



LUNKERS UNLIMITED CLUB FISH-OFF RULES



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Authority of the Fish-Off Chairman

The following fish-off rules have been approved by the Board of Directors. It will be the responsibility of the Fish-Off Chairman, his Committee Members, and the Board Members to ensure that the rules are enforced in a manner which is fair and equal to all members of the club. The interpretation of these rules and authority to resolve any and all situations which are not specifically covered by these rules is solely up to the judgment of the Fish-Off Chairman or, if the Chairman is not in attendance, the Committee will resolve it. It is the responsibility of all members to read, understand, and abide by all fish-off rules.

Fish-Off Schedule

The Fish-Off Chairman will prepare and submit a fish-off schedule to the Board of Directors for their review and approval no later than the January Board meeting. Additionally, any changes to the fish-off rules should be presented to the Board of Directors no later than the

January Board Meeting. An approved fish-off schedule will be published to the general membership no later than the February General meeting.

The following information will be submitted by the Fish-Off Chairman:

- Dates
- Fish-off site
- Type of fish-off (Individual, Team)
- Ramp location
- Minimum fish size and creel limit
- Pairing date
- Daily start and end times
- Any unusual rules for the particular body of water will be discussed at the pairings.
- Hotel reservation cut-off date

Once approved and published, the schedule may not be modified, except for an extreme situation, and then only with the approval of the majority of the Board of Directors.

Notable Fish-Offs

- **Tom Urba Sr. Open**

The first fish-off of the year will be designated as the Tom Urba Sr. Open. All members approved guests are eligible to fish this fish-off as long as they are in good standing with the club and all applicable Fish-Off Rules shall apply.

- **Gorman Memorial**

The last fish-off of the year will be designated as the Gorman Memorial. All members are eligible to fish this fish-off, however, only those members who are current in their financial obligations to the club are eligible to share in the Gorman Memorial awards. In addition, the Gorman will be a Qualifying Tournament. Any member in good standing is qualified to fish but must qualify to fish for cash. To qualify, you must meet one of the following requirements:

- Finish in first place in at least one club tournament
- Fish at least 3 club tournaments that current year
- Be in the top 20 after the 7th club tournament
- Any new member joining after the 1st tournament must fish at least 50% of the remaining tournaments.

The location of the Gorman Memorial will be announced at the September General Meeting. No fishing may be done on the Gorman Memorials waters from the time the location is

announced until the practice period for the Gorman Memorial begins. The official practice period for the Gorman Memorial begins 24 hours prior to the take-off time of the tournament.

- **Family Fish-offs**

All members are encouraged to fish in the family fish-offs with any member of his immediate family, including his mother, father, or girlfriend. He may fish with one member of his family or his entire family.

To be eligible for the family fish-off awards, at least one person of the member's family must be in the boat with the member for the entire day.

Live bait and trolling are permitted in the Family Fish-off. Any species counts as long as it is of legal size for that species. The idea is to have fun.

Pairings

Pairings for each fish-off will occur at the General Meeting prior to the fish-off. It will be the responsibility of each member to notify the Fish-off Committee Chairman prior to or at the beginning of the above-mentioned General Meeting if they wish to fish.

Pairings for Buddy Tournaments: Pairings for Buddy Tournaments are required to be submitted to the Fish-Off Chairman 30 days in advance of the start date of the Buddy Tournament. Further, all non-boater club members who wish to fish in a Buddy Tournament must be paired with a boater before any two club boaters can be paired. Once all non-boater club members who wish to fish a Buddy Tournament are paired with a club boater, club boater members will be allowed to pair. Guests are not eligible to fish in Club Buddy Tournaments. Further, in the event that an originally paired boater or non-boater is unable to start or complete a Buddy Tournament, standard boat pairing procedures shall apply (i.e. fish alone, 3 to a boat).

