

Harris Chain Bassmasters (HCBM) Angling Rules

ARTICLE 1: Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This document shall be called the Harris Chain Bassmasters (HCBM) Angling Rules.

(a) The Angling Rules herein will consist of two (2) sets of Rules that shall serve as guidelines for the processes and procedures of all HCBM club angling activities. One (1) set will apply to the normal best practices of fishing in a general monthly tournament and one (1) set will apply to the specific processes and procedures for the HCBM club yearly Classic fishing tournament as outlined in Article IV, Sec. 4 & Sec. 5, page 6-7 of 9.

Section 2; Purpose

The proposed purpose of the angling guidelines is to establish fair and reasonable rules and regulations for participating in club angling events with the focus on the following:

- (a) Provide an equal opportunity for all club members, boaters and non-boaters, to share their interest and enjoyment while participating in club angling programs
- (b) Provide a platform for anglers to experience the teach and learn aspects of angling from fellow members having varied levels of angling knowledge
- (c) To provide a safe environment for an angling and boating experience
- (d) To instill the need for conservation pertaining to fisheries management
- (e) To promote good sportsmanship

ARTICLE II: Means of Governance

Section 1: The Fishing/Tournament Committee

There shall be a Fishing/Tournament Committee as authorized by the HCBM Board of Directors.

- (a) There shall be an appointment by the President a Chairman of the Fishing/Tournament Committee from volunteer members having an interest in serving on the committee.
- (b) The Chairman is given the authority by the BOD to execute the duties as set forth in Article II, Section 1, paragraph (e) of the HCBM club Bylaws along with any additional duties deemed necessary by the BOD.
- (c) The Committee shall be the authority having jurisdiction in all matters relating to the fishing/tournament rules and regulations.
- (d) The Committee may seek guidance from the BOD on an as needed basis.
- (e) The term of service for the Chairman shall be for one (1) year or more at the will of the President.
- (f) The Chairman of the Committee and the Tournament Director may be one in the same but not required.
- (g) The Fishing/Tournament Committee shall be assisted by the club Weigh Master (WM) with the duties assigned by the BOD.

Section 1: The Fishing/Tournament Committee

The Fishing/Tournament Committee Chairman shall be responsible for the creation of a club monthly fishing tournament.

- (a) The Chairman shall set the date and time elements of the monthly tournaments.

Section 2: Tournament Guidelines

- (a) Members must sign up, or have another member sign for them, for the next monthly tournament before the beginning of the meeting, or by notifying the TD before the meeting. The exception would be for early sign-up pairings for a two (2) day tournament as determined by the club members.
- (b) Angler and co-angler pairings will be determined by the HCBM TD.
- (c) Once the pairings have been announced any member may request to be reassigned with a new pairing by the TD.
- (d) The tournament pairings will begin with the first non-boater drawn being paired with the TD and be designated as boat #1. In the event that the TD is a non-boater, he will fish as a co-angler and be paired with boat #1.
The second non-boater drawn will be paired with the Weigh Master (WM) and

be designated as boat #2. In the event that the WM is a non-boater, he will fish as a co-angler and be paired with boat #2.

Boaters will then be paired with non-boaters until all non-boaters have been paired unless the number of non-boater members exceeds the number of available boats. The designated boat numbers will continue in sequence with each pairing. Boats #3 & #4 will be designated as release boats if and when needed.

- (e) Boaters that are paired together as tournament angler and co-angler will have the option to fish together in their boat of choice to be declared when paired or may fish alone in his own boat.
- (f) Non-boater members attending the monthly meetings will take precedence for pairings over absentee non-boater members.
- (g) In the event that there are not enough boats available in the pairings to pair with the attending non-boater members, the remaining unpaired non-boater members shall be the first non-boaters to be drawn for the following month's tournament provided they are present for that meeting's pairing.
- (h) Non-boater members not attending a meeting but wish to be included in the tournament pairing for that month must notify the Tournament Director to have their name(s) entered but are only paired if and when the other non-boater members attending the meeting are paired. The non-boater members who request the TD to enter their names in the pairings will be on a first come first served basis and may not be able to be paired for the lack of available boats in the tournament.
- (i) If a co-angler elects to use his boat to allow a non-boater to fish the co-angler shall be considered as the boat member but will only earn co-angler points.
- (j) The TD, or his designated replacement, will release all boats at safe light in the order that they were paired, or amended by the TD, until all boats are released.
- (k) All boats may be inspected by the TD prior to the start of the tournament.
- (l) If a member arrives late for a club tournament he must physically check in with a club member participating in the tournament prior to fishing the tournament. If the club member is late for a second tournament or more in a club year he is disqualified from that tournament.
- (m) Any club member who stands up a partner for a club tournament shall be penalized five (5) points for the first occurrence. A second occurrence will result in the member being placed on probation and may have his membership reviewed for possible dismissal by the BOD.
- (n) Alcoholic beverages are not permitted during tournament hours, including at

the weigh-in.

- (o) A two (2) day Away Tournament weigh-in will be 3:00pm on Saturday and 2:00pm on Sunday.
- (p) All anglers shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship.

Section 3: Lake Selection

The Tournament Director (TD) and Weigh Master (WM) shall select the following for Club tournaments;

- (a) Dates for the entire tournament year which are January to December.
- (b) Proposed dates will be proposed to the membership by the December meeting for review and final approval as follows:

Jan, March, May, July, Sept & Nov. will be Away Lakes.

Feb, Apr, June, Aug, Oct will be Home Lakes.

The tournament hours for the months of June, July, Aug. & Sept. will be safe light to 1:00pm.

The tournament hours for the months of Jan, Feb, Mar, April, May, Oct, Nov will be safe light to 3:00pm.

December's Classic Tournament will be Harris Chain Lakes only with tournament hours to be safe light until 3:00pm.

The tournament hours for a two (2) day Away Lake will be 3:00pm for Saturday and 2:00pm for Sunday as specified in the previous provision of Section 2 paragraph (p).

Note: Saturday and Sunday alternating days will apply to single day tournaments only.

- (c) At the November meeting all members present offer their lake choices to be fished for the coming year. All lakes will be voted on for approval. The two (2) day Away Tournament for the next calendar year will be discussed and planned at the following monthly meeting after the two (2) day Away Tournament of the current year. The previous year's lake will not be eligible for the following year's Away Tournament.
- (d) If the selected lake is fishable but the date is changed due to weather or other circumstances, all club members will be notified of the date change but the scheduled lake will not change. The TD/WM will give notice of any change of tournament hours if needed and shall set the area limitations of the lake(s) to be fished.
- (e) In the event a selected lake has been found not fishable or due to unsafe boating conditions by the TD/WM before the monthly meeting, a replacement

lake may be recommended by the TD/WM from the current approved list of fishable lakes and agreed to by the members, which requires a majority vote at the monthly meeting. In the event the recommended lake is voted on but not approved, the Harris Chain of Lakes out of Buzzard Beach will be the replacement location.

Should any lake be found not fishable due to the lake conditions or due to unsafe boating conditions after the monthly meeting, then the Harris Chain of Lakes out of Buzzard Beach will be the replacement location.

ARTICLE IV: Monthly and Classic Tournament

Section 1: Tournament Eligibility and Fees

HCBM Monthly Tournaments Requirements:

- (a) Any member that is in good standing with the club is eligible to fish in the club tournaments.
- (b) Entry fees will be \$40 per person of which \$30 goes to the tournament Payout Pool, \$5 for the Big Fish Pool and \$5 for the Classic Fund.
- (c) Non-boaters will pay boater's \$40 entry fee for gas and boat usage expenses. An Additional \$25 is paid to the boater for the second day of a two (2) day tournament.
- (d) Two (2) day events are single points events with only one (1) entry fee per Tournament

Section 2: Monthly Tournament Payouts and Point System

The monthly tournament purse will be 100% of entry fees, minus the portion for the Classic fund, with the payout as follows:

- (a) For up to five (5) boats, one (1) place will be paid
- (b) For six (6) to ten (10) boats, a payout will be for 1st and 2nd place
- (c) For eleven (11) to fifteen (15) boats, sixteen (16) to twenty (20) boats, a payout will be for 1st thru 4th places, except as noted in (d) below.
- (d) Prize money collected for boaters will be awarded to boaters and the money collected for co-anglers will be awarded to co-anglers based on the payout schedule in (c) above.

Section 3: Tournament Points

Tournament points on a 100 point (pt) system will be awarded on a ranking scale as follows:

(a) 100pts awarded to a tournament winner, 95pts to 2nd, 90pts to 3rd, 87pts to 4th, 84pts to 5th, 81pts to 6th, 79pts to 7th, 77pts to 8th, 75pts to 9th and all other places will decrease from 75pts by 1pt per place with anglers not having a catch awarded 5pts.

(b) The big bass will be awarded 2pts.

(c) In the event of a tie, the following Tie Breakers will be used to determine Finishing Position and Payout (if any) in the following order:

1) Most fish caught, if unbroken then,

2) Most Live fish caught, if unbroken then,

3) For unbroken ties only, the payout, if any, for the tied position is combined with the subsequent place payout, if any, and divided equally between the two anglers who are tied.

4) Then a coin flip is to be used to determine who receives the higher Finishing Position and Points are awarded accordingly.

Section 4: Classic Tournament Requirements

The annual two (2) day Classic Tournament shall be held during the month of December on the Harris Chain of Lakes.

To be eligible to participate in the Classic a member must follow the general tournament guidelines for entry with the addition of the following:

(a) A member in good standing with the club may enter the Classic Tournament

(b) Entry fees shall be paid as specified in ARTICLE IV, Section 1, paragraphs (a) thru (d).

(c) A member must have been at least active in the current year's club activities to be eligible to receive Classic payouts.

(d) The Fishing/Tournament Committee shall have the authority to add additional requirements as deemed necessary.

Section 5: Classic Points and Payouts

The Classic Tournament points shall be awarded as follows:

(a) One (1) point is awarded for each monthly meeting attended

(b) One (1) point is awarded for each monthly tournament fished

(c) A maximum of twenty-four (24) points are eligible to be awarded

(d) A member must have earned at least fourteen (14) points to be eligible for

Classic payout.

Section 6: Meetings and Special Points

The Club points will be awarded monthly as follows:

- (a) Five (5) points awarded for each monthly meeting attended
- (b) Five (5) points awarded for any special club function as determined by the Board of Directors

The Classic payout schedule shall be as specified by the tournament Committee.

- (a) The payout shall be from the portion of monthly tournament fees, \$5 per angler, collected during the year and prior to the December Classic Tournament.
- (b) The Classic entry fees paid in the month of December will be carried over and added to the next year's monthly fees for the payout at the following Classic Tournament.
- (c) The Classic Tournament Champion will receive \$100 as the payout award.

ARTICLE V: Protests, Complaints and Violations

SECTION 1: Filing Requirements

The procedure for the filing of any protest, complaint or grievance shall be as follows:

- (a) Any member having an issue relative to the angling Rules must provide details of the issue in writing which must be submitted to the TD and/or WM before the end of the weigh-in.
- (b) The TD and WM shall review the information submitted for content and validity of the member's concerns for determining what action, if any, is needed to resolve the issue(s).
- (c) Should any action be needed for the resolution of an issue that is outside of the authority of the TD and President, the President shall refer the matter to the Board of Directors who shall bring the issue to resolution.

Section 2: Violations of Rule

The procedure for assessing violations of Rules and their penalties established by the respective committees shall be as follows:

- (a) Any violation of committee rules shall be reviewed by the committee having jurisdiction and may have penalties assigned at the discretion of the committee.
- (b) A first violation may result in a written warning for the violation from the committee as directed by the club President.
- (c) A second violation committed within a year of the first violation may result in a membership being placed on probation by the Executive Board.
- (d) A third violation within a twelve (12) month period may result in the termination of a membership at the discretion of the Board of Directors.
- (e) Violations of the rules involving committee functions are under the authority of the committees that may impose penalties such as non-participation of club activities and/or disqualification from club tournaments.

Article VI: Determination of Angler and Co-Angler of the Year

Section 1: The Angler of the Year

The Angler of the Year shall be:

- (a) A member's total points for the best ten (10) tournament finishes fished as the boater and co-angler member, added with the total points for meeting attendance and any BOD approved special events as outlined in Article IV, Section 5, paragraphs (a) and (b) and Section 6, paragraph (a) and (b).

Section 2: Co-Angler of the Year

The Co-Angler of the Year shall be:

- (a) A member's total points for the best ten (10) tournament finishes fished as a Co-Angler added with the total points for meeting attendance and any BOD approved special events as outlined in Article IV, Section 5, paragraphs (a) and (b) and Section 6, paragraph (a).

Section 3: Co-Angler as Angler of The Year

A Co-Angler may be the Angler of The Year provided:

- (a) A member's total points for the best ten (10) tournament finishes fished as a Co-Angler and the total of all his points exceeds those point totals of any other member angler.

Article VII; Annual HCBM Awards

Section 1: Angling and Merit Awards

The HCBM Fishing/Tournament Committee shall provide annual awards that will be presented to the member recipients at the annual club banquet as follows:

(a) A trophy for the top Angler of the Year

The Angler of the Year will also receive a \$100 voucher to be used towards Club clothing, (i.e. Club shirts, jackets, hats, etc.)

(b) A trophy for the top Co-Angler of the Year

The Co-Angler of the year will also receive a \$50 voucher to be used towards Club clothing, (i.e. Club shirts, jackets, hats, etc.)

(c) A trophy for the Big Bass of the Year

(d) A framed merit award for the Sportsman of the Year

(e) A Hard Luck Award

HARRIS CHAIN BASSMASTERS TOURNAMENT RULES SUPPLEMENT

Revised *: January 28, 2024

Effective Date: February 06, 2024

Revised: March 03, 2026

Revised: April 26, 2026

Revised: May 21, 2026

*1. No more than two (2) anglers permitted in each boat unless Tournament Director (TD) dictates

otherwise.

*2. Life jackets will be worn and the kill switch attached any time the outboard motor is running and

in gear except during loading and unloading your boat during launch and recovery.

*3. Culling of fish is not permitted at the weigh-in.

*4. Culling of dead fish is not permitted at any time. Dead fish penalty is .25 (1/4) pound per dead fish.

*5. Only artificial baits shall be used. Rod length is limited to eight (8) feet. Trolling is not permitted.

Participants may have only one (1) bait in the water at a time.

*6. Fishing within 50 yards of a competitor's anchored (including using a Power Pole or equivalent) boat

with trolling motor in the stowed position is not permitted.

*7. Limits.

a. All tournaments will have a five (5) fish limit except June, July, August and September which will have a three (3) fish limit.

- b. Each fish presented for weigh-in must be at least twelve (12) inches in length on the Golden Rule as measured by the Weighmaster or his designee.
- c. Only one (1) fish over sixteen (16) inches unless a waiver has been obtained, then all five (5) fish can be over sixteen (16) inches. Waivers will be distributed to all contestants prior to the launch.
- d. If a fish presented to the scales is smaller than twelve (12) inches (determined by TD or Weighmaster), it and the largest fish in the limit will be disqualified.
- e. All tournament anglers are governed by the Florida fishing regulations unless amended by FWC waivers. Any angler presenting more bass than allowed by Florida regulations will be disqualified.

When 3 fish limit is applied, angler presenting more than 3 to the scales will have it and the Largest fish disqualified.

- *8. A penalty of one (1) pound will be assessed for each minute a competitor is late. After ten (10) minutes, the late angler and co-angler if paired will be disqualified. No exceptions.

9. Revised 3/3/26, Release Boats:

Will only be used if there is no Direct access to open water as required by law, or posted, or required by property owner, (example Camp Mack and East Lake Toho and Yale Lake).

When release boats are utilized, they will be boats #3 and #4 and must remain in the water for releasing fish until weigh-in is officially closed or all fish have been released.

If for any reason (unless otherwise excused by the TD or WM) a designated release boat does not fulfill their obligation at weigh-in will be disqualified and NO Tournament and Classic points will be awarded for participation. If the excused release boat is not available at weigh-in then boat #5 will be a release boat.

The use of release boats is at the discretion of the Tournament Director or Weigh Master.

10. Revised 8/4/26, Weigh-in:

All anglers will bring their own fish to the scale in an official weigh-in bag with significant amount of water for fish survival. Fish will be inside a (club supplied) mesh bag for use to weigh their fish. No plastic type garbage bag is allowed!

At No Time will any angler have another angler bring his fish to the scales unless the angler is unable, due to a physical hinderance, to bring his own bag to the scales.

If this occurs without an exception that angler's fish will not be recorded.

Exception; If an angler has another angler bring his fish to the scale due to such hinderance that angler must accompany him, unless unable, to the scales.

Tournament Director and Weigh Master will be exempt from bringing their own fish to the scales and releasing, allowing any angler to assist.

11. The interpretation of these rules shall be at the discretion of the HCBM Tournament Director, President and Vice President.

12. Boat requirements:

- A. Boats are to be a minimum of 16ft., powered by at least a 65hp motor.
- B. Boats are to have at least one (1) livewell large enough to accommodate both angler's catches.
- C. No pontoon boats, air boats or stick steering boats allowed for club purposes.

13. Landing nets are permissible.

HCBM Team Tournament Format:

The format shall be as follows:

- (a) There shall be a five (5) fish limit per boat
- (b) There shall be a 3pm weigh-in for each day

Angler Pairing:

- (a) All co-anglers will be paired with boaters as prescribed in ARTICLE III, Section 2, paragraphs (b) thru (i) of the Angling Rules.
- (b) The first boater – boater team will be selected through a random draw using the standard HCBM drawing process.
- (c) Boaters are not permitted to choose their own teammates. All pairings are assigned through the draw process.
- (d) No boaters will be allowed to enter the tournament after the pairings are finalized at the monthly meeting, consistent with HCBM Rules.

Entry Fee:

- (a) The standard tournament fee of \$80 per team shall apply.
- (b) After all possible pairings are made, any remaining unpaired angler may still elect to compete as a solo boater for the fee of \$40.

Point System:

- (a) 1st Place team anglers will receive 100 points.
- (b) 2nd Place team anglers will receive 95 points
- (c) Subsequent places: points will continue to decrease according to the club standard point system.
- (d) Two (2) points will be awarded to both team anglers who bring the largest bass to the scales.

Payouts:

- (a) The team with the largest bass will be awarded the total amount of cash in the Big Bass pot. Payouts will be awarded at a ratio of one place paid for every five (5) boat entries consistent with Article IV, Section 2 of the Angling Rules.

