



Kern County Bass Masters

Official Rules & Bylaws

2026

KERN COUNTY BASS MASTERS OFFICIAL RULES 2026

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A. Only members of the Kern County Bass Masters are eligible to participate.
- B. All members must reside in the Kern or Tulare County.
- C. Kern County Bass Masters club dues are \$40.00 per person per year.
- D. Membership must be obtained prior to the start of a club event. Must sign up at a meeting or be referred/sponsored by a standing member to sign up at the lake and be voted on by the board.
- E. Invitations to fish:
 - 1. A club member may extend one invitation per year.
 - 2. The guest must fish with a club member.
 - 3. The guest must become a member to fish for a second tournament in that year.
 - 4. If the guest signs up by the next meeting, he/she will be considered a retroactive member and will be awarded the points earned during the tournament fished as a guest. The member extending the invitation will be allowed to extend another invitation to a guest during the same year.
 - 5. The guest must be a resident of Kern or Tulare County.
 - 6. No guests will be allowed to fish the T.O.C.
- F. Liability insurance of no less than \$300,000 must be obtained, up to date and evidenced by providing proof of each boat entered into a club sponsored event. A copy of the proof of insurance must be on file prior to the sponsored event.

2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

- A. There are no off-limit days prior to tournament date.
- B. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.
- C. Each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph test by virtue of his/her entry, should he/she be accused of any rule violation.
- D. No commercial licensed guides for hire, 2 weeks prior to the tournament date.

3. SAFETY

- A. Safe boat conduct must be always observed. Contestants ticketed for any lake (on the water) Violation will automatically be disqualified for that tournament.
- B. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life vest anytime the combustion Engine is operation, if you are not operating in a 5 M.P.H. area.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

- A. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- B. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than over the counter or prescribed drugs) during the tournament Fishing hours shall be cause of automatic disqualification for this and all future Kern County Bass Master tournaments

- C. First boat out, takes fish offshore to release.
- D. Courtesy casting distance is to be observed by tournament competitors.

5. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Only artificial lure may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted with exception of cork strips, rinds, etc.
- B. 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. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.
- C. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
 - 1. No gaffs or grippers may be used to boat bass.
 - 2. Dip nets are acceptable.

6. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

- A. Maximum horsepower for all motorboats used in official practice and in tournament competition will not exceed the horsepower limitation rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer.
- B. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972, must adhere to the ratings set the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats.
- C. Each competitor agrees to submit, by entry, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is more than the rating.

7. BOAT AND MOTOR

- A. For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH TYPE OF IGNITION KILL SWITCH.
- B. Fishing boats may be used that 14' or more in length.
- C. A small electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering.
- D. Trolling, as a method of fishing, is prohibited.
- E. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations.

8. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

- A. Every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a Functional bilge pump and LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN A LIVE LIMET CATCH OF BASS.
- B. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aerations and capacity is "proper and adequate".
- C. Upon blast-off, all boats must have both front and rear lights on when idling through the gate. If both lights are not displayed, the boat must idle to the nearest bank and fish for 15 minutes before proceeding.

9. SCORING

- A. Tournament standing, auxiliary awards, and final winners shall be determined by the pound and fraction weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. The tournament officials' call will be final.
- B. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Smallmouth bass will be weighed.
- C. The limit shall be five of the above species and varieties per day, unless prevailing limit is less than five, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the state bind all competitors.
- D. At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the limits described above. Tournament officials may conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has more than the above described limit in possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described.
- E. The official length for bass will be 13 inches - lying flat on a flat board, open mouth, swing the tail.
- F. Only bass as described above, which measure the official length or more, lying flat on a flat board, shall be weighed in.
- G. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall not be weighed and accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor.
- H. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials.
- I. Each competitor must present his catch to the weigh-in officials.
- J. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by the tournament official, the contestant will receive a copy of his/her official weights. Should a competitor believe an error was made where scale weight and the written weight do not agree, he/she must call it to the attention of the weigh master **immediately** before fish are returned to the water.
- K. Bass must not be stringed at any time during the tournament. It has been determined that stringing decreases the chance of a bass' survival, and bass thus handled in this manner may be disqualified. Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished by the Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

