

Netminders Bass Tournaments Official Rules for 2018

1) Season Pre-payment for Premium Membership

This year we will again allow anglers to pre-pay their entire season at \$325 per person, to include annual membership (\$25/person) and \$300/person for entry fees for all 8 regular season events plus the Fishoff. (The Family Day is a benefit tournament and the entry fee is doubled for that one event). The advantage of prepayment is a favored launch order at *every* tournament. This may be done by mailing in a completed pre-payment form along with a check made out to Trinity Netminders no later than February 15, 2018, OR you may also hand Chris Warren cash or check in person at our dinner Thursday night February 22nd. [This date is subject to change]. Premium Members will draw for favored launch order at our Netminders dinner open to all to be held at Dipsy Doodle Restaurant at 6:30 pm the night of February 22nd. If you are unable to attend the dinner, we will draw for you. In this way Premium Members will obtain a favored launch order number *for the entire season* (including the Fish-Off). For instance, if 24 guys pre-pay (that's 12 boats), those 12 boats will draw for launch orders 1-12. *Both partners* must pre-pay to become Premium Members in order to obtain favored launch order status. We use this system to speed up event registrations and give an advantage to those anglers who are committed to the Netminders circuit. Pre-payment does NOT automatically qualify you for the FishOff. There will be *no refund* for events missed.

2) Event Registration, Season Membership, and Launch

Anglers may also register for an event the morning of the tournament. Please arrive in time to have your livewell checked at the ramp by Netminders staff, have your boat in the water and paid up no later than 20 minutes before launch time. Having your livewell checked you will get a fluorescent tag tied to your trolling motor. If you put in at a different ramp, you should come to the courtesy dock and get checked and tagged. When you pay your entry fee of \$30/person, you will draw a numbered chip from a bucket and retain it throughout the event. That number will be the launch order for your boat. That chip must be placed back at the weigh-in platform on the chip board in the appropriate slot no later than the ending time of the event. At your first event you will also be assessed a season membership of \$25/person, and submit or fill out the 2018 Liability Waiver form. Blank forms are available on our website or at the ramp. Print the online form and fill it out before you arrive if you are able, to make registration go faster. After registering for the event, you should maintain your boat inside the bouys and await the announcements and Christian devotion given by the tournament officials. After the devotion and prayer, you may start your engines and wait for your number to be called over the megaphone. Since we have done livewell checks at the ramp, we will send boats out in groups of 3 to 5.

3) Angler of the Year (AOY) Point System

The angler(s) with the most total points at the end of the 8 NetMinders regular season events will win the award, receiving a beautiful hand-sculpted trophy and \$2,000. Second place in the points wins \$1,000. The Point System is as follows: Each paid participant in a Netminders tournament shall receive 25 Participation points, regardless of having caught fish or not. The only stipulation is that they have paid their entry fee. For the boaters with Most Total Weight, each contestant in that boat will receive 100 points, second place contestants receive 99, 3rd place receive 98, and so forth. NO additional Bonus Points are awarded.

4) If one of the members of a partnership has to miss *one* tournament, the other member may pay his partner's entry fee, and both are awarded the points won by that boat. The partner present *cannot* take on another non-boater in that event. *An absent angler may only be awarded points earned by his*

partner once per season. If he misses again he cannot get the points of his partner. The idea is to encourage team fishing where the partnership remains together.

- 5) AOY points are tallied on anglers as *individuals rather than as partnerships*. That means if you fish with two different people, the points are awarded to you and whoever you fished with that day. However, any given angler cannot fish with *more than* two different partners and still retain his AOY points or qualify for the Fishoff. Also, if he started the season with person A, and then at some point fished with person B, he can either finish the season with B, or switch back to person A and stay with that person, but cannot switch to anyone else and keep his points. Also, he can not switch back and forth throughout the season and keep his AOY points (for example: ABAB....)

6) **FishOff**

After the eight regular season events, a one-day Fish Off tournament will be held Saturday October 20, the winners of which are given a \$2,000 prize, and other places will be paid as well (100% payout). All *individuals* who are in the top 60 in AOY points OR have fished all eight events will qualify for the Fish Off. YOU MAY ONLY FISH THE FISH-OFF WITH THE PARTNER YOU STARTED THE SEASON WITH, AND IF HE IS NOT AVAILABLE YOU MUST FISH BY YOURSELF. The location of the Fish-Off will be Chickamauga – Soddy Creek. No off-limits restrictions will be placed on practice for the FishOff. This year we are giving a Consolation Prize of \$500 to the highest point-getter who did NOT qualify for the Fishoff. If there is a tie, each person gets \$250.

Rules:

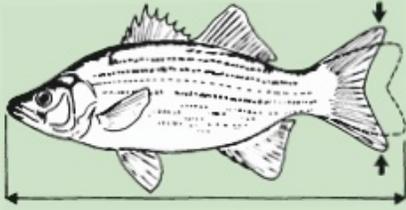
- 7) Open to all individuals, male and female. Must have a valid Tennessee fishing license. Kids 16 and under pay no membership fee, but must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Participants must stay within earshot of the pre-tournament devotion and prayer prior to launch with their engines off.
- 8) A one-time annual membership fee of \$25.00 assessed at your first tournament will be used to cover expenses and pay the Angler of the Year and Fish-off winners. Entry fees shall be \$30.00 per contestant per tournament, of which \$5.00 goes for Big Fish prize money. Entry fees are payable in cash or check to Chris Warren, Tournament Director, or his designee at the ramp *NO LATER THAN 20 minutes before the competition, no exceptions. This rule will be strictly enforced.* Tournament officials wearing fluorescent orange vests will check livewells at the ramp prior to launch and will put a tag on your trolling motor shaft. If you put in at a different ramp please present yourself to one of the livewell checkers to obtain a tag.
- 9) A maximum of two contestants are allowed in each boat, so e.g., a threesome should not show up wanting to have 3 in a boat, even if one is a child.
- 10) Prize money will be awarded by check following the weigh-in at each tournament. Total prize money distributed throughout the year is 100% of our entry fee intake PLUS EXTRA. The May 12 Family Day tournament on Dale Hollow will be a benefit for *Teen Challenge of the Cumberlands*, and the entry fee is doubled that day only. However we will have a guaranteed \$4,000 Prize for First Place. We are also guaranteeing \$1,000 first place at all other events thanks to our sponsors. The contestants in the boat with Most Pounds will equally share the First Prize pot, each receiving a check for half. Additional places will be paid based on the number of boats in the tournament. Each contestant in the

