

# Bay Area BassBusters (BABB) Tournament Rules

## 01.06.26 revision

Tournament rules are in effect starting in January and remain in effect for the entire year.\* These rules will only be changed after the November tournament and before the January tournament of the following year

\*For 2025, the tournament committee will enforce rules in a manner that aligns with their intended spirit. However, as new experiences provide valuable insights, these rules may be subject to slight adjustments over time to ensure they continue to serve the best interests of the club and its members. If necessary, rules may be revised and approved by a majority membership vote, in the affirmative, at an official club meeting"

### **GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES (applicable to all tournament formats)**

#### **1. Tournament Participant Eligibility**

- 1.1. General Eligibility Requirements
  - 1.1.1. All contestants must be at least eighteen (18) years of age.
  - 1.1.2. Each contestant must have a valid and current [CA fishing license](#) with all appropriate stamps governing the fishable waters of the event
  - 1.1.3. Each contestant must have submitted a signed waiver of club liability
  - 1.1.4. Each contestant operating a boat must possess a current [California Boater Safety Card](#)
  - 1.1.5. Tournament Entry Fees must be paid prior to event
- 1.2. Club Member Eligibility Requirements
  - 1.2.1. In addition to the above General Eligibility Requirements, club member participants must be "in good standing" as defined in the [Club Bylaws](#)
- 1.3. Prospective Member and Guest Eligibility Requirements
  - 1.3.1. Prospective members and guests, who meet the above General Eligibility Requirements, may fish the pick-your-partner tournaments.
  - 1.3.2. Prospective members and guests, who meet the above General Eligibility Requirements, may fish draw tournaments on a space available basis.
  - 1.3.3. Prospective members and guests will participate in the tournament and "Big Fish" payouts as a result of the mandatory tournament fee payment (1.1.5).
  - 1.3.4. Prospective members and guests are not eligible for season points
- 1.4. Participant Additions, Substitutions and/or Changes
  - 1.4.1. Members are given priority pairing in the event of an open seat and may replace a guest or prospective member.
  - 1.4.2. All additions/substitutions/changes to participants are to be approved by the Tournament Director (TD).

#### **2. Participant Conduct and Sportsmanship**

- 2.1. All participants are required to follow the [Bay Area BassBusters \(BABB\) Code of Conduct](#). Failure to do so will result in disqualification from the tournament they are participating in.
- 2.2. Alcohol and Drug Use is Prohibited
  - 2.2.1. No alcohol or drug use (except for those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) will be permitted from the time of check-in through completion of the post tournament debriefing. Anyone who is under the influence will be disqualified from the tournament
3. **Boat and Motor**
  - 3.1. For the safety of all contestants all boats must not exceed the Boating Industry Association (B.I.A.) capacity ratings.
  - 3.2. Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment.
  - 3.3. Every boat must have a functional bilge pump and livewell space, properly aerated to adequately maintain a live a limit of bass by all fishermen using the boat
    - 3.3.1. The Tournament Director shall have the discretion for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate."
  - 3.4. All boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating.
  - 3.5. The boat operator must ensure that their vessel is covered by valid boat insurance, with a minimum liability coverage of \$300,000.
  - 3.6. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.
  - 3.7. Fishing boats must be fifteen (15) feet or more in length and no longer than thirty (30) feet.
  - 3.8. Raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat.
  - 3.9. All bladder tanks and any type of gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited.
  - 3.10. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer authorized dealer are legal.
  - 3.11. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of eighteen (18) gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations.
  - 3.12. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat.
  - 3.13. No boat equipped with stick steering shall be permitted to be used during the official tournament by any competitor. The Tournament Director shall make the definition of "stick steering".
  - 3.14. Boaters are responsible to have a back seat for use by their Co-Angler if they ask. If the back seat is broken or not feasible the tournament director will make their best efforts to accommodate by swapping Co-Anglers amongst the boats to satisfy the request. No penalties shall be assessed if the Boater can justify the lack of back seat. We encourage the Boater and Co-Angler to have a reasonable discussion about their situation before they reach the tournament.
4. **Boating Safety**
  - 4.1. When the combustion motor is operating, the following requirements must be followed. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.
    - 4.1.1. U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are to be worn

