

Official Tournament Rules

10th Annual Ruth Lake Team Bass Fishing Tournament on May 2 & May 3, 2009

1. **This tournament** is open to all participants that are 16 years of age and older. A properly completed and signed official entry form and the entry fee must be received prior to participating.
2. **Check-in** will be on Friday evening, 5-6pm at The Journey's End, or at 5am at the Marina parking lot. All competitors will receive a contest slip with the permit number, live-well check certification, boat inspection for mussels, boat number for blast-off order, competitors names and check-in times. Any boat not certified will be disqualified. The weigh-in results may be written on these if desired.
3. **Safe boat conduct** must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Life Jackets must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. No competitor may move within 25 yards of another competitors boat for the purpose of fishing.
4. **All 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.
5. **Use of alcohol or drugs** (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official tournament hours will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification.
6. **Only artificial lures** may be used and all fishing is to be done from a boat. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
7. **Every boat** must have a Live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Proof of an inspection for the Zebra and Quagga mussel is required of the boat prior to launch in Ruth Lake. RLCSD has the requirements and these must be met prior to launch. RLCSD 707-574-6332, Mon-Fri, 7am – noon.
8. **The limit is 5 fish** per team and fish are to be culled as necessary to not exceed the possession limit.
9. **The minimum fish length is 13" mouth open** as measured on a Wil-E-Go belly board.
10. **All fish that are of legal length shall be weighed in.** Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished and these bags must be used for the weigh-in. 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 and one pound will be deducted from the total weight.
11. **This is a catch and release tournament.** A dead fish will be assessed a 2 ounce deduction per dead fish. A fish that is short will have one pound deducted from the total weight.
12. **A late penalty** will be assessed if competitors are not in the marina at the appointed time and shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of the days catch. If more that 15 minutes late, the competitors will lose all credit for that day's catch. No excuses. Check in will be at the end of the Marina dock by the appropriate time.
13. **A tie** in competition will be resolved in the following order: number of fish weighed; largest one day's catch; number of live fish weighed. If tie is not broken, tournament officials will resolve prizes.
14. **Pre-fishing restriction** is NO fishing by competitors on Friday. No off-limits.
15. All Ruth Lake Water District rules apply.
16. All State of California Fish and Game rules apply.