



CAL SAG BASS ANGLERS RULES & PROCEDURES



SPORTSMANSHIP

Besides Safety, Sportsmanship is the absolute most important rule for any CAL SAG, BIG LAKE, or BRAIDWOOD OPEN ANGLER. This is a simple rule, treat everyone competing as you would want to be treated. If an angler is determined to not be using good sportsmanship and is proven to have done something intentionally against what would be deemed common decency during an event, the tournament committee will vote on whether to disqualify and possibly ban the angler.

If an angler is going down a shoreline Anglers should try not to pull in front of those anglers if at all possible. Buzzing a fishing angler is prohibited, use common courtesy, and do not run your boat at high speed within 50 feet of another angler if at all possible. You cannot fish within 50 yards of an angler who is anchored (Power Poles and Talons are anchors). If an angler anchors after an angler is within the 50 yard radius they must not get closer.

If an angler is stranded or needs help you are encouraged to help that angler. If an angler is broke down or experiencing mechanical issues, we want you to help and tow a competitor into the dock. Please carefully read our rules in the event of a breakdown under "Safety" and "Angler Leaving their Boat".

SAFETY

THE CAL SAG BASS ANGLERS ORGANIZATION IS NOT LIABLE or RESPONSIBLE FOR BODILY INJURY OR HARM OF ANY ANGLER OR PARTY UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES. CAL SAG AND BIG LAKE BASS IS ALSO NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED TO ONE OF ITS REGISTERED ANGLERS DURING OR NOT DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS. WE DO CARRY INSURANCE TO PROTECT ITS MEMBERS BUT SHALL NOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR INJURY OR HARM CAUSED BY ANYONE AT ANY TIME.

Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times and all no wake rules that are communicated by the Tournament Director. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver whenever the combustion engine is running. All boats must be equipped with an ignition kill switch. A lanyard is to be attached to the boat kill switch and operator any time the combustion engine is running. Each Angler will be given one warning for not wearing their life jacket before being disqualified. All official warnings will be kept in record during the year by the President, and second violation will result in a disqualification the day of the second violation. The Cal Sag Bass Anglers is recognizing multiple no wake zones (see maps please) there are other areas of no wake in the many miles of river that we are not providing mapping for, these should be followed if posted. Any angler deemed to be operating unsafe by the tournament committee can be disqualified at any point during any tournament. Please

operate safely and be alert with all of the other boaters and barges on the rivers. At no time should competing anglers pass another boat (Traveling/moving) unless verbal consent/communication is exchanged.

*******In the event an Angler's boat breaks down: they must notify the President one hour to the start of the check-in time communicated by the Tournament Director. Another competing angler MAY tow the individual experiencing mechanical issues. The Angler towing the other with mechanical issues may have one hour after the check in time to weigh their fish. AT NO TIME, no angler broke down; may put their fish in a competitor's live well. If an angler is towed in by BOAT US, Coast Guard, or a fellow competing angler; they MAY board the towing vessel for Personal safety purposes.**

The competing angler whose boat is inoperable MUST check in on time with their Boat (always staying in water) in order to weigh their eligible fish, or be penalized for their late arrival.*****

CELL PHONE USAGE

No Angler may utilize their cell phone to contact a fellow angler for competitive advantages, unless for emergency purposes. The angler experiencing emergency situations relating to safety should communicate all current events to the President immediately.

ANGLER LEAVING THEIR BOAT

No angler may leave their boat, unless in the event of staying aboard would result in personal injury or destruction of property. In the event an angler is thrown or slips into water from their boat does not disqualify the angler from an event. The Angler MUST maintain a portion of their body inside the gunnel of their boat when actively fishing. An angler may NOT leave their boat to retrieve a lure or land a fish. If an angler is found to be leaving their boat within their own will or anything fishing related that allows a competitive edge will result in an immediate disqualification. If an angler needs to leave their boat for medical or safety related reasons, the angler must contact the President immediately to explain the nature of the situation.