The Fish-Off Chairman will separate the "boat" names, ranking them by the number of times they had previously fished alone. Fishing alone either day of a fish-off counts as fishing alone.

The Fish-Off Chairman will then begin the pairings by drawing a name from the "boat, previously fished alone" category by ranking (fished alone 3 times, 2 times, 1 time) and the "no-boat" category. When the "boat previously fished alone" members have been drawn, the Chairman will then begin to draw from the boat category. This will ensure that members who have previously fished alone will have the best chance of being paired with a "no-boat" partner.

Whenever possible, members who have already fished a fish-off together in any calendar year will not be paired a second time. If the "no-boat" bucket is empty, the Chairman will

continue to pair members by drawing both names from the “boat” bucket. Members paired in this manner may fish alone.

If the “no-boat” members exceed the “boat” members, three members will be assigned to a boat in the following manner, assuming there are no volunteers:

First Day – The name tag of each member who will be using his boat will be placed in a bucket, as many name tags as there are boat-less members will be drawn. Each member’s name drawn will fish three to a boat on the first day. Members whose boats are deemed unsafe to fish three to a boat will be excluded from this draw. Boat size alone will not be a factor.

Second Day – The procedure will be as above, except the name tags of those fishing three in a boat drawn on the first day will be drawn first and excluded from the 3 to a boat drawing.

Upon completion of the initial drawings, another drawing of boats will be conducted to determine the order of take-off.

Members who wish to fish the tournament, but were not part of the original draw, will be paired as follows:

No Boat – The member will be assigned to fish with the first boat member who was drawn to fish alone in the original pairings. If there are no members fishing alone, the “three-to-a-boat” rules will apply.

Boat – The member will be assigned the last “no boat” member drawn in the original pairings.

Members who bring a boat for the first time per season will be paired with a partner.

If a mechanical problem arises with a boat, or if a member changes his mind and doesn’t bring his boat as originally intended, the two members will be assigned a partner as in the above “no boat” rule. If this situation occurs to a boat member fishing alone, he will then fish with the other boat member with whom he was originally paired. If the member was the last boat drawn and does not have another boat partner, he will be assigned a partner as in the above “no boat” rule.

If a “no boat” partner cancels his participation, his boat partner may fish alone.

Any member who has participated in the pairings and who later determines that he will be unable to fish the tournament must notify the tournament Chairman by the end of the pairings preceding the tournament. Failure to notify the Chairman of cancellation will result in the member being considered late for take-off and given a \$10.00 fine. All room reservations are final and the financial responsibility remains even if you cancel.

Pairings for two man and four-man tournaments will follow the same rule previously set forth, and additionally, will attempt to ensure that each team is comprised of an equal number of boat and no boat members. Multiple man team tournaments will require two drawings. The first drawing will be for team partners, while the second drawing will be for boat partners. If an odd number of members are signed up to fish, the unmatched members will be teamed with previously paired members, so that some members may be partners on more than one team.

“Buddy” tournaments will not require a pairings draw only takeoff order.

Members bringing a potential member as a guest will be considered “paired with member”. Subsequent pairings with a guest/potential member, whether the same guest or a different guest, will be treated as “fishing alone”.

Fish-Off Options

- Non-Competitive Option
 - For those wanting to fish with the club, but not as a serious competitor.
 - Can participate in up to two fish-offs as “Buddy” Boat or Non-boater.
 - Will be eligible to fish for cash pot.
 - Must advise Fish-Off Chairman of participation a minimum of two weeks prior to the fish-off.
 - Under this program, the participant will not be included in the pairings, but may be drawn to fish three in a boat (for one day) if there is a shortage of boats.

