

2009 Hog Hunters Rules

1. **RULES** - The rules will be interpreted by the Tournament Officials and all decisions are final. (Maximum field size to be determined as needed)
2. **ELIGIBILITY** - At least one member of the team must be 18 years or older.
3. **TEAMS** - Teams consist of members only. Membership fees are \$20 per member. Only 2 team members are allowed to fish one event. Each member must compete in 5 regular season event for Championship eligibility. Subs will be required to pay a one time \$25.00 substitution membership fee and only two subs per team are allowed.
4. **ENTRY FEES** - (Cash Only) For regular season events \$50.00 (inclusive of a \$10.00 big bass entry fee) per boat **must** be received on or before the Tuesday / Wednesday evening meeting date. Late entries must pay a \$10.00 late charge that will go toward the championship. Entry Fees will not be accepted at the ramp on the day of the tournament (No Jack-Potters Allowed). Contact a club officer if neither partner can make the meeting and arrange to pay your entry fee. **No refunds or rollovers for "No Shows." (100% Payback; 20% goes towards Championship fund).** Entry fees for the season ending two-day championship will be \$100.00.
5. **BIG BASS** - 70% of the big bass pot will be paid to the boat with the largest bass, 30% of the big bass pot will be paid to the boat with the 2nd largest bass. Big bass will only be weighed upon request to the tournament director. A dead fish for big bass will have a 1.00 pound deduction for that fish.
6. **MEETINGS** - Meetings will be held on the Wednesday evening before each tournament. The meetings will be at 7:00pm. at Bass Pro Shops meeting room (upstairs).
7. **WEIGH IN TRAILER** - The weigh in trailer will be pulled to a tournament event if at least 25 teams have paid to fish that even
8. **DEPARTURE & WEIGH IN** - Take off time will be determined at the Tuesday / Wednesday meeting prior to each tournament. Safe daylight for Take-Off will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director / President. If necessary Take Off will be delayed by the Tournament Director / President until it is safe. Unless specified otherwise during the pre-tournament meeting Weigh-in will be at 3:00 PM for day tournaments. All teams must return to the ramp for Weigh-in on or before the end of the tournament deadline. A late penalty of 1.00 pound per minute will be issued for tardiness up to 10 minutes, then disqualification (No excuses). Anyone checking in after 10 minutes will receive zero weight points.
9. **SCORING** - 5 Fish limit per team. Length limit per lake regulations as measured on the official's board; mouth closed any way to get the tail to hit the mark. Only large mouth, spotted, small mouth bass, and their hybrids per the Oklahoma Wildlife regulations will be counted. Total stringer weight per team will determine place. Any bass brought to the scales not within legal lake limits will result in a 2 pound deduction and loss of that fish. Dead fish will be weighed upon discretion of the officials and a 1 pound deduction for that dead fish will be included within the total weight. All bass will be brought to the scales in Hog Hunters supplied bags and returned to the lake. No fish will be weighed without a Hog Hunters supplied bag. Courtesy measures (aka. courtesy bumps) must be requested by the team. Once a request for a courtesy measure is made the fish in question will be handed to the Tournament Director / President for measurement. If the fish does not meet the appropriate length limit it will be returned to the water and not included within the team's total weight. No penalty will be issued to team for courtesy measured fish that do not meet the length requirement. **Only one courtesy measure per team is allowed.** All fish will be measured using a "Golden Grip" Tournament Measurement Board (Manufacturer: Golden Rule).