FISHING GEAR AND TACKLE

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or once living bait can be used at any point during a tournament for catching fish. Commercially prepared attractants, sprays and dips are allowed. Only one

rod can be used at a time, 10 feet is the maximum length of any one pole. Any competitor found to possess restricted bait, rod longer than 10 feet or any apparatus outside of what would be considered bass fishing tackle to catch fish will be disqualified.

Alabama/Umbrella Rig

IDNR regulations states, on any “NON 2 pole and line” lakes, the Alabama Rig up to 5 hooks is legal. Lake Michigan, Chicago River, Lake Calumet and River are all “NON 2 Pole and line lakes”. Braidwood like is defined as a “2 Pole and line” lake. Illinois DNR regulations state that the Alabama rig may only have 2 hooks on this body of water.

The use of jerkbaits or topwater walking style baits/rigs may not exceed 3 treble hooks. Snagging hooks are banned.

HORSEPOWER AND BOATING REQUIREMENTS

There is no minimum horsepower restrictions, however the horsepower cannot not exceed the maximum B.I.A. (Badged) requirement for the watercraft. The boat should also be in good working seaworthy safe condition. The boat must have a aerated working running livewell of sufficient size to keep 5 or more bass alive for a period of 9 hours or more. The boat must be at least 14 feet in length and meet the coast guard requirements (See Indiana & Illinois Boating Safety Requirements) Please read “Penalties Summarized” carefully as Citation infractions listed and described will result a disqualification.

CANCELLTION OF EVENTS DUE TO UNSAFE CONDITIONS/INCLEMENT WEATHER

Any cancellations for BLBA scheduled events due to unsafe conditions will be determined 24 hours in advance by the Tournament Committee. NOAA wave reports will be used by the BLBA Tournament Committee as the determining factor. In the event a “Small Craft Advisory” is issued for the day, the BLBA event will be cancelled. The best effort will be made to reschedule the next calendar day. All updates will be communicated to participating anglers with adequate notice.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to postpone the start time of ANY scheduled event due to unsafe/inclement weather conditions.

OFF LIMITS AREAS AND LOCATIONS

Off Limits areas are designated on the maps and covered in depth at pretournament meeting by the Tournament Director. There is no fishing within 400 feet of the openings of any lock. You may not fish in the Obrien Lock and no angler should lock through into lake Michigan or go through the lock going

towards Joliet. Lake Michigan is off limits under all circumstances for CSBA Division (Please see CSBA RULES form for clarification). Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except those areas designated off limits on the day of the tournament or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. Competitors may not have any location reserved or saved by either another competitor or non-competitor during the event. All angling must be done from the boat.

All Tournament Directors will distinctly define and describe what each division's Off-Limits areas are in the pre-tournament meeting.

** Off Limits Areas are described, and maps provided in each Division Specific/OPENS "Rules Form" provided on our website, as well as at every Cal Sag Bass Angler sanctioned Event. Every Angler will sign off on their complete and full understanding of our organization's Rules. **

LIVEWELL CHECKS

Livewell checks will be conducted by *any* of the following individuals at a scheduled event: President, Weigh Master, Tournament Director, or Co-Director(s) prior to Blast off. When logistical procedures permit, live well checks will be conducted PRIOR to an angler entering their boat in the water and registering for the event. The CSBA Division will outline Livewell check procedures prior to an event via website and social media platforms.

BOAT DRAW/BLAST OFF

Starting positions will be drawn at the mandatory pre-tournament meeting at that event. At that point **exact instructions will be administered.**

The Last Boat Number Drawn during the Pre-Tournament Meeting will be the Call Boat. Within the CSBA Division, 3 boat #s drawn will be assigned Release Boats. Please *carefully read procedures* on CSBA RULES FORM for this information. All boats will be called out in numerical order, as outlined by the Tournament Director.

