

## **1. SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

At least one team member must be a current PSEA member. Any PG&E employee or retiree participating must be a PSEA member.

## **2. RULES VIOLATION:**

In the event of a rule violation, PSEA may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and/or entry fees, probation, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the PSEA shall be final in all matters. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations, false reporting, or suggestions to another competitor of an unreported violation of these rules will be cause for disqualification. Rules violations must be reported to the Tournament Director on site in writing within 15 minutes after the announcement, "The scales are closed."

## **3. PENALTIES:**

Penalties may include the following:

- i.) Loss of one or more fish in question.
- ii.) Loss of catch for the day
- iii.) Disqualification from the tournament in question
- iv.) Disqualification from future PSEA events.
- v.) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director, including but not limited to monetary forfeiture and or probation.

## **4. PARTICIPATION, REGISTRATION, AND ELIGIBILITY:**

- i.) This tournament is open only to current members of PSEA who are 18 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. PSEA may at any time decline to accept tournament entries for any reason. Any candidate who, in the judgment of the PSEA, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves will not be eligible.
- ii.) Competitors may not buy or barter fishing locations from any person, including the hiring of guides, within 30 days prior to the event for use during any competition day.
- iii.) During official practice and competition days, competitors may not operate a boat unless that contestant has current documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 boating liability insurance covering the boat being used. A copy of proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitors using that boat. Random checks may be conducted at tournament registration and/or at tournament weigh-in. Any competitor not in compliance will be disqualified.

A properly completed and signed official entry form and entry fee must be received by PSEA prior to the event deadline date.

## **5. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS:**

The integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable

assets and tangible benefits for PSEA. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers, or the PSEA organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with PSEA policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of PSEA, PSEA officials, or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

## **6. PRACTICE, COMMUNICATIONS, POLYGRAPH AND OFF-LIMITS:**

### **a. Off Limits.**

I. There is no official practice or off limit days.

b. Practice/Assistance – During official practice for an event, contestants may only pre-fish alone, with a member of his/her immediate family, another contestant of the tournament, or a member of PSEA staff. Contestants may not receive assistance from anyone other than another contestant for the purpose of locating or catching fish during competition days. Buying or bartering for fishing locations is prohibited. During practice and event, competitors may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters. Contestants are not allowed to practice after the start of the tournament briefings.

c. Communications: During official competition day(s), a competitor may not use a C.B. radio, a VHF marine-band radio, a cellular phone, texting, or any other type of communication device for locating or catching fish. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat and cell phone at any time during competition. Failure to grant such access will result in immediate disqualification.

d. Hole Sitting: During Tournament hours, the practice of "hole-sitting" is strictly prohibited in all events. Competitors may not follow non-competitors' boats for the purpose of a non-competitor assisting in locating fish.

e. Polygraph: By his/her signature on the official entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph examination/truth verification method as determined by the tournament director and abide by its conclusion. The Tournament Director will have the discretion to determine the need for a polygraph/truth verification examination. We will arrange for an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establish the scope of the questions to be asked during the examination. The competitor will make himself/herself available at the location and time selected by the tournament director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination. In the event a competitor refuses to take or fails to pass the examination, he/she will be disqualified from the event in question and other disciplinary action will be taken as deemed appropriate in accordance with Rule 2 above. Anglers who are accused of a rule's

violation will be responsible for all costs incurred for taking a polygraph/truth verification method examination. Anglers who fail the examination or refuse to acknowledge payment will be disqualified.

#### **7. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:**

At least one member of a team must be a current PSEA member. Any PG&E employee or retiree participating must be a PSEA member.

#### **8. SAFETY:**

Safety is paramount, and anglers must recognize that; fishing from an open boat is inherently dangerous, and as a result, PSEA seeks to limit those hazards with reasonable safety rules.

**A valid CA Boaters ID Card will be required for anyone who operates a boat.**

- a. Safe boat conduct and speed limits must always be observed by competitors. During official practice and competition, competitors must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver and must always be worn while the combustion engine is in gear. This life preserver must also be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear. Violation of this rule shall be a reason for disqualification. "Fanny Pack" preservers are not allowed. In the event a boat is being towed, all anglers in the towed boat must wear a life preserver.
- b. Tournament officials may delay, shorten, restrict tournament waters, or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
- c. PSEA reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments. The decision to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the tournament director.
- d. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 immediately and then notify tournament officials. Competitors may leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather when danger may be imminent, at which time all fishing must cease.

#### **9. SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Anglers participating in events shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which he/she is participating. Anglers shall always conduct themselves in a manner becoming PSEA anglers, and their actions will not reflect unfavorably on its members, officers or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors. To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of bass fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct will be subject to fines, forfeiture of tournament winnings, probation, suspension from competing in events, permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.

