



**July 19th, 20th,
21st 2018**

TOURNAMENT RULES

FORT FRANCES CANADIAN BASS CHAMPIONSHIP INC.

THE FOLLOWING ARE THE RULES OF THE **2017** FORT FRANCES CANADIAN BASS CHAMPIONSHIP (FFCBC) TOURNAMENT. ANY CHANGES OR ADDITIONS TO PREVIOUS RULES ARE PRINTED IN **BOLD FACE TYPE**. August 16, 2017

1--TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- a) FFCBC competition is a three day, two person team format, live release tournament.
- b) The tournament operations director has the right to delay or shorten the tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations.
- c) All competitors and officials will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner. As competitors, each angler represents not only their Team and Sponsors, but also the FFCBC and other Teams.
- d) Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship Inc., its promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, directors, officers and affiliated organizations assisting in the operation of any aspect of the tournament, their agencies and/or agents and assigns are not responsible for any death, injury, damage, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the tournament howsoever caused.
- e) All references to money are in Canadian Dollars.
- f) All references to time are Central Daylight Time as determined by GPS.

2--PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- a) Competitors must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age as of June 30th in the year of the competition unless they have the permission of their parents or guardians. All participants will require a WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT AND PHOTO AND VIDEO RELEASE signed by them or by their parents or guardians if applicable.
- b) All anglers must possess a valid Ontario Sport Fishing Licence except those exempt by the Fisheries Act.
- c) Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship Inc., reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual or team for any reason that the tournament committee may deem appropriate.
- d) Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship Inc., reserves the right to expand the field without going to the waiting list.
- e) There will be a limited field of 125 paid teams for the tournament and entries accepted as indicated below:

3--ENTRY PROCESS

- a) Entries will be accepted for the first 125 teams for the 2017 FFCBC on a first-paid first-in basis.
- b) Each entry must be accompanied by a \$200.00 non-refundable deposit.
- c) Team numbers will be assigned upon confirmation of payment.
- d) The balance of the entry fee must be paid in full by June 30th 2017 or the entry and the deposit will be forfeited.

4--WAITING LIST

- a) Once the field of 125 teams is filled entries will be placed on a waiting list in the order that their entry was received.
- b) In the event of a scratch or cancellation waiting list anglers will be contacted in the order that their entry was received to fill the newly created vacancy.
- c) Once contacted regarding the opportunity to fill a newly created vacancy, Anglers on the waiting list will have 48 hours to confirm participation and partner and to arrange payment.

5--ANGLER REPLACEMENT PROVISIONS

- a) If, after competition has been started, a team captain or partner is unable to compete because of medical, family or other justified reasons, the remaining team member will be given the option to replace the leaving team member with another angler. The replacement angler must not have been on tournament waters during competition. The director of the tournament operations must be advised and approve of any angler replacements.

6--ENTRY FEE

- a) The entry fee for the tournament is \$800.00 per team (Infrastructure Fee and H.S.T. included).
- b) The entry fee includes a \$200.00 portion which is non-refundable except if a medical certificate is supplied.
- c) Minimum payments and payment in full must be made as indicated above.
- d) In the event of proper notice of cancellation in writing, received thirty (30) days prior to the first day of the tournament, the entry fee, minus the \$250.00 non-refundable portion, shall be returned to the team member that made the payment(s).

7—PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

- a) Unlimited pre-tournament practice is allowed.
- b) Moving fish from one location to another during pre-tournament practice is prohibited. Violations **will** result in tournament disqualification.
- c) All Competitors must be off the water by 3:00PM on Wednesday, July 19th, 2017.**
- d) Contestants residing on Rainy Lake during tournament competition days are permitted to travel directly from their place of residence to the Sorting Gap Marina. These contestants, when leaving the Sorting Gap Marina at the end of the day, must travel directly to their place of residence.
- e) No contestant may enter the tournament waters for the purpose of catching or locating bass or locating possible fishing locations after tournament hours.

8—BOAT NUMBERS AND ANGLER KITS

- a) Boat numbers and angler kits will be available to registered teams prior to the rules meeting.

9—RULES MEETING

- a) The rules meeting will be held under the tent at the sorting gap starting at 4:00PM on Wednesday, July 19th, 2017.**
- b) At least one and preferably both members of the team must attend the entire official rules meeting. Failing to do so will mean attending a special session at 9:00AM on Day One, before delinquent teams can begin fishing.

10—LAUNCH ORDER

- a) Day One launch order. Boats 1-20 leave by finishing position from the previous year. The remainder of the field leave as registered.**
- b) Day Two and Day Three launch order leave by finishing position of prior day.**

11—LIVE RELEASE OF FISH

- a) Fixed or portable aerated live-wells capable of supporting life are mandatory and every effort must be made to keep bass alive.
- b) Under no circumstances can a fish be purposely altered.
- c) Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, stringered, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gills or soft flesh, will result in disqualification of the team.
- d) Under no circumstances are dead fish to be released. See rule 14-h and i.

