

OFFICIAL RULES – 2019 BPS Top 100 Open

EVENT/VENUE Information:

- An **OPTIONAL** pre-event registration activity will be held on Friday, May 10th from 3-6pm at Bass Pro Shops in Rocklin.
- The event will be held at Folsom Lake on **May 11th and 12th** launching out of Granite Bay Ramp
- **OFF-LIMITS:** The off-limits period for this event will be:
 - ✓ May 6th - May 9th
 - ✓ The official pre-fish/practice day is Friday, May 10th
- **CHECK-IN:** All participants - pre-registered or not, must check-in on Saturday, May 11th, the morning of the event, at the Angler's Press Outdoors event trailer which will be located at Folsom Lake (Granite Bay ramp). During this time, anglers can obtain their blast-off and weigh-in times, and have their live wells inspected.
- Blast-off/weigh-in times will be determined by random draw.
- Blast-off/weigh-in on 1st day will be at Granite Bay – 2nd day will be at BPS Store in Rocklin (for top 10 finalists)
- Blast-off/Weigh-in/Award times:
 - ✓ Saturday: 6:00am Blast-off/3pm Weigh-in
 - ✓ Sunday: 6:00am Blast-off/3pm Weigh-in (for top 10 finalists)
 - ✓ Awards will be held on Sunday, May 12th at BPS, Rocklin at appx 400pm

Payback/Awards

1. The winner of the BPS Open will be decided by the team with the heaviest weight for a 10 fish TOTAL over two days of competition. Teams will only be able to weigh in 5 fish each day. Day 1 weight totals will rollover to the final day.
2. Payback will be to the top 10 places (see payout matrix below).
3. “High Roller” option money will be paid to the 3 biggest stringers – (over 2 days)
4. “Big Fish” Option money will be paid to the 3 biggest fish caught (over 2 days).
5. Cash payback from 1st to 10th places is based on 100 paid entries and will adjusted up or down accordingly.
6. Trophies will be presented to the top 3 teams with one big fish trophy for the overall biggest fish.
7. All cash and prizes will be awarded at the event. Winners must be present to receive non-cash prizes. Prizes won by participants not present to receive them at the awards ceremonies may be given to runners up that are present, or be raffled to those in attendance, or retained by Angler’s Press Outdoors. Angler’s Press Outdoors reserves the right to substitute all non-cash prizes with those of equal or greater value.

General Rules

1. It is your responsibility, as a participant, to read and comply with all written tournament rules and know any special tournament rules.
2. Participation and Eligibility: Any angler is eligible to participate in the BPS Open. The event is held in a team format. All participants under 18 years old must be accompanied by an adult.
3. Sportsmanship: any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship and/or violates any of the official rules will be disqualified. Disorderly conduct at or during the BPS Open event will be grounds for disqualification from the event.
7. Safety: Safe boating conduct and all safety precautions must be observed at all times by all contestants. Anyone fishing in the tournament must wear a Coast Guard approved flotation device any time the main engine is running. Such flotation devices must be worn and properly fastened when inspected at the blast-off point. In an emergency or when safety dictates, fisherman may take their fish, get into another boat, and return to the weigh in site. All boats must be equipped with an engine shutoff or emergency "Kill" switch device.
8. Fishing License: Each contestant will observe State Fish and Game laws and have in his or her possession a valid state fishing license.
9. Beverages: No alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed in the boat or to be consumed during official tournament hours or prior to weigh in.
10. Boat and Motor: The tournament director reserves the right to prohibit any boat from participating in this event if such boat is considered unsafe or the operator unqualified. A functional kill switch must be hooked up and operational at any time the main motor is running.
11. Registration: You can register for this event by printing out an entry form located on the Angler's Press website (www.anglerspress.com), or by calling the Angler's Press office at 916-768-0938. Entry forms can also be obtained at various tackle shops throughout the greater Sacramento and Bay areas.
12. Late Sign-ups: Field will be limited to only 125 teams. In the event there is not a full field (125 teams) late entries will be accepted at the Ramp the morning of the event. However, a late fee of \$10 will be charged per team for all entries received after Thursday, May 10th 2019.

13. **REFUND POLICY - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY:**

Please remember to check your personal calendars, schedules, and commitments BEFORE you purchase this event, because once you have purchased, **NO REFUNDS, EXCHANGES, OR CREDITS** will be given - **NO EXCEPTIONS**. While we understand that situations within and beyond your control could arise and may preclude you from attending the event, such as sudden work commitments, sickness, boat breakdown, unproductive pre-fishing etc., please know that due to our pre-promotional expenditures, this is our STATED refund policy. You may, if you wish to do so, give your entry to another angler to use.

14. Confirmation of entry: If you wish to have a confirmation of your entry you can receive one by calling the Angler's Press offices @ 916-768-0938, or e-mail us at anglerspress@hotmail.com.

15. Checkpoints: Contestants must check in and out at all designated checkpoints.

16. Participant Identification: All contestants will be given a participation ribbon that must be attached to your boat – in plain site during all hours of competition.