10. **TIES** - In the event of a weight tie, the winner will be the team with the most fish. If a tie still exists, the winner will be the team with the largest "Big Bass." If one or both of the tied teams did not weigh a fish for Big Bass, the winnings for the tied place and the place below it will be divided equally between the two teams. In addition, if the tie can not be broken, both teams will receive the same amount of points for that tournament within the yearly standings.
11. **PAYBACK** - Payback is based on the number of boats that are entered into the event. Based on a 50 boat field, the payback percentage would be as follows: 1st - 40%, 2nd - 30%, 3rd - 20%, 4th - 6%, 5th - 4%.
12. **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT** - Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Pork style baits are permitted. All bass must be caught on a rod and reel. Trolling is not permitted.
13. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS** - Off limits will be under the discretion of the tournament officials and announced at the meeting before each tournament. Fishing is allowed from boat only and confined to waters specified in the tournament. Fishing is not permitted within 50 yards of another contestant's anchored boat with the trolling motor in the up position without permission of the first boat that arrived. Partners must be within sight of each other during tournament hours and fishing from boat only. Any partner cannot leave the boat to enter a shallow area or fish from docks.
14. **BOATS & MOTORS** - Any safe boat 14 ft. or longer is permitted if powered by a motor of 10 h.p. or more. Boats must have an aerated live well. All boats **must** be registered by the state of Oklahoma (or surrounding a state) and **must** be insured by a credible authority.
15. **SAFETY & SPORTSMANSHIP**- Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. Coast Guard approved life jackets, kill switch and working bow and stern running lights are mandatory. Coast Guard approved life jackets must be worn at all times while the boat is on plane (or exceeding 15mph). Breaking any Oklahoma State boating laws is subject to disqualification.
16. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES** - Alcohol consumption is strictly prohibited during tournament hours. Consumption of alcoholic beverages during tournament hours will result in disqualification of the team.
17. **DEAD WATER** - There is no "dead water" off limits before regular season tournaments. Dead water will be observed the week prior to the Championship beginning on Sunday night at midnight. Team members are prohibited from fishing the tournament waters during the Championship dead water time period. Violation of this rule will result in a disqualification for the Championship.
18. **CULLING FISH** - No team may have more than 6 bass in their live well at any time. Only 5 bass may be brought by boat to the weigh in site. Any contestants bringing more than 5 bass to the weigh in site will have their entire bag for that day disqualified.
19. **PROTESTS** - Any protest must be in writing and filed with the tournament officials within fifteen minutes of the conclusion of the weigh in.
20. **TAKE OFF** - Take off positions will be drawn at the Wednesday evening meeting. All meetings will be held at 7pm.
21. **RAMPS** - All boats must be checked in at the official take off and weigh in ramp 30 minutes before the scheduled take off time. If a team chooses to launch at another ramp it will be the responsibility of that team to find a staff member to get checked in. Trailering to another ramp to launch after check in is prohibited, except during severe weather and will be at the discretion of the tournament officials.

- 22. CHAMPIONSHIP LAKE SELECTION** - The Championship lake or lakes will be drawn at random by the tournament officials immediately following the weigh-in of the last regular season tournament. At the time of selection the four lakes with the greatest weights brought in by the club during the regular season will be placed into a drawing. One or two lakes will be drawn by the tournament officials. The take-off ramp or ramps will be predicted by the tournament officials at that time and then confirmed at the pre-tournament meeting during the week of the Championship. All lakes chosen for the Championship will be "Off Limits" during the week prior to Championship. See DEAD WATER rule (#17) for details.
- 23. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION** - To qualify for the Championship, **every team member** must have fished in 5 regular season events and pay an entry fee of \$100 per team. The Championship is restricted to team members only.
- 24. SUBSTITUTES** - Substitutes are allowed but must become a member and sign release form. Subs will be required to pay a one time \$25.00 substitution membership fee. Only two subs per team throughout the season will be allowed.
- 25. ANGLERS OF THE YEAR** - Season standings and the "Angler of the Year" position will be determined as follows. First place will receive one (1) point; second place two (2) points, etc. Teams that are in the tournament but do not weigh any fish will receive the same as the last place team who brought fish to the weigh-in plus an additional five (5) points. Teams not present at the tournament will receive 10 points plus the last place points. Points from each team's best six (6) tournament finishes will be used to determine the season winners. "Anglers of the Year" will receive free entry for the 2010 season, excluding Big Bass entry and the Championship. Your worst tournament can be dropped from your standings.
- 26. WAIVED TOURNAMENT FEES** - The entry fees for the President / Tournament Director, Treasurer, and "Anglers of the Year" will be waived for the regular season tournaments. Entry fees for the "Trailer Staff" (both team members) will be waived if the weigh-in trailer is brought the tournament.
- 27. LIABILITY** - The Hog Hunters organization, officers, staff members, and members are not responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur during the course of any meetings, or activities that may arise, or during the participation of each tournament event.
- 28. STAFF OFFICERS** - Officers are obligated to assist with check-in/out, or any function deemed necessary by officers. Staff members are listed below.

Tournament President / Tournament Director, Tournament Treasurer, Person pulling trailer, Person responsible for media.