12—PENALTY FOR LATE CHECK-IN

- a) Contestants who are late crossing the finish line, located on Rainy River at the last dock prior to arriving at the launch site at the end of the day will be penalized ¼ lb. per minute late up to 5 minutes after their appointed return time. Fish brought in after the 5 minute period will not be weighed.
- b) The teams finishing time will be determined as the time when their boat completely passes between the finishing line buoys. Boats must be off plane and must cross the finish line in single file.
- c) If a tournament boat's lateness is due going to the aid of a boat in distress, and assistance was required, the fisherman must note the location, time, persons in distress, and the circumstances of the emergency. The situation will be reviewed by the director(s) of tournament operations and if deemed serious enough to require assistance, causing the fisherman to weigh in late, the team's catch for that day may be allowed.

13—PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- a) The tournament waters are all Canadian waters of Rainy Lake accessible by boat from Fort Frances. Ottetail Lake is out of bounds to all tournament anglers and Seine River is out of bounds upstream of the first green buoy in the mouth of the Seine River. Absolutely no fishing is permitted in U.S. waters. Travel is permitted on U.S. waters. The penalty for fishing ineligible waters could result in disqualification from the tournament or disqualification of the day's catch.
- b) No fishing is allowed downstream of the Ranier CN lift bridge.
- c) The tournament operations director has the right to alter or restrict tournament waters with prompt notice to all registered teams.

14—SCORING

- a) Only largemouth and smallmouth bass legally caught on a tournament day by angling qualify for weigh-in.
- b) A daily limit of five (5) bass per team will be weighed. A team may possess the daily Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources limit while angling only. While under main engine only five (5) bass may be retained in the live-well(s). The penalty for failure to comply is disqualification of the day's weight.
- c) The official minimum length is twelve (12) inches measured from the tip of the nose with mouth closed to the end of the tail with the tail compressed. A courtesy board, identical to that used by the tournament weigh master, will be available to the competitors prior to their catch being turned over to the weigh master or his/her representative.
- d) Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to meet the official minimum length will not be weighed and that day's weight will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each "short" fish. In the event that assessing weight penalties results in a negative total weight for the day, the negative weight shall be carried forward to the next day or subtracted from the existing team total, whichever is appropriate.
- e) Each team's fish must be presented to the weigh master or his/her assistants in the official bags supplied by the tournament organizers.
- f) All weights, upon verbal acceptance by the team captain, and then publicly called by the weigh master, are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
- g) One team member must sign the official weigh-in form recording the weight of the catch.
- h) Dead or non-releasable fish presented for weigh-in will be weighed. Four (4) ounces will be deducted from the total daily weight for each dead or non-releasable fish that is weighed. A resulting negative daily weight will be handled as per the second sentence of rule 14(d).
- i) Species caught other than bass must be returned to tournament waters with the exception of damaged fish as per provincial fishing regulations. All legal fish of any species caught and damaged must be turned over to the tournament committee before weigh-in.

15—BOATS AND MOTORS

- a) All boats must be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in length.
- b) No barges, houseboats, or similar cumbersome craft will be allowed.
- c) All boats, motors and their equipment must meet Canadian Coast Guard standards.
- d) The tournament operations director reserves the right to disallow the use of any boat, motor and/or equipment deemed unsafe, inappropriate or unsuitable.
- e) All boats equipped with an emergency kill switch mechanism must have the kill switch tether securely attached to the operator whenever the boat is on plane.
- f) Boat numbers (motor tags) must be affixed to right and left cowls of the main combustion engine so that they are clearly and plainly visible.
- g) Additional colored start position numbers will be given out at the end of Day One and Day Two for starting positions on Day Two and Day Three and shall be affixed to the bottom right and left hand corners of the main motor tags as instructed by the director of tournament operations director.

(RULE 15 CONTINUED)

- h) Day Two and Day Three start position numbers must not cover any part of the original team number.
- i) Altering of boat numbers (motor tags) is not permitted. Teams with altered boat numbers will not pass boat inspection and will not be released until new unaltered boat numbers are attached. New boat numbers will be available from the director of tournament operations after the last boat in the last flight leaves.
- j) Teams receiving replacement boat numbers will be required to return in their originally scheduled flight.

