



# 2009 Sun Country Championship Tournament Rules

## General

The Sun Country Bass Association 2009 Championship will be held Oct. 11-16 at Falcon Lake, Zapata, Texas. The entry fee will be - \$230 per team for the tournament and an additional \$75 for Ranger Cup. Ranger Cup points at the championship apply to overall standings for the year. There will be no entry fee required for those who qualified for Super Team. Please read changes to the rules concerning inclement weather and how ties will be handled. If you have any questions please contact one of the SCBA Directors.

- 1. Rules:** These rules will remain unchanged during the tournament. It is the responsibility of each contestant to read, understand and abide by the rules during the tournament. Protests must be presented to the Tournament Committee in writing within 30 minutes of that day's official check-in time. Interpretation of the rules will be made exclusively by the tournament committee. The tournament committee's decisions are final.
- 2. Participants and Eligibility:** Sun Country Teams entering and fishing with their partner (unless excused by the directors) in a minimum of three qualifying tournaments in a division are eligible to enter the Championship tournament. Individual members of a team, who did compete in a minimum of three (3) qualifying tournaments, but did not compete in three tournaments with their partner (unless excused by the directors), will qualify for the championship tournament, but must fish without a partner. The official list of Championship qualifiers will be posted on the Sun Country website at [www.suncountrybass.com](http://www.suncountrybass.com) after the final divisional tournament at Navajo.
- 3. Boats:** Boats used in the tournaments must be equipped with aerated live wells and kill switches and must meet State and Federal safety requirements. Boats must be equipped with state required safety equipment. All boats are required to have anchor and running lights installed and operational prior to each morning's take-off.
- 4. Insurance:** Boat owners must carry proper liability insurance.
- 5. Registration:** A Championship tournament registration form must be mailed to Sun Country Bass Association and received no later than the 21st of September, 2009. Payment of entry fee must be received by SCBA no later than September 29<sup>th</sup>. See Championship Tournament information for details.
- 6. Fees:** The Championship entry fee is \$230 per team. The Ranger Cup entry fee is \$75 per team. See Tournament Championship information for details.
- 7. Contestants Meeting:** The contestants meeting will begin at 7:00 PM on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> of October at the Zapata Community Center in Zapata, Texas. 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.

8. **Off Limits Period:** Falcon Lake is off limits to all Championship contestants from safe light Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 through and including Saturday, October 10<sup>th</sup> 2009. Official practice fishing will begin at safe light on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>. Contestants may not solicit information or assistance from professional guides, professional anglers or individuals not entered in the tournament including individuals who have been on the tournament waters during the off limits period who could be considered local area experts from Tuesday September 8<sup>th</sup> through and including Friday October 16<sup>th</sup>. It is permissible to share information and/or pre fish with other Sun Country Championship contestants.
9. Family members accompanying contestants during pre-fish may not fish and must be approved by Sun Country officials prior to the pre-fish period. Approval will not be granted if, in the opinion of Sun Country officials, family members could provide information or give the contestant an unfair advantage during the pre-fish period.

#### A. 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 prior to official check in.
3. **Tournament Hours:** Official tournament hours will be announced during the contestants meeting.
4. **Permitted Fishing Waters:** Off limits will be 50 yards from any gas dock. Other off limits areas may be announced during 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.
5. **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 is not permitted.
6. **Angling Methods:** Fish must be hooked in a conventional angling manner. Intentionally snagging fish is prohibited and is grounds for disqualification.
7. **Live Wells:** All tournament boats must be equipped with operational live wells. All live wells must hold water and be capable of sustaining fish during dry land weigh-ins.
8. **Culling:** Culling on the 6th fish caught by each team is mandatory. At no time will any team have more than five large mouth 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 must 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 fish presented will be culled down to a limit of five fish, beginning with the heaviest fish.
9. **Inclement Weather:** In the event of inclement weather the Tournament Committee may postpone, delay or cancel that day's activities. Additionally in the event of inclement weather 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 main launching facility used at the time designated for that day's activities.

- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.
- 13. 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 or small mouth bass will be weighed. Each team is allowed a limit of five fish per day. A penalty of .20 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 a Flat Board. Fish will be measured with mouth closed. One pound 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 an extended period or fish that appear to be mashed or mauled will not be weighed. The tournament committee will determine how ties will be decided and settled. IE - dividing the total awards for the places the teams are tied by the number of tied teams, flip of a coin, or a fish-off (1<sup>st</sup> Place Only).
- 14. Laws:** All State, Federal, Mexican and Local laws must be obeyed at all times. Failure to do so could result in disqualification. Mexican fishing licenses are required when fishing in Mexican waters. See Championship Tournament information for information on obtaining Mexican License.
- 15. Polygraph Test:** A polygraph test may be administered to the winners immediately following Friday's weigh in. Winners are responsible for checking in at the polygraph test site before leaving the weigh in area.
- 16. Tournament Committee:** The tournament committee consists of Sun Country Directors and the Tournament Director.