10. PENALTIES

- A. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized .20 lbs. of weight, to be deducted from his daily score. If a competitor uses a dead bass to represent his big fish, the .20 lbs. penalty will not be deducted from the big fish weight. The .20 lbs. penalty will always be deducted from the total daily catch.
- B. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

11. LATE PENALTY

- A. Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be disqualified.
- B. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time".
Exception – Late penalty of $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. / .50 lbs. per minute up to 5 minutes then a DQ (Disqualification) will ensue.
- C. Competitors must remain on the water, in their boats, and at the check-in point. Any competitor who leaves the water at the check-in point prior to proper recognition and instruction for weigh-in procedure will be disqualified.
- D. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weight-in site, however, all fishing must cease upon check-in.

12. LATE ARRIVALS AT TOURNAMENTS

- A. Competitors are allowed a 15-minute grace period beyond the check-in times. Check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.
- B. Any late arrival beyond the 15-minute grace period will not be allowed to fish.

13. SHORT FISH

- A. There will be no excuse for attempting to weigh-in a short fish. The short fish will not be weighed, and a penalty of one pound (1 lb.) will be deducted from the day's catch.

14. TIES

- A. In the event of a tie pertaining to total weight, it will be broken by the "Big Fish". If they tie a second time in the "Big Fish", the person who had the earlier draw for blast-off will be accorded first place standing. In the event of a tie for the "Big Fish", first and second place money will be combined and split evenly between the two contestants. In the event of a tie for "Second Big Fish", second and third place monies will be split evenly between the two contestants. Day one blast-off order (for two-day events) will be used to break any ties, regardless of if the draw is reversed for day two, in the event two contestants or more are still tied after comparing big fish.

15. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

- A. There will be a seventy-dollar (\$70.00) entry fee per boat for each tournament event with a breakdown as follows:
 - 1. \$40.00 toward placing.
 - 2. \$10.00 toward tournament costs such as permits, trophies and top point leaders in the club for the year, etc.
 - 3. \$20.00 toward T.O.C.
- B. Payback (one place for every five teams).
- C. Total paybacks including T.O.C. - 87%.
- D. Five spots T.O.C. payback.
- E. Club fee (\$70.00) for all points tournaments will be waived for the team with the President of the club. (voted 2024)

16. OPTIONS

- A. Option for Big Fish will be run as follows:
 - A \$15.00 Big Fish option collected at the lake site will be paid with a 100% payback for first place. 100% of all option money is paid back to the contestants. On two-day events, payback will be over all big fish for tournament.
- B. Option for top Five (5) places will run as follows:
 - A \$50.00 additional option collected at the lake site will be paid out with a 1st – 30%, 2nd – 25%, 3rd -20%, 4th -15%, 5th - 10% payback for the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth places participants in this option. 100% of all option money is paid back to contestants.
- C. Option for winner(s) takes all.
 - A 25.00 additional option where the winner(s) takes all option. 100% of all option money is paid back to contestants.

17. ENTRY FEE BREAKDOWN AND PAYOUTS FOR TOURNAMENTS

A. One Day Event

Basic entry fee per team:	\$70	Pays 1 place for each 5 entries
*Optional Big Fish Option:	\$15	1 st – 100%
* Optional 1-2-3-4-5 Option:	\$50	1 st – 30%, 2 nd – 25%, 3 rd -20%, 4 th -15%, 5 th - 10%
* Optional winner(s) takes all Option:	\$25	1 st -100%
Total per team basic entry and all options:	\$160	

B. Two Day Events

Basic entry fee per team:	\$70	Pays 1 place for each 5 entries overall
*Optional Big Fish Option Overall (1 st & 2 nd day):	\$15	on two-day events, payback will be over all big fish for tournament.
* Optional 1-2-3-4-5 Option Overall:	\$50	1 st – 30%, 2 nd – 25%, 3 rd -20%, 4 th -15%, 5 th - 10%
* Optional winner(s) takes all Option:	\$25	1 st -100% Overall
* Optional Package Option as broken down below:	\$60	
Total per team Basic entry and all options:	\$220	
❖ Big Fish Option Saturday:	\$15	1 st – 100%
❖ Big Fish Option Sunday:	\$15	1 st – 100%
❖ 1-2-3 Option Saturday:	\$15	1 st – 50%, 2 nd – 33%, 3 rd - 17%
❖ 1-2-3 Option Sunday:	\$15	1 st – 50%, 2 nd – 33%, 3 rd - 17%

*Please remember that these are options, you do not have to participate in them unless you want to. You can fish either the one day or two-day tournament for as little as \$70.00 per team.

