



Blackstone Police Department's 3rd Annual Benefit Bass Tournament Rules and Regulations

SPORTSMANSHIP – Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on the Blackstone Police Department, its members, officers or representatives, or sponsors. To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing.

- Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship and/or misconduct and/or violates these rules and/or violates state laws or lake rules will be disqualified and excluded from the Blackstone Police Department Annual Fishing Tournament. This includes conduct on and off the water including improper fishing techniques, illegal fishing techniques, misconduct in and around the host facilities. Misconduct may be deemed as an infraction of our sportsmanship rule and is grounds for disqualification from the event and exclusion from all future events.
- Any angler who engages in improper or illegal fishing techniques, either during the competition or not, will be disqualified from the event and excluded from all future events. Each competitor agrees to report to a Tournament Official any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Competitors in the tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles will be deemed cause for disqualification and is grounds for disqualification from any event and exclusion from all future events.
- 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 will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the event or when in the weigh-in area.
- 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.

BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION - There is no minimum length or minimum horsepower requirements to compete in Blackstone Police Department Annual Tournaments, however on Sandy River Reservoir gasoline engines must be 10 horsepower or less to operate in the lake. At Sandy River Reservoir the engine must remain raised with the prop out of the water if a boat has an engine in excess of 10 horsepower. No internal combustion engine is required. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the

boat by the manufacturer. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment, and equipment required by Virginia state law.

SAFETY - All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations. Safe boating shall be observed at all times. Anyone found operating a boat in an unsafe manner in the opinion of the Tournament Director will be disqualified. All boats must have a float cushion on board. Each contestant is responsible to have proper safety equipment to meet state and local regulations. It is not the responsibility of the Blackstone Police Department or any tournament sponsor to provide assistance in on-the-water repairs or rescues at any time. Each contestant shall provide their own on-the-water assistance if needed. Blackstone Police Department and its sponsors are not responsible to assure that any contestant has returned at the end of any contest. For safety, each contestant should inform another contestant as to the location(s) that they will be fishing and have that contestant check to assure that the other contestant has returned safely at the end of the contest and have a plan for assistance if needed.

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.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS AND TACKLE - All fish must be caught live in a conventional and sporting manner. Trolling also referred to as ripping / sweeping or jerking, is prohibited. Cast and retrieve methods of ripping and jerking are legal. The intentional snagging of fish is strictly prohibited. Landing nets are permitted in events. Only one "rod and reel" may be used at a time. Rods may not exceed 8 feet in length. Only artificial baits are allowed.

PERMITTED FISHING WATERS - Anywhere on tournament water that is accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by the tournament director, local, state or federal officials. Boats must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official check-in by boat.

ENCROACHMENT - A "25 yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant's boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants involved. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon this zone as long and the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. Judging distance is very difficult on the water. As a general rule of sportsmanship all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area. Exception: In the case of fishing docks or piers, no contestant's boat may "tie up," or "protect" more than a single dock at one time regardless of the distance involved.

EQUIPMENT FAILURE OR EMERGENCY - In the event of equipment failure or emergency, contestant's boat may be towed to the check-in. If it is necessary to transfer fish to another boat, it must be another contestant's boat. At least one member of the team must accompany the fish to the weigh-in site.

FISHING HOURS AND LATE PENALTY - Competitors who are not in the official check in area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in area, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. It is each angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times. No culling of fish in the host marina or weigh-in area.

LIVE FISH - Boats must contain a properly aerated or recirculating livewell to maintain alive a team's or alone angler's catch of fish. Ice chests with an aerator are acceptable upon approval of the tournament director. Any vessel deemed "unsuitable" by a Tournament Director will not be allowed to participate in the event.

TEAM FISHING - Teams will be limited to a two person per boat. One person fishing alone will be allowed.

SCORING - Scoring will be determined by the total weight of catch.

- The limit shall be five (5) bass per two angler team or five (5) bass for an angler fishing alone.
- The official length for bass shall be less than fourteen (14") inches or greater than twenty inches (20").
- Only two (2) bass greater than twenty (20") inches maybe in possession of any team or angler fishing alone unless otherwise stated or posted at check-in.
- Bass will be measured lying down, mouth closed, tail pinched, on a FLAT board. (Some lakes may require different measuring techniques).
- At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit.
- Tournament officials will conduct checks during the event for the above-described limits and any competitor(s) found in violation will be disqualified from the event.
- Bass presented for weigh-in which fall into the slot-limit (14" – 20") shall be removed from the catch and a penalty of one (1) pound will be deducted from the remaining weight.
- CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following to be deducted from their score:
 - 1 Dead Fish = 4 oz.
 - 2 Dead Fish = 10 oz.
 - 3 Dead Fish = 18 oz.
 - 4 Dead Fish = 28 oz.
 - 5 Dead Fish = 40 oz.

- The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.
- 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.

TIES - In case of a tie for first-place, the following tie-breakers will be used in order: 1) The team or individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition; 2) The team or individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition. In the unlikely event that teams or team champions remain tied after these two tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s). Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

NO ALCOHOL - No alcoholic beverages are allowed during tournament hours. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any tournament boat.

