



FOUR CORNERS TEAM BASS ASSOCIATION – AN ANGLER’S CHOICE CIRCUIT RULES FOR THE 2010 SEASON

RULES: The following rules, as adapted from the posted Angler’s Choice Region 2 Rules will be used in the FCTBA Team Bass Tournaments as a U.S. Angler’s Choice circuit for the 2010 tournament season. Federal, state, local and lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede Angler’s Choice rules when in conflict. It is each contestant’s responsibility to read and fully understand these rules as entrants will be subject to disqualification for noncompliance and forfeit all prize money and entry fees. All entrants agree by signing the entry form that the decision of any presiding FCTBA official will be final in all respects. FCTBA HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY.

PARTICIPANTS: Membership is required to participate in all Angler’s Choice regular team, pro-am, and semi-pro tournaments. Tournament eligibility and entry is open to all members in good standing. The membership fee for FCTBA Angler’s Choice is \$40.00 per person, per season. Contestants 18 years of age and older must read, fully understand, and sign an entry/waiver form prior to participating. Contestants under 18 years of age may enter and fish only after having their parent or legal guardian read, fully understand, and sign an entry/waiver form. The actual contestant must also read, fully understand and sign an entry/waiver form. One team member must be at least 18 years of age or older.

TEAM COMPOSITION: The first FCTBA Angler’s Choice Team Tournament that a team competes in will dictate the official team composition for the remainder of the tournament year. A member may fish the first event alone without a designated partner. Members accumulate points for the designate team when fishing alone providing the other team member does not participate in that event. Either member of a team is allowed to fish up to 3 events alone, representing the team, provided that the team fishes at least 4 tournaments together. Any changes to the team must be made with the prior approval of a FCTBA official. This does not include the use of alternates, see alternate rule.

ALTERNATES: Alternates can be used twice during the tournament year. The FCTBA encourages a team to fish as many tournaments together as possible. If a team splits up, the accumulated points will only be awarded to one member of the team, as decided by a FCTBA official. ALL ALTERNATES MUST BE MEMBERS OF THE FCTBA AC PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING. If more than two alternates are needed, it must be pre-approved by FCTBA staff.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS: During tournament hours no alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs may be consumed or allowed in the boat while on the water, except prescription medications. All contestants are prohibited from consuming or using alcohol during the tournament, however, consumption of alcohol after the official check-in time is the decision of each adult present. The FCTBA staff does not recommend the use of any alcohol at the tournament site.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Displaying poor sportsmanship and bringing unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing shall be grounds for disqualification. Anyone displaying poor sportsmanship, breaking local, state or federal laws, or violating any of the rules of this tournament can be subject to disqualification and the loss of any entry fees or prize money. If one team member is disqualified, the team shall be disqualified. The FCTBA officials on-site will make any decisions concerning disqualification.

BOATS & MOTORS: There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat in use. All boats must meet BIA and Cost Guard requirements. All boats must have a functioning aerated livewell suitable to sustain a tournament limit in reasonable condition. Extra gas tanks are not allowed. Standing on seats, or motor or the use of ladder or raised platform for the purpose

locating or fishing for bedding fish is not permitted. Boats used in Angler's Choice tournament must have an insurance policy in effect with a minimum of \$100,000.00 liability coverage.

SAFETY: Boating safety must be observed at all times during practice and competition. EACH CONTESTANT IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OR HER ACTIONS, INCLUDING SITUATIONS DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER. It is your personal decision to travel to and/or fish in these tournaments, regardless of weather conditions. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. A US Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PFD) Type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened any time the combustible engine is in operation, and the kill switch must be attached to the driver with a lanyard no longer than forty-eight (48) inches.

TACKLE, EQUIPMENT AND FISHING METHODS: Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Dragging of baits where the angler is imparting some action on the bait with the aid of an electric motor is allowed. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. All bass must be caught on rod and reel. No tracking, bugging, or other devices implanted in or on a bass may be used. The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during competition. All bass must be hooked and reeled in from inside the boat.