- 4.1.2. Ignition kill switch lanyards must be used when the combustion motor is operating, as described in 3.4
- 4.2. Navigation lights are to be used at blast-off, at night, and during times of limited visibility.
- 5. Tackle and Equipment**
  - 5.1. Only artificial lures will be used with the exception of pork rinds.
  - 5.2. Rods may be of any length.
- 6. Trolling as a method of fishing is not permitted.**
  - 6.1. Trolling is defined as fishing while the combustion engine is running and in gear with baits in the water.
7. **Fishing Hours** will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be announced prior to each tournament. All tournaments will be based on the annual permit on file with the state's Department of Fish and Wildlife.
8. **Official Timepiece** will be that of the Tournament Director.
- 9. Permitted Fishing Locations**
  - 9.1. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except:
    - 9.1.1. Within fifty (50) yards of any marina gas pump or
    - 9.1.2. Within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position, with the trolling motor stowed. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the fifty (50) yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor or waters set as off limits by the Tournament Director. A competitor may give permission to fish closer.
- 10. Fish Handling**
  - 10.1. Contestants will make every reasonable effort to carefully handle, keep, and transport fish to the weigh-in site
  - 10.2. Aerated live wells will be used. Rope or metal stringers will not be allowed.
  - 10.3. Culling:
    - 10.3.1. Anglers may cull live bass to fulfill the daily bag and possession limits insofar that once the daily bag and possession limits have been reached by an individual angler, that same angler may continue to fish under the condition that each additional fish caught must immediately be returned to the water alive and in good condition, or be used to replace a fish being maintained alive and in condition from the participant's livewell.
    - 10.3.2. Dead fish may not be culled.
- 11. Check-in**
  - 11.1. All boats may be checked for functional live well and both anglers have life jackets as a minimum by the Tournament Director prior to blastoff.
  - 11.2. In the event a participant is late for blastoff, they may still be eligible to fish the tournament if the following conditions are met.
    - 11.2.1. Late arrivals will be required to locate another club member and have livewell checked and verified as empty before fishing.
    - 11.2.2. Late arrivals shall provide a signed affidavit by the club member who checked the livewell to the Tournament Director at weigh-in.
    - 11.2.3. The signed weigh slip or affidavit is required at the weigh-in to receive points or awards.
- 12. Measuring Devices**

- 12.1. Fish length will be measured on the Club's official measuring device, a Well-E-GO flat board. Fish will be measured flat with mouth closed and must measure thirteen (13) inches in length.
- 12.2. During photo events, the club shall provide club approved measuring boards to each boat and must return to the tournament director in working condition after the event. The scoring for photo events is detailed under "Photo Event Tournament Scoring" section
- 13. Size Limits/Bag Limits**
  - 13.1. Qualifying fish (largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass) must be a minimum of thirteen inches (13") in length, measured laying flat, mouth closed on a Well-E-GO flat board
  - 13.2. The daily limit will be 5 (five) fish per angler. Team tournament limits are 5 (five) bass per team but never more than the legal daily possession limit. If only one (1) angler competes as a team the limit is 5 fish.
  - 13.3. Should local regulations specify a different method of measurement, a different minimum length, or a different bag limit than the club's standard, the more stringent standard will be utilized in the tournament.
- 14. Weigh-In Procedures**
  - 14.1. All anglers will present their day's catch in a weigh bag.
    - 14.1.1. Any fish greater than five (5) lbs. should be in its own weigh bag.
    - 14.1.2. Fish shall not be held in the weigh bag for longer than three (3) minutes. Anglers should not bring their weigh bag to the weighmaster if their wait will be longer than three (3) minutes.
  - 14.2. Once the weigh bag has been presented to the weighmaster, no changes may be made to the day's catch.
  - 14.3. To weigh a Big Fish, it should be marked with a culling tag or identified by the angler upon presenting their weigh bag. A Big Fish will not be weighed if not identified.
    - 14.3.1. A dead fish cannot claim any Big Fish award (tournament or annual), however, a dead big fish will be counted toward your overall weight with a dead fish penalty applied.
  - 14.4. Fish should be released as quickly as possible based on the instructions of the Tournament Director.
  - 14.5. Reweighting of fish can only be requested once and only at the scales. The second weighing will then be official.
  - 14.6. Scoring: Weights will be recorded in pounds and hundredths of pounds unless specified otherwise. All fish must measure thirteen inches (13") long with the mouth closed on a Well-E-GO flat board or ruler. A contestant's Big Fish will be utilized as a tiebreaker in case of ties.
15. **Trophy Fish:** is a fish 5 (five) pounds or larger and may be claimed by its captor.
16. **Drawing** for the monthly tournaments are detailed under either draw or the pick-your partner.
17. **Start and Finish:** All contestants will start and finish at the lake headquarters (usually at the launch site) as set by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will instruct all boats to the designated meeting area during the morning blastoff.
- 18. Operation of Boat**
  - 18.1. The Co-Angler shall not have the right to operate the boat unless granted

permission by the boater or when facing a safety/emergency situation.

