

**Badlands Bass Bandits**  
Club Tournament Rules & Handbook  
2025 Edition



**Introduction:**

All guidelines and tournament rules apply to the members of the Badland Bass Bandits club. The intent of the rules is to protect every member during club activities while providing a competitive but fair fishing tournament experience. It is each club member's responsibility to review all guidelines and rules prior to participating in a club event.

**Tournament Rules:**

1. All club and tournament anglers must abide by the North Dakota Game and Fish laws. The Badland Bass Bandits club is not responsible for any penalty that an angler receives from the North Dakota Game and fish Department.
  - a. Any tournament angler that receives a citation from NDGF during competition hours may be subject to disqualification.
2. Alcohol or illegal drug substances are NOT allowed during club tournaments.
3. All Tournaments will start at 7:00am and end at 2:30pm central time, unless stated otherwise by club official(s).
4. All anglers must be in the tournament launch area by 2:30pm **OR check-in time**. For every minute after the check in time a tournament angler is late for, that tournament angler will lose 8oz ( ½ pound) of total weight. If the tournament angler is late for more than 15 minutes after the check in time, that angler is automatically disqualified for that tournament. This rule applies for all boaters and non-boaters.
5. ONLY Artificial bait is allowed during tournament events. This includes preserved live bait.
6. A team consists of 2 members or a maximum of 3 members. Members can participate in a tournament alone if they choose to. Cost per team is \$80.
7. All bass must be 14 inches or greater in length to qualify for weigh in. Any fish turned into the weigh master and does not make the 14-inch margin will be penalized. The penalty for turning in a bass that does not meet this rule will result in the loss of that fish, as well as 8oz (1/2 pound) of weight deduction from the anglers' final total weight.
8. Culling is NOT allowed when fishing North Dakota waters.
9. Teams that consist of 2 or 3 members can only put a maximum of 10 bass in a livewell. Teams can only weigh-in their best 5 fish. If a tournament angler is fishing alone, they are only allowed to put their North Dakota state limit of 5 bass in their livewell.
  - a. ~~Per state law, an angler can only keep 5 bass. Teams are only allowed to weigh 5 bass, dead fish must be included into the weigh in. (see dead fish rule #10.)~~
10. To promote a healthy fish management program the clubs goal is to keep fish alive. Each dead fish weighed will result in an 8oz (1/2 pound) penalty from the final total weight. *The 8oz deduction for a dead fish also applies when weighing for a big bass of the tournament cash/award prize.* Deadfish must be weighed. No exceptions.
11. The Badland Bass Bandit Fishing club promotes Catch -and- Release as permitted by state officials, at the end of the tournament any fish that is not healthy enough to be released back into the water **and swim off on its own** must be harvested.
12. Only smallmouth and largemouth qualify, any combination of the two species is allowed.
13. A tournament angler can only use one rod and reel combination at a time.
14. For safety purposes, boat(s) are not allowed to re-enter the launch area for a 5-minute time period from the time the last boat leaves the launch area. Emergencies are an exception to this rule.

15. If no fish are caught during a club tournament, trophies are not handed out and prize money is awarded by individual chip draws for places awarded.
16. In case of a tie during a tournament, a three-tier tie breaker will be in place. 1st- Largest bass 2nd- Greatest number of fish 3rd- Flip of a coin.
17. For a 2-day tournament: If day 1 of competition is complete and day 2 is unsafe due to bad weather the tournament will be concluded and the results from day 1 will determine the tournament winners. If day 1 is unsafe due to bad weather the tournament directors along with the club members will decide if day 2 of competition will go ahead as planned.
18. In a situation where you witness a rule being broken or a violation of a club rule, you must contact the tournament director prior to the start of the official weigh-in, at which point all club officers will have a chance to hear details from both parties and make a ruling. When the ruling has been made the decision will be final. This must be done prior to the official weigh-in, once the official weigh-ins have started the tournament results will become final.

~~19. Tournament Directors/committee will have sole discretion for cancelling or shortening a tournament due to weather issues.~~

#### **\*Tournament Committee:**

A tournament committee will consist of 3 members that were selected during our annual spring meeting. These members along with the club President will be responsible to review weather forecasts the week of a scheduled tournament event. If inclement weather is forecasted the day of a scheduled event, the tournament committee will converse with each other and make an decision and provide announcements if there are any changes or cancellations of an event by **Friday at 6 p.m.**

- a. It is each club members responsibility to check the clubs website, Facebook page or contact club officials to inquire about updates for possible changes or cancellations due to forecasted inclement weather.

#### **Safety Guidelines**

1. During the take off period, all boaters must idle past the send off boat before getting on plane to avoid throwing a large wake towards the send off boat.
2. Everyone must practice safe boating.
3. The club highly encourages tournament anglers to wear a certified PFD whenever the combustion engine is operated.
4. The club highly encourages boaters to use their kill switch during on the water travel.
5. All boat owners are encouraged to ensure their vessel is in compliance to state regulations.
6. If inclement weather is forecasted prior to an event, be sure to check for event updates on our facebook page, web site or contact club official(s).

#### **General Information:**

1. Club events operate on **Central time zone** no matter the location. Unless announced / stated otherwise by club official.
2. The boat sequence for tournament send off is determined by a lottery draw which will take place during rules and registration prior to start of event.
3. Angler and Rookie of the Year awards are based on a points system. Club members will accumulate points for each tournament event fished.
4. Shore fishing is not allowed during a club tournament.
5. Be respectful to each other as club members as well as public anglers. Remember that you are representing the club.

#### **Tournament Payout:**

10% of entry fee goes to the club to pay for trophies, equipment, club events etc...

Remaining entry monies:

50% goes to 1st

30% goes to 2nd

20% goes to 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### **Club Points System:**

- **Format:** Club members yearly point system will be based off the 100 point scale system.

- 1<sup>st</sup> place will receive 100 pts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place will receive 99 pts, 3<sup>rd</sup> place will receive 98 pts and so forth all the way down to last place of an event.

- **Zero fish pts:** Club members who competed but did not weigh in a fish shall receive 10 points less than last place points. For example, these club members would receive 79 pts since last place was 12<sup>th</sup> who received 89 pts.

#### **Costs to the members:**

- \$25 Annual Membership (must be paid prior to competition)
- \$80/team (2- or 3-members max)
- Free membership and entry fee for Kids 16 years of age or younger. (Parents or guardians must sign liability waiver)

#### **Year End Awards include:**

Angler of the Year  
Rookie of the Year  
Classic Champions  
Biggest Bag of the Year  
Biggest Largemouth  
Biggest Smallmouth  
Horizon Awards (2)

#### **Kids Tournament Format (16 yrs and under)**

1. Kids division is **Free**, NO entry fee required.
2. Parents / Guardians **MUST** complete and sign the club liability waiver for their child prior to competing in events/activities.
3. Prior to the start of a tournament competition, the parent / guardian must declare if their child is competing in the Free Kids tournament or if they are competing as a member of an adult team in the adult member division.
  - a. Kids who are declared as fishing in the adult division are not allowed to weigh any of their fish that they catch in the free Kids division.
4. **Kids division tournament format:**
  - a. No more than 5 bass can be put into a livewell. (ND state law per angler)
  - b. Only smallmouth and largemouth qualify, any combination of the two species is allowed.
  - c. 1 fish weigh-in. Kids will only weigh in their biggest bass.
  - d. Dead fish penalty **WILL** apply. See rule #10 above.
  - e. Rule #7 "Length Limit" from above does **NOT** apply.