

Upper Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Tournament Rules

Date: June 6, 2026

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 Pro-Am 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 Pro-Am event. The day of the Pro-Am shall be June 6, 2026. (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. (ii) 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 phones are not to be used 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.

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.
4. 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. (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.

5. **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.
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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 reco

The rules have been updated to reflect the Pro-Am date of June 6, 2026.

You said:

word document

ChatGPT said:

I can create a Word document with the updated Upper Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Tournament Rules for June 6, 2026.

Upper Chesapeake Proam Rules

Upper Chesapeake Bay Pro-Am Tournament Rules – June 6, 2026

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, 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 a form for filing a protest at the official weigh-in location 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 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 the 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 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, 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 marine-band weather information. (v) Cell phones may only be used for emergency situations or to call lockmasters for locking purposes. Competitors may not use cell phones for locating fish or contacting other competitors. (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, suggestions to another competitor to violate rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.

3. SAFETY: (i) Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times. Coast Guard-approved life vests must be worn when the combustion engine is operating. (ii) Tournament officials may delay, shorten, or cancel an official day due to bad weather or other safety concerns. (iii) Ike Foundation reserves the right to impose boat speed limits. (iv) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911 FIRST, THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.
4. SPORTSMANSHIP: (i) No alcohol or drugs are allowed during official practice, competition, or in the weigh-in area. (ii) Courtesy must be practiced at all times. (iii) Competitors must follow all prevailing state regulations. (iv) Conviction of a felony or other misconduct may result in disqualification.
5. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Artificial lures only (except pork strips or rinds). Only one rod may be used at a time.
6. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: Maximum 250 HP.
7. BOAT AND MOTOR: Must have an operable ignition kill switch and comply with safety regulations.
8. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Functional bilge pump and properly aerated livewell space for limit catch.
9. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat will receive a number to display during check-in.
10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Established by Tournament Director. Off-limits areas announced at Tournament Briefing.
11. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Only leave boat in emergencies.
12. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: One official check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon.

13. SCORING: 5 fish limit per boat, only Largemouth and Smallmouth bass weighed. Minimum length 12". Bass failing to meet the length limit are penalized 1 lb each.

A penalty of at least 0.5 pounds (eight ounces) must be imposed on a participant for each dead fish.

16. CATCH AND RELEASE: For each legal dead bass, penalties apply: 1 dead fish – 0.25 lb, 2 dead fish – 0.75 lb, 3 dead fish – 1.5 lb, 4 dead fish – 2.5 lb, 5 dead fish – 3.75 lb.

17. LATE PENALTY: One pound per minute late. Over 15 minutes late = no credit for the day's catch.

18. FINAL RULES: (i) First Place Boater Division determined by weight and number of fish. (ii) First Place Non-Boater Division determined similarly. (iii) Ties resolved by weight, number of fish, or absolute tie.

19. WAIVER AND RELEASE: Required for all participants.

20. PROTEST PROCEDURES: Must notify Tournament Director within 15 minutes of weigh-in. Polygraph may be used at protester's expense if negative.

Tournament Winner must fill out a W-9 form to receive prizes.