

IOWA PREMIER BASS ELITE RULES

- RULE CHANGES:** These rules shall remain in effect and unchanged throughout the current tournament year unless specifically superseded by state or local law. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director.
- PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY:** Only registered current paid and invited participants of the Iowa Premier Bass Series are eligible to fish in any IPB event. At least one team member must be 18 years of age or older to participate, however, if both members of a team are under the age of eighteen, then they must present written permission from a parent or legal guardian. IPB reserves the right to deny participation to anyone at any time.
- TEAMS/SUBSTITUTES:** Teams and subs are to be named at time of registration. A minimum \$250 deposit for new teams is preferred with a completed registration form to secure a roster spot. Deposits for previous elite teams is \$150. Full payment is due no later than March 25th, prior to the first tournament fished, or unless approved by director. A team will consist of 1 or 2 anglers and if desired paid for substitute(s). The fee for a substitute is \$100 each. Substitutes must be named at time of registration. Substitutes are only allowed for teams registered for all tournaments prior to the beginning of the season. A substitute is to be used ONLY in situations where an original team member is unable to fish a tournament due to unforeseen or unavoidable circumstances. Substitutes are not meant to be used to increase odds of winning. The use of substitutions MUST be discussed with the director prior to the tournament. The director has discretion over all uses of substitute anglers and the use of any substitutes must be approved in advance.
- NO SHOW/ BUY IN:** Teams unable to participate in an event, will not be refunded monies for the event or substitutes due to the structure of the series. All teams buy into the series upon registration. This does not include championships or other special events. No show/Buy in monies will be applied to tournament and series payouts.
- LIABILITY INSURANCE:** All participants must carry a minimum of \$100,000 of liability insurance on any boat they might use during an IPB Tournament Event. Failure to do so or reporting of false information will result in disqualification. Anglers must provide proof of insurance upon request.
- SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed always while engaged in IPB sanctioned events and all boats must have a full complement of safety gear as required by USCG regulation. Any time the internal combustion motor is on both participants must have a USCG approved PFD on and securely fastened. Operators must have the kill switch armed with lanyard firmly secured to the operator. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors. The decision to shorten or cancel tournament days will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- ALCOHOL/DRUGS:** Participants will refrain from the use of alcohol and or drugs during the course of the tournament event. Participants that are discovered to be using or under the influence of alcohol or drugs during an event will be immediately disqualified. This prohibition does not extend to the use of prescribed medications for ongoing medical issues.

- 8. BOATS AND MOTORS:** Motors may not exceed the horsepower rating on the BIA plate for those boats meeting BIA standards, nor any manufacturer's plate affixed in lieu of BIA ratings. All boats used in NBAA events must be equipped with a functioning kill switch as well as aerated live wells capable of sustaining a full tournament limit during the course of the event. Participants who operate a boat & motor with "tiller steering" shall also have a kill switch lanyard when applicable.
- 9. SPORTSMANSHIP, CONDUCT AND COMMUNICATIONS:** Participants in IPB events are expected to follow the highest standards of courtesy, safety, angling etiquette and a strict adherence to game and fish laws. If an angler or team is found to have not conducted themselves accordingly, disqualification from the event and IPB may result. Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. Any angler who violates any of these provisions may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in IPB events, permanent ban from competition or any combination deemed appropriate by IPB. The favorable public reputation of IPB as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for IPB. It is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the public, media or via social media of any type that disparage the integrity of tournaments, officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or IPB. Public comments that an angler should reasonably know will harm the reputation of IPB, officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming of an IPB angler and will result in suspension. Any concerns with IPB events should be discussed with the IPB director.
- 10. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner using one rod which may not exceed eight (8) foot in length (measured butt to tip). Intentionally snagging fish is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used, live and or prepared bait is not allowed, the only exception being "pork rinds" or its equivalent. Trolling with the aid of the internal combustion or electric trolling motor is not permitted. Communication devices such as cell phones, marine radios or CB's may only be used for emergency purposes or contacting the director.
- 11. POLYGRAPH:** Anyone participating in an IPB tournament will be subject to a polygraph exam and or voice stress analysis if requested by the tournament officials. Examiner's decision must be accepted without appeal. Entrants understand that the failure of such test or refusal to take the test will disqualify them from the tournament. IPB has retained the services of Gratias Investigations for Polygraph testing and legal services of Kozlowski Law for legal matters. If a polygraph test is failed by an angler that angler and team will be responsible for all costs.
- 12. PRE-FISHING/OFF LIMITS:** Pre-fishing for two (2) day events will be allowed until 5pm the day before the event begins and after immediately after day 1 weigh in. Placing fish in live wells and later releasing is strictly prohibited during all pre-fishing. Any team found breaking these rules will be disqualified from the event
- 13. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** All angling activities must be done from a previously inspected boat. No fishing will be allowed within 50-yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or tied, with its trolling motor stowed out of the water, without the anchored boats permission. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. IPB strongly encourages a 25 yard courtesy limit at all times. Competitors should communicate their intent if wishing to pass or

