

Guidelines to Being a Good Non-Boater (Non-Boater Etiquette)

If you are a non-boater you have the privilege as a club member to fish out another club member's boat. This is an exciting time because you get a chance to learn and share your knowledge with another club member. This is where friendships are made throughout the club. Here is some Non-Boater etiquette reminders.

- 1) **Be respectful.** Treat their boat the way you would want your boat to be treated.
- 2) **Don't be messy.** We all need to eat throughout the day. Be polite and clean up after yourself. Avoid spitting seeds into the boat. Use bottles with lids to keep liquids from spilling.
- 3) **Tobacco.** If you use any type of tobacco don't get it all over the boat. If you smoke it'd probably be a good idea to ask if you can before you light one up.
- 4) **Bring a life jacket.** Don't assume that someone will have a life jacket for you. It is your responsibility to have one that fits you.
- 5) **Dress appropriately.** Be mindful of the weather, and dress for what the forecast calls for. Don't assume that they will have rain gear for you.
- 6) **Netting a fish.** Prior to take off, discuss with your boater if they want you to net their fish for them and vice versa.
- 7) **\$25 Minimum.** It is a rule for a non-boater to pay the boater a minimum of \$25 to help pay for boat gas. It is up to you and the boater to discuss the options of paying more than that (depending upon how much boat gas was used). If you feel that you are being asked to pay an unfair amount please notify a tournament director to help resolve the issue fairly.
- 8) **Retrieval of a lure.** We are all susceptible to getting snagged when fishing. If you get snagged, politely ask the boater to help retrieve you lure. HOWEVER, as a non-boater be mindful of the weather conditions. If it is windy and you get snagged don't expect the boater to risk damaging their boat to retrieve a lure that costs way less than the cost to repair the boat. Don't take it personal, it's just not worth the risk.
- 9) **Fishing tackle.** If you're an avid bass angler, chances are you have enough tackle to open your own miniature Bass Pro Shops store. As a non-boater, don't bring it all. Only bring the necessities, 3-5 rods. Pack the lures and terminal tackle that you feel is needed to catch fish given the current fishing conditions. If you're a good non-boater chances are your boater will share lures with you if you weren't able to bring something.
- 10) **Tools.** Don't forget to bring a pliers and side cutters (or line clippers). Don't assume that the boater will have them.
- 11) **Help out.** Don't be afraid to help your boater during the tournament. We all know things can happen when you are fishing a tournament. **Example:** If you notice the boat drifting in towards shore and it might hit something notify the boater, they probably know it's there but we all get side tracked and they would appreciate the heads up. (I know I would)
- 12) **Have fun.** If you follow all of the guidelines that were listed above your chances of having a fun day with your boater will be great.