AMERICAN ANGLERS FISHING LEAGUE

Weekend Warriors Series

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULEBOOK

Amateur Tournament Rules | 200-Point AOY System

This rulebook governs AAFL Weekend Warriors Series events unless modified in writing for a specific event. These rules are intended to preserve amateur competition, angler safety, sportsmanship, and conservation.

Document	Official Rulebook
Applies To	AAFL Weekend Warriors Series Events
Revision	200-Point AOY System Edition

Note: The Tournament Director may publish event-specific instructions that supplement these rules. When a written event instruction conflicts with a general rule, the event instruction controls for that event only.

1. Purpose

1. The American Anglers Fishing League ("AAFL") Weekend Warriors Series is an amateur bass tournament trail created to provide fair, competitive, safe, and conservation-minded events for weekend anglers.
2. The intent of this series is to provide a well-run tournament environment for anglers who do not compete at the national professional-tour level.
3. By entering any AAFL Weekend Warriors Series event, each contestant agrees to follow these Official Rules and any event-specific instructions issued by the Tournament Director.

2. Eligibility

2.1 Membership

4. All contestants must be current AAFL members in good standing before competing.
5. All contestants must complete and sign any required entry forms, waivers, and releases.

2.2 Licenses and Legal Compliance

6. All contestants must possess all licenses and permits required by local, state, and federal law for the tournament waters.
7. All contestants must comply with all applicable laws, boating regulations, and fishing regulations.

2.3 Age Requirement

8. Contestants must be at least 18 years old unless otherwise approved in writing by AAFL.

2.4 Amateur Status

9. The Weekend Warriors Series is an amateur-only trail.
10. Professional anglers are not eligible to compete unless specifically approved in writing by AAFL for a separate division or special event.

2.5 Definition of a Professional Angler

11. For purposes of the AAFL Weekend Warriors Series, a Professional Angler ("Pro") is any angler who meets any one of the following conditions:
    1. Is currently registered for, or has competed during the current season or the immediately preceding season as a pro / boater in a recognized national professional circuit, including but not limited to: B.A.S.S. Elite Series; Bassmaster Opens as a Pro Angler; Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour; Major League Fishing Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit; National Professional Fishing League (NPFL); or any substantially similar national pro-level circuit as determined by AAFL.
    2. Has competed as a designated professional / boater in more than two (2) tournaments during any rolling 365-day period where the individual entry fee was $700 or more.
    3. Is otherwise determined by AAFL to be fishing at a national pro-tour level based on verifiable tournament history.
12. For clarity, an angler is not considered a Pro solely because he or she has local sponsors, a wrapped boat, branded apparel, a social media following, local or regional tournament success, or is well known in the local fishing community.

13. Co-angler, marshal, observer, or amateur-level participation in another trail does not by itself make an angler a Pro.
14. Any contestant whose eligibility may reasonably be questioned must disclose relevant tournament history to the Tournament Director before entering.
15. Failure to disclose relevant information may result in disqualification, forfeiture of winnings, loss of points, suspension, or removal from the series.

2.6 Guide Restriction on Tournament Waters

16. A contestant is not eligible to compete in an event if, within the 30 days before the first competition day of that event, the contestant has acted as a fishing guide on the declared tournament waters; accepted money, tips, barter, trade, or any other compensation for taking another person fishing on the declared tournament waters; or conducted a paid instructional or guide trip on the declared tournament waters, whether licensed or unlicensed.
17. This restriction applies only to the declared tournament waters for that specific event.
18. For purposes of this rule, "guided" or "guiding" means taking another person fishing on tournament waters in exchange for compensation of any kind, whether cash or non-cash.
19. Any contestant who has guided on tournament waters within that 30-day period must not enter that event.
20. Entering an event in violation of this rule, or failing to disclose such activity, will result in disqualification and may result in forfeiture of winnings, loss of points, suspension, or removal from the series.

2.7 Duty to Disclose

21. Each contestant has an affirmative duty to disclose, before entry, any fact that may affect eligibility under the Professional Angler rule or the Guide Restriction rule.
22. If there is any doubt, the contestant must ask the Tournament Director for a ruling before the event.
23. The Tournament Director's decision on eligibility is final.