16—DAILY LAUNCHING AND MORNING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- a) Sorting Gap Marina is the designated launch site.
- b) Teams are required to have their equipment ready and on the water thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time of their flight. Late arrivals will be penalized and leave at the end of the next available flight.
- c) Boat inspections will take place each morning at the Sorting Gap Marina commencing one and one half hours prior to flight departure time.
- d) Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to: Boat numbers (motor tags) properly affixed and unaltered; Day Two and Day Three starting position numbers properly affixed; operation of live well; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen, or freeze-dried bait, no underwater cameras and required safety equipment.
- e) Teams must have all tackle boxes, hatches and live wells open for easy inspection prior to the arrival of the tournament officials.
- f) Upon completion of the daily morning inspection, each competitor must sign the inspection and declaration form prior to departure from the dock.
- g) The playing of the national anthems of Canada and the United States and a prayer will take place at both the Sorting Gap Marina. Anglers will be advised of the time at the rules meeting.
- h) Failure to report for daily boat inspection will result in disqualification of that day's catch.

17—TRICKLE STARTS

- a) The official starter will release teams, by flight, using trickle start, commencing at 6:30AM from the Sorting Gap Marina.
- b) Teams will be called and released every few seconds using a signal flag, number board and bullhorn. Each team must officially acknowledge being called by waving to the official starter. Teams will idle past the starter and only commence acceleration when waved on by the official starter. **Teams will be allowed to go a maximum of 30 miles per hour while traveling upstream to the Ranier Railway Lift Bridge. "NO PASSING" will be permitted until clear of the Ranier Railway Lift Bridge.**
- c) Any team starting or attempting to start out of order will be held by the official starter until the balance of the flight has departed.
- d) **No Passing will be permitted when returning downstream from the Ranier Lift Bridge to the official time keeper check in markers.**

18—DAY ONE AND DAY TWO FLIGHTS

- a) **Day One Launch Order Numbers, Boats 1-20 leave by finishing position from the previous year. The remainder of the field leaves as registered.**
- b) **Day Two and Day Three launch order leave by finishing position of prior day.**
- c) **The flights for Day One will be announced at the rules meeting.**

19—DAY ONE AND TWO START TIMES

- Flight #1 will commence departing at 6:30AM**
- Flight #2 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #1.**
- Flight #3 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #2.**
- Flight #4 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #3.**
- Flight #5 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #4.**

20—DAY ONE AND DAY TWO RETURN TIMES

- Flight #1 returns no later than 3:30PM
- Flight #2 returns no later than 3:45PM
- Flight #3 returns no later than 4:00PM
- Flight #4 returns no later than 4:15PM
- Flight #5 returns no later than 4:30PM

21—DAY THREE START TIMES

- a) On Day Three teams will leave in order determined by the combined net weight-rank earned on Day One and Day Two.
- b) Day Three flight allocation and start positions will be available following the Day Two audit.
- Flight #1 will commence departing at 6:30AM**
- Flight #2 will commence departing immediately after the last boat from Flight #1.**

22—DAY THREE RETURN TIMES

- Flight #1 returns no later than 4:00PM**
- Flight #2 returns no later than 3:00PM**

22B- Flight 2

The last half of the field starting position on Day 3 will participate in a separate "B" side contest on Day 3, therefore only Day 3 weights will be used for scoring purposes.

23—SPORSMANSHIP AND COURTESY

- a) It is strictly prohibited for any competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any weighable fish to, from or with any other competitor.
- b) When a team is in place on the water, it will establish a 500 foot diameter fishing circle which may not be fished or navigated through by another contestant. A marker may not be placed in the water by the water currently being used by another contestant or non-contestant. Once a marker is in place to establish the circle, the contestant must remain in the 500 foot fishing circle, and may leave only when playing a fish. Upon landing the fish, the contestant must return to the fishing circle or lose control of the area. If leaving or not fishing, the marker must be retrieved. PENALTY: infractions could result in disqualification from the tournament or disqualification of the daily weight.
- c) Use of cellular phones and CB's are prohibited. Marine VHF radios may be used to monitor the designated channel for safety reasons only.

(RULE 15 CONTINUED)

- h) Day Two and Day Three start position numbers must not cover any part of the original team number.
- i) Altering of boat numbers (motor tags) is not permitted. Teams with altered boat numbers will not pass boat inspection and will not be released until new unaltered boat numbers are attached. New boat numbers will be available from the director of tournament operations after the last boat in the last flight leaves.
- j) Teams receiving replacement boat numbers will be required to return in their originally scheduled flight.