- Bring a Friend Option
 - Three times a year, a member can bring a non-member friend to fish with.
 - The same friend can only attend twice in a season without joining the club.
 - Member and friend will be eligible to fish for the cash pot. The non-member is not eligible for year-end standings.
 - Must advise Fish-Off Chairman of participation a minimum of two weeks prior to the fish-off.
 - Under this program, the participant will not be included in the pairings, but may be drawn to fish three in a boat (for one day) if there is a shortage of boats.
 - Can be either a boater or non-boater.
 - Member is responsible for providing the Fish-Off Chairman with a copy of the friend’s boat insurance policy if the guest is a boater.

- Past Member in “Good Standing” Option
 - Can fish up to three tournaments with a friend.
 - The same friend can only attend twice in a season without joining the club.
 - Past member and friend will be eligible to fish for the cash pot.
 - Neither is eligible for the year-end standings.
 - The club makes no hotel reservations or guarantees.
 - The club has no liabilities or obligations for any past member’s participation.

- Outsiders
 - Can participate in our fish-offs only twice
 - Are eligible to fish for the cash pot
 - The club takes no responsibility for outsiders.
 - Participant must sign a disclaimer prior to take-off.
 - Participant cannot be a member dropped in bad standings.

Interclub Fish-Offs (fishing against another club)

All members in good standing are eligible to fish in an inter-club fish-off. All rules pertaining to club fish-offs will apply. If the opposing club has fewer members participating in the fish-off, the Fish-Off Committee will choose which of our members will participate against the other club based upon their position in the previous year's yearly standings. Those ranked highest will have first opportunity to fish with a member of the other club, and to have their catch count in the inter-club competition.

The Fish-Off Chairman will use his best judgment in pairing the participation members with the other club members. All club members wishing to participate will fish.

Night Fish-Offs

Because of safety factors, no member will, if at all possible, fish alone during a night fish-off.

Licenses

All members participating in a fish-off must have a valid license for the state and waters in which the fish-off is taking place. This license must be displayed at the request of the Fish-Off Chairman before, during, or after the fish-off. Failure to display a valid license will result in automatic disqualification of the members catch from both the fish-off and the yearly point total. Members must have a license prior to the first day takeoff.

Take-Offs

All members participating in the fish-off must check in with the Chairman on the water at least 15 minutes prior to the published start time. Each member is obligated to locate his boat partner.

All members must wear a life vest any time the boat gas powered motor is running. Use of a kill switch in conjunction with the vest is required.

All fish-offs will use a staggered start. Boats will be allowed to take off only after being individually designated by the fish-off starter whom will release the next boat no earlier

than the previous boat getting on plane. Boats will take off in the order of the take-off drawing. On the second day of a two-day fish-off, the boats will take off in reverse order of the first day.

Boats must idle out from the starting point and may accelerate only after they have cleared the starting boat. Failure to comply with this rule will result in a 25-point fine for the boat operator.

Any member late for takeoff will be fined a 5-point fine from the yearly point standings, given a monetary fine set by the Board of Directors and their take-off assignment will be moved to last even if they arrive before the end of take-off. Members who were originally paired and were unable to attend, and who did not notify the Fish-Off Chairman will be considered late for takeoff. Club rules prohibit passing in a NO WAKE ZONE only during takeoff.

The above points and fines may be waived by the Board of Directors.

Fishing Rules

All members must comply with the rules and regulations as defined by the licensing state. The club takes no responsibility for violations of state rules.

Members are responsible for providing proof of insurance annually. Copies of insurance certificates must be provided to the Fish-Off Chairman prior to the first fish-off or when a member renews their insurance policy.

Only black bass, including largemouth, smallmouth, and Kentucky or spotted bass, caught in a legal manner by casting artificial lures will be considered as eligible for weigh-in. Neither trolling, nor use of live or prepared bait will be allowed. Pork baits are, however, permissible.

Fish inadvertently hooked outside the mouth when fishing in a legal manner **as defined by the licensing state** are allowed EXCEPT when sight fishing, such as during the spawning period when fish are on the spawning beds. Fish hooked outside the mouth when sight fishing, even though it may be unintentional, must be immediately released.

