

OCBA TOURNAMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

In most cases, the following responsibilities should be completed before you ever launch the boat (in some cases, preferably days before the tournament)!

Non Boat Owner Responsibilities

- Offer a fair split of all of the fishing / boating costs up front - i.e. gas, oil, tow vehicle costs, park entrance fees, launch fees, money pots, etc. A tank of gas on St. Clair can cost \$60-\$90!
- Agree on whether the boat owner will provide a life jacket for you, or you have your own.
- Offer to help launch the boat before the tournament and load the boat after the tournament. Ask the boat owner what they would like you to do, but don't agree to do anything you're not comfortable with. If either partner is uncomfortable with the non boat owner driving the boat or tow vehicle, or backing in the trailer, or things the non boat owner is not familiar with, consider offering to wipe the boat down, drain the live well(s), clear the interior of weeds / trash, etc.
- Discuss boat owner's expectations for how far forward you can cast without interfering with their casts.
- Discuss whether the boat owner has a problem with you smoking.
- Do not move off of the back deck, toward the front of the boat, without telling the boat owner you're moving, so you don't get hooked by a cast.
- You should expect to provide your own tackle, clothing, rain gear, food and drinks unless you and the boat owner come to a different agreement.
- Avoid stepping on the seats of the boat. Don't spray fish attractant, bug spray or sun screen on the boat, seats or carpeting. Don't hook in the seats or smack the motor or windshield with your lure. Avoid stepping on fiberglass and painted aluminum surface areas on boats/trailers. Sand, grit, etc. can scratch the surface. Treat the boat like it is your own!
- When the boat is under main power, act as a second pair of eyes, looking for stumps, shallow water, floating debris in the water.

Boat Owner Responsibilities

- Discuss how you're going to position the boat and what type of pattern you're planning to fish, so the non-boat owner can fish similar lures – i.e. slow movement worm pattern versus fast movement spinner bait pattern.
- Discuss any features of the boat that the non boat owner needs to know about – i.e. where to store equipment / rods / cooler, number of live wells, etc. Identify or allow the non-boat owner access to a dry storage compartment. Some boat owners may insist on a clutter-free deck!
- Discuss whether there are separate live wells and if not, how you're going to identify fish.
- Position the boat (and share control of the boat, if willing) to allow the non boat owner to have a fair chance at getting fish and working their lure.
- Let the non boat owner know of any existing mechanical problems, such as a live well acting up, running lights not working, low trolling motor battery, anything that might cause concern to the safety of the individual or fish.

Shared Responsibilities

- Discuss the strategy of lure selection and share ideas on lure selection under the current conditions.
- Agree on netting fish – does the boat owner want their fish netted? – if so, who does it? - what technique? – does the non boat owner want their fish netted? – if so, who does it? – what technique?
- Agree on whose spots you're going to fish, in what order and when.
- Discuss whether the boat owner wants to share the front of the boat – i.e. two men up front at a time, or each person gets the front half, 50% of the time, who goes up front first?, etc. Ultimately it's the boat owners decision, but both parties should come to an understanding of the expectations.
- The responsibility for calling each other to practice fish is shared between the boat owner and non boat owner. Don't expect the other person to call you! Some boat owners practice a lot, some don't have time at all.
- Try to drive to the tournament together and determine a meeting time and place prior to the actual event.
- Develop a plan for communicating to one another if they will not be able to make the event. Share home, cell, and pager numbers.
- Discuss the possibility of pre-fishing activities.
- Discuss the waters to be fished so as the non boat owner and the boat owner has time to obtain the appropriate licenses – i.e. Canadian / Indian reservation licenses.
- Discuss any medical problems either one might have that would cause someone to perform a medical procedure during the tournament, or help in an emergency (i.e. diabetic shots, epilepsy, etc.).
- Don't be a poor loser if you lose a fish, even a big one. Make the experience a good one for all parties in the boat.
- Feel free to converse with lake-front property owners, a simple "hello" can do wonders for the image of tournament fishermen and the club.
- Be very careful fishing around docks, pontoon boats, sea walls, boat houses, etc. Sinkers can make a load noise and sound very damaging to the pontoons or hulls of fiberglass boats.
- Remember, you shouldn't expect a non-club fisherperson to move from a spot they're already fishing just because you're "in a tournament". Wait your turn, or find another spot.