

Redwood Empire Bass Club Breakdown and Rescue Procedures

All boats must carry the list of club member cell phone numbers with them on the boat. Those with cell phones should make sure their batteries are charged and they bring along a 12v charger for the phone as rescue proceedings could exhaust a single battery.

All boats must carry a rope of sufficient length and strength to tow another vessel.

All members are responsible for checking in and out with the tournament director. Weighing in constitutes checking out.

If you leave the tournament for whatever reason, you must inform other club members, preferably the tournament director. If you cannot reach him physically or by cell phone, leave a note on his vehicle explaining that you are ok and are leaving the tournament.

Anyone late to weigh in due to towing a disabled vessel will not have a time penalty applied to their weight.

If at the end of the weigh in it is discovered that a member and their boat are missing, the tournament director will initiate rescue procedures.

What to do if you breakdown:

Assess your situation. The primary objective is to get you and your boat to safety. The secondary objective is to notify the tournament director. If you are able to receive assistance from anyone, even non club members, do so.

If you are in immediate physical danger, such as a sinking boat or medical emergency, first attempt to contact 911, then the tournament director, then other club members if necessary.

If you are not in immediate physical danger but require assistance then attempt to contact the tournament director. If you cannot reach the tournament director, attempt to contact other club members. Accept assistance from anyone who offers it.

What to do if you come across someone who needs rescuing:

Assess the situation. It is the responsibility of the vessel discovering the disabled vessel to provide assistance. Do what you can to ensure the safe return of the passengers and craft.

Failure to assist or report a disabled vessel will result in a disqualification from the event.

In the case of immediate physical danger, contact 911, then the tournament director.

If possible, tow the disabled vessel to the nearest marina. Once the disabled vessel and passengers are safe, the assisting vessel may resume fishing.

Responsibilities of the tournament director:

- Carry a working cell phone.
- Respond to all reports of breakdowns immediately. If necessary, form a rescue team and coordinate the rescue effort.
- Ensure that all those who checked in to the tournament are also present at weigh in. If necessary, form a rescue team and coordinate the rescue effort.
- Coordinate with civil rescue authorities if necessary.

The launch of a rescue team is at the discretion of the tournament director. He has the authority to appoint rescue team members if necessary. Failure to follow his instructions during the rescue procedure is grounds for disqualification from the event.

An example rescue:

While out fishing a boater discovers that his big motor will not start. After ensuring that there is no immediate physical danger, he calls the tournament director and informs him of his situation and location.

The tournament director decides to send a rescue team. A typical rescue team will consist of three people in two boats. Both boats will attempt to reach the disabled vessel. Communication will be maintained between the rescue boats and the tournament director by cell phone when possible. The rescue boat with two people will tow the disabled vessel to the nearest marina, while the rescue boat with the single occupant will return to the launch to report the progress of the rescue.

In the case that the nearest marina is not the marina from which the event launched, the keys for the tow vehicle of the disabled vessel should be given to the rescue boat which returns to the launch so that the tow vehicle may be moved to the marina to which the disabled vehicle is being towed.

When the tournament director is satisfied that the disabled vessel and its passengers are safe, the rescue team may resume fishing.