All fish must be caught while the member is in the boat. No fishing is allowed from the shore, and it is not permissible to leave the boat to land a fish.

The creel limit for fish-offs can be capped at a maximum of 5 fish by discretion of the Fish Off Chairman.

The members sharing a boat are expected to work together to locate and catch their fish. Thus, each member is entitled to choose approximately one half of the fishing spots. Also, no member will hinder or interfere with the fishing of his boat partner or of any other

fish-off contestant. Violations of these rules may result in fines, penalties, or disqualification as determined by the Board of Directors. Acts of un-sportsman like conduct brought to the attention of the committee will be reviewed by the board and will carry a minimum 25 point fine if the Board determines that an act of un-sportsmanship has occurred.

All members are expected to attempt to keep their catch alive by the proper handling of the fish and by the use of the boat's live well aerator(s). Penalties are assessed for dead fish, as discussed in the section on Scoring.

No professional guide service can be used for service or information on or regarding the particular body of water within 30 (thirty) days prior to a club fish-off.

Weigh-in

Only bass, caught as described earlier, which meet the minimum size and creel limits for the body of water, will be eligible for weigh-in.

For the purpose of assessing a late penalty, only minutes will be used. Official time will be announced at take-off from a GPS updated clock. Any boat within 500 feet of the departing boat ramp or designated area if it is a Trailer or non-trailer weigh-in will be considered on time. Any member, boater or non-boater, who is late for weigh-in will be penalized as follows:

- 1 to 8 minutes and 59 seconds – single largest fish will be disqualified
- 9 to 15 minutes and 59 seconds – two largest fish will be disqualified
- 16+ minutes – the member's total creel for that day will be disqualified from the tournament

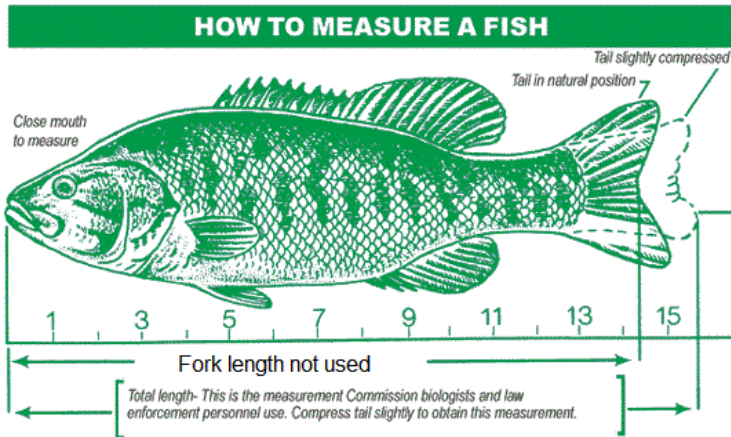
Boat breakdowns will be taken into consideration. However, a boater or non-boater who leaves prior to the weigh-in will result in their loss of fish for that day.

All weigh-ins will be trailered unless designated non-trailer before the day one take-off.

All fish must be brought to the scales in weigh-in bags with water. A courtesy bump-board will be available for any member to use to ensure that his fish meets the minimum size limit. This measurement will be done by the member only. No member of the Fish-Off Committee may pass judgment on a fish's size until that fish is submitted for weigh-in. A fish will be measured with a closed mouth and a closed tail using a flat bump-board.

Members will be called to the scales to weigh in their fish by takeoff order. The total weight, number of fish, and the number of fish to be released alive will then be recorded. The member will place their single largest fish, at their discretion, in the scale basket. After that fish's weight has been recorded, the member will then place any other eligible fish into the basket to be weighed along with his big bass.

The fish-off assistant operating the scale will have the responsibility of measuring any fish submitted for weigh-in which appears to be short of the minimum size limit. Additionally, any member may challenge the size of a fish and request that the fish be measured. Any fish submitted for weigh-in which does not meet the minimum size limit for the given body of water in the opinion of two of three Fish-Off Committee members will be disqualified from the fish-off. This will also result in 1LB. being deducted from the member's total weight for that fish-off.