3. Registration and Entry Fees

24. Entry fees, deadlines, optional side pots, and payout information will be published for each event.
25. Late entries may be accepted at the sole discretion of AAFL.
26. Refunds, transfers, or credits will be handled according to the posted event policy.
27. Any no-show without notice may forfeit all entry fees and points for that event.

AAFL membership fees are non-refundable.

Unless otherwise published for a specific event, regular-season Weekend Warriors Series entry is $350 per event.

Championship entry is $500 for qualified anglers.

Championship registration closes fifteen (15) days before the first competition day unless AAFL publishes a different deadline.

AAFL may allow one transfer or refund of an event entry in accordance with the posted event policy. Once that option has been used, additional transfers or refunds are not guaranteed.

The Weekend Warriors Series field may be capped at 100 anglers unless AAFL announces a different field size for a specific event.

4. Official Briefing and Check-In

28. All contestants must complete official check-in as directed by AAFL.
29. All contestants must attend the mandatory rules and safety briefing, whether in person or by approved digital method.
30. Takeoff procedure, check-in times, off-limits areas, special restrictions, and event-specific instructions announced at the briefing are part of the Official Rules for that event.
31. It is each contestant's responsibility to know the official start time, end time, and check-in location.

    Unless otherwise announced, official competition hours are safe light until 3:00 p.m. local time.

    AAFL may organize the field into flights of up to twenty-five (25) boats. Flight takeoff and check-in times will be announced before competition.

    Boat numbers will be assigned randomly and may be redrawn for each competition day.

    Each contestant must obtain and return the official AAFL check-in chip, card, or other check-in device as directed by tournament staff. Failure to check in properly may result in late penalties or disqualification.

    All contestants must leave from and return to the official tournament checkpoint by boat unless the Tournament Director authorizes otherwise for safety or emergency reasons.

5. Safety

32. Safe boating and safe conduct are required at all times.
33. Whenever the combustion engine is running and the boat is on plane or otherwise in motion under power, all persons in the boat must wear a properly fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device.
34. The boat operator must use a kill switch whenever the combustion engine is in operation, if the boat is equipped with one.
35. Alcohol and illegal drugs are prohibited during tournament hours.
36. Prescription medication is allowed only when lawfully prescribed and used as directed.
37. AAFL may delay, shorten, move, suspend, or cancel any event because of weather, unsafe conditions, or any other reason affecting safety or fairness.
38. In the event of an emergency, contestants should contact emergency services first when necessary and then notify the Tournament Director as soon as possible.

    No boat may be powered by an outboard motor exceeding 300 horsepower, and no engine may exceed the horsepower rating stated by the boat manufacturer.

    Contestants must maintain boat liability insurance meeting any minimum coverage requirement published by AAFL for the event and must provide proof of coverage upon request.

6. Sportsmanship and Conduct

39. All contestants must conduct themselves with honesty, integrity, and sportsmanship.
40. Unsportsmanlike conduct includes, but is not limited to: harassment, intimidation, threatening behavior, public abuse of officials, cheating, interfering with another contestant, intentionally blocking access, or any act that harms the integrity of the event.
41. The first contestant lawfully established on an area has the right to continue fishing that water, subject to safe boating and sportsmanship.
42. Contestants must maintain a respectful distance from one another and must not intentionally interfere with another angler's ability to fish.

AAFL enforces a 100-yard courtesy rule. A contestant may not move within 100 yards of another contestant who is anchored, secured, or actively fishing a location unless invited closer by that contestant or unless navigation, safety, or local conditions make the distance impractical.

Fishing is prohibited inside any AAFL-designated launch, takeoff, check-in, or weigh-in exclusion zone. The Tournament Director will identify any such zone before the event.

7. Practice, Information, and Assistance

43. Beginning at 12:01 a.m. on Monday of tournament week and continuing until the close of weigh-in, contestants may not buy, barter for, solicit, or receive private fishing information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters.
44. Contestants may not purchase waypoints, spot information, or guide information for tournament waters during that restricted period.
45. During tournament hours, contestants may not receive fishing help from non-contestants, including by phone, text, messaging, radio, or other communication device.
46. Communication is allowed for emergencies, safety issues, weather concerns, and contact with tournament staff.
47. Smart devices may be used for maps, weather, safety, and navigation, but not for receiving fishing assistance or fish-location help during the restricted period.
48. Drones, underwater cameras, scuba equipment, and similar tools may not be used to locate fish during the restricted period unless specifically approved by AAFL.

    During official practice, contestants may not receive outside information, waypoints, or location-specific assistance from any person who is not an eligible contestant in the event, except information that is genuinely public and available to all anglers.

    Forward-facing sonar (FFS) may be used during official practice unless an event notice states otherwise. During tournament competition, all FFS equipment must be disconnected from power and secured in the official AAFL lockbox or by another AAFL-approved sealing method before takeoff.

    The contestant is responsible for ensuring that all FFS transducers, displays, modules, and related equipment covered by the event restriction remain secured and unavailable for use throughout competition.

    Drones are prohibited for contestants, team members, family members, or anyone acting on a contestant's behalf during practice and tournament competition for the purpose of locating fish, anglers, or fishing areas.

8. Boats and Equipment

49. Every boat must comply with all U.S. Coast Guard and applicable state safety requirements.
50. Every boat must have an operational livewell capable of maintaining a tournament limit of bass.
51. Every boat must be seaworthy and acceptable to the Tournament Director.
52. Maximum horsepower may not exceed the manufacturer's rating for the boat.
53. Trailering during tournament hours is prohibited except in an emergency or when specifically authorized by the Tournament Director.
54. Contestants are responsible for ensuring their boat and equipment are in safe working order.

    AAFL may inspect boats, safety equipment, livewells, electronics, FFS lockboxes, cameras, and other tournament equipment before takeoff, during competition, or after weigh-in.

9. Permitted Methods of Fishing

55. Only artificial lures may be used unless otherwise announced.
56. No live bait or prepared bait is allowed.
57. Only one rod may be used by a contestant at a time.
58. Landing nets are permitted.
59. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
60. All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner during official tournament hours.
61. Contestants must fish from inside the boat except in an emergency.
62. All fish submitted for weigh-in must have been caught by the contestant entering them.

    All bass must be caught with a rod and reel held and operated by the contestant. No unattended, set-line, trotline, limb-line, or similar method is permitted.

    A contestant may have multiple rods rigged and ready but may actively fish with only one rod at a time.

10. Tournament Waters and Off-Limits Areas

63. Tournament waters will be announced before each event.
64. Any water or area designated as closed, restricted, no-entry, or no-fishing by local, state, or federal authority is automatically off-limits.
65. AAFL may establish additional off-limits or no-wake areas for safety, fairness, or permit compliance.
66. Fishing in an off-limits area may result in disqualification.

11. Limits, Size, and Fish Care

67. Unless otherwise announced, the tournament limit is five (5) bass per contestant.
68. Only legal bass species recognized by state law may be weighed.
69. All fish must meet the legal size requirements for the tournament waters and any additional tournament minimum announced by AAFL.
70. Contestants are responsible for presenting only legal fish at weigh-in.
71. Contestants may not bring more than the legal limit to the scales.
72. Dead fish may be weighed unless otherwise announced, but penalties may apply.
73. A dead fish may not be culled.
74. Contestants are expected to handle fish in a manner that promotes live release and conservation.

    Only the official AAFL weigh-in bag may be used to transport tournament fish from the boat to the scales unless tournament staff expressly authorize another bag or fish-transfer method.

12. Weigh-In and Penalties

75. The official scales of AAFL are the final authority for all weights.
76. Any short fish presented for weigh-in will not be weighed and will result in a one (1) pound penalty per short fish.
77. Any fish over the legal limit presented at weigh-in will result in a one (1) pound penalty per fish over the limit.
78. Dead fish penalty, unless otherwise announced, is 0.25 pounds per dead fish.
79. Late check-in penalty is one (1) pound per minute late.
80. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late may receive zero weight for that day unless excused by the Tournament Director due to verified emergency circumstances.

81. Official event rank is determined first by Official Net Weight, from highest to lowest. When anglers have the same Official Net Weight, the angler with the higher certified tournament Big Bass will rank ahead. If both Official Net Weight and Big Bass are identical, the official scoring system may record the anglers at the same rank unless an event-specific written rule provides an additional tiebreaker.

13. Scoring, Points, and Awards

13.1 Official 200-Point Scoring System

The AAFL Weekend Warriors Series uses an Official 200-Point Points System for regular-season events. Points are awarded according to each angler's certified finishing position after official weights and penalties are applied.

82. First place receives 200 base points.
83. Each finishing position thereafter receives one (1) point fewer than the position immediately ahead of it: 2nd = 199, 3rd = 198, 4th = 197, and so on.
84. The standard base-points calculation will not award fewer than 50 points to an angler who officially participates in the event.

13.2 Official Finish

An angler's finishing position is determined by Official Net Weight after all applicable tournament penalties have been applied. Certified final standings are ranked from highest Official Net Weight to lowest. When Official Net Weight is tied, certified tournament Big Bass weight is used as the next ranking criterion.

Only results certified through the AAFL Official Tournament Results system will be used to award official season points.

13.3 Participation Points / Zero Weight

An angler who officially participates in an event but records no positive Official Net Weight will receive 50 participation points.

A contestant who is disqualified may receive zero points for that event, subject to the Tournament Director's final ruling.

13.4 Overall Big Bass Bonus

The angler credited with the Overall Big Bass of the tournament will receive an additional five (5) AOY points. The bonus is added to the angler's base finishing-position points.

Example: An angler finishing 3rd earns 198 base points. If that angler also catches the Overall Big Bass, the final tournament score is 203 points.

Because of the Big Bass bonus, an angler may earn more than 200 points in a single event.

13.5 Big Bass Bonus Eligibility

Only the angler credited with the highest certified Big Bass weight for the tournament will receive the five-point bonus. The fish must be legally caught during official tournament hours, meet all applicable size requirements, be officially weighed and recorded, and remain valid after all tournament rulings and penalties.

The five-point AOY Big Bass bonus is separate from any optional Big Bass cash payout.

13.6 Angler of the Year Points

Points earned in qualifying Weekend Warriors Series events will be credited toward the official Angler of the Year (AOY) standings. AAFL's Official Tournament Results system will serve as the published record of each event's finishing position, Official Net Weight, Big Bass, AOY points, and prize payout.

13.7 Divisional Angler of the Year (AOY) Standings

AAFL will maintain Angler of the Year standings separately by trail series and division. Each angler's AOY total will equal the sum of official total points earned in qualifying events, including any five (5) point Overall Big Bass bonuses.

AOY ranking will be determined first by total AOY points. If anglers are tied in total AOY points, cumulative Official Net Weight from qualifying events will be used as the next ranking criterion.

The official standings system will also track events fished, cumulative Official Net Weight, and each angler's best certified Big Bass. If no specific division is assigned to an event, the system may list the division as Open.

13.8 Official Results and Corrections

Tournament standings and points become official after certification by the Tournament Director. If a scoring, weight, penalty, or data-entry error is discovered, AAFL may correct the official results and adjust affected points.

Contestants must be in full compliance with all AAFL rules to receive prizes, points, or awards.

Optional side pots, including Big Bass, may be offered as announced for each event.

Finish	Base Points	With Overall Big Bass
1st	200	205
2nd	199	204
3rd	198	203
4th	197	202
5th	196	201
10th	191	196
20th	181	186
50th	151	156
100th	101	106
No Positive Net Weight	50	50*

** The +5 bonus applies only if the angler with no positive net weight is nevertheless credited with the certified Overall Big Bass; otherwise the score remains 50 points.*

The AAFL Official Tournament Results and AOY standings system is the official calculation source for event rank, base points, Big Bass bonus points, divisional AOY totals, and published AOY rank, subject to correction of verified scoring or data-entry errors by AAFL.

13.9 Championship Qualification

Unless AAFL publishes a different qualification notice before the season, an angler's best three (3) qualifying-event point totals will be used for championship qualification.

An angler must compete in at least two (2) qualifying events to be eligible for the Championship.

An angler must earn at least seventy percent (70%) of the available qualification-point standard established by AAFL for the season.

Subject to meeting all eligibility requirements, the top seventy percent (70%) of qualifying anglers in the official standings will be invited to the Championship.

AAFL will publish the official Championship qualification list after the final qualifying event and resolution of any pending scoring corrections, protests, or eligibility reviews.

14. Protests and Rules Violations

85. All contestants are expected to self-report rule violations immediately.
86. Formal protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director within the deadline announced for the event.
87. Penalties may include warning, loss of fish, weight reduction, loss of points, forfeiture of winnings, disqualification, suspension, or permanent removal from AAFL competition.
88. AAFL may investigate eligibility, conduct, catch legitimacy, or any suspected violation at any time.
89. Contestants may be required to submit to truth-verification procedures, including polygraph examination, if requested by AAFL.
90. Refusal to cooperate with an official investigation or truth-verification request may result in disqualification.

15. Tournament Video Program

15.1 Continuous Recording Requirement

When required by AAFL for an event, each contestant must continuously record tournament activity from official takeoff through check-in using an approved camera setup. The camera must provide a clear view sufficient to document fishing activity and rule compliance.

Intentional disabling, obstructing, deleting, altering, or failing to record required tournament footage may result in penalties up to and including disqualification.

15.2 Submission Deadline

When footage is requested, the contestant must submit the required video to AAFL within the announced deadline, generally within twenty-four (24) to thirty-six (36) hours after the event or request.

15.3 Retention

Contestants must retain original tournament video files for at least one (1) year after the event unless AAFL confirms in writing that retention is no longer required.

15.4 Video Review Panel

AAFL may appoint a five-person review panel to examine video, supporting evidence, protests, and alleged rules violations. Panel members may request additional footage or information from any contestant.

15.5 Review and Appeals

AAFL decisions following the video-review and appeals process are final. Failure to cooperate with a review, provide requested footage, or preserve original files may be considered a rules violation.

16. Media Release

91. By entering an AAFL event, each contestant grants AAFL the right to use the contestant's name, image, likeness, voice, photographs, video, and results for promotional, sponsor, media, and advertising purposes without further compensation.

17. Liability and Assumption of Risk

92. All contestants participate at their own risk.
93. Each contestant is responsible for his or her own safety, equipment, and insurance.
94. By entering, each contestant agrees to release and hold harmless AAFL, its officers, directors, staff, sponsors, hosts, and affiliates from claims arising out of participation, except where prohibited by law.

18. Final Authority

95. The Tournament Director has full authority to interpret and enforce these rules.
96. The Tournament Director may issue rulings on situations not specifically covered by these rules.
97. All decisions of the Tournament Director are final.
98. AAFL reserves the right to revise, clarify, or update these rules at any time for safety, fairness, legal compliance, or operational needs.
99. Any official change will be communicated before the affected event whenever reasonably possible.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is considered a pro?	A pro is not just someone who is good at fishing. For this trail, a pro is someone who fishes recognized national pro-level circuits or regularly competes in high-entry-fee pro / boater events at a level that no longer fits an amateur weekend trail.
Can a guide fish the Weekend Warriors Series?	Yes, but not on waters they have guided within 30 days before that event. If you guided on that event's tournament waters for pay or compensation of any kind within 30 days before the event, you are not eligible for that event.
Do local sponsors or a wrapped boat make someone a pro?	No. Local sponsorships, branded apparel, a wrapped boat, or local tournament success alone do not make an angler a pro under these rules.
How does the AAFL points system work?	AAFL uses a 200-point system: 1st place earns 200 points, each position decreases by one point, and 50 points is the standard participation minimum. The tournament Overall Big Bass earns an additional 5 AOY points.