- a. The use, possession, or consumption of illegal drugs by any competitor during official practice, tournament hours or during pre-and post-tournament activities will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future tournaments. (Exception; medication prescribed to the angler by a licensed physician). The consumption or possession of alcohol during tournament hours is prohibited. Tournament hours are defined as check-out in the morning through the weighing of fish in the afternoon.
- b. Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, especially about boating and angling near non-competitors. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote water safety, fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy will be a reason for disqualification.
- c. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the state within which the tournament is being held, and all participants are required to have the appropriate state fishing license.
- d. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, crimes involving moral turpitude, a conviction of a felony not specifically exempted by PG&E and PSEA, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification. Any disqualification, suspension from, or disciplinary action imposed by any fishing organization will be grounds for rejecting applications for participation in a tournament and/or disqualification from a tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

#### **10. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

The use of a landing net is allowed. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited. Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, except for pork strips or rinds. Only one casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. When visually fishing for bedding bass, bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to have a bass counted as a legal fish.

#### **11. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:**

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 HP. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard or the manufacturer's rating plate or the maximum horsepower set by tournament rules. In the event there is reason to suspect the horsepower is exceeded, competitor agrees to submit their boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

#### **12. BOAT AND MOTOR:**

During official practice and competition, all boats must be equipped with an operational and approved type of ignition kill switch and a single lanyard. Lanyard must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in gear, and the driver must be in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be

higher than the gunnels of the boat. Fishing while standing on the outboard motor or boat seats is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks, properly secured or strapped, and meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on tournament waters or shorelines for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft or "stick steering boats are permitted.

### **13. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:**

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. During competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit of bass. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

### **14. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:**

Prior to each day's start, each boat will be inspected and checked by a tournament official. Boaters will be given their launch numbered by text or by a card, and it is the Boater's responsibility to ensure they are check-out and check-in.

### **15. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

Tournament waters and off-limits areas shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Specifically, any water within tournament waters posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. No fishing within 50 yards of any other competitor's boat anchored or not.

### **16. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:**

Competitors must leave from and return to the official checkpoints by boat and 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 hours. Competitors must remain together in the boat and in sight of each other and each partner's catch, except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. If an emergency occurs, competitors must call 911 immediately then contact a Tournament Director, at which time all fishing will cease. If after the emergency has been resolved, tournament officials may allow competitors to resume fishing. Trailering boats during tournament hours is prohibited.

### **17. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:**

There will be only one "official point" for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. At the time of check-out, all boats must be in full conformity with all rules. At

check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers, and all fishing must cease.

#### **18. SCORING:**

Tournament winners shall be determined by the pounds-and-hundredths weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted or Redeye bass will be weighed. The limit for boaters shall be five (5) bass of the above species and varieties per day unless otherwise established by the tournament director. The official length for bass shall be established by the Tournament Director. Culling must be performed immediately upon catching a sixth fish. In the event tournament officials observe more than the allowable limit is in the boat or at weigh-in, tournament officials will cull, beginning with the largest fish. Only bass measuring the official length or more on the longest straight line shall be weighed. Short fish will accrue a penalty of one (1) pound, and that bass will not be weighed. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed only at the discretion of tournament officials. Once a competitor's catch is verified, no additional fish may be added to the catch. Placing bass on a stringer is prohibited; however, culling tags or clips may be used. In the event of a mechanical failure (boat is inoperable) anglers may have their catch counted by one of the following methods ONLY: 1) Boat is towed to the weigh-in site by another boat; 2) One partner may take both angler's catches (clearly marked) and board another competitors' boat only for a ride to weigh-in. Competitors must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. Mechanical failures do not extend established weigh-in times.

#### **19. CATCH AND RELEASE:**

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. A penalty of one .5 pounds per dead fish will be assessed and deducted from the day's total weight. In the event the anglers' big fish is dead, a penalty of one .5 pounds will be deducted from the big fish's total weight. The Tournament Director will have sole authority for assessing dead fish penalties. For fish care, we recommend the use live well treatment and Conservation Cull System with clips that do not puncture.

#### **20. LATE PENALTY:**

Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each minute. Late penalty will be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". No weight will be awarded if the net weight after penalties is zero or less. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late will lose all credit for that day's catch. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.

#### **21. TIEBREAKERS:**

Ties will be broken using the following criteria:

- a. The largest number of legal fish weighed.
- b. The largest number of legal live fish weighed.

- c. The largest fish weighed
- d. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, place monies will be split evenly.

**22. WAIVER AND RELEASE:**

As a condition of participation in each tournament, competitors must execute a waiver (Release of Liability and Assumption of Risk) and a name and likeness release.