16—DAILY LAUNCHING AND MORNING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- a) Sorting Gap Marina is the designated launch site.
- b) Teams are required to have their equipment ready and on the water thirty (30) minutes to prior to the scheduled departure time of their flight. Late arrivals will be penalized and leave at the end of the next available flight.
- c) Boat inspections will take place each morning at the Sorting Gap Marina commencing one and one half hours prior to flight departure time.
- d) Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to: Boat numbers (motor tags) properly affixed and unaltered; Day Two and Day Three starting position numbers properly affixed; operation of live well; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen, or freeze-dried bait, no underwater cameras and required safety equipment.
- e) Teams must have all tackle boxes, hatches and live wells open for easy inspection prior to the arrival of the tournament officials.
- f) Upon completion of the daily morning inspection, each competitor must sign the inspection and declaration form prior to departure from the dock.
- g) The playing of the national anthems of Canada and the United States and a prayer will take place at both the Sorting Gap Marina. Anglers will be advised of the time at the rules meeting.
- h) Failure to report for daily boat inspection will result in disqualification of that day's catch.

17—TRICKLE STARTS

- a) The official starter will release teams, by flight, using trickle start, commencing at 6:30AM from the Sorting Gap Marina.
- b) Teams will be called and released every few seconds using a signal flag, number board and bullhorn. Each team must officially acknowledge being called by waving to the official starter. Teams will idle past the starter and only commence acceleration when waved on by the official starter. **Teams will be allowed to go a maximum of 30 miles per hour while traveling upstream to the Ranier Railway Lift Bridge. "NO PASSING" will be permitted until clear of the Ranier Railway Lift Bridge.**
- c) Any team starting or attempting to start out of order will be held by the official starter until the balance of the flight has departed.
- d) **No Passing will be permitted when returning downstream from the Ranier Lift Bridge to the official time keeper check in markers.**

18—DAY ONE AND DAY TWO FLIGHTS

- a) **Day One Launch Order Numbers, Boats 1-20 leave by finishing position from the previous year. The remainder of the field leaves as registered.**
- b) **Day Two and Day Three launch order leave by finishing position of prior day.**
- c) **The flights for Day One will be announced at the rules meeting.**

19—DAY ONE AND TWO START TIMES

- Flight #1 will commence departing at 6:30AM**
- Flight #2 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #1.**
- Flight #3 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #2.**
- Flight #4 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #3.**
- Flight #5 will commence departing immediately after the last boat in Flight #4.**

20—DAY ONE AND DAY TWO RETURN TIMES

- Flight #1 returns no later than 3:30PM
- Flight #2 returns no later than 3:45PM
- Flight #3 returns no later than 4:00PM
- Flight #4 returns no later than 4:15PM
- Flight #5 returns no later than 4:30PM

21—DAY THREE START TIMES

- a) On Day Three teams will leave in order determined by the combined net weight-rank earned on Day One and Day Two.
- b) Day Three flight allocation and start positions will be available following the Day Two audit.
- Flight #1 will commence departing at 6:30AM**
- Flight #2 will commence departing immediately after the last boat from Flight #1.**

22—DAY THREE RETURN TIMES

- Flight #1 returns no later than 4:00PM**
- Flight #2 returns no later than 3:00PM**

22B- Flight 2

The last half of the field starting position on Day 3 will participate in a separate "B" side contest on Day 3, therefore only Day 3 weights will be used for scoring purposes.

23—SPORSMANSHIP AND COURTESY

- a) It is strictly prohibited for any competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any weighable fish to, from or with any other competitor.
- b) When a team is in place on the water, it will establish a 500 foot diameter fishing circle which may not be fished or navigated through by another contestant. A marker may not be placed in the water by the water currently being used by another contestant or non-contestant. Once a marker is in place to establish the circle, the contestant must remain in the 500 foot fishing circle, and may leave only when playing a fish. Upon landing the fish, the contestant must return to the fishing circle or lose control of the area. If leaving or not fishing, the marker must be retrieved. PENALTY: infractions could result in disqualification from the tournament or disqualification of the daily weight.
- c) Use of cellular phones and CB's are prohibited. Marine VHF radios may be used to monitor the designated channel for safety reasons only.

30—POLYGRAPH TESTS

- a) Any angler from any team may be required to take a polygraph test following weigh-in on any day.
- b) Failure of any angler to submit to a requested polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification.
- c) All competitors agree by their signature on the tournament entry form, to accept as valid, the results of any polygraph test administered at the tournament, without reservation or right of appeal.

31—TIE BREAKERS

- a) Largest one day catch will determine boat position.
- b) If a tie affects teams receiving a cash prize the amount awarded will be determined by combining the prize money for the positions in question and dividing it equally amongst all affected Teams.

32—CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

- a) Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship Inc., retains the right to change or amend any or all of these preceding rules at their sole discretion without prior notification or consultation with the competitors.
- b) Final approved official rules of the Fort Frances Canadian Bass Championship Live Release tournament on Rainy Lake will be given to all teams as part of their registration package, subject only to clarification(s) arising from the official rules meeting.

Revised August 16, 2017