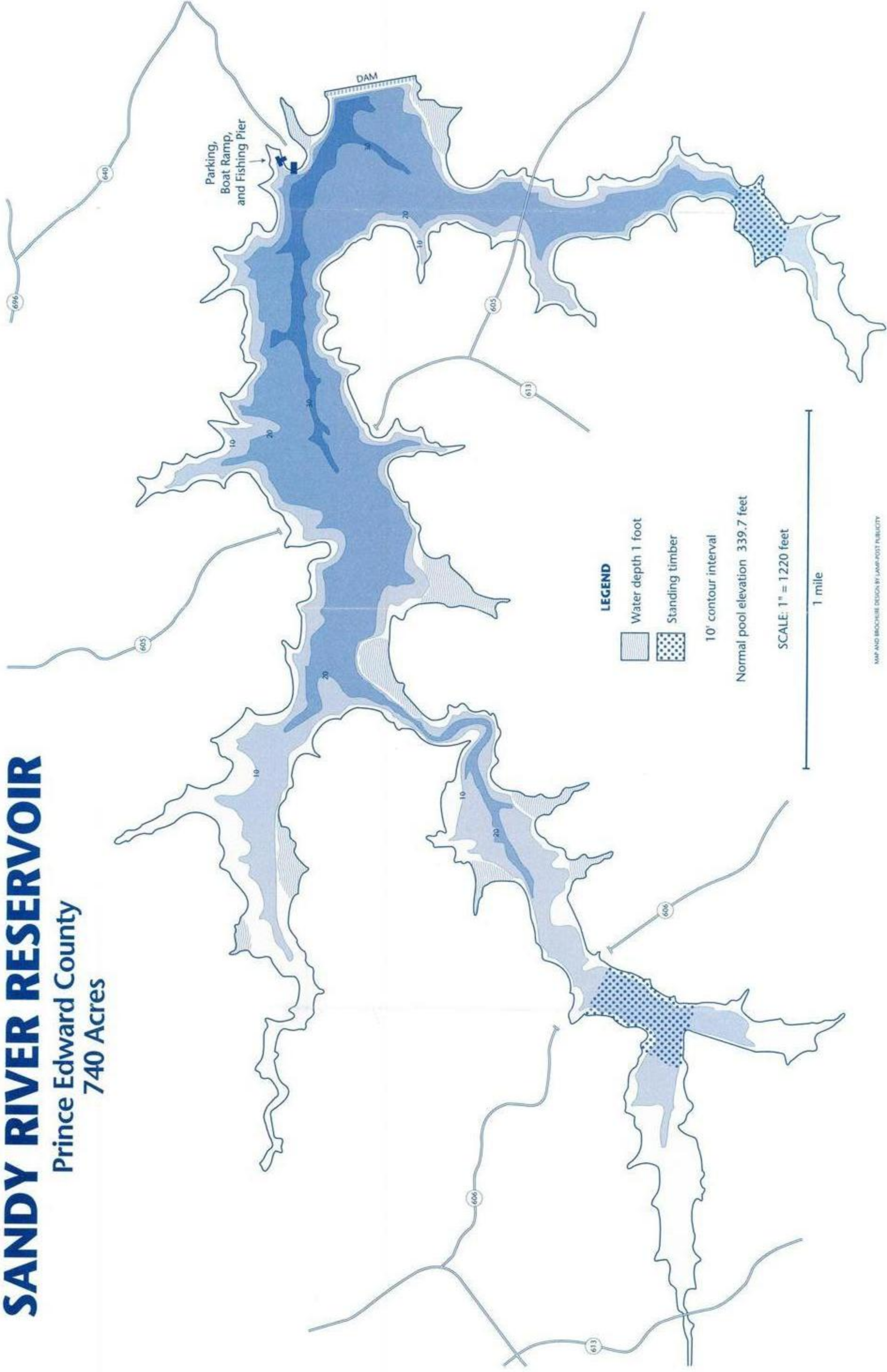
CITATIONS - A contestant cited by Officers for violation of State or Federal fishing or boating regulations will be disqualified and will not be allowed in any future events.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATICIPATION AND GOOD LUCK!

SANDY RIVER RESERVOIR

Prince Edward County

740 Acres





PROPER CARE OF TOURNAMENT CAUGHT FISH



Why should tournament anglers be concerned with proper care of the fish that they catch during an event?

- Initial mortality can reach levels as high as 30%
- Delayed mortality can reach levels as high as 50%

What are the sources of mortality in tournament caught fish?

- Hooking injuries
- High water temperatures in the lake and livewell*
- Low dissolved oxygen levels in the livewell*
- Poor water quality in the livewell – Ammonia builds up from fish waste

**As water temperature increases, oxygen needs also increase and the need for adequate aeration is vital.*

Proper Handling to Increase Survival Rates

1. Gentle handling to protect mucous coat and jaw. “Lipping” the fish is preferred.
2. Limit air exposure.
3. Have adequate size livewell with smooth surfaces to prevent injury.
4. Aerate/oxygen injection of livewell.
5. Cool water with ice packs to 10° F cooler than lake surface water temperature when lake temperatures are greater than 75° F. Four pounds of ice will lower temperature of 15 gallons of livewell water 10° F for three hours.
6. Flush livewell with fresh water periodically to prevent waste build-up.
7. Add **noniodized** salt at 1/3 cup per 5 gallons of water to reduce stress and ion loss.
8. **DO NOT USE HYDROGEN PEROXIDE.**
9. The same considerations apply at the weigh-in site as on the boat. Provide shade, oxygen, and ice for the holding tank if used and handle the fish as little as possible.

Optimal Release Sites

1. Clear water
2. Hard, clean bottom
3. Away from boat traffic
4. Relatively cool water
5. Good water quality
6. Away from heavy bank/pier fishing pressure

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Adapted from Keeping Bass Alive: A Guide for Anglers and Tournament Organizers. By Gene Gilliland & Hal Schramm. Published by ESPN Productions, Inc./B.A.S.S., 2002.

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