GUIDES: Guides may not be used on practice days. Guides are allowed to participate in Angler's Choice tournaments if they have fished a preceding tournament in a circuit's series of seven. If it is their first tournament, guides must pay for the next tournament in advance.

ENTRY FEE: The entry fee for each regular tournament is \$150.00 per team. The entry fee for the Last Chance Tournament is \$50 per team. A fee of \$5 will be charged for any team wanting to transfer their entry fee to another tournament. NO REFUNDS.

OFF LIMITS AND PRACTICE: There will be no official practice period and no off limits.

PRE - TOURNAMENT MEETING AND REGISTRATION: THERE WILL BE A MANDATORY PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING AT 7:00 P.M. THE NIGHT BEFORE EACH TOURNAMENT. Registration for each tournament will be open from 6:00 p. m. until 7:00 p.m. at the designated meeting site. Each team must be represented at the meeting by at least one member of the team, an alternate angler fishing for the team, or a designated proxy. A proxy may be a member of another team and may represent more than one team. The proxy shall be solely responsible for the dissemination of all pertinent information. For example: fees, launch times, schedule changes, rules, rule changes, launch order. A team represented by a proxy shall not be eligible to win any door prizes, nor shall it be eligible to draw the first spot in the launch order.

STARTING ORDER: The starting order will be determined by the drawing of a numbered poker chip out of a container. A starting position will not be given to a team that submits an incomplete entry/waiver form or any form not signed by both team members. The start will be staggered and under the control of a FCTBA official. All teams should try to check in at least one hour prior to the start of the tournament. TEAMS MUST CHECK IN PRIOR TO FISHING. Tournament hours will be designated by a FCTB official.

PERMITTED FISHING WATERS: No fishing is allowed inside the host marina. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boat's permission. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Having anyone hole-sit for anyone shall be grounds for disqualification. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish or gain access to a fishing area. Restricting natural movement of fish by any means is automatic disqualification. Contestants should use common courtesy and judgment when approaching or fishing around other boats. Any announcements made at the tournament site will take precedence over these written rules.

PROTESTS: ALL PROTESTS MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING prior to the official closing of the scales. The FCTBA will make all protest decisions official on-site. ALL DECISIONS ARE FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO ANY GREIVANCE OR LEGAL PROCEDURES. A DEPENDING ON THE SERIOUSNESS OF INFRACTION, TEAMS MAY BE DISQUALIFIED FOR UP TO THE ENTIRE SEASON.

CULLING FISH: A team may not keep more than a tournament limit in a live well during competition. If more fish than allowed by the local laws are present in the live well during the event, a team will be subject to disqualification. No culling is allowed in the host marina.

CHECK-IN PROCEDURES: A late penalty of 1 pound per minute will be used after the designated official tournament ending time. After five minutes, the team or teams will be disqualified. The on-site FCTBA official will make all decisions concerning any team that reports an emergency or other event that causes them not to follow the standard check-in procedures. Any special procedures will be announced prior to the start of the tournament.

BREAKDOWNS: Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. In the event of equipment failure, there shall be two permitted methods of returning to the check-in and weighing fish. (1) By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) By one partner entering the boat of another FCTBA Angler's Choice Team Tournament contestant or staff member along with the day's catch. Teams' fish must be kept separate.

SCORING FISH: Each team may weigh in five (5) fish per day, a minimum of 12 inches in length unless state or lake limits are different, measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. Any team weighing-in a fish shorter or longer than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one (1) lb. penalty plus the loss of the short or long fish. Any team bringing more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. A penalty of .20 lbs. per dead fish will be deducted from the total weight. Any big bass brought to the scales deceased, will be directly subject to the .20 lbs. penalty. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass will be scored.

TIES: Any tie that must be broken will be broken by the team's big bass weight, then by number of bass, then by a flip of the coin. The determination of which ties must be broken will be at the discretion of the FCTBA tournament officials.

