

Upper Chesapeake Bay Tournament Rules

It will be a 5 fish Limit 12" size limit per boat

Tournament Official Rules

The following rules shall apply to all **IKE Foundation** tournaments! Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director or his designee shall be final in all matters. Rules violations must be reported to the Tournament Director on site within 15 minutes after the last fish is weighed. There will be at the official weigh in location a form for filing a protest available for any angler wishing to do so.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- (i) This tournament is open only to registered participants of the Ike Foundation tournament
- (ii) DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF THE TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITORS USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000.00 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED.
- (iii) A properly completed and signed official entry form and the entry fee must be received by the Ike Foundation on or before the entry fee deadline date. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

2. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION: During regular season events, the Tournament director will at each event make it known what specific areas are considered to be off limits. There shall be no off limits period before a trail or Team event . The days of the Team event shall be Friday and Saturday.

- (i) During the tournament and any official practice days, 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 anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period including, but not limited to, 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 they are a competitor in the tournament.
- (iii) No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- (iv) During the official competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, competitors may listen to the marine-band weather information.
- (v) During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations to contact Tournament Director. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes, etc., however, using smart phones during competition to log

into daily tournament blogs is not permitted. Cell phone are not to be use for texting. Competitors are not allowed to call another competitor.

(vi) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

(vii) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that he or she violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. See above.

3. SAFETY:

(i) Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn at all times the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

(ii) Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten 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.

(iii) Ike Foundation reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed, shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the tournament director. In the event a Boater is summonsed by either the State Police or Coast guard agents on the water, that person shall be disqualified from the event The non-boater will not.

(iv) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS. COMPETITORS. ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors 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.

(i) 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 Ike Foundation tournaments. 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 in the weigh-in area.

(ii) 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.

(iii) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish.

(iii) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish.

(iv) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, 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 other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing

organization shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a Ike Foundation tournament and/or for disqualification from the event.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: 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, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have his or her catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked.

7. 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. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by The Ike Foundation. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. 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. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from tournament. Posted speed limits must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all competitors, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH AN APPROVED TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing 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. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump and LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH COMPETITORS USING THE BOAT. NJBN recommends live-wells be maintained at full level and aerators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. Boaters must make a back seat available for non-boaters each competition day.

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Prior to each day's start, each boat MUST be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Each day, each boat will be given a number, which MUST remain with the boat until turned in each day at the check-in. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and turned in to the officials at each check-in.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the NJBN Tournament Director. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies as well as 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. All angling must be done from the [boat.No](#) fishing is permitted within twenty five (25) yards of any other contestant that is anchored (power pole or conventional anchor) that has there trolling motor up.

12. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: During the competition days, competitors 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. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to either A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT DESIGNATED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. 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 scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or 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 for the competitors 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 as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the Tournament Briefing. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 10 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, and numbers must be turned in at check-in. Each Tournament may be different and you will be advised of any change the morning of the event.

15. SCORING: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth bass will be weighed. All contestants shall request that their big fish be weighed in the event there is a tie in weight. The limit for boaters shall be a combination of 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. The limit for non-boaters shall be a combination of 5 of the above species and varieties per day. At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit.

Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in his possession more than the above-described limits, Tournament officials shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with the largest bass. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass if the minimum length is 12" and 2 lbs for each fish with a 15" limit, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be on stringer at any time during the tournament.

16. CATCH AND RELEASE: For each legal, dead bass, presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following, to be deducted from their daily score: 1 dead fish – .25 lb., 2 dead fish – .75 lb, 3 dead fish – 1.5 lb, 4 dead fish – 2.5 lb, 5 dead fish – 3.75 lb. The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

17. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area (designated the morning of the event) as described in Rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is the angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

18. Final Rules

(i) First Place Boater Division: Heaviest weight of legal fished weighed • official weight of largest fish (if largest fish was weighed) • the number of fish weighed • by means of the tournament director

(ii) First Place Non Boater Division: Heaviest weight of legal fished weighed • official weight of largest fish (if largest fish was weighed) • the number of fish weighed • by means of the tournament director

(iii) Ties for positions in both divisions shall be resolved by means of the sequence set forth from the above and enacted by the by tournament officials

(v) If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, an absolute tie shall be the outcome and points and prizes awarded accordingly. Both shall receive equal highest points and divide any monies the same. If the decision involves a money place and a non money place, the prize is equally split from that.

23. WAIVER AND RELEASE: As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, complete application, and a name and likeness release.

24. PROTEST PROCEDURES: Anyone who feels that he/she has witnessed an infraction of any tournament rule and any rider that feels his fishing opportunity has been compromised

may submit protest. There will be at the official weigh in location a form for filing a protest available for any angler wishing to do so. The protest will then comply with the following outline for action:

1...The person wishing to make protest should immediately notify the Tournament Director upon arrival at weigh-in. The protest must be submitted within 15 minutes of the official end of the tournament weigh-in procedure.

2...The Tournament Director will then make a determination of the validity of the protest.

3...All such valid protest shall then be considered. The Tournament Director after consultation with the Rules Committee shall determine possible action. If no conclusion can be made at that time, the protested angler shall not receive monies if this is the case until the matter is resolved.

4...The use of a polygraph test will be made available and put to use if deemed necessary. The protester shall be responsible for the cost of the test if the result of the tested person is negative.

5...THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR SHALL BE FINAL IN ALL MATTERS.