Under no circumstances may any member of the Fish-Off Committee be allowed to measure or weigh a fish of his own creel. In all cases, the opinion of the Fish-Off Chairman will prevail.

Scoring

- The order of finish of any given fish-off will be determined by total weight.
- The yearly standings will be determined by a point system whereby each member earns points awarded as follows:
 - First place in an individual fish-off will be awarded 50 points, 49 points for second place, 48 points for third place, and continues until all places for members catching at least one fish have been awarded down to a minimum of 10 points.
 - First place in a team fish-off will be awarded 50 points, 49 points for second, 48 points for third, and continue until all places for members catching at least one fish have been awarded down to a minimum of 10 points.
 - Participating members that do not weigh in a fish shall be awarded 5 points for each day fished.
 - A 5-ounce penalty will be assessed for each dead fish weighed. If the BIG BASS is dead the 5oz. penalty will apply to that fish in determining standings, yearly Big Bass, cash pot payouts and prizes.

- Fish weighed at the Gorman Memorial will count towards the yearly point total. Fish caught during a Family Fish-Off will not count.
- Fish-off ties in total weight will be decided based upon the following criteria:
 - 1st Tiebreaker will be big bass
 - 2nd Tiebreaker will be number of fish weighed
 - 3rd Tiebreaker will be the number of fish released alive
 - If a tie is still present, the tie may be decided by the involved members each member will receive the combined places points/2. Ex. 1st = 50, 2nd = 49, each member is awarded 49.5 points
- Year-end ties in points will be decided based upon the following criteria:
 - Number of fish weighed
 - Total Weight
 - Big Bass

Regular Fish-off Awards

Trophies, plaques or engraved plates will be awarded to the top three places finishing members and for big bass for that weekend in each of the scheduled fish-offs. If there is a tie for big bass or a tie for the top three both members will receive awards. Guests will not be eligible for any of the above-mentioned awards.

Members and guests may elect to participate in an optional cash pot. The cost of the optional cash pot is \$20.00 and covers that one current fish-off. The payouts only include the anglers that participate in the optional cash pot and may differ from actual results. The percentage and entry breakdown is as follows:

- Big Bass Saturday – 50% of big bass pool (\$2.50 per participant)
- Big Bass Sunday – 50% of big bass pool (\$2.50 per participant)
- First Place – 50% of total weight pool (\$7.00 per participant)
- Second Place – 28.5% of total weight pool (\$5.00 per participant)
- Third Place – 21.5% of total weight pool (\$3.00 per participant)

Annual Awards

The top 25% (rounded up and based on the members fishing in at least 1 fish-off) up to a total of 10 members who finish the highest in yearly standings with their lowest fish-off dropped, will receive a trophy or plaque at the Awards Banquet in recognition of their

performances. Additionally, the top three finishers in the yearly point standings will be given additional awards and prizes as designated by the Board of Directors prior to the beginning of the fish-off schedule.

The member who caught the big bass for the year will receive a trophy or plaque, if there is a tie, both members will receive awards.

The highest finishing non-boater will receive a trophy or plaque.

The Gorman Memorial cash awards will be made to the top finishers in this fish-off. The amount of cash and the number of places to which cash will be awarded are dependent upon the Fish-Off Chairman and the Board of Directors.

Family fish-offs will also have trophies awarded to the top four families based upon total weight of the catch. A trophy will also be given for big fish of any species.

Expenses

Members who are participating in a fish-off and sharing another member's boat will be expected to share in the cost of all gas, oil, and lake or ramp fees incurred. Such members will be expected to pay \$30.00 per day for gas and oil, plus one half of any lake or ramp fees. Additionally, any tolls incurred traveling to a tournament will be shared equally by those members traveling together in the same vehicle.