

Beaver Lake Elite Series

1. **RULES:** Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the Board of Directors. Decisions made by them shall be final in all matters. Protests must be made to a board member prior to the closing of weigh-in scales.

2. **ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION:** Participation is to be by application only. **REQUIREMENTS:**

- Participants must be at least 16 years of age.
- Application for membership must be accepted and paid. Membership fee will be \$40.00/person.
- Competitor's boat must be at least 14 feet in length and at least 25 horsepower engine. Boat must have a working livewell and functioning aerator system.
- Competitor must abide by all Arkansas Insurance Regulations.
- Competitor must abide by all Arkansas Boating Laws and Regulations.
- Competitor must abide by all Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Laws and Regulations

3. **ENTRY FEE AND DEADLINE:** The entry fee for BEAVER LAKE ELITE SERIES regular season tournaments will be \$65.00. Big Bass is included. The entry fee into the two-day BLES Championship will be \$100.00. Completed and signed entry forms and entry fees will be picked up and accepted up to 5:00 P.M. on the Wednesday prior to the tournament regular season scheduled event. Classic entries will be DUE Wednesday Oct 5th (week and half prior to the event.) Entries may be paid in advance; however, forms must be completely filled out for each tournament at the time the fees are paid. Fees must be paid by check or cash. Checks should be made payable to: "Beaver Lake Elite Series". There will be a \$30.00 service charge on any returned check. Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. Entries may be turned in at: Hook, Line and Sinker (both locations), Southtown Sporting Goods and Extreme Sports Boats.

4. **ANGLER OF THE YEAR AND CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS:** First place-200 points, second place-199 points, etc. Every competitor will receive 10 points for paying their entry. You will be allowed to drop your 1 (one) lowest point event. AOY will be awarded to the angler with the highest 6 (six) regular season cumulative tournament points.

5. **TOURNAMENTS AND CHAMPIONSHIP:** There will be seven one-day regular season tournaments and a two-day championship. The top 25 in points, including ties, who have fished at least five regular season tournaments will compete in the BLES Championship. Take-off position in the Championship will be determined by finishing position in the Angler of the Year points on Day 1. Day 2 will be how you finish after Day 1. ***Anglers who pay to fish EVERY regular event will be qualified for the classic. No back pay allowed.

6. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Anglers are permitted to fish anywhere on Beaver Lake except: *Within 50 feet of any commercial marina structure *Within the no-wake buoys at Prairie Creek *Within any area marked "NO FISHING" by the Army Corps of Engineers. This also includes, but is not limited to, swimming areas and the buoyed off area around Beaver Dam. *Within 50 feet of another competitor's boat which was first anchored and secured in a fixed position (with trolling motor stowed).

7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used-pork and pork-type baits are allowed. Only one rod may be used at one time. Before another rod may be used, all other rods must be reeled in and inside the boat. Multiple lure rigs, such as umbrella rigs, "double drop-shot" or "double fluke" type rigs are NOT ALLOWED. Only one lure may be used at a time. Landing nets are allowed in BLES tournaments.

8. **METHODS OF FISHING:** All standard methods of fishing are allowed except:

- Trolling. Either with the outboard or the trolling motor.
- Snagging. Any visible fish, bedding or otherwise, must be caught inside the mouth.

9. **SAFETY:** Contestants must wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver AND have a properly working "kill switch" attached any time the combustion engine is operated above idle speed (on plane). Running lights must be operational and

be used during low light conditions (ex. take-off, fog). All "No Wake" zones are to be observed and obeyed. Safe distances must be maintained during high speed operation.

10. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Courtesy and sportsmanship are to be shown by all contestants at all times. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed during tournament hours and weigh-in.

11. **SCORING/POSSESSION:** Largemouth, Smallmouth, Meanmouth and Spotted Bass will be counted. There will be a FIVE fish limit. There is a FIVE fish possession limit, meaning anglers MUST CULL immediately after catching their sixth keeper. NO FISHING IS ALLOWED UNTIL THE CULL HAS BEEN MADE. A contestant found to be fishing with more than five fish in the livewell will be disqualified! Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Meanmouth must measure 15". Spotted Bass must measure 12". Anything other than a pure Spotted Bass will be considered a Meanmouth. (If it's brown, it must be 15"!). Bass will be measured on a flat board with mouth closed, tailed pinched and in a "fanning" manner. There will be a courtesy board available to check fish at weigh-in. *Weigh-in will open 1 (one) hour prior to official weigh-in time. Ex: Scales will open at 3pm on the March event, etc. and will close 30 minutes after last check-in time. In the event an issue with scoring or any other rule should arise, the angler will be asked to wait until a board member is present.

12. **PENALTIES:** These penalties will be applied to final weigh-in totals and will be enforced by the Board of Directors.

- Short fish: Short fish will not be counted or weighed and a one-pound penalty will be assessed to the final weight.
- Dead fish: There will be a 4 ounce penalty for each dead fish presented to weigh in.
- Too many fish presented for weigh-in: DISQUALIFICATION
- Late to check-in: DISQUALIFICATION. Anglers must be inside the buoys at Prairie Creek to be considered "on time". If your due in time is 4:00:00pm, 4:00:01 is late. Please notify an official if you leave early!

13. **TIES:** Ties will be resolved by adding points and money together and splitting between the tied competitors. Trophies will be given based on a coin toss by the Tournament Director or Board member. Big Bass ties will split the money. Ties in Angler of the Year points will be broken by heaviest cumulative weight for the entire season. Classic ties will be determined by the largest stringer of the 2 days.

14. **COMMUNICATION DEVICES:** The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, walkie-talkies, etc. to communicate fishing information of any kind during tournament hours is prohibited.

15. **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- The Board has the right to delay take-off in the case of fog or inclement weather.
- Competitors are only allowed to leave the boat under dire circumstances or restroom breaks. Competitors are NOT ALLOWED to leave the boat to make a cast, land a fish, or access fishing water in any way.
- Anglers may make arrangements to get another boat in case of mechanical failure. He may also ride with another competitor. However, the stranded fisherman may not fish and he may not assist the helping competitor.

16. **QUALITY ASSURANCE TEST:** By his or her signature on the membership form, contestants agree to submit to quality assurance tests (polygraph) in any or all BLES tournaments. Refusal to submit by contestants will result in immediate disqualification and subsequent disqualification from any future BLES events. No monies and/or awards will be given if you fail to pass or refuse to submit to quality assurance tests.

17. **PAYBACK:** There will be 4 (four) paid places up to 40 boats. After that, there will be one paid place added for each additional 5 (five) boats entered. Therefore, 41 to 45 boats would pay 5 (five) places, 46-50 boats would pay 6 (six) places, etc. 1 (one) overall big bass will be awarded in each event.

\$5 (five) per entry will be used to cover administration for this series.

Tournament Administrator: James Whittle – 479.466.4659

Board Members: Curt Clark – 479.381.2245; Steven Meador – 479.366.1731; Burl Smith – 479.879.3843