

Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, Inc.

CLASSIC SERIES TOURNAMENT RULES

Revised 1-7-08

1. RULES: Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Note: The Tournament Committee shall include three people, consisting of the Classic Series Tournament Chairman, Co-Chairman and the Federation President, Board Member or member at large as deemed necessary. Tournament officials may be appointed as appropriate for tournaments and will be identified as such. A tournament official will act as an agent of the Tournament Committee with the power to enforce these rules short of imposing any sanctions which will be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee upon being informed of a rule violation.

Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Chairman any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. Reporting of a rule violation or protests by non-tournament officials must be made in writing to the Tournament Chairman within 15 minutes of the end of the day's weigh-in. EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS/HER SIGNATURE ON THE ENTRY FORM, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE/SHE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. This administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the polygraph operator, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Michigan BASS Chapter Federation Board of Directors. Without limiting the foregoing, the Board of Directors shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his/her expense, at the location selected by the Board of Directors and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination. The cost (in advance) of the Polygraph Exam will be the responsibility of the contestant(s). The cost will be refunded if they pass the exam.

2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY: The MICHIGAN CLASSIC SERIES is open to Members of the Michigan BASS Chapter Federation only. All participants must be 16 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential contestant. Persons 16 years of age but not having reached the age of majority must also have a signed authorization slip from a parent or legal guardian. During any official practice and competition days of any Federation tournament, no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has submitted documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 boating liability insurance to the Tournament Committee. The documented proof must show effective date and expiration date and must be received on or before the tournament meeting. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible.

Mailed entries must be properly completed, signed and submitted with the proper entry fee and received at the designated address, at least one week prior to the tournament date. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline date, or extend the deadline date. Refund of the entry fee will be made only if proper notification is made to M.B.C.F tournament committee seven (7) days prior to the tournament. Late entries will be charged \$10.00 per Team at the ramp.

3. LEGAL FISH: Largemouth and Smallmouth bass minimum length of 14 inches in the longest straight line, with the mouth closed. A flat, straight rule will be used to determine the 14 inch length. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth.

4. SCORING: The tournaments shall be Team Tