

South Jersey Rod Benders

Official Tournament Rules

- 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 tournaments will have 3 fish limits.
- **Tournament Entry Cost**
 - Cost for members to fish each T is \$15.
 - Entry must be paid before the T begins.
 - Cost for invited guests to fish each T is \$20 (\$5 goes back to the club).
 - Guests must be approved by a club official before being invited.
- **Payout**
 - SJRB will pay back 100% of the entry fees at weigh in a 60/30/10 split between 1st/2nd/Lunker.
 - If no fish are weighed in a T, the prize money will roll over to the next T.
 - If only one angler weighs fish in a T, all prize money will be awarded to that angler.

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 15" in Big Bass Regulated Waters).

Measurements will be taken from the closed mouth to the tip of the tail in its natural state.

- There shall be no unnatural pinching of the fish's tail during measurement.
- 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.
- **Fish Transfer**
 - No angler may receive a keeper fish from another person.
 - This includes a fisherman outside of the club offering a fish to a club member participating in a T that day.
 - 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
 - Another angler in the same boat may assist in netting a fish
- **Livewells**
 - All boats must include a functioning livewell or aerated cooler in order to sustain a limit of fish through the duration of each T.
 - Livewells may never at any time contain more fish than the tournament limit.
 - If your livewell already contains the limit, you must cull a fish before adding a new catch to your livewell
- **Weigh-In**
 - At the time of weigh-in, all members must be within normal talking distance of the designated weigh-in ramp. No member should still be fishing at the designated weigh-in time.
 - Any member arriving late to the weigh-in will be disqualified.
 - 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.
 - Any member who chooses to leave before the end of the T may do so without penalty.
 - The angler must find a club official with a hand-held scale to get measurements for their catch.
 - Leaving without official weighing will result in zero fish being recorded for that angler's catch.
 - No member may remove their boat from the water until at least one other member is at the ramp.
- **Tournament Tie Breakers**
 - In the event of a tie for total weight:
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler with greater weight Lunker
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler with greater number of fish weighed-in
 - 3rd Tie Breaker: Angler with greater total weight
 - In the event that the tie remains, the payout will be split
 - In the event of a tie for Lunker:
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler with greater total weight
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler with greater number of fish weighed-in
 - 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 of the Year
 - 1st Tie Breaker: Angler with the greater podium points
 - 2nd Tie Breaker: Angler with the greater weight points
 - 3rd Tie Breaker: Angler with the best lunker weight

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