When each number is announced by the Call Boat, the angler **MUST drive his boat past the Call Boat breaking the plane of their bow, no matter what nautical direction the angler chooses to navigate in to order begin their tournament fishing day.** In the event, an angler does not follow this procedure discussed in pre-tournament meeting; a verbal warning will be issued. A Second infraction will result in an automatic disqualification for that day. All Anglers are to STAY In numerical order prior to blast off.

When operating your boat during blast off procedures set forth by the Tournament Director, the Angler is to operate their boat STAYING in the prop-wash area, DIRECTLY BEHIND the boat number in front of them! This means not running next to or in front of. A numerical "Parade Sequence" should be maintained.

CHECK IN AREA

The Check in area will always be made known in the morning and this will be covered in the pre-tournament meeting by the Tournament Director. There will be a 1 lb per minute penalty for those who show up late. If your penalty exceeds the amount legal weight you bring in you will be given 15 Points. Any angler greater than 15 minutes late to check-in is disqualified (with 0 AOY points awarded).

A Competing Angler is **NOT** deemed “late” until the first minute of the **hour or half hour begins**. (*Example:* 3 p.m. is announced Check-In Time. Penalties do NOT begin until **3:01:00** p.m. or *Example* 3:30 p.m. is announced Check-in Time, penalties do NOT begin until **3:31:00** via Smartphone Satellite controlled Clock.)

HOW PLACES ARE DETERMINED

Tournament winners and all places for CSBA will be determined by the total weight of a maximum of a 5 fish limit of bass over 12 inches determined by the pound and fraction of a pound of each angler’s catch during the day. Tournament winners and all places for BLBA will be determined by the total weight of a maximum of a 3 fish limit of bass over 14 inches determined by the pound and fraction of a pound of each angler's catch during the day. Tournament winner and all places for Braidwood OPENS will be determined by the total weight of a maximum of a 3 fish limit of bass over 15 inches determined by the pound and fraction of a pound of each angler’s catch during the day.

Only largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be weighed. All contestants are bound by the prevailing rules and regulations of the State of Illinois & Indiana. Fish snagged intentionally or reported to be intentionally snagged off of a spawning bed while sight fishing shall not be counted.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR – POINTS SYSTEM

Tournament Winners are awarded 60 points, Second place at 58. Each descending place finisher is awarded one point lower in succession. In the event an angler does not come in with any fish for that day, they are awarded 15 points. Any disqualifications result in 0 points. Angler of the Year Points are awarded to anglers for the events in which the division they are competing solely. Angler of the Year is determined by the best 5 Events Fished (accumulative points total), including its Division’s Open. Braidwood OPENS do not conduct an AOY points system or award an Angler of the Year.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Participation is open to anglers of either sex who are members of CAL SAG & BIG LAKE BASS ANGLERS. Participants must be eighteen (18) years of age or older to fish in a tournament. Each angler must sign off that they have received and understand the rules and the waiver before each tournament.

PRE TOURNEY PRACTICE – OFF LIMITS DURATION

In the event we have a re-scheduled date for an event or a date conflict arises where another Team Circuit has rescheduled one of their events during our OFF LIMITS time on tournament waters; we will allow our organization's members to compete in that circuit's tournament. We will always make best efforts to accommodate our organizations members and their participation with other local circuits.

CSBA

Tournament waters are off limit at dark **2 days** leading into an event. For example, if we have our scheduled tournament on a Saturday, no angler competing in the event will be able to practice starting Wednesday at dark. There will be a period of **2 days** off limits before a scheduled event. A competing angler may not be on tournament waters in any boat. The angler may not shore fish tournament waters during Off Limits Time. We regularly announce on our Facebook page off limit times leading into an event.

BLBA

Tournament waters are off limit at dark **1 Day** leading into an event. For example, if we have our scheduled tournament on a Saturday, no angler competing in the event will be able to practice starting Thursday at dark. There will be a period of **1 day** of off limits before a scheduled event. A competing angler may not be on tournament waters in any boat. The angler may not shore fish tournament waters during Off Limits Time. We regularly announce on our Facebook page off limit times leading into an event.

