

## 2009 Official "Fishing For Wishes" Rules

The following rules apply to the "Fishing For Wishes" team tournament. These rules may differ from those for the Suskie Bassmasters Wednesday Night tournament rules. These rules may be changed by Suskie Bassmasters notice of which will be posted on the Suskie website at [www.suskiebassmasters.org](http://www.suskiebassmasters.org). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to Suskie Bassmasters directors, officers, and designated officials. In the event of a rule violation, Suskie directors and/or officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments and events. All official decisions are final. Penalties for violations may include, but are not limited to the following: Loss of catch for the day of the violation, Disqualification from the tournament in question, Disqualification from future Suskie events either a specific number of events, or specific time frame, or a lifetime disqualification. Any different or additional penalties determined by Suskie officials.

### 1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

This tournament is an open team tournament. Teams consist of 2 anglers per boat. At least one of the anglers must be at least 18 years old.

### 2. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers participating in any Suskie event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the event in which they are participating. Anglers shall at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on Suskie Bassmasters, its members, officers, directors, representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.

Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of tournament fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to any of the above listed penalties or combination thereof, deemed appropriate by Suskie Bassmasters.

### 3. COMPETITION

A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitors boat at any time during the official competition. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Officials any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. By participants signature on the official entry form, each competitor agrees to abide by all tournament rules.

### 4. REGISTRATION

Tournament registration begins 1 ½ hrs. prior to launch time. All participants MUST be back and turn in their marker before the designated weigh-in time. (See rule 14 Late Penalties). All participants should check their measuring sticks to the OFFICIAL stick at registration. There will be an OFFICIAL measuring stick and clock at registration.

### 5. SAFETY

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament participants. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten, or cancel the start of an official tournament because of bad weather or other factors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

### 6. SPORTSMANSHIP

Participants in Suskie tournaments 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.

a) Use of alcohol or illegal drugs, by any competitor during Suskie tournaments or events, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from the tournament and/or all future Suskie events.

b) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating, and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

c) All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, and any other municipality, or government entity with jurisdiction on tournament waters.

d) Chemical-substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by Suskie Officials. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a Suskie tournament and/or disqualification from a Suskie tournament after circumstances are reviewed by Suskie officials.

### 7. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT

Only artificial lures and biodegradable lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during tournaments with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin casting, or spinning rod/reel may be used at one time. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat and ready for use however only ONE per angler in use at any time. All fish must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching, or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. Fly fishing rods are not permitted.

### 8. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

All boats must meet all PA Fish & Boat Commission requirements. Anglers per boat and motor must not exceed the capacity per the displayed capacity plate on the boat. Boats must have either a built in aerated live well or a portable aerated live well capable of maintaining live fish.

a) Boat/angler Identification. All boats must be inspected at registration by a tournament official. Anglers will receive a numbered marker, (type to be determined by officials). The marker must be kept by each angler and must be turned in at check-in prior to the deadline in order to weigh-in,

b) Gas Tanks. No additional gas tanks or containers of any kind may be used. During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor.

### 9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

For all tournaments launched from the Nesbitt Park Launch, all navigable waters are tournament waters except any areas marked "Off Limits or No Fishing" by state or federal agencies. All angling must be done from the boat. All water considered open to public fishing will be considered tournament waters.

### 10. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournaments. Competitors must leave from and return to the Nesbitt Park launch or whatever the official launch location. Anglers must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In case of a needed restroom break anglers are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must stop until all anglers are back in the boat. All emergencies are to be reported to tournament officials ASAP. Tournament officials reserve the right to all decisions regarding emergency situations.

### 11. SCORING

Winners will be determined by weight on the official scale. The limit is 5 bass per team, minimum size of 15". Short fish will not be weighed. At no time shall anglers have in their possession more fish than allowed by law. 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. Bass must NOT be stringered at any time during a tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed.

### 12. CATCH & RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED

Culling dead bass is prohibited by regulation of the PA Fish & Boat Commission. A legal dead bass presented for weigh-in will be assessed a 1 pound penalty. Tournament officials have sole authority for determination of dead fish.

### 13. LATE PENALTY

As noted in rules 4 & 8a teams will receive a numbered marker at registration. They must keep this marker with them during the tournament. There will be a box with the official time clock at the registration area. These markers MUST be in that box before the official clock shows weigh-in time. At the weigh-in time the box will be closed, and no more markers can be added. ONLY anglers with markers in the box will be allowed to weigh-in.

### 14. TIES

In the case of a tie the team with the single largest fish by weight will win.

All participants are responsible for knowing the rules.