



# 2011 Official Wednesday Night Rules

The following rules apply to the Wednesday Night Elite River Series Tournaments. These rules may differ from those for the Suskie Bassmasters full day 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.

- PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY** These tournaments are open to members of Suskie Bassmasters. Persons 16 years old and older can join Suskie Bassmasters for \$10 per year. Children under 16 years of age can join without a membership charge, but still must pay the tournament entrance fee. Junior anglers (under 16) are eligible to win all prizes, awards, and are eligible to qualify and participate in the championship.
- 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.
- 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.
- REGISTRATION** Tournament registration begins at 4:30 pm. Launch is 6 pm. Weigh-in is 9 pm. All participants MUST be back and turn in their marker before 9pm. Only markers turned in by 9 pm on the official clock will be allowed to weigh-in. All participants should check their measuring sticks to the OFFICIAL stick at registration. There will be an OFFICIAL measuring stick and clock at registration.
- SAFETY** **Tournaments will be cancelled if the river will be at or above 10 ft on the WB gauge.** 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.
- 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
  - 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.
- 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.
- 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 an operating live well capable of re-circulating water.
  - 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,
  - 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.

- PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS** For all tournaments launched from the Nesbitt Park Launch, the fishing boundaries for the Wednesday Night Big Bass tournaments are: north to a maximum of 1 mile above the Appletree launch, and south to the Hunlock Creek Launch. Angler's boats cannot pass the outermost edges of these areas. All waters in-between these locations are fishable waters unless otherwise 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.
- 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.
- SCORING** Winners will be determined by weight on the official scale. **The limit is 1 bass per angler, minimum size of 12 1/2".** Short fish will not be weighed. Each angler MUST bring their own fish to the scale in a separate bag. 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. A point system will be used to determine championship qualifying. See rule 16.
- 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 1/4 pound penalty.** Tournament officials have sole authority for determination of dead fish.
- LATE PENALTY** As noted in rules 4 & 8a anglers 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 9 pm. At 9 pm 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.
- TIES** In the case of a tie where two or more fish weigh exactly the same on the official scale, then the length of the fish will determine the winner. The longest fish will be considered the winner. If the tying fish are also the same length then the tie will stand and the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place money will be combined and split between the anglers. Both anglers will receive first place points.
- POINTS.** A 200 point scoring system will be used to determine the top 30 anglers eligible to fish the Championship. The Suskie Bassmasters Elite Series "ANGLER OF THE YEAR" will be the angler who finishes the regular Wednesday Night Elite Series tournaments, (not counting the Championship), with the most points. Points will be awarded each week as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> = 200, 2<sup>nd</sup> =199, 3<sup>rd</sup>=198 etc. Points will be awarded using this scale for every angler that weighs in a legal fish. Any angler that participates in the tournament but does not weigh in a fish will still be awarded 50 points for that tournament. There will also be opportunities to win additional bonus points throughout the season.
- LIVE WELLS/HANDLING/WEIGH-IN. OUR GOAL IS NO DEAD, NO STRESSED FISH.** All boats MUST have an operating live well capable of re-circulating water. When water temps are above 75 degrees re-circ pumps should be continuously run. Get fish back into the water ASAP. For weigh-in, each angler must have a separate bag. Put fresh water in the bag to bring the fish to weigh. After your fish is weighed immediately release it back into the water. **ANYONE OBSERVED MISHANDLING FISH IN ANY WAY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.**
- CHEATING.** Anyone caught cheating in ANY Suskie Bassmasters event will be disqualified, removed as a member, and never be allowed to fish future Suskie events. Violators will be subject to full criminal prosecution as dictated by Pennsylvania and U.S law. Refusal to take or failure to pass the polygraph test - FOR ANY REASON - will result in immediate disqualification. All findings of the polygraph results are final
- RULES COMMITTEE** The rules committee shall consist of 7 (seven) members. Three officers and four regular paid members of Suskie Bassmasters. The Rules Committee shall review and approve all rules and hear all protests. Rules Committee decisions on protests are final.
- RULES COMMITTEE AND PROTEST PROCEDURES**  
By entering any Suskie Bassmasters tournament, contestants agree to submit to a polygraph/voice test examination should the competitor be accused of any rule violation. Protests may be registered in person and in writing, before boat launch or after weigh in and before awards are presented. **If it is a problem regarding the weight of a fish or bag of fish, the protest must be made prior to the fish in question being returned to the water.** Any person failing to successfully pass a polygraph/voice test in this or any other tournament will not be allowed entry into future Suskie Tournaments. All contestants agree that in the event of a dispute or protest of any kind, or if requested to do so by the Rules Committee, both team members will submit to a polygraph screening. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph/voice test shall be the responsibility of the Rules Committee or designee. The Rules Committee will choose the individual who administers such polygraph/voice test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test and schedule a polygraph session at the place of Rules Committee's Choice. The day of polygraph examination shall be based on both team members choice and must be completed within 2 weeks following said tournament. Failure to take and pass the polygraph/voice test examination, if required, will result in immediate disqualification without recourse. Protests must be accompanied by \$100.00 cash. If the protest is valid, the protester shall receive a refund of the \$100.00 protest fee and will be paid a \$50.00 good Samaritan award. Contestants further agree that the results of the polygraph screening will be accepted without further appeal and will be the final decision in said tournament. All contestants agree and understand that protested prizes will be held until the polygraph results are received and any differential in awards will be mailed to affected winners immediately following results. Both team members hereby waive and release any and all claims and causes of action against Suskie Bassmasters, sponsors, and their agents in connection with taking such polygraph screenings. In the event of no polygraph screening, the Rules Committee decision will be accepted. Inconclusive results on a polygraph examination will be considered to be a failure to pass and will be accepted as such by the examinee. Any angler making an accusation against another contestant without submitting a written protest accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit may be subject to disqualification from current and future Suskie Bass events

## RULES COMMITTEE

|   | Name           | Status  |
|---|----------------|---------|
| 1 | Norm Gavlick   | Officer |
| 2 | Rob Rosencrans | Officer |
| 3 | Chuck Saypack  | Officer |
| 4 |                | Member  |
| 5 |                | Member  |
| 6 |                | Member  |
| 7 |                | Member  |

## PROTEST FORM

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Name of contestant filing the protest:</b>  |                          |
| <b>Date:</b>   | <b>Time of Incident:</b> |
| <b>Location/Area of Incident:</b>  |                          |
| <b>List any witnesses:</b>   |                          |
| <b>Note Rule(s) violated:</b>  |                          |
| <b>Provide details of protest:</b>   |                          |
| <b>Signature of Protestor:</b><br>I affirm and verify that the statements made in this protest are true, correct, and accurate to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief. I acknowledge that making false, misleading, and/or inaccurate statements regarding other club members may result in sanctions up to and including disqualification from Suskie Bassmasters events and membership. I agree to abide by the determinations of the rules committee regarding this protest which may include submitting to a polygraph/truth test. |                          |
| <b>SIGNATURE:</b>  | <b>DATE:</b>             |