BRAIDWOOD OPENS

No off limit of tournament waters.

NO WAKE ZONES

There are maps pointing out major no wake areas, all no wake areas are no passing zones lastly no wake zones posted and enforced should be followed when running the rest of the river. The designated no wake zones by the maps must be followed. If you are caught running one of the major no wake zones designated by one of the maps you will receive one warning, after that you will be disqualified. If issued a citation by a DNR Officer or US Coast Guard in a no wake zone, the angler is automatically disqualified. Competing Anglers should not pass one another in a designated no wake area unless communication or consent is exchanged.

PENALTIES SUMMARIZED

- ***Each** Dead Fish will result in a **½ pound penalty** to overall weight. A competing angler should make every effort for best Fish Care practices when competing in any Cal Sag Bass Angler sanctioned event.
- *An angler may NOT weigh a Dead Fish as their 'Big Bass'.
- *Late Arrival to Check-In, 1 lb per minute penalty. After a maximum 15 Minutes late to Check In, the angler is disqualified. A Competing Angler is **NOT** deemed "late" until the first minute of the **hour or half hour begins**. (Example: 3 p.m. is announced Check-In Time. Penalties do NOT begin until **3:01:00** p.m. or Example 3:30 p.m. is announced Check-in Time, penalties do NOT begin until **3:31:00** via Smartphone Satellite controlled Clock.
- *Short Fish Penalty will be cause you to throw that fish out and the largest fish as well.
- *Culling Fish Penalty, if an angler is caught running his boat or at the weigh in with more than 5 fish (Cal Sag) or 3 fish (Big Lake/Braidwood OPENS) in the live well they will be disqualified
- *Culling Dead Fish is an automatic disqualification.
- *Running Designated no wake areas on the Cal Sag Bass Maps one time is a warning a second time in the season will result in a disqualification of that tournament. DNR citation is automatic disqualification.
- *Running the gas motor during tournament hours without a life jacket on will result in a warning the first time and disqualification the second time in a single season for that division.
- *Fishing in any off limit times or off limit areas/locations will result in an automatic disqualification.

No Warnings!

***DNR/Coast Guard Citations that will result in an automatic Disqualification: A competing angler who has been issued a citation for the following must notify the President.**

No Wake Zones – Must be a Citation within our announced/posted areas on Rules Maps.

A citation for any of the following: No Fishing License, Proper Battery Terminal Covers, Fire Extinguisher (not expired), US Coast Guard Approved Flares (not expired), Proper Life Preserver (per State Law/USCG), Legal Boat License/Registration and Insurance.

*Any other cheating or violation of the rules will be handled by the President, Tournament Director and co-directors. Each Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify or remove an angler from the CSBA, BLBA or Braidwood OPENS for a violation of Sportsmanship or any other rule.

***A running log of angler violations or rules infractions will be kept on record/file for each season by the President.** In the event of multiple infractions, we reserve the right to disqualify/remove the angler from our organization for that season. The Cal Sag Bass Anglers is not subject to refund the individual of their membership or entry fee.

RIGHTS OF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

(President, Tournament Director, Co-Directors & Weigh Master)

The Tournament Committee reserves the right for rules interpretations and rulings thereof. Furthermore, the tournament committee reserves the right to change dates or sites of any given tournament. Any protest must be in writing, signed by the protester, and filed within ten minutes after weigh-in.

It is in the best interest of the angler filing a protest or dispute, he/she should be able to provide concrete evidence (Picture or Video) for claimed protest/dispute. In a possible group setting, witnesses will be able to affirm protest/dispute.

Any and all rulings by the Tournament Committee shall be final. Any and all contestants are subject to a polygraph test, at the request of the Tournament Committee. If a contestant fails the polygraph under any circumstances, they will forfeit the prize earned and will be banned for life from Cal Sag Bass Anglers future events. Any cheating will be dealt with seriously and prosecuted if needed.