

Welcome to the 4-F Bass Club

New Member Orientation Handout

Welcome to the 4-F Bass Club! We're glad you're here. We take bass fishing seriously (well... some of us, sometimes), but above all we value **fairness, safety, sportsmanship, and having a good time.**

This quick guide covers what you need to know before fishing your first tournament.

Our Philosophy

- **Honor System** – We trust our anglers. Integrity matters.
 - **Catch & Release** – Conservation comes first.
 - **Friendly Competition** – Compete hard, respect harder.
 - **Safety Always** – No fish is worth an injury.
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Tournament Basics

- **Species:** Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass only
- **Limit:** 5 fish per angler/team
- **Minimum Length:** 10 inches
- **Format:** Catch & release using paper tally sheets
- **Big Bass Award:** Given at each tournament

All fish must be **measured, recorded, witnessed by your partner, and immediately released.**

How to Measure Fish (Very Important)

- Mouth closed
 - Tail pinched
 - Measure straight from snout to tail tip
 - Use a **flat measuring board** with ¼" increments
 - If there's a dispute, **the shorter measurement counts**
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Scoring (Quick Version)

- Tournament placement determines points (100 for 1st, 99 for 2nd, etc.)
 - Big Bass earns **+1 bonus point**
 - If you fish but don't catch a fish, you still earn points
 - Your **lowest tournament score of the year is dropped**
 - Highest total at year end wins **Angler of the Year**
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Partner Draw & Attendance

- Partners are drawn **randomly** at the meeting before each tournament
 - Non-boaters present at the meeting are drawn first
 - You **must email the Tournament Director or President by noon on meeting day** if you want to fish
 - No late additions after the meeting (drops only)
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Boater & Non-Boater Expectations

Expenses

- Boat & tow fuel split **50/50**
- Ramp fees paid by **non-boater**
- Boater handles collections

Respect

- Treat the boat like it's your own
 - Share fishing water fairly
 - Communicate and coordinate spots
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Safety Rules (No Exceptions)

- Life jackets required when main motor is running
- Driver must wear lanyard stop switch
- Boats must have required safety equipment
- **Zero tolerance for alcohol** during tournaments

If you show up intoxicated or drink during a tournament, you're disqualified.

On-the-Water Rules

- Artificial lures only (no live bait)
 - One rod in use at a time
 - No trolling
 - Stay **50 yards** from other boats unless both agree
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Guests

- Guests are welcome
 - Paid members get priority in partner draws
 - Guests must follow all club rules
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Conduct & Sportsmanship

We expect all members to:

- Be respectful on and off the water
- Handle disagreements calmly
- Support the honor system

Unsportsmanlike conduct can result in disqualification.

Club Info

- **Annual Dues:** \$50 for Boaters and \$20 per draw tournament for Non-Boaters.
 - **Meetings:** First Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted)
 - **Tournaments:** Second Saturday of each month (unless otherwise noted)
 - **Officers:** President & Secretary/Treasurer (elected annually)
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Questions?

Ask the Tournament Director, President, or any experienced member. We're here to help — and we want you to enjoy fishing with us.



Welcome to the 4-F Bass Club. Fish hard. Fish fair. Have fun.