17. Boat Inspection: On-ramp and on dock boat inspections will be conducted by tournament officials. Officials will be checking live wells for fish, safety equipment, live bait, alcohol, etc. At the ramp, or dock, participation ribbons will be placed on each boat during both days of competition to verify your live well was checked. All boats must have a ribbon tied to their trolling motor before blast-off.

18. Running Lights Must Be On: If applicable, at blast off and until contestants arrive at their first fishing spot. This is a procedural rule required by our insurance company and could cause you not to be able to launch until safe light conditions exist.

19. Anglers must remain together throughout the fishing day and may not leave the boat unless approved by a tournament official (exception: use of rest room facilities). A contestant may not leave for the purpose of carrying, towing, or pushing his boat or to reduce weight to improve floatability for the purpose of gaining access to fishing waters that are otherwise inaccessible. If a boat is inadvertently stuck on a sand bar you may leave the boat in an effort to regain float ability back to point of entry only. Not to proceed past the sand bar.

20. Permitted Fishing Methods: No live bait is permitted at any time. Only one rod may be used at one time. However, any number of rigged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes. Trolling, as a method of fishing, is prohibited. All fish must be caught live and in a conventional angling method. All fishing must be done from your boat.

21. Sight fishing for Bedding Bass: A sight or bedding fish is defined as one that can be seen and watched as it approaches the lure. Fish being caught under these conditions must be caught by hook and line and by the fish ingesting the lure. Any bass caught that is either a "sight" or "bed" fish must be caught "hook in mouth with the hook point entering from the inside of the mouth. Any "sight" or "bed" fish caught by snagging or with hook starting from outside the mouth shall be deemed an illegally caught fish and must be released. This same fish may be caught again by the legal method - with the hook starting from inside the mouth. Any angler catching a fish under these conditions and not verifying the hook location with the other person in the boat may be disqualified from the tournament.

22. Platforms in Boat: The use of any device to raise a contestant above the normal freeboard of a boat is prohibited. This rule includes any device that is constructed to raise the contestant up to a higher position as to allow them to cast into areas that would not normally be accessible or which would allow a contestant to see fish from a better angle.

23. Infringements/Permitted Fishing Areas: A "25-yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant's boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon this distance as long as the transient fisherman do not attempt to fish while moving. Exceptions to the 25-yard rule apply only to docks, break walls, and slough channels.

Exception example 1: If you wish to fish a boat dock next to a boat dock another team is fishing, and it falls inside the 25-yard parameter, you are allowed to fish it. In all cases, please be courteous.

Exception example 2: If you wish to fish in a slough channel that is longer than 25 yards, and there is another team fishing inside of it, you must continue by them 25 YARDS before you can start fishing. If you wish to fish the opposite side of the slough channel, you may do so. Again, in all cases, please be courteous.

Please note that encroachment and infringements will not be tolerated and that protests can lead to a disqualification for the offending teams.

24. Boat Control: Contestants must leave and return to the tournament weigh-in site by boat. Boats cannot be tailored from one fishing location to another during tournament hours.

25. Fish Size/Culling: Fish will be measured flat, mouth open on a flat board with a 13-inch minimum size. No measuring or culling inside of 5 mph buoys or the area between the check-in point and the weigh-in site will be permitted. Infractions may result in disqualification.

26. Number of fish in Limit: Participants can only bring five (5) fish to the scales per day. All fish will be weighed and released by tournament officials after weighing.

27. Breakdowns/Emergencies: Anglers are not permitted to leave their boats nor touch another boat, with the exception of an emergency or major equipment failure. In this case, it is permitted to be towed either to safety or back to the weigh-in area by any safe means available. You may have your fish transported to the weigh-in by another tournament boat participating in the BPS Open event. At least one person must stay with your fish at all times and neither angler is permitted to fish while under the assistance of another boat during the breakdown period. PLEASE NOTE: BPS Open directors or officials will not be responsible for ensuring that you make it back to the weigh-in site in the event of an emergency or breakdown. If you call and reach tournament officials during an emergency or breakdown, we will do our best to dispatch emergency services to assist you, **but cannot guarantee** that someone will be sent out for you. It is your responsibility to take the necessary precautions (i.e. cell phones, emergency numbers, tow insurance, equipment) with you BEFORE you participate in this event to call any necessary public or private emergency services personnel.

28. Penalties: Any fish that appears to have been altered, mutilated or snagged will also be disqualified. All decisions regarding fish that are determined to be dead, snagged, altered, or mutilated by the tournament officials are final and cannot be disputed. Any team disqualified from the BPS Open will forfeit all entry fees submitted.

Dead Fish: 1 dead - .20, 2 dead - .40, 3 dead - .60, 4 dead .80, 5 dead 1.00

Short Fish: 1-pound deduction – per fish, and the short fish are forfeited.

29. Cheating: Anyone caught cheating in this event will be disqualified and never be allowed to fish future BPS Open events. Violators will be subject to full criminal prosecution as dictated by California and U.S law. **All winners may be required** to take a polygraph test. Refusal to take or failure to pass the polygraph test - FOR ANY REASON - will result in immediate disqualification. All findings of the polygraph results are final.