**19. Sharing Expenses**

19.1. A co-angler is required to cover a fair share of expenses. The amount can be up to fifty percent (50%) of the expenses agreed upon by the boater and co-angler. Shared expenses generally include the following: fuel for vehicle and boat, outboard oil, tolls, parking fees, launch fees, and shared lodging.

20. **Radios and Cellular Telephones** are allowed in boats as an emergency tool only. Boat-to-boat communications are prohibited except for emergency purposes.

21. **Pre-Fishing:** will be allowed at any tournament lake at any time before the tournament starts.

22. **Leaving Boat:** All fish will be hooked, fought and landed from the angler's boat. No fishing from docks, shore, or other places is permitted.

35. **Points:** will be awarded following each month's tournament as follows:

35.1. Members must declare their intent to fish a tournament by the club meeting to qualify for tournament points.

35.2. Tournament points will be awarded to the top twenty (20) places. At minimum, one (1) fish must be weighed-in to be eligible

35.2.1. 1st-20 pts, 2nd-19 pts, 3rd-18 pts, 4th-17 pts, 5th-16 pts, 6th-15 pts, 7th-14 pts, 8th-13 pts, 9th-12 pts, 10th - 11 pts, 11th - 10 pts, 12th-9 pts, 13th-8 pts, 14th-7 pts, 15th-6 pts, 16th-5 pts, 17th-4 pts, 18th-3 pts, 19th-2 pts, 20th-1 pt

35.2.2. Big Fish – additional 1pt

35.3. Team Draw/Pick tournaments, members on the same team receive equal tournament points with the exception of Big Fish points.

35.4. Meeting Attendance 1 pt

35.5. Tournament Participation 3 pts

35.6. Debriefing Attendance 1 pt

35.7. All members are required to have two (2) throw out tournaments per year but shall have counted all Meeting Attendance, Tournament Participation and Debriefing Attendance points earned.

35.8. All ties will be broken as follows: (listed below by situation, by order)

35.8.1. Individual Tournaments: 1. Big fish caught at that event. 2. Total live fish weighed. 3. Total fish weighed. 4. Toss of a coin.

35.8.2. Season Points Race (Year): Biggest fish, by weight, caught up to that point in the year.

**36. Penalties:**

36.1. Contestants who are late for weigh-in will have one (1) pound subtracted from the total weight for each minute late up to five (5) minutes (5 lb max). Contestants who are late by more than five (5) minutes at the specified time or have not checked in for the weigh-in will be disqualified for that day.

36.2. Undersized Fish: Penalties for weighing-in a fish smaller than the thirteen inch (13") minimum length shall be processed as follows: Each undersized fish shall be removed prior to weigh-in. In addition, per each undersized fish a one (1) pound penalty shall be incurred.

36.3. Violation of Daily Limit: Anyone or any team having more than the five (5) fish limit in their possession past the official check-in time shall have their weight disqualified for the day.

- 36.4. Culling fish inside the designated launch site and areas designated by the Tournament Director is prohibited and will result in the day's catch disqualified.
- 36.5. Sight Fishing: When visually fishing for all bass, all bass must be hooked inside of the mouth and must be verified by your partner, when present, before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.
- 36.6. Mutilated/Altered Fish: Any fish that appears mutilated or altered in the Tournament Director's judgment may result in the day's catch disqualified.
- 36.7. Mishandling of fish: It is the goal of the club to release live all tournament caught bass following the weigh-in. Contestants are therefore required to do all in their power to preserve their daily catch. Deliberate rough or careless handling of fish while culling is grounds for disqualification.
- 36.8. Dead Fish: The penalty for dead fish will be progressive in the amount of 1st dead fish .20 (20/100) of a pound. 2nd dead fish .40 (40/100) of a pound. 3rd dead fish .80 (80/100) of a pound. 4th dead fish 1.60 (160/100) pounds. 5th dead fish or more 3.20 (320/100) pounds.
- 36.9. Protests: Complaints or protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director within thirty (30) minutes after weigh-in. A decision of the Tournament Director will be made prior to awards and shall be final.