boat with Big Fish will share the total collected for Big Fish entries. A payout table based on number of contestants can be found on the website.

- 11) Tournament hours are provided on the flyer schedule. Tournament Director may change hours on short notice if necessary based on weather conditions. Please consult the website, Facebook Group, and emails for the most current information about time and place (TrinityNetminders.com).
- 12) Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life vest, securely fastened, at all times while the boat is being propelled by the combustion engine. Furthermore a kill switch must be fastened to the driver anytime the combustion engine is propelling the boat. Running lights must be operational and turned on at the blast-off of each night tournament. Each competitors boat must be equipped with a livewell system capable of keeping a tournament limit of bass alive. Please report such safety violations to the tournament director prior to the weigh in. Tournament Director reserves the right to enforce a penalty at his own discretion.
- 13) Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. No team may fish within 50 yards of any other boat unless explicit permission is given. That is 7 boat lengths. Permission may not be granted to any team at the exclusion of another team. The use of electronic communication devices for the purpose of sharing fishing information during tournament hours is prohibited. Please report such violations to the tournament director prior to the weigh in. Tournament Director reserves the right to enforce a penalty at his own discretion. Note: it is very easy to misjudge distance on the water so only report such violations if you are certain.
- 14) Only artificial baits may be used. No live or cut bait is permitted (pork baits are permitted). All bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner. No snagging. Each competitor may only use 1 rod at a time, though may have any number in the boat. No more than 1 line in the water at a time per angler. Trolling with the combustion motor is not permitted. No competitor may leave the boat to land or catch fish. Umbrella rigs will be allowed, the Tennessee-legal version. Any boat violating the rules in this paragraph will be disqualified.
- 15) A limit of 5 bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass) may be weighed in. Minimum lengths will be set at the discretion of the Tournament Director, and will follow all TWRA rules for lengths and slot limits. These will be clearly announced at the beginning of every competition. On Dale Hollow, a two-man team may bring in two smallmouth in the range 12-16" and two over 21". A short fish brought to the scales and placed into the weighing basket will not be weighed, and *will result in a 1-pound penalty*. Dead fish will be penalized 1 pound, and only one dead fish can be weighed. The dead fish penalty will also apply to any fish weighed as a Big Fish if that fish is dead. All culling must be done on the lake; no team may have more than the tournament limit of 5 in the livewell at any time during the tournament, including dead fish. The Tournament Director or his designee will grant a courtesy check for fish whose length or species is in question without penalty, providing that fish has **not** been placed into the weighing basket yet. However, if a fish is judged to be unqualified by the courtesy check, the anglers obviously then can only weigh four fish, since no more than 5 fish can be in the livewell at any time. Any boat violating the "all culling on the lake rule" will be penalized their biggest fish weighed in.

Measuring A Fish's Length

Lay the fish on a flat ruler, close the mouth, and squeeze the lobes of the tail fin to produce the maximum length.



- 16) All participants are required to abide by all state and federal laws and game regulations. Any participant who consumes, or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages, stimulants or depressants during any Netminders function will have their catch disqualified and may be subject to permanent disqualification from Netminders events at the discretion of the Tournament Director. (Prescribed medications taken per doctor's instructions are OK, of course.)
- 17) If for any reason either or both team members decide to leave the tournament waters early, both members should make an effort to notify a tournament official. If one team member leaves the water early (other than for use of restroom), he may not return and resume fishing. However, his partner may continue fishing for the remainder of the tournament hours. In case of a breakdown, a team may return with fish conveyed by another tournament boat as long as no mixing of fish occurs in the livewell.
- 18) Giving to or receiving keeper fish from participants in another boat is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification of both boats' catches. The Tournament Director also reserves the right to disqualify you from any future Netminders events.
- 19) Weigh-in will be on a first come first serve basis coordinated by the Tournament Director. Typically we will not start weighing fish early. For safety reasons, teams not weighing any fish are still required to check in with tournament officials in order to account for all teams. If a team decides to leave the tournament early, they should leave their chip at the weigh-in trailer so that tournament officials know they are OK.
- 20) Launch chip must be returned to the weigh-in platform and be placed on the chip board in the appropriate numbered slot before the deadline. Competitors who arrive at the Weigh-in LATE for the deadline will be penalized at a rate of 1 pound per 5 minute, up to 15 minutes at which time their catch will be disqualified. Those contestants will still retain their participation points for their yearly total. Late penalties will be deducted from "Big Fish" weight as well as total weight.
- 21) Grievances or controversies about rule violations must be reported to the tournament director prior to the start of the weigh-in, and depending on the seriousness, may be needed in writing. Ignorance of a rule does not excuse the violator of the rule.
- 22) This season we will begin to implement a new Rules Committee of three Netminder members plus Chris Warren and Scott Northrup. Controversies or clarifications will be referred to this committee for arbitration and a vote will be taken.

23) Netminders reserves the right to administer to any tournament participants a polygraph test as a condition for awarding prize money. A contestant may refuse, but then cannot receive prize money.