



Official Rules for Customer Appreciation Tournament at Moses Lake

Participation and Eligibility: This tournament is a bass angling event open to all customers of Nixon's Marine. At least one team member must be 18 years or older and any minor must have written authorization from a parent or legal guardian.

Off-Limits: Tournament waters are OFF LIMITS TWO WEEKS prior to the tournament, beginning Monday April 19, 2027 until tournament blast off on Saturday, May 1, 2027 and again Saturday following weigh-in until blast off on Sunday, May 2, 2027.

Permitted Fishing Waters: No fishing is allowed inside the host marina area. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. Navigable waters are the only waters to be fished during a tournament. Contestants must be able to navigate boat into fishing area without getting out of the boat. All fishing must be done from an inspected boat. Boats may not be trailered to and from weigh-in during tournament hours. If you are unable to return to the weigh-in site by boat your catch for the day will not be weighed. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of another anchored or tied boat without that boat's permission. Team partners must fish from the same boat. Only the contestants may be in the boat during tournament hours, unless specifically approved by the Tournament Director prior to the tournament. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you will be grounds for disqualification. If a team allows one boat into an area to fish, all teams have permission to fish that area.

Safety: Boating safety must be observed at all times during competition. A US Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch must be attached to the driver during competition. Inflatable waist pack PFDs are allowed as long as they are US Coast Guard approved and meet all US Coast Guard requirements. Boats must obey all state and local regulations including speed and no-wake zones.

Mandatory Drivers' Meeting will be held Saturday morning prior to blast off. Drivers' meeting for Sunday Top Ten teams will be held on Saturday evening following Saturday's weigh-in. All top ten teams (Anglers) must attend the Top Ten meeting. Failure to attend (be present) will result in disqualification and terminate your opportunity to fish the Top Ten on Sunday. The 11th place team must be present to accept the opportunity to fish the Top Ten on Sunday. All subsequent substitutions will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

Blast Off: Tournament check-in will be halted prior to the start of the drivers meeting. Check-in will resume after the drivers meeting. Those anglers not checked in prior to the drivers meeting will automatically be assigned to flight #1 for weigh-in; however, they will not blast-off until the end of the last flight. It is important that all boats have their live wells checked and be in the water before the start of the drivers meeting. The Tournament Director will not delay blast off due to anglers that have not had their live wells checked or have not safely launched their boats. In the event your boat is not in the water at the time your number is called, your blast off will be delayed until the Tournament Official re-calls your number. Regardless of blast off time, you and your partner will be required to return for weigh-in at the time of your originally assigned flight.

Culling Fish: It is the responsibility of each team to cull their limit to five (5) fish throughout the tournament. No culling is allowed within the host marina. Big fish must be tagged for weigh-in. A dead fish may NOT be weighed as a Big Fish. Non piercing cull tags are required. The use of piercing cull tags are prohibited and will lead to disqualification.

Relief Rule: In the event that an angler must leave the boat during competition to use the restroom, one angler must remain in the boat at all times and all fishing must cease.

Check in for Weigh-in: An official timekeeper (wearing an orange vest) will be posted at the entrance to the host marina and will log the time that each team returns for weigh-in. The official return time will be logged at the point that the boat comes "off-pad" to enter the host marina. To avoid confusion, each team is responsible for holding up their boat number in clear view of the timekeeper. If the timekeeper determines that a boat is late, he/she will signal the boat with an orange flag in order to notify the team that there is a time issue and that they need to see the timekeeper as soon as possible. It is the responsibility of the team and the timekeeper to resolve time dispute issues prior to weigh in. If the issue cannot be resolved with the timekeeper, the team should weigh in their fish and immediately report to the Tournament Director that there is an unresolved time dispute. All

unresolved issues must be reported during weigh-in. It is the Tournament Director's responsibility to assess the situation and make a final ruling. **Boat Numbers:** All boat numbers must be displayed at blast off and turned in at weigh-in. Boat numbers should be turned in even if no fish are weighed.

Scoring: Each team may weigh in five (5) fish with no minimum size limit. A quarter of a pound (.25 lb) penalty will be assessed for each dead fish. Any team bringing more than five (5) fish to scales will have their bag culled to five (5) fish, starting with the largest fish. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be weighed. Failure to check-in by the designated weigh-in time will result in DISQUALIFICATION from the competition. Sunday's field will cut to the top ten. Weights for Sunday will start at zero.

Information Sharing: During the off-limits period and Day One of the competition anglers may not solicit and/or receive fishing information from anyone. Information gathered through publicly available sources, i.e. Google Earth, published maps, etc. is permissible. Teams in the top-ten cut may not solicit or receive fishing information from anyone except other top-ten anglers. The purchasing, bartering for information or the hiring of services will not be permitted after the start of the off-limits period. The sharing of tournament winnings in exchange for fishing information is strictly prohibited.

Ties: Big fish will be used to break all tournament ties whenever possible. In the event of a tie, monies will be added and divided equally.

Protest: All protests must be submitted in writing within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in. Protests will be accepted from registered tournament anglers only.

Awards: Out of sportsmanship and respect for other fishermen, we appreciate those who stay for awards presentations. Those unable to attend the awards ceremony risk forfeiting their claim to any prize merchandise.

Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs: At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs, other than prescription, allowed in the boat or to be consumed. Tournament hours include drivers meeting through release of fish following weigh-in. Alcohol is also prohibited in the weigh-in venue.

Sportsmanship: Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any team failing to do so may be disqualified.

Tournament Protection Rule: Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Authority, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, Nixon's Marine, Northwest Bass, or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, fishery biologists, etc.), during any official practice round or tournament, may result in temporary or permanent suspension from all future Northwest Bass tournaments. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH ENTRANT, to know these rules. A rules violator compromises the entire field.

Boats and Motors: There is no horsepower limit, however; no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must meet US Coast Guard and State regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch and an aerated live well large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition. Extra gas tanks must be secured and must be US Coast Guard approved.

Tackle and Equipment: All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner by casting, flipping or pitching. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Using the electric motor to "stroll" is permitted. Trolling is not permitted. 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 (1) rod may be used at 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. Nets are allowed and Northwest Bass encourages the use of catch & release style nets. During competition a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine based radio, cellular phone or any other type of communication device to aid in the catching or locating fish. These devices may be used for emergency purposes only. Underwater cameras are not restricted at this time.

Conservation: Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition as every effort will be made to release as many fish live as possible following weigh-in. This is a primary concern of Nixon's Marine and Northwest Bass and we will allow early weigh-in to prevent the loss of fish.

Equipment Failure or Emergency: There will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official weigh-in site: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one or both partners entering the boat of another Nixon's Marine tournament contestant and returning to weigh-in site. If one partner remains with the troubled craft he cannot continue to fish. Under these two conditions the contestant's catch may be counted without penalty (except for late or dead fish penalties).

Teams who elect to return to official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit that day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. In case of a mechanical breakdown that requires a team to swap tournament boats, that team will be eligible to resume competition only under the supervision of a Nixon's Marine/Northwest Bass official. Both team members must be present for a boat inspection before a restart will be granted. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate a tournament official to request a restart.

Insurance: Adequate liability insurance is required of all boaters. All contestants must sign a waiver absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have proof of insurance at each tournament.

Polygraph: All contestants, winners and non-winners are subject to a polygraph. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph test will result in immediate disqualification.

Rules are subject to change without notice at any time prior to the start of a tournament. Interpretation and enforcement of rules will be left to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate, including, without limitation: disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.

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Nixon's Marine and Northwest Bass reserve the right to refuse entry.

Reviewed 11/6/2026