37. **Year End Prizes and Awards:**
  - 37.1. Year End Awards are only awarded to members in good standing
  - 37.2. All members are required to have two (2) throw-out tournaments per year but shall have counted all Meeting Attendance, Tournament Participation and Debriefing Attendance points earned. The points accumulated by a member for the season shall determine placement for Year End Awards.
  - 37.3. AOY: At the beginning of the season, a predetermined cash award amount for Angler of the Year for each division shall be awarded to the members with the highest accumulative point total and standing.
    - 37.3.1. In the event of a tie for the Angler of the Year, a fish off will take place at a lake and date designated by the tournament committee. The person(s) with the largest weight during this fish-off will be declared Angler of the Year for their respective division.
  - 37.4. Big Fish: At the beginning of the season, a predetermined cash award amount for Big Fish of the Year shall be awarded to the member recording the largest fish of the year, by weight, while fishing a club tournament
  - 37.5. Tournament of Champions (TOC): At the beginning of the season, a predetermined cash award for the winner of TOC shall be awarded to the highest finishing anglers per division during the TOC event.
  - 37.6. Additional awards may also be presented which include, but not limited to, Sportsman of the Year, Mr. Bass, and Rookie of the Year. The Board of Officers will determine whether such awards will be presented and solicit nominations and be voted on via closed ballot.
38. **Courtesy:** Any contestant who has to leave the water after the launch must notify a member of the club. If it is not possible to locate another club member, they must leave a note in an obvious place on an officer's vehicle. A search party will be formed to search for any boat not checked in by the end of the weigh-in.
39. **Boat in distress:** Contestants with boat or motor trouble will be allowed to transfer their fish to another boat. The fish must be identifiable and accompanied by one contestant

from the disabled boat.

40. **Tournament dates and locations:** will be selected by the Tournament Committee

40.1. All tournaments will be based on the annual permit on file with our state's Department of Fish and Wildlife.

40.2. Tournament dates and location are subject to change. Should change(s) be deemed necessary, they will consider venue (e.g. launch facilities) first and location (e.g. lake) second

41. **Spirit of the Rules:** All rules have "loopholes." It is the intention of this club to provide an honest, sportsman-like environment. In the interest of good sportsmanship, club members are reminded that the "Spirit of the Rules" will prevail in all judgment cases.

42. **Rulings:** In the situation of a ruling, the Tournament Director and Tournament Committee shall meet as a group to discuss the situation to reach a decision. The **decision(s) of the Tournament Director are final in all matters.**

## ANGLER DIVISIONS: EVENT AND SEASONAL RACES

There are two separate divisions in which an angler may participate in while participating in BABB sanctioned events and for yearly awards and prizes. The divisions aim to minimize concerns about competitive advantages and foster competition among like-equipped anglers. The rules strive to ensure fairness and provide clear guidelines for each division.

The two divisions will be referred to as Division 1 (“Boater”) and Division 2 (“Co-Angler”). The terms “boater” and “co-angler” are only used to describe the typical division angler’s position on the tournament boat as further described below in **Eligibility and Definition of Divisions**.

Members must declare prior to their first tournament competition of the year, the division in which they intend to participate for the season. Eligibility for each division’s participation is defined below.

Yearly awards/prizes for Angler of the Year (AOY) and the Tournament of Champions (TOC) winner will be awarded for each division. Big Fish of the Year is awarded to a single member with the largest fish by weight for the year, regardless of division.

Prospective members and guests will have their division determined by the Tournament Director for each event. Each tournament event requires the payment of tournament entry fees to fund a structured prize pool per division and funding a single Big Fish prize pool shared across divisions.

