

Oneida Lake Team Rules for 2010

RULES: These rules shall remain unchanged throughout 2009 season. Interpretation and enforcement of Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament committee. Federal, state, local and lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series rules when in conflict.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Membership is required of ONE participant in all Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series events. Tournament eligibility and entry is open to all members in good standing with at least one team member at least 18 years of age or older.

MEMBERSHIP FEES: All teams must have ONE participant pay an annual fee in order to fish a points earning team event. Memberships begin January 1, 2009 and end December 31, 2009. Membership dues are \$15.00

TEAMS: A Team will require at least one (1) member of Oneida Lake Bassmasters and a partner. Partner should remain the same all season. Any team may use a Substitute if a partner cannot fish a given tournament. A member may fish alone or invite a guest for one (1) event per-season (but can not do both). A substitute or guest does not have to be a member. Members accumulate points for the designated team when fishing alone or with a guest, providing the other team member does not participate in the same event.

ENTRY FEES: Entry Fee per tournament is \$50.00 per team, per event. Lunker Bass is \$10.00 per team (optional), per event for a total of \$60.00, per team, per event. Please make checks payable to Oneida Lake Bassmasters.

LIVEWELL CHECK: An Oneida Lake Bassmaster official will physically inspect the livewell of each participating boat.

PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING: A pre-tournament meeting will be held in the host launch parking area fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled take off. Entry Fees must be paid at this time. This meeting is mandatory. At least one (1) team member must attend. Late arrival is defined as: Arrival after the last boat leaves the take-off area. In case of late arrival, the late team must find a tournament official and pay the entry fee. A cell phone may be used for the purpose of locating a tournament official.

POST-TOURNAMENT WEIGH-IN: The post-tournament weigh-in will be held at the Official Oneida Lake Bassmasters weigh-in table 15 minutes after the official end of the tournament. A Holding tank will be setup for the purpose of KEEPING FISH ALIVE prior to the start of the official weigh-in. If a team decides to exit the tournament early, they must: 1.) Notify a tournament official. 2.) Notify another participant, who will notify a tournament official, prior to the official weigh-in. Failure to do so will result in the loss of tournament points for the day.

POINTS: Points will be given as follows: 200 points for 1st – with 5 point decreasing increments. Any team not weighing a fish will receive 50 show points. The team with the most points at the end of the series will be the Team Champion.

CULLING FISH: It is the responsibility of each team to keep no more than a maximum of Five (5) fish in a live well. No culling is allowed in the host marina. Also a competitor will not be allowed to cull a dead fish during a tournament. Violation of either of these rules shall be reason for disqualification.

SCORING FISH: Each team may weigh-in Five (5) fish per day, a minimum of 12 inches in length unless state or lake limits are greater, measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. Any team weighing-in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one (1) lb. penalty plus the loss of the short fish. Any team bringing more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth will be scored.

DEAD FISH: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by the use of a properly aerated livewell. For each dead bass presented to the weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized .25 pounds of weight, to be deducted from that fish. If you choose to keep a lunker for mounting, it is considered a dead fish and there will be a .25 pound penalty assessed on that lunker weight as well as the total weight of your catch. The Tournament Committee shall have the sole authority for assessing penalties.

PROTESTS: All protests must be submitted in writing prior to the official closing of the scales.

LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official checkpoint area at their appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of **ONE POUND PER MINUTE** to be deducted from the total weight of their catch for that day, including any weight to be counted toward a lunker award. After **FIFTEEN MINUTES** from the time a boat was due to check in, the team will be disqualified from the tournament and no weight will be recorded. We will not issue negative weight. There shall be **NO EXCUSES FOR LATENESS**, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up lost time. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be given ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site. **ALL FISHING MUST CEASE UPON CHECK-IN.** Exact hours for starting and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

OFF LIMITS PERIOD: Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series does not impose an "Off limits period" for pre-fishing or practice.

GUIDES: Guides must be an Oneida Lake Bassmasters member in good standing. A hired Guide may not be used on practice days or tournament days.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS: During tournament hours no alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs may be consumed or allowed in the boat while on the water, except prescription medications.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Displaying of poor sportsmanship and bringing unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing shall be grounds for disqualification. *If one team member is disqualified, the team shall be disqualified.*

SAFETY: Boating safety must be observed at all times during practice and competition. A US Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PFD) Type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened any time the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch must be attached to the driver with a lanyard no longer than forty-eight (48) inches.

BOATS & MOTORS: There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat in use. All boats must meet US Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have a functioning aerated live well suitable to sustain a tournament limit in reasonable condition. Extra gas tanks are not allowed. Standing on seats, or motor or the use of ladder or raised platform for the purpose locating or fishing for bedding fish is not permitted. Boats used in Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series tournaments must have an insurance policy in effect with a minimum of \$300,000.00 liability coverage.

TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during competition.

BREAKDOWNS: Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. In the event of equipment failure, there shall be two permitted methods of returning to the check-in and weighing fish. (1) By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) By one partner entering the boat of another Oneida Lake Team Bass Tournament Series contestant, along with the days catch. Team's fish must be kept separate.

PERMITTED FISHING WATERS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each tournament. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. It is the responsibility of each competitor to obtain this information. Unless otherwise stipulated in the pre-tournament meeting, fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within a 25 yard radius of a marina gas pump. No fishing is allowed inside the host marina. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boat's permission. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Having anyone hole-sit for anyone shall be grounds for disqualification. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish or gain access to a fishing area. Restricting natural movement of fish by any means is automatic disqualification.

TIES: If the tie is for points, the higher weight will have the higher placing. If the tie is for weight, the higher points will have the higher placing.