

THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL FISHING LEAGUE 2024 RULES



THE NATIONAL PROFESSIONAL FISHING LEAGUE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO HAVE AN OBSERVER/CAMERA IN ALL COMPETITORS BOATS OR HAVE A CAMERA BOAT FOLLOW A COMPETITOR'S BOAT OR PLACE AN OBSERVER IN ANY EVENT.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT - Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to THE NATIONAL PFL Staff. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. We insist on the field of anglers being a “self-policing entity” The integrity of the field, The Company and the sponsors has to be a top priority. Each pro agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss, the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament, a fine of not less than \$500 nor more than \$2,500 or ineligibility to participate in future NATIONAL PFL tournaments. Protests and/or alleged rule violations are to be documented in writing by the witness within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day. THE NATIONAL PFL reserves the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered after a tournament has ended and assess penalties for future events, including denying entry to compete.

3. PAYBACK & PARTICIPATION -Payback is based on the full field of up to 130 anglers. Participation is open only to members of THE NATIONAL PFL . Any person’s participation in any tournament is at the sole discretion of THE NATIONAL PFL officials. All pros must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license within a reasonable amount of time when requested by the tournament director will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license was required for the tournament.

6. POINT STANDINGS 250 points are awarded to the winner of each qualifying tournament, 249 to 2nd, 248 to 3rd, etc. All pros paid and in good standing will receive points in each of the six events. The top pro from the point standings after the six qualifying tournaments (ties resolved by total weight, then total number of fish, then total number of live fish for the year) wins THE NATIONAL PFL Angler of the Year title. The Top 40 in points (ties resolved by total weight, then total number of fish, then total number of live fish for the year) will receive an invite to fish the 2024 NPFL Championship.

7. NO INFORMATION RULE– The No Information rule will be in effect. The purchasing of, **solicitation** of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after January 1, 2024. This includes receiving information from any a person that is a non-contestant. The sharing of tournament winnings with non-contestants in exchange for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification from the entire tournament. The purchasing of, or bartering for, fishing locations from another pro is strictly prohibited and will be cause for both pros to be disqualified from the entire tournament. TNPFL Staff is available 24/7 to answer any questions. Our goal is to protect the integrity of the League and guarantee a level playing field for all anglers.

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT Use of landing nets and grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition except whereas The National PFL deems it necessary to allow landing nets for specific events. During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (23). No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Such rigging, harness or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Twin arm spinnerbaits, twin arm underspins and twin arm buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers of twin arm baits must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these twin arm baits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the head or line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even with or trail behind where blades attach to the wires. TNPFL, LLC officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel or other device. The use of braid or other line to attach one stinger hook (single or treble) is allowed but cannot be over two inches in length. No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in his daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have his entire catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth. With the fish’s mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish for it to be considered hooked inside the mouth. It is suggested anglers verify hooked in the mouth to another person in the boat or show the on board action camera in a manner that clearly shows the fish was hooked inside the mouth. Otherwise in such type events truth verification exams may ask this question.

9. RESTRICTED ACCESS -Thirty (30) days prior to the first practice day until the start of the off-limits, pros are only permitted on tournament waters alone or accompanied by another pro in the tournament, a member of their immediate family (mother, mother-in-law father, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild or spouse), approved domestic partner, approved sponsor representatives, approved youth age 18 or younger or approved media representatives.

TNPFL contestants may participate in FLW, Major League Fishing, B.A.S.S. Elite Series, B.A.S.S. Opens, and other pro/am tournaments featuring random partner draws during this period but not on bodies of water on the TNFPL schedule during restricted access or off-limits as outlined in para 9 and 10.

10. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE & COMPETITION - Tournament waters will go off-limits to pros 20 days prior to the first practice day in all tournaments. Pros may not enter tournament waters for any reason. During the off-limits period, practice and competition days, pros may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except pros confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Periscope, set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are NOT publicly available sources). Beginning with practice and extending through competition, pros may not place brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum of any kind, in tournament waters. Beginning with practice and extending through competition, pros may not obtain information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from non-contestants or follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers, brush or other fish attractors by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. Tournament waters will reopen (30 min prior to sunrise to 30 min after sunset) for official practice three days prior to registration day at qualifiers. Tournament waters will reopen for practice four days prior to registration day at THE NATIONAL PFL CHAMPIONSHIP. (30 min prior to sunrise to 30 min after sunset) No practice is permitted at night (beginning 30 min after sunset and ending 30 min prior to sunrise) during the designated practice period just before each tournament. This includes running to and from a fishing location. For THE NATIONAL PFL qualifiers, pros may practice alone, with another pro or with a member of their immediate family (mother, mother-in-law, father, father-in-law, brother, brother-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, son, son-in-law, daughter, daughter-in-law, grandparent, grandchild or spouse), approved domestic partner, approved sponsor representatives or an approved youth age 18 or younger, provided the practice companion has also observed the off-limits period and procedures. For THE NATIONAL PFL CHAMPIONSHIP, pros may practice alone or with another pro. No other practice companions, except approved media representatives, are permitted at THE NATIONAL PFL CHAMPIONSHIP. Pros may practice with an approved media representative at THE NATIONAL PFL qualifiers and THE NATIONAL PFL CHAMPIONSHIP. Flights over tournament waters, including drones, are not permitted beginning with the start of the off-limits period, extending through practice and competition days. Tournament waters will be closed to all pros on registration day for qualifiers and THE NATIONAL PFL CHAMPIONSHIP).

11. REGISTRATION & PRETOURNAMENT MEETING - Each pro must register in person at the designated site. In an emergency pros may request permission from the tournament director to send a person who is 18 years of age or older to represent them. Contact must be made with the tournament director prior to the start of the registration meeting or equivalent (zoom/online meeting). Each situation will be dealt with individually. All anglers participating in the tournament are solely responsible for adherence to all rules set out for each event.

12. VIDEO EQUIPMENT- All anglers must have the ability to record their tournament day with an action camera or similar equipment. Tournament video must be made immediately available to TNPFL upon request thru the duration of the event until its conclusion. TNPFL will utilize the video in cases of possible rules infractions and for content for video production and promotion. Camera must be set up to capture all fish catches to the max extent possible.

13. SAFETY - Safe boating must be observed at all times. The provisions of this rule apply during official practice and from launching on tournament days until weigh-in each day. Each pro and any person practicing with a pro is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running and in gear. All boats must be equipped with a factory-installed emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body with a standard-length, factory tether whenever the combustion engine is running and in gear. Pros may fish and charge batteries using an onboard charger by letting the combustion engine idle in neutral only. All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Pros and marshals may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other. If a marshal is not present the angler is approved to seek shelter and notify the tournament director of the situation. Pros involved in boating accidents and/or safety incidents may be required to complete a BoatUS Foundation boating safety course before participating in another THE NATIONAL PFL event. A free course for each state is available at boatus.org.

14. SPORTSMANSHIP - All pros are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves and our company.

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the 2024 THE NATIONAL PFL.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner.
- Publicly criticizing or questioning the integrity of THE NATIONAL PFL or THE NATIONAL PFL officials, including but not limited to THE NATIONAL PFL rules, policies and procedures.
- Dissemination of disparaging content or content that one should reasonably know would harm the reputation of THE NATIONAL PFL officials or THE NATIONAL PFL sponsors.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 13.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, THE NATIONAL PFL shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (minus deposit), to disqualify a pro or impose any.

15. BOAT OPERATION - Pros will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, marshals may operate the trolling motor or the outboard but may not fish at any time. Pros may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lockmasters about locking, to communicate with the tournament director or to communicate with THE NATIONAL PFL staff. Pros may use smart phones and/or tablets during tournament hours for GPS, mapping, weather, power generation, barge traffic updates, tidal charts, personal fishing notes and related data. At no time during tournament hours may pros read or discuss social media posts from other pros. At the request of their pro partner, a marshal may use a cell phone to assist the pro with his or her social media updates. Marshals are not, however, obligated to assist a pro with social media updates, as their primary function is to communicate with THE NATIONAL PFL staff. Marshals are not permitted to smoke if requested not to do so by their pro. Pros are expected to compete every day for which they are qualified; failure to do so may result in ineligibility to compete in future THE NATIONAL PFL tournaments. If a special circumstance arises that inhibits a pro's ability to compete, the tournament director may allow the pro to withdraw from competition and maintain the weight caught to that point.

16. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION - All boats must be propeller-driven, a minimum of 18 feet in length and have a rear deck. All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. All boats must be equipped with a functioning POV camera focused on the front deck so as to provide a clear view of the pro fishing. The camera must record throughout each tournament day. Each day's recording must be preserved until the next THE NATIONAL PFL event and must be turned over to THE NATIONAL PFL upon request. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Minimum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 150 horsepower. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. By signing the entry form, pros agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by THE NATIONAL PFL personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future THE NATIONAL PFL tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in pro boats during tournament hours on all competition days.

17. UMBRELLA RIGS -Umbrella rigs are not permitted. This includes official practice. All lures utilized during official practice and tournament days must comply with rule 8.

18. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS - Pros may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat except areas posted or otherwise designated as “off-limits,” “no boats,” “keep out,” “restricted,” “no trespassing” or “no fishing” (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by The League staff, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a pro’s boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a pro leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. At no time may a marshal leave the boat to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the off-limits date and/or the removal of official commercial, local, state or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat or gain access for fishing is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Pros must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. The anglers marshal will remain within visual range of the boat during the weigh-in. Once the angler has checked in at the weigh line and the marshal signed for the angler daily catch the Marshal may depart as the custody of the angler catch becomes the responsibility of THE NATIONAL PFL staff. The event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are then two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by the pro and marshal remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by the pro or pro and marshal entering the boat of another tournament pro. Under these two conditions the pros catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Pros who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day’s weight. Any pro returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of pros to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Pros and marshals must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until the weigh-in verification is signed. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted.

19. CHECKPOINTS - There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

20. LATE PENALTY - Pros who are not at the check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight, including any weight to be counted toward the Big Bass Award. Any pro more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day’s weight.

21. LIVE FISH - Every effort must be made to keep bass alive utilizing a properly aerated livewell. four ounces/.25 pounds will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. There is no culling of dead fish.

22. SCORING - Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each pro's catch during each qualifying tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye, shoal or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit will be five bass unless conditions dictate a reduced limit for conservation purposes or the state or lake limit is less than five, in which case the reduced limits will prevail. After possessing the daily limit, pros must cull immediately upon their next catch. Pros possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his/her catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Pros possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. Bass are considered in possession once placed in the boat and fishing or travel has resumed. The minimum length limit for bass will be 12 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 12 inches or THE NATIONAL PFL sets a longer limit for a specific tournament, in which case, the state or lake limit or longer limit set by THE NATIONAL PFL for the tournament will prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Each pro's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by the signature of their marshal. Failure to have a verified marshal signature may result in disqualification of that day's catch. After a pro's catch is weighed, it must be turned over to THE NATIONAL PFL or officials designated by THE NATIONAL PFL for release unless otherwise instructed by the tournament director. On day 3 of qualifying tournaments, the winner is determined by the heaviest combined weight from days 1, 2, and 3.

23. TIES • QUALIFIERS: The heaviest one-day catch for the tournament will break ties. If a tie remains, it will be broken by total number of fish for the tournament, then by total number of live fish for the tournament, and then by Angler of the Year standings. For ties in money positions, awards will be combined and split equally among the tied pros.

24. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE –Pros are expected to participate in media opportunities requested by THE NATIONAL PFL staff during any day of competition. Each boat must display a minimum 10X8inch wide THE NATIONAL PFL logo on windshield of the boat. The boat must also include the pros name on both sides above the rub rail and adjacent to the seating area.

THE NATIONAL PFL reserves the right, in its sole discretion, to prohibit any pro's apparel and truck boat logos that it finds to be offensive, not in good taste or poorly reflects on the NPFL and its partners. THE NATIONAL PFL may, at its sole discretion, place a camera operator or camera equipment in a tournament boat on any day of competition. During the season

25. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST - Each pro agrees to submit, by signature on the NPFL angler contract to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at THE NATIONAL PFL's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by THE NATIONAL PFL staff.

26. INSURANCE - Liability insurance with coverage of not less than \$300,000 per occurrence is required of all pros in THE NATIONAL PFL Tour events. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

27. LIVE SCORING- Anglers are required to update a live scoring system (Weigh Live Tracker) with each catch. This vital to providing a live real time scoring update for fans as the watch the Live Broadcast. Additionally, updates will be received by the live feed production team and aid them in production decision that will frame the narrative for each tournament. Failure to enter weights that directly impact production and story line development may result in a penalty of up to 2lbs per day.

ANGLER SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____