C. T.O.C. BREAKDOWN OF PAYOUT & OPTIONAL ENTRY FEE (2 DAY EVENT)

Those who qualify for the T.O.C. will participate in the accumulated club T.O.C. fund at **no cost**. The accumulated club T.O.C. fund will be divided among the top five finishing teams as follows: 1st place team takes 50% of the T.O.C. balance, 2nd thru 5th place teams receive the remaining 50% of the T.O.C. balance as follows: 2nd-32.5%, 3rd-27.5%, 4th-22.5%, and 5th-17.5%.

OPTIONAL ENTRY FEE

*Optional Big Fish Option Overall:	\$15	1 st – 100%
* Optional 1-2-3-4-5 Option Overall:	\$50	1 st – 30%, 2 nd – 25%, 3 rd -20%, 4 th -15%, 5 th - 10%
* Optional winner(s) takes all Option:	\$25	1 st -100%
* Optional Package Option as broken down below:	\$60	
Total per team all options:	\$150	
❖ Big Fish Option Saturday:	\$15	1 st – 100%
❖ Big Fish Option Sunday:	\$15	1 st – 100%
❖ 1-2-3 Option Saturday:	\$15	1 st – 50%, 2 nd – 33%, 3 rd - 17%
❖ 1-2-3 Option Sunday:	\$15	1 st – 50%, 2 nd – 33%, 3 rd - 17%

Top 3 T.O.C. teams and big fish will receive trophies.

*Please remember that options are optional, you do not have to participate in them unless you want to. You can fish the T.O.C. at no charge if you qualify.

A special meeting will be held on the 1st Wednesday following the last points tournament to determine who will be the final T.O.C. participants. Tournament pairings will be concluded at this meeting.

By virtue of joining Kern County Bass Masters, if you do not qualify for the T.O.C., you agree to stay off of the T.O.C. Lake the week of the tournament, unless the club votes to make an exception for the purpose of videotaping or taking pictures. Any violation of the above rule will be a minimum of 1-year expulsion from the CLUB.

18. TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS (T.O.C.)

- A. To qualify for the TOC every team must have fished at least 6 of the 8 points tournaments. Both Members must fish at least 5 together with no more than 2 missed total. In the event any anglers cannot, or do not want to fish, the field will be reduced and there will not be any other members drawn or appointed to fill their spots, the field will simply be reduced by that number of contestants.
- B. T.O.C. cannot be fished at the same lake two years in a row.

19. CLUB POINTS AND TROPHIES

- A. Points will be allocated for placing, in addition to 5 show up points per tournament.
- B. For the eight regular tournaments, the top 3 teams and big fish will receive trophies.
- C. There will be one (1) throw out tournament at the end of the year.
- D. Best 7 out of 8 tournaments will count toward year-end point total. Maximum of two anglers with the most points at the end of the season provided they fish together the entire season will be awarded Angler of the Year with Angler of the Year jackets(\$125.00ea). Free entry fee of \$35.00 per angler per tournament or \$560.00 will be split between each angler if tied. Otherwise, the Angler of the Year will receive \$280.00
- E. In the event of a tie for any place in the Angler of the Year race, unless fished with the same partner all year long, the Angler of the Year honor will be awarded to the angler whose total weight for the seven (7) counted tournaments is higher. The weights from tournaments that were used as "throw out" cannot be used.
- F. At the end of each year, the top five-point leaders and Big fish of the year will receive a trophy.