fish near a non-anchored competitor and respect the other competitors fishing area. Absolutely no hole-setting or holding of a fishing spot will be tolerated. Competitors may not exit their boat in order to facilitate access to "other" waters. Tournament directors will determine, and announce, all off-limit areas.

14. **NO-WAKE:** Boats will not pass another's competitors boat in any no-wake zones at any time during tournament hours except for boats that may be changing course within the zone, boats which have stopped or are engaged in fishing activities
15. **IPB TAKE OFF:** Take off position for IPB tournaments will be determined by electronic random draw the day prior to the tournament or at directors discretion.
16. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** Teams must depart and return from a specified point by boat unless otherwise noted. In case of an emergency (I.E. Motor Failed) a team may bring their fish to weigh in a competitor's boat. At least one member from each team must be present when checking in. All fishing must cease upon removing fish from the original boat and checking in, disqualification will result for fishing after.
17. **LATE PENALTY:** Teams who are not at the weigh-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute from their total weight. Any team more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.
18. **SCORING:** Only largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit of 5 fish. All 5 fish must measure a minimum of 15 inches*, mouth closed, tail compressed (*local/state limit applies). Teams presenting more than a tournament limit shall be disqualified. Dead fish presented for weight will receive a .25 pound deduction from total weight. If it's the big bass, then the penalty shall be assessed against that fish. Dead fish may not be culled. Tournament standings will be determined by total weight of all competition days. Only largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be scored. Teams presenting fish for weight which are subsequently determined to be "short" shall be penalized the weight of the short fish.
19. **BIG BASS:** Competitors may choose only one bass out of their bag as an entry into the "big bass side pot/s".
20. **TIES:** In the event of a tie at the event, big bass will be the deciding factor. In cases of a big bass tie, then the money will be split. In a season with a points race, In the event that big bass and total weight are the same for two or more teams then both (all) tied teams shall be awarded the same amount points. At the end of the season if there is a tie between two or more teams in equal points, then overall weight of the teams will be the deciding factor.
21. **POINTS RACE:** The season will consist of 4 "points" qualifying events. Points will be awarded for all tournaments. Only teams competing in all events qualify for points race. A winning team an event will earn 10 points more than the number of teams participating. With a roster of 25 teams, first place would win 35 points, second place 34 points and so on to the last team to weigh fish. Teams not weighing fish will receive 10 points less the last team to weigh fish. Team of the year will be the team with the most points after all 6 tournaments.

- 22. FISH RELEASE:** All fish caught and weighed in at an IPB event must be released at the official weigh in location. Failing to release your fish at the official release location will result in an automatic disqualification.
- 23. PROTESTS/DISQUALIFICATION:** Directors must be notified of all protest before close of scales. An official written protest with \$100 fee must be made with a tournament official within 10 minutes of completion of daily weigh-in. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. A “protest committee” consisting of three (3) fellow anglers, randomly drawn by the tournament director, will address all protests. Teams disqualified from individual events will still receive show-up points.
- 24. PRO/GUIDE EXCLUSIONS:** Participants, who have fished two or more events, in the preceding 12 month period, with an entry fee in excess of \$4,499.00 per event (does not apply to amateur participants in pro/am events) will not be eligible to participate in any IPB event with a guaranteed 1st Place prize in excess of \$2,500.00. Individuals’ serving as licensed guides, or are paid for guiding on tournament waters within the pre-eding 365-day period are not eligible to participate in events held on those waters for tournaments with a guaranteed 1st Place prize of \$1,000.00 or more.