### Eligibility and Definitions of Divisions:

- **Division 1 (“Boater”)** is designed for members in good standing who will be the primary operator of and responsible for a qualifying boat used in club sponsored tournaments.
- **Division 2 (“Co-Angler”)** is designed for any member in good standing who will not be the primary operator of a qualifying boat used in club sponsored tournaments.
- A “co-angler” may choose to participate in the Division 1 (“Boater”) season points race and tournament events. In this case, the eligible competitor agrees to remain in Division 1 (“Boater”) for the season and to forfeit any accumulated Division 2 (“Co-Angler”) points and begin accumulating Division 1 (“Boater”) points from the requested date forward.

### Division Rules:

1. Eligible members, after declaring in which single division they will participate for the season, will only participate in that division’s tournament prize pool and points race towards yearly awards/prizes.
2. Prospective members and guests will only participate in the tournament prize pool for the division assigned to them by the Tournament Director as described above. They do not participate in the division’s points race towards yearly awards/prizes.
3. All divisional competitors are responsible for their division’s **mandatory** tournament entry fee prior to participation in a sanctioned event.
4. Competitors who will be the primary operator of a tournament boat will be automatically

assigned to Division 1 ("Boater").

5. A Division 1 ("Boater") competitor who elects to participate as a "co-angler" shall pay Division 1 ("Boater") tournament entry fees and compete for Division 1 ("Boater") prize pool payouts and earn Division 1 ("Boater") points
6. In a team event, if a Division 1 ("Boater") competitor competes as a "co-angler" with a Division 1 ("Boater") teammate, the Division 1 ("Boater") prize pool payouts, when applicable, will be divided equally. Similarly, points awarded are shared and are the **lesser** points of the two places achieved. For example: In the instance above, if two Division 1 ("Boater") fish together as a team and they place 1st, the 1st and 2nd place prize pool payouts from Division 1 will be **combined** and equally divided by both competitors. Similarly, points awarded will be equal and the **lesser** of the two placement points. In this same example, nineteen (19) points for 2nd are awarded to both, **not** the twenty 20 for 1st.
7. A Division 2 ("Co-Angler") competitor is required to be paired with a Division 1 ("Boater") competitor via either a tournament draw, "Pick-Your-Partner" selection, or Tournament Director placement.
8. A "co-angler" competitor who elects to compete as a "boater" is required to pay the Division 1 ("Boater") tournament entry fee and will compete in the Division 1 ("Boater") prize pool payout\*.
9. A "co-angler" competitor who elects to fish as a "boater" cannot earn Division 2 ("Co-Angler") points towards season's standings\*.
10. In a team event, each competitor's placement is based on the team's total weight within their assigned division.
11. In an individual event, each competitor's placement is based on the individual's weight within their assigned division.
12. In a team tournament and for Big Fish purposes, if a division competitor's Big Fish would not contribute to the team's overall weight, yet still be reasonably considered a candidate for Big Fish purposes, that competitor is allowed to possess and transport their single fish to weigh-in without penalty.

*\*Exceptions must be formally requested and then granted by the Tournament Committee, which may include (and are not limited to) a situation in which a Division 2 ("Co-Angler") competitor would make available a competition boat to accommodate either themselves or another Division 2 ("Co-Angler") competitor who would otherwise not be able to participate. Exceptions must state whether the competitor will earn Division 2 ("Co-Angler") season points and/or be allowed to pay and enter to compete in Division 2 ("Co-Angler") prize pool money while electing to fish as the "boater".*

## DRAW TOURNAMENT RULES

These tournament rules will apply during a tournament that has been designated a "Draw" tournament by the Tournament Director.

1. Members must declare their intent to fish the tournament at the draw. If a member is not present they may have an attending member declare intent for them.
2. Prospective members must be present at the club meeting and declare their intent prior to the draw.
3. Participants must declare whether they intend to operate an eligible boat as a "Boater" or require being paired with a Boater as a "Co-Angler" prior to the draw.
4. Priority: Members in good standing are given priority in the event of an open seat and may replace a guest or prospective member, should the need arise. All substitutions/changes must be approved by the Tournament Director.
5. A co-angler can be drawn and paired with a given boater a maximum of two (2) times in any one tournament season. In the event of a repeat third draw pairing, the co-angler will either be placed back into the drawing or draw pairings switched manually by the Tournament Director, at his/her discretion. Upon being drawn, you are guaranteed to fish Pick your-partner tournaments are excluded in the count towards draw pairings.
6. The club secretary will count the number of members fishing to determine the number of boats needed.
7. All Boater names will go into one draw and Co-Angler names into another.
8. This will be a true draw. We will draw pairings of Boaters and Co-Anglers until all pairings are satisfied. The order results of the draw will determine launch order.
  - 8.1. Should the draw result in an unpaired Boater(s), they may elect to bring a guest of their choosing
  - 8.2. Should the draw result in an unpaired Co-Angler(s), they may be paired, in order drawn, at a later time should a Boater become available.
  - 8.3. In a 2-day team tournament, if an angler cannot fish both days, the angler will get credit for the single day's weight and earn points in the contest based on the weight of the single day. If an angler fishes both days with different partners the participant will be credited with both day's weights.
9. The last boat drawn will act as the de facto starter and will be in charge of launching the boats according to their launch number.
10. Starting positions will reverse on the second day of a two-day tournament with boat number one assuming duties as the de facto starter.