20. RULE VIOLATIONS

- A. Rule violations are grounds for disqualification from any club tournament. Rule violations include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 1) Addition of weight to any fish.
 - 2) Accepting fish from another competitor or any other person to bring to the weigh-in and any other act a competitor may engage in to unfairly enhance the weight of fish weighed in at any club event.
 - 3) Lake Permit stickers must be in place and will be checked during live well inspections. Failure to do so will result in a disqualification.

- B. Such violations will be grounds for disqualification from any tournament if the violation is discovered prior to weigh-in, the rule violator will not be allowed to weigh any fish. Should the violation be uncovered after weigh-in and award presentation completed, a violator's catch will be disqualified and no points given. Should the rule violator have placed and received any cash award for their catch, all monies will be returned to club officials who will then adjust the standings and allocate the awards based on the new tournament rankings.
- C. Further actions may be taken against any competitor who violates club rules for tournaments. Knowingly, violating club tournament rules are grounds for removal of the violators from the club's membership roster. The board of directors shall review any case of rule violation brought to the attention of the tournament director. The seven-member board shall then decide on the severity of measures to be taken against the violator and/or violators. All decisions and actions by the board of directors are final.
- D. In addition, any competitor who has received a cash award and is found to have knowingly violated rules in an effort to receive such an award, will be turned into the proper authorities for prosecution should he/she not immediately return such cash award to the club.

21. OTHER

- A. **Breakdowns/Emergencies:** Anglers are not permitted to leave their boats nor touch another boat, with the exception of an emergency, major equipment failure, or to use the restroom. In case of a breakdown, it is permitted to have your boat towed. You may have your fish transported to the weigh-in by another tournament boat only. At no point can the other team's catch and your catch be inside the same live well. Upon reaching the check-in point, you must immediately notify an officer of the club. At least one team member must stay with your fish at all times and neither angler is permitted to fish while under the assistance of a fellow contestant.
- B. **Landing Fish:** When landing or attempting to land a fish, both team members must have both feet in the boat at all times.

KERN COUNTY BASS MASTERS BYLAWS 2026

ARTICLE 1 - Name and Purpose

Section 1: Name

This club shall be called Kern County Bass Masters of Bakersfield, California.

Section 2: Purpose

To stimulate public awareness of bass fishing as a major sport. To offer our state conservation department our organized moral and political support and encouragement. To promote full adherence to all conservation codes and to demand adequate water standards. To detect and report any polluters and call public and political attention to his/her crime. To improve our skills as bass anglers through a fellowship of friendly exchange of bass-catching techniques and ideas.

ARTICLE II - Membership

Section 1: Number of Members

The chapter shall begin with and maintain at least six charter members. Membership will be limited to a total of one hundred twenty-five members.

Section 2: Requirements of Membership

To become a club member, a person shall:

- a) Voluntarily express a genuine interest in membership.
- b) Provide proof of \$300,000 liability insurance at time of sign up or on demand
- c) Be voted on by the Board of Directors. Affirmation must *be* unanimous.

Section 3: Waiting List

The chapter, upon enrolling one hundred twenty-five members, shall create and maintain a waiting list for new charter members. Approved candidates for membership will be listed in the order in which nominations are accepted. If any member is dropped from the roster, a potential new member will be offered the opportunity to join the charter based upon their position on the waiting list!

Section 4: Membership Dues

The membership dues shall be \$40.00pp annually, initially payable upon being voted into the club.

Section 5: Meetings of Members

The membership should hold regular meetings at pre-established times.

ARTICLE III - Officers, Elections, Vacancies and Eligibility

Section 1: Officers and Their Duties

- a) President: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and be an ex officio member of all committees. Supervise all club functions.
- b) Vice President: Act as program chairman, assists the president in his duties and presides in the absence of the President.
- c) Secretary: Maintain accurate minutes of all regular and special meetings as called for by the chapter President. Maintain a roster of all club members.
- d) Treasurer: Collect and disburse all monies. Maintain accurate financial records and present a current balance report at each regular meeting. Prepare an annual audit for review by the Chapter Board of Directors. The chapter may vote that the treasurer, and any officer handling chapter funds, must be bonded.
- e) Directors: Three (3) Directors, two (2) voting and one (1) at large, will attend Board of Directors meetings. They will sit in review of disputes and other items requiring a board vote. The Director at large will vote only to break a deadlocked vote.

