIVE A FEDERAL FORM 1099!**

Payouts & Awards: Tournament winnings will result from eighty percent (80%) of the total entry fees. 1st Place Guaranteed winnings will be paid on 20 boats. Big Bass wins will pay two (2) places each day. In the event only one fish is weighed in, the winner will receive big fish for that day and first place honors. The remaining places and awards will go to Quad State Bass Club. Championship plaque will be awarded to the Quad State Affiliate Club with the winning team.