

South Jersey Rod Benders

Official Tournament Rules

Last Updated: 1/7/2024

State and local law comes before club rules in all instances

- All New Jersey boating and fishing regulations apply. Anglers must be licensed and boats must be registered. Gas motors may only be used on bodies of water where it is allowed by state regulation.

All anglers agree to the conditions of these rules prior to fishing any and all tournaments hosted by the club. All anglers are responsible for their own actions during the time they are fishing in any and all tournaments hosted by the club.

Tournament Format

Limit

- SJRB buddy tournaments will have 5 fish limits (5 fish between 1 or 2 anglers in a boat). Limit size can be adjusted in accordance to specific location's creel limit laws if necessary.

Tournament Entry Cost

- Cost for members to fish each T is \$30 per boat.
 - Entry must be paid before the T begins.

Payout

- SJRB will pay back 100% of the entry fees at weigh in:
 - \$5 from each team goes to Lunker
 - The remaining \$25 per team is split 60/40 between 1st/2nd place.
 - If no fish are weighed in a T, the prize money will roll over to the next T.
 - If only one angler/team weighs fish in a T, all prize money will be awarded to that angler/team.

Tournament Rules

Start of Tournament

- All boats should be launched and waiting within normal talking distance of the ramp before the tournament begins.
- Any angler arriving late for a T must have their livewell checked for functionality and emptiness by another member before beginning to fish the T.

Tournament Boundaries

- In-bounds areas will be agreed upon and discussed before each T. If a member is caught fishing out-of-bounds, he/she will be disqualified.

Personal Conduct

- Any aggressive or unsportsmanlike conduct is grounds for immediate rejection from the club. This will be done by means of a club vote.

Lures & Technique

- SJRB tournaments will be fished with artificial lures only. No live bait may be used at any time.
- Trolling is not permitted.

Keeper Fish

- Keeper fish must be at least 12 inches (or larger per the regulations of each specific body of

water/season). Measurements will be taken from the closed mouth to the tip of the tail (the fish's tail may be pinched or natural during measuring)

- A courtesy measurement of any fish will be allowable by request only. Short fish being weighed without a request for a courtesy measure will result in the loss of that angler's lunker bass.
- No piercing cull tags are permitted for use on fish. Only non-piercing style cull tags may be used.

Fish Transfer

- No angler may receive a keeper fish from another person/team.
 - This includes a fisherman outside of the club offering a fish to a club member participating in a T that day.
 - In any tournament that is not fished "buddy style": If two members are fishing from the same boat equipped with one livewell, the members must have a way of identifying their catch from their co-angler's catch.

Landing Fish

- Nets may be used to land a fish
- In any tournament that is not fished "buddy style": Another angler in the same boat may assist in netting a fish

Livewells/Limits

- All boats must include a functioning livewell or aerated cooler in order to sustain a limit of fish through the duration of each T.
- If your livewell already contains a full limit of fish, upon catching the next fish, you must cull one fish before continuing to fish. At no time can you continue fishing while your boat contains more than the tournament limit of fish.

Weigh-In

- At the time of weigh-in, all members must be within normal talking distance of the designated weigh-in ramp/location. No member should still be fishing at the designated weigh-in time. All lines should be out of the water. No fish landed into a boat after the tournament end time shall be counted.
- Any member arriving late to the weigh-in will be charged a penalty of 1 pound per minute, with disqualification after 10 minutes past the T's end time.
- Fish must be brought to the scale in a weigh-in bag alive.
 - Dead fish must be weighed in for an 8 oz penalty.
 - You may not cull a dead fish at any point in the T.
 - Dead fish will count against your total weight/points for the T, but will not affect your lunker weight.
 - A dead fish may not be weighed for lunker. Lunker must be alive to be considered.
- Any member who chooses to leave before the end of the T may do so, but they will not be able to weigh in and will result in a 0 for fish/weight. The member will receive their 1 participation point for the event if they launch their boat and fish for any amount of time.

Tournament Tie Breakers

- In the event of a tie for total weight:
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with heavier Lunker
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with greater number of live fish weighed-in
 - 3rd Tie Breaker: Angler/team with the longer length lunker
 - In the event that the tie remains, the payout and standings points will be split

- In the event of a tie for Lunker:
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with greater total weight
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with greater number of live fish weighed-in
 - 3rd Tie Breaker: Angler/team with the longer length lunker
 - In the event that the tie remains, the lunker payout will be split

Angler of the Year Tie Breakers

- In the event of a tie for Angler/Team of the Year
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with the greater podium points
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with the greater weight points
 - 3rd Tie Breaker: Angler/Team with the best lunker weight
 - 4th Tie Breaker: In the event that the tie remains, teams can choose to split the title/prize or settle over one single round of Rock, Paper, Scissors

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