## PICK-YOUR-PARTNER TEAM TOURNAMENT RULES

These tournament rules will apply during a tournament that has been designated a "Pick-Your Partner" by the Tournament Committee.

1. Members must declare their intent to fish a pick-your-partner tournament at the club meeting. If a member is not present they may have an attending member declare their intent for them.
2. Prospective members must be present at the club meeting and declare their intent prior to the launch drawing.
3. Order of Priority for pairing of partners:
  - 1 - Member, Co-Angler
  - 2 - Member, Boater
  - 3 - Prospective member in attendance.
  - 4 - Sponsored guest in attendance
  - 5 - Outside guest not in attendance

*The above order shall govern and each must be satisfied before consideration of the next priority. All members are given priority and will be paired with other members who wish to participate in the tournament. If a member has not been paired, a draw will be held to determine the member's partner.*

4. The last boat drawn will act as the de facto starter and will be in charge of launching the boats according to their launch number.
5. Starting positions will reverse on the second day of a two-day tournament with boat number one assuming duties as the de facto starter.

## TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPION (TOC) RULES

1. Qualifications: Members in good standing qualifying within the top six in points in their division from the previous year's standings with minimum participation of 6 events can compete in the one day tournament of champions (TOC)
2. The TOC is held in the following year during a combined club tournament at a lake of the Tournament Committee's choice. This will be a tournament within a tournament
3. The TOC shall be held during a regular draw club tournament. In the case where the event is a 2 day tournament, the weight from the first day of this tournament will count towards the one day TOC.
4. Draw tournament rules shall apply.

Awards and prizes will be given out after the conclusion of the TOC

## **Photo Event Tournament Scoring - Special Event**

A Photo Event is a special tournament format where the measurement of fish is based on length in inches and quarter inch increments. Digital photos of fish using measuring devices are submitted as evidence of catches. The tournament director shall announce the method of photo and length submission. Only measuring boards approved by the Tournament Director are to be used. Those needing measuring boards will be provided by the club which then must return to the tournament director at the conclusion of the event. To measure a fish's length, lay the fish flat on its side with the mouth closed placed against the perpendicular surface of the measuring board. Measurement is made by the longest straight-line distance from the tip of the head to the end of the longest lobe of the tail.

**Big Fish:** A fish may be kept in the live well and weighed for Big Fish and will be used for any tie breaker or Big Fish awards.

**Photo Standards** - Digital photographs of each fish submitted to judges for scoring must meet these criteria:

**Unique**—Each digital photo submitted by the angler in a photo event must be of a different fish. Subsequent digital photos of the same fish submitted by an angler will be denied.

**Visible/Legible**—Each photo must be in sharply focused and clear enough for a judge to verify

- Verify the fish's condition. Violation will result in denial of photo.
- Verify the fish's length. Judge will score fish at the greatest length of which he is certain.
- Verify whether the bass' jaw or lip is in contact with the measuring board fence. Inability of the judge to verify will result in a penalty of 1 inch.
- Except where covered by hand or fingers, the entire fish, from mouth/jaw to the tip of its caudal (tail) fin, must be visible in photos. If either end is covered or cropped off, the photo will be denied.

**Centered**—Camera lens positioned directly over the center of the fish's body, which contributes to accurate measurement by judges. Photos taken at a low angle in order to obscure an open mouth may be denied or penalized at the Tournament Director's discretion.

**First-generation**—Each digital photo must be a first-generation image (not a photo or screen-shot of another photo). Violation will result in denial of photo.

7. Example Photo