POLYGRAPH: All contestants are subject to a polygraph testing. Failure to submit is grounds for disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test for cheating in a bass tournament or whose results are found to be inconclusive shall not be eligible to compete in Angler's Choice tournaments. Polygraph and voice stress testing are performed at the discretion of the tournament director.

CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION: The FCTBA will hold seven (7) regular season points tournaments, the last of which will be held in conjunction with the Last Chance Tournament. No points will be used in the Last Chance Tournament, weight only. After six (6) regular season tournaments, all teams will have their best five (5) tournaments selected for points. The Top 10 teams, according to the points list, plus the Top 5 teams who participated in the Last Chance Tournament and who did not qualify through the points system will be invited to the FCTBA Championship. The seventh (7th) points tournament, which will be held in conjunction with the Last Chance Tournament, will be for Angler's Choice Tournament of Champions qualification points only, not the local FCTBA Championship. In the event that any of the Top 10 teams cannot attend the Championship, the next team on the point's list will be invited. In the event that a team which qualified through the Last Chance cannot attend the Championship, the next team on the Last Chance list will be invited. A team must fish in five (5) of the first six (6) regular team tournaments to compete in the Last Chance Tournament and a minimum of four (4) to fish in the Championship

POINTS: Qualifying for the local Championship and the AC TOC will be based on a points and pound format beginning with 100 points for first place and descending down by one (1) point per place. In each event "First Place" will receive 100 points plus their weight, e.g., 1st Place = 100 points + 20.50 lbs. =

120.50 points, 2nd Place = 99 points + 20.00 lbs. = 119 points. This procedure will be followed for all teams weighing fish. The lowest team having weight will be the last points given based on the point's structure. All remaining teams that fished but did not weigh fish will receive one-half (½) of the next possible points based off the point structure. Example: The last team weighing fish in a 45-boat field ended at 40th place with 2.0 lbs. They would receive 60 points + 2.0 lbs = 62 points. The remaining 5 teams without weight would receive 29.5 points each ($59/2 = 29.5$). No points shall be awarded to contestants that pay but do not fish.

TOC CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING: Teams must fish a minimum of five (5) regularly scheduled team tournaments during the year to qualify for a championship berth based on the points system. Teams must fish a minimum of six (6) regularly scheduled team events to qualify for a championship berth based on the "Wild Card" system. Championship qualifiers will be determined after the last regularly scheduled tournament in each division. Angler's Choice reserves the right to allow alternate teams to participate in regional championships to ensure full fields. To qualify for a "Wild Card" berth teams must fish six (6) of seven (7) qualifying events. "Wild Card" qualifying shall be determined by their finishing position in the last tournament of the year and after points qualifiers have been removed.

20 or less boat average will qualify 8 teams plus 2 wild cards.
21 - 25 boat average will qualify 12 teams plus 5 wild cards.
26 - 30 boat average will qualify 16 teams plus 5 wild cards.
31 - 40 boat average will qualify 18 teams plus 6 wild cards.
41 - 50 boat average will qualify 20 teams plus 7 wild cards.
51 - 60 boat average will qualify 22 teams plus 8 wild cards.
61 - 70 boat average will qualify 24 teams plus 9 wild cards.
71 - 80 boat average will qualify 26 teams plus 10 wild cards.
80 and above boat average will qualify 40% of average plus 14 wild cards.

Any team fishing 7 events in one division or choice will automatically qualify

CHOICE DIVISION: Teams may fish an unlimited number of tournaments within a single region in order to qualify in that region's "Choice Division" and for that region's championship, but only their best seven (7) point events will be calculated toward a championship berth regardless of the number of tournament fished. A team that fishes in 2 or more divisions within a region automatically accumulates points in that region's "Choice Division". A team can qualify for a regional championship via more than one-1 division. However, a team may not represent more than one division e.g. "Oroville" or "East Delta" or "Choice", although qualified in all three-3 at the regional championship. The division in which a team accumulates the highest ranking will be the division they represent at the championship. Choice Division championship qualifying shall be calculated by taking the total number of entries in that division during the year divided by seven (7) to produce an average number of entries. That average shall be the number used for which qualifying shall be based as per our championship qualifying criteria. Points in the Choice Division are only for place finished. Weight is not calculated in the Choice Division Standings. For Example: A team finishing in 1st place receives 100 points; a team finishing in 2nd place receives 99 points and so on. This is new as of 2005 and changed for purposes of fairness. The angler of the year from choice can only use their 4 best tournaments from one Division. The other three must be from another division. Example: Best 4 Tournaments from Lake Powell Division, Best 2 from North Lake Powell and 1 from Havasu. The "Choice" division affords Angler's Choice members an additional opportunity to qualify for a regional championship they might not otherwise be able to meet the minimum qualification for. Example: If a team misses the first few regularly scheduled tournaments within a single division, which requires a minimum of 5 tournament participations for qualification, they can still meet this 5 tournament minimum requirement by fishing in other scheduled tournaments within a given region. Another example can be found in; a team that has "Bad luck" in their first few tournaments and scored low points, thus missing the point's requirement for qualification, can make it up by fishing and qualifying via the "Choice Division".

TOC PARTNERS: In the event a partner is unable to make the TOC for some unforeseen reason, two qualifying members can join up to fish the TOC. For Example: John Doe and Bill Smith qualify for the championship, as does Jim Jones and Jerry Wilson. If John Doe and Jim Jones are unable to make the

TOC, Then Bill Smith and Jerry Wilson may team up and fish the event together. This can only take place if both teams have qualified for the championship based on the standard Angler's Choice Regional Qualifying Rules, as laid out above, and is approved by the Regional Director. No substitution of partners will be allowed at regional classics except in cases of partner death, catastrophic illness, military or police duty. Anglers Choice Regional Vice Presidents shall have the final approval on any classic substitutions. Anglers who professionally Guide on the body of water being fished are not acceptable substitutions.

7 EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM: All Teams who fish Anglers Choice Pro Team Tournament Trails a minimum of 7 events and qualify for their respective Regional Championship now have a new added benefit in return for their support. You will now be eligible to fish any other Pro Team Regional Championship in the country. There are some very important restrictions on this benefit. Any team qualifying for a regional TOC is eligible to fish all 4 TOC events across all four regions of Angler's Choice Nationally. Example: Region 1 qualifiers can fish Region 2, Region 3 and Region 4 TOC events if they choose to do so. You must register with Anglers Choice @ 800 360 7112 to fish this event no later 30 days previous to the event.

- This rule will impact some regions on different years and is installed strictly to combat home lake advantages. It is the only fair way to handle that issue.

OFFICIAL PRE-FISH PERIOD FOR TOCS: Official pre-fish for all lakes hosting TOCs begin on the Monday prior to the event. Official Pre-Fish means that no one other than your team member or a member of your immediate family is allowed on the boat with any angler wishing to participate in the event. This eliminates the use of guides for the weekdays immediately prior to the event. Life Jackets and kill switches must also be worn at all times, while the gas motor is running, during this official pre-fish period. Failure to follow these rules during the pre-fish period will result in disqualification from the event.

ANGLER OF THE YEAR CHAMPIONSHIP PROGRAM: At the conclusion of each division's tournament year, the team with the most points shall be deemed the Anglers of the year. This shall also include the Choice division. As Anglers of the year, those teams will then advance to the Regional championship and fish against all the other divisional Anglers of the year at the Regional Championship. The top 3 Angler of the year teams shall be awarded prizes TBA.

FAILURE TO READ OR THE IGNORANCE OF THESE RULES IS NO EXCUSE. ANY VIOLATION OF THESE RULES WILL BE GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION FROM ALL FCTBA TOURNAMENTS. KNOWLEDGE OF THESE RULES IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. ALL FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL FISHING AND BOATING LAWS WILL BE FOLLOWED. FCTBA HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY.

**STEVE GILL
FOUR CORNERS TEAM BASS ASSOCIATION
ANGLER'S CHOICE CIRCUIT
PO BOX 6606
NAVAJO DAM, NM
(505) 632-5717**