30. Official Boats: officials may be on the lake during contest hours, and can approach or observe any contestants boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all reasonable requests from media representatives or officials.

31. Event Referees: There may be several visibly identifiable "Marshall" boats on the water to ensure that rules governing the event are followed. Event referees that report violations to tournament officials could result in that team being disqualified.

32. Live Wells: Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide proper aeration to maintain fish in good condition, as all fish will be released alive after the weigh-in. In the case of a boat without built in live wells, a large Ice chest with portable aerators will be acceptable. You may be asked to show the aerators working.

33. Trophy Bass: Contestants will not retain any bass after a tournament. However, a trophy bass meeting minimum Fish and Game Commission sizes: Largemouth- 10 pounds, smallmouth- 6 pounds, and spotted bass-6 pounds may be kept if designated at weigh in time as such.

34. Off-Limit Areas: Every body of water may have off-limit areas. However, if no specific off-limit areas are announced, then 50 yards from any gas pumps and the host marina will always be enforced.

35. Reserved Areas: No person may "hold" or "reserve" a fishing area for a contestant at any time. Infraction of this rule will result in disqualification of all parties involved.

36. Speed-Restricted Areas: No boat may pass another contestant's boat in a restricted speed zone, in an effort to gain an advantage.

37. Live release: All contestants will be required to return the fish to the lake. Anglers are required to handle the fish with the utmost care according to the Fish and Game guidelines (i.e., 5 pound plus fish in a separate bag). If the fish, for any reason, are not returned to the designated release area, immediate disqualification will result.

38. Paybacks: BPS Open reserves the right to substitute products advertised for prizes of equal or greater value depending on availability. All cash and prizes will be paid out immediately after the award ceremonies.

39. Awards/Prizes: If you cannot be present at the awards ceremony, your cash award will be mailed to you. All other product prizes may be either given to the "runner up" contestants, or given away in a random drawing, or retained by BPS Open.

40. Special Rules: The tournament director may add specific rules when necessary. These special rules will be in effect for the length of the tournament and should not be considered regular rules, but will be announced and enforced as such. Interpretation of all rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director, whose decision will be final in all matters.

41. Protests: Any contestant has the right to make a protest against another contestant. A protest form will be available from the tournament director and must be filled out and presented to the tournament director within one hour of the close of the fishing day. A \$150 protest fee will be required to accompany any formal protest. The fee will be returned if the protest is found to be valid by the

protest committee.) Any contestant involved with the protest must be on call for three hours following the end of the fishing day.

42. Ties: In the event two contestants have the same weight, ties will be broken in this order:

- The team with the biggest fish (over two days)
- The team with the most fish (over two days)
- If neither applies to break the tie, prizes and/or money will be split equally between them.

43. Damages and Claims: All contestants by entering this BPS Open event hereby waive and release the tournament officials, ALL sponsoring organizations from all claims for injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this event. Promoters and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies and agents are not responsible for death, injury, damage, liability, theft, fire, or any loss to any entrants. Each entrant, upon signing the entry form, will in effect be signing the waiver. All participants are required to have the necessary boating liability insurance prior to entering this event.

44. Insurance: It is the responsibility of all boat owners to have current boat insurance to participate in this BPS Open Event.

45. Release of Fish: At all events, after weigh-in, fish must be taken to the live release boat for area designated by tournament director for release.

46. Dock Patrol Officials: During the weigh-in process, all participants must follow ALL instructions given to them by designated "Dock Patrol" officials. To eliminate confusion and expedite the weigh in process, "Dock Patrol" officials will give instructions regarding which participants can proceed to the scales, boat slip assignments etc. If you are instructed by "Dock Patrol" to keep your fish in the live well, or to stay in your boat until called up to the scale, you MUST comply. Any team that does not comply with Dock Patrol instruction will be subject to disqualification.

47. Weigh-in times: Weigh-in times on day one is 3:00pm. After the end of day one, the top 10 finalist will be gathered for a meeting and notified of the day 2 weigh-in time. No-one will be able to weigh-in before that time **and must wait until the scales are officially open at 3:00pm**. YOU, not Angler's Press Outdoors are responsible for ensuring that your fish stay alive before they are weighed.

Sample Payout Matrix for 2019 BPS Open

(83.5% Payout to the top ten finalists)

PI	Cash Award (Purse) (if you are in NO option pots)	Cash Award (+ HR option) (If you are in the Hi-roller option pot)	Cash Award (+ BF option) (if you are in the BIG Fish option pot)	Total Cash Award (Purse + All option pots)
1	\$5,000	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$10,000
2	\$3,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$6,000
3	\$2,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$4,500
4	\$2,000			\$2,000
5	\$1,000			\$1,000
6	\$750			\$750
7	\$700			\$700
8	\$650			\$650
9	\$600			\$600
10	\$500			\$500

PI	Big Fish Award
1	\$2,500
2	\$1,500
3	\$1,000

PI	"High Roller" Award
1	\$2,500
2	\$1,500
3	\$1,000

Please note: This SAMPLE Cash payout matrix is based on 100 **PAID** entries and will be adjusted up or down accordingly.