



## Sun Country 2009 Tournament Rules

### A. General

- Rules:** These Sun Country qualifying tournament rules will remain unchanged during the tournament year. It is the responsibility of each contestant to read and understand the rules and to abide by the rules during each tournament. Separate or additional rules may apply for the Championship Tournament. Protests must be presented to the Tournament Committee in writing within 30 minutes of the day's official check-In. Interpretation of the rules and final decisions in settling protests will be made exclusively by the tournament rules committee, which consists of the Sun Country Officers and Directors and the Tournament Director. The tournament rules committee's decisions are final.
- Participants and Eligibility:** Sun Country tournament participants are required to be members in good standing of Sun Country Bass Association. Participation is open to any two-person team. At least one (1) partner of each team must be 18 years of age or older. Anglers under the age of 18 years must have written consent of a parent or legal guardian. In the event that both team partners can not be present, one partner may fish alone, provided the angler fishing alone is 18 years of age or older. One member of two teams may fish together in one boat, provided all entry fees are paid and all tournament rules are followed. Guides are prohibited from entering Sun Country events if they have provided guide services, or if they employ guides who have provided guide services, on tournament waters within 45 days of the tournament dates. Guides are defined as individuals who accept money, goods or services for providing guide services on scheduled Sun Country tournament waters.
- Boats:** Boats used in Sun Country tournaments must be equipped with aerated live wells and kill switches and they must meet State and Federal safety requirements. Boats must be equipped with state required safety equipment. Conventional bass fishing boats must be used in tournament events. During pre fish and tournaments casting decks may not be altered for the purpose of providing an elevated sight fishing advantage. Offshore type boats with elevated viewing/casting platforms are excluded from pre fish and tournament events. Auxiliary equipment or devices such as ladders, crates or boxes may not be used as viewing/casting platforms during pre fish and tournaments. All boats entered into Sun Country tournaments are required to have running and anchor lights installed and operating at each tournament day take-off.
- Insurance:** Boat owners must carry proper liability insurance.
- Registration:** Teams are encouraged to pre-register via mail 2 weeks prior to tournament date. On lake registration will occur between 6:00-7:00PM on Friday prior to tournament at locations to be announced. Additional administrative fees will be charged for on site registrations. In the event that contestant's mail-in pre entries are not received by Sun Country prior to the tournament, the team will be charged the on lake registration fee. This fee will be reimbursed to the team upon receipt of pre-registration by Sun Country, provided it is post marked one week prior to the tournament. Pre-entries received that are not post marked one week prior to the tournament will be returned to the contestants and the on lake entry fee will be retained by Sun Country. Teams who have pre entered must check in at the Registration desk prior the start of the contestants meeting.



6. **Contestants Meeting:** The contestants meeting will begin at 6:30 PM on the Friday, prior to the tournament date at the announced location. Specific tournament information such as starting and check in times and locations, off limit areas, etc., will be announced at the contestants meeting. At least one member from each team is required to attend the contestants meeting unless prior arrangements have been made with the Tournament Director or the Tournament Committee.

#### **B: Championship:**

1. **Eligibility:** Teams must compete in a minimum of three qualifying tournaments in a division, with their partner, in order to qualify, as a team, for the Championship tournament. As stipulated in A-2 above, one member of a team may fish alone in qualifying tournaments with prior approval of the Directors.

#### **C: Tournament:**

1. **Sportsmanship:** Sportsmanship, courtesy, ecology and conservation are expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification
2. **Safety:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by each contestant. Contestants must wear life preservers and kill switches must be in use any time the combustible engine is running. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed during tournament hours
3. **Practice Days:** There will be no off-limits period for qualifying/consolation tournaments. However, contestants must be off of the tournament waters no later than sundown each day during the week preceding the tournament (Saturday through and including Friday). Spot lights may not be used to locate fish at night prior to Sun Country events.
4. **Tournament Hours:** Official tournament hours and flights will be announced during the contestants meeting. Standard tournament hours will be nine (9) hours on Saturday and eight (8) hours on Sunday of the tournament beginning at safe light. SCBA Directors may alter these hours due to inclement weather or other unforeseen circumstances.
5. **Inclement Weather:** In the event of inclement weather the Tournament Committee may postpone, delay or cancel that day's activities. The Committee may allow boats to be taken by trailer to other designated launch facilities. All boats will be checked out and checked in at the launching facility used for that tournament at the time designated for that day's activities.
6. **Permitted Fishing Waters:** Off limits will be 50 yards from any gas dock. Other off limits areas will be announced at the contestants meeting. Fishing is not permitted in designated no fishing areas, or within 50 yards of another teams boat that is anchored, providing the anchored boat was there first.
7. **Tackle:** Only artificial lures may be used. Prepared, excluding pork rind strips, or live bait is prohibited. Only one rod may be in use at one time. Trolling with the gas engine is not permitted. Chumming or using any substance to alter water conditions to attract fish or improve viewing conditions, is prohibited. This rule does not preclude the use of scents on terminal tackle.
8. **Angling Methods:** Fish must be hooked in a conventional angling manner. Intentionally snagging fish is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.
9. **Live Wells:** Live wells must be inspected each day by the tournament committee, or designated representatives, prior to the start of the tournament. All tournament boats must be equipped with operational live wells. Live wells must functional and capable of sustaining fish during dry land weigh-ins.



# SUN COUNTRY BASS Association

- 10. Culling:** Culling on the sixth fish caught by each team is mandatory. At no time will any team have more than five large mouth and/or small mouth bass in the live well. Dead fish may not be culled. If, for any reason, a team has five dead fish in the live well, the team must stop fishing for the day. The best five fish may be presented to the tournament weigh master. The fish presented to the weigh master will be weighed to represent the team weight. In the event that more than five fish are presented to the weigh master, the entire team weight will be disqualified for that tournament day due to violation of the five fish rule.
- 11. Equipment Failure or Emergency:** In case of equipment failure or emergency, boats may be towed to the check-in area, or fish may be transferred to another team's boat. At least one member of the team must accompany the fish to the weigh-in site. Anglers transferring to another boat must cease fishing.
- 12. Weigh-In:** The weigh-in location for the tournament will be announced at the contestants meeting. Teams must weigh in their own catch. There will be one weigh-in, per team, per day.
- 13. Late Penalty:** Teams not officially checked in on or before the official check-in time will forfeit all weight for the day. There will be no excuses accepted.
- 14. Scoring:** Tournament standings and final winners will be determined by the total weight of each team's catch that is presented to the tournament weigh master during the tournament. Only large mouth, small mouth or spotted bass will be weighed. Each team is allowed a limit of three fish per day. A penalty of .25 lb. will be deducted from the team's total weight for each dead fish presented to the weigh master. The minimum length will follow State Fishing Regulations. Measurement will be made on the Red Will-E-Go Belly Board in New Mexico events and the Red Will-E-Go Flat Board in Texas events. Fish will be measured with mouth closed. One lb. will be deducted from the team's total weight for each short fish presented to the weigh master. Fish that appear to have been dead for extended periods or fish that appear to be mashed or mauled will be weighed at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Ties will be settled by adding the two places together and splitting the award equally between the two places. If trophies are involved in the tie, a flip of the coin will determine who receives the trophy.
- 15. Laws:** All State Federal and Local laws must be obeyed at all times. Failure to do so could result in disqualification. Mexican fishing licenses and boat permits are required when fishing in Mexican waters.
- 16. Awards:** Checks and merchandise will be awarded immediately following the tournaments at a location announced at the Contestants Meeting. Teams must be represented by at least one member at awards ceremonies in order to receive cash or merchandise unless prior arrangements have been made with Sun Country officials.
- 17. Tournament Committee:** The tournament committee consists of Sun Country Directors and the Tournament Director.

## D: Fees:

1. **Membership Fee:** The membership fee is \$50 per person. Membership fee for the any new member entering the last 2 tournaments will be reduced to \$25 per person,
2. **Tournament Entry Fees:** Entry fee for each tournament will be \$150 per team, pre-paid one week prior to the tournament. On site or late entry fee will be \$190 per team per tournament.
3. **Super Team:** Entry fee into Super Team Option Pot will be \$60 per team.



# SUN COUNTRY BASS Association

## **F: 2009 Schedule:**

1. **March 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> Lake Amistad - East and West Qualifying Tournament.**
2. **April 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Ute Lake - East and West Qualifying Tournament.**
3. **May 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Conchas Lake - East Qualifying Tournament Only.**
4. **June 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Elephant Butte Lake - West Qualifying Tournament Only.**
5. **June 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Ute Lake - East Qualifying Tournament Only.**
6. **August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Lake – West Qualifying Tournament Only.**
7. **October 12<sup>th</sup> thru October 16<sup>th</sup> – Championship TBA**