Section 2: Elections

The election of officers shall be held annually at a regular meeting during the month of November. Elections shall be by simple majority of members present. Elections for each officer shall be held separately in order listed in ARTICLE III, Section 1.

Section 3: Eligibility of Vote

Each member is entitled to one vote. Proxy votes are NOT permitted.

Section 4: Terms of Office

The term of office is one (1) year, which shall begin on January 1st and end on the last meeting day of December, or until the successor assumes office. Original slate of officers shall serve until the last unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

Section 5: Vacancies

In the event an office becomes vacant, nominations shall be asked for and an election held to fill the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office.

Section 6: Eligibility for Holding Office

To be eligible for an office a member must:

- a) Have been a member for six (6) months (six-month requirement is waived during first twelve (12) months of chapter existence).
- b) Have shown an active interest in all chapter functions.
- c) Attend at least 50% of the chapter's annual functions.

ARTICLE IV - Standing Committees

All Standing Committees will serve for one year or until a new committee is appointed. The terms of the committee members will coincide with that of the President. Each committee shall elect a Chairman.

- a) **Board of Directors:** The Board of Directors will consist of seven (7) members: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three (3) members elected at large by majority vote of the members present at the November regular meeting.
 - 1) The President will call all meeting of the Board of Directors and preside at such meetings.
 - 2) The Secretary will record the minutes of these meetings.
 - 3) The Board will decide all protests and rules on all violations of the tournament rules and bylaws of the chapter when appropriately received.

- b) **Tournament Committee:** The purpose of the tournament committee shall be:

- 1) To collect entry fees, inspect boats and function as weigh master for the chapter tournaments.

ARTICLE V - Removal of Membership

Section 1: Removal of Membership

A member shall be dropped from the membership role for the following reasons:

- a) Failure to pay dues.
- b) Any action which would reflect dishonor and disgrace of the club.
- c) Failure to attend 50% of the chapter functions during a 12-month period.
- d) Disqualification for any reason from participating in club sponsored events, including disqualification for use of drugs or alcohol during the tournament fishing hours.
- e) The board of directors may, at their discretion and by 2/3 majority, vote to terminate an individual's membership either yearly or permanently. The decision will be solely that of the Directors and cannot be appealed. Upon such termination, the entire amount of the individual's annual club dues will be refunded.

ARTICLE VI - Tournament Lakes

Section 1: Lakes

To seek participation from as many club anglers as possible, the club will attempt to fish all point tournaments on lakes that are within a reasonable distance from Bakersfield. Only exception is that further travel may be required due to lake water levels or club votes to travel farther.

Board of Directors will select 2 different schedules for the following year and submit them to the club for a vote. Majority vote wins with the Members that are present in meeting at time of vote.

Section 2: Alternative Lakes

The Board of Directors, by majority vote, may substitute a lake if needed. The substitution will allow for adjustment due to any other condition which may adversely affect the quality of the club tournament. In the event of cancellation, the tournament can be moved to 1 of the following bodies of water- Cal Delta or Havasu by a board decision.

ARTICLE VII - Insurance Requirements

Any member, who is a boat owner, will be required to carry a minimum of \$300,000 or a comparable personal umbrella policy for boat liability insurance. Each boat owner will provide a copy of the coverage before using their boat in any club

event. The coverage is to protect the club, and all its members, from possible claims resulting from the operation of a member's boat.

ARTICLE VIII - Tournament of Champions

Each year, the chapter will hold a two-day Tournament of Champions. The lake will be determined by the members of the club at the 1st scheduled meeting of the year.

ARTICLE IX - Method of Amending the Bylaws

The bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, by 2/3 vote of the members present, provided written notice of the proposed amendment has been presented to the membership at least one regular meeting prior to the vote.

We, the undersigned officers, do hereby agree to the above bylaws and the commencements of this chapter on the _____ day of _____, 2026.

President

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Vice President

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Secretary

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Treasurer

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Voting Director

Print Name_____

Signature_____

Voting Director

Print Name_____

Signature_____