



RI Bassin – Official Tournament Rules

Updated 4/16/25

1. Eligibility

- Open to all anglers aged 18 years of age or older.
- All participants must have a valid fishing license for the waters being fished.

2. Entry Fee

- Entry fee is **\$20 per angler**, which includes the **Lunker (Big Bass) pot**.
- Entry fees must be paid **prior to launch** on tournament day.

3. Payout Structure

- Payouts are based on the total number of anglers participating.
- Lunker payout is awarded to the angler with the **heaviest single bass** “Lunker” of the tournament. Anglers may only choose **1 fish** to weigh for lunker **before** before weighing all fish for total weight. **Dead bass will not be eligible for lunker.**
- 100% Payout

4. Format

- Individual angler format (no teams).
- Each angler may weigh in a **maximum of 5 bass**.
- Only **largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass** count toward the limit.
- All fish must be **at least 12 inches** in length (measured with mouth closed and tail pinched).
- Anglers may cull fish only live fish

5. Fishing Times

- Official start times as scheduled. This may be adjusted at the ramp based on safety conditions and will be announced before each event.
- Anglers must be **back at the ramp/weigh-in site by the designated tournament end time. 100 yards or safe distance from the ramp and other boaters.** Late arrivals will be penalized (see Section 9).

6. Fishing Methods

- Only artificial lures may be used (no live or cut bait). Following state guidelines.
- Only **one rod** may be used at a time per angler.
- Trolling (using the boat's motor to pull lures) is not allowed.
- Sight fishing is allowed, but fish must be caught in the mouth.

7. Boating & Safety

- Life jackets (PFDs) must be worn **any time the boat is on plane.**
- All local, state, and Coast Guard boating regulations must be followed.
- Kill switch must be used if your boat is equipped with one.

8. Weigh-In

- Each angler may bring **up to 5 fish** to the weigh-in.
- **Dead fish incur a 0.25 lb penalty** per fish.
- **Short fish will not be weighed** and may result in an additional penalty or disqualification of that fish.
- In case of a tie, the tiebreaker is biggest fish, then most fish

9. Penalties

- Late check-in: **0.5 lb penalty per minute**, up to 10 minutes. After 10 minutes = disqualification.

- Dead fish: 0.25 lb penalty per fish.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct: may result in disqualification at the discretion of the tournament director.

10. Sportsmanship

- All anglers are expected to display good sportsmanship, follow all rules, and treat fellow anglers with respect.
- No fishing within **50 yards** of another competitor without permission.
- No hole sitting or intentionally blocking access to another angler.

12. Tournament Director

- The tournament director will handle all rules questions and have final authority on disputes and disqualifications.