

Competition Rules

2021

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Metro Hawg Hunters requires adherence to all competition rules by all members.

# I. Interpretation & Enforcement

The Board shall have sole responsibility for interpretation and enforcement of Club rules. Decisions of the Board are final and are not subject to appeal. Each member agrees to immediately report any discovered rule violation to the Board for review. A violation of a tournament rule may result in disqualification, loss of all (or partial) event points or weight, loss of big fish weight, or membership revocation. Members reporting a rule violation shall do so, verbally or in writing, within ½ hour of completion of final weigh-in.

**II. Eligibility**

Regular and Associate Members in good standing are eligible to compete in Club tournaments.

# III. Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship

Teams/competitors shall maintain high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation, which includes strict adherence to competition rules, state laws and fish/game regulations, abstaining from consumption of alcohol or non-prescribed controlled substances during competition hours. Violation(s) of established rules, state laws and fish/game regulations shall result in disqualification.

# IV. Off-limits, Practice, and Competition

Tournament waters shall be off-limits at sunset the night before the tournament.

All tournaments begin at 6:00 a.m. and conclude at 2:00 p.m., weather permitting. A member of the Board shall serve as Tournament Director to assist teams with boat positions, clock coordination, ease-off time and order, and verification of timely check-in. Any member late for ease-off shall not fish until s/he has contacted a member of the Board.

Ease off order will be determined by inverse Championship Points scorings. The team/competitor with the lowest score will ease off first, followed by the second lowest score, etc.

The Tournament Director will ensure all teams/competitors are within visual sight of the weigh site and have ceased fishing by the end of tournament hours.

# V. Check-in, Weigh Site and Weigh-in Scoring

There shall be just one site for check-in at the ease-off in the morning and one site for weigh-in in the afternoon. Failure to check-in prior to ease off or weigh-in may result in disqualification.

The tournament weigh site will be determined by the Board.

Scoring shall be determined by the pounds and ounces of each team’s/competitor’s catch during the tournament. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be weighed for scoring purposes. No regurgitated matter or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. Altering any bass by adding weight or trimming fins or any other means is grounds for immediate disqualification.

The daily tournament limit shall be five (5) bass unless a state regulation is less than 5, in which case the state regulation limit will prevail. The minimum length of bass shall be 12 inches unless a state regulation requires a longer minimum, in which case the state regulation will prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in failing to measure above the prescribed minimum length shall result in a penalty deduction of one pound from the team’s/competitor’s catch for each short bass.

Teams/competitors shall not have more than a daily tournament limit in their possession during tournament hours. A team/competitor possessing more than a tournament limit of 5 bass shall be assessed a penalty deduction of 2 pounds per bass over the limit.

Every effort shall be made to ensure the care and healthy release of fish after weigh-in. Teams/competitors are required to safely house and transport bass in a livewell. The livewell must have sufficient capacity to safely hold a tournament daily limit. The livewell must be capable of pumping and circulating fresh water or aeration through use of electric pumps. Team/competitors are encouraged to utilize non-puncturing culling tags.

Teams/competitors shall not cull dead fish. Any dead bass in a team’s/competitor’s possession must be included in the daily tournament limit. A dead bass presented for weigh-in shall be assessed a penalty deduction of 4 ounces per dead bass presented for weigh-in.

# VI. Ties

In the case of a tie in weight scoring during a tournament, the biggest bass will be used to determine the higher score. If a tie remains, a coin toss will determine the higher score.

In the case of a tie in points scoring at the end of the season, the biggest daily catch will be used to determine the higher score. If a tie remains, the biggest bass will be used. If a tie continues to remain, a coin toss will determine the higher score.

# VII. Permitted Fishing Methods

All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial, man-made baits/lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling (including using the combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve) is prohibited. All bass caught while sight fishing must be hooked inside the mouth.

# VIII. Permitted Fishing Locations

Teams/competitors may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas posted or designated as “off limits,” “no boats,” “keep out,” “restricted area,” etc. or within 50 yards of a team’s/competitor’s anchored boat. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a rope/anchor or shallow water anchor (e.g., Power Pole, Talon) with the trolling motor up.

All fishing must be conducted from the boat. A team/competitor may not leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Teams/competitors may leave the boat to use a restroom, retrieve a lure, or for safety purposes. Teams/competitors must leave and return to the designated check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during competition hours.

# IX. Late Penalty

Members arriving late for weigh-in, as determined by the Tournament Director’s timepiece, shall be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per minute late. After five (5) minutes, the team/competitor shall be disqualified.

A team/competitor experiencing mechanical problem(s) must report the problem(s) to the Tournament Director or any other member of the Board prior to weigh site check-in time and must stop fishing at the designated weigh site check-in time, generally 2:00 p.m. The

Tournament Director (or designee) will retrieve the broke down team’s fish and assist in getting the boat to the weigh site. Note: Lack of fuel, oil, or battery power are not considered a mechanical problem.

# X. Championship Points Scoring

Championship points will be awarded at the conclusion of each Club tournament. The team/competitor accumulating the highest points score after all tournaments have been conducted shall be declared the Champion.

Points shall be awarded based on final weight ranking as follows:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. –
2. –
3. –
4. –
5. –
6. –
7. –
8. –
 | 20 points 18 points 17 points 16 points 15 points 14 points 13 points 12 points  | 9- 11 points10- 10 points11- 9 pointsDNF- 5 pointsBIG BASS- 1 point |          |  |    |
|  |  |

A team/competitor that does not compete in an event (DNF) shall receive a flat 5 points.

Eligibility for competition in the State Tournament of Champions (TOC) shall be determined by total accumulated points during the year immediately preceding the TOC.

# XI. Boat Equipment/Requirements and Safety

All competition boats shall have not less than $300,000 of liability insurance. Boat operators may be required to produce proof of insurance to a member of the Board. Failure to maintain appropriate insurance minimums will result in disqualification and forfeiture of accumulated points.

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Teams/competitors are required to wear a fastened US Coast Guard -approved personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is running. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition cutoff switch, which must be securely attached to the operator/driver whenever the combustion engine is running.

Teams/competitors may leave the boat to seek shelter during bad weather or when danger is imminent.

All boats must be propeller driven and a minimum of sixteen (16) feet in length. Each boat is required to have all US Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a livewell satisfying the provisions outlined in Article V.

All boats shall have a “Maximum Capacities” (or similarly titled) placard affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. There are no minimum or maximum horse power requirements for competition, except no boat shall exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the “Maximum Capacities” placard.

# XII. Tournament Jersey

Teams/competitors, excluding one-time substitutes, are required to wear the Club’s current tournament jersey during ease off, weigh-in, and photographs to ensure display of sponsorship logos.

## XIII. Substitutions

If a Club member is unable to fish a tournament, a substitute angler may compete in the Club member’s absence. Each team is only allowed one substitute per fishing year. If member is absent more than one tournament, the other teammate must fish solo, unless special circumstances arise and it’s approved by the 3 member board (President, Secretary, Tournament Director). Substitute competitors are allowed for The Club TOC, provided the team has not used a substitute competitor in any prior competition.

## XIIV. Number of Tournaments

The club fishes five (5) tournaments each season not including the Club TOC which invites the top 5 teams to fish in a separate tournament deemed “Tournament of Champions”. All five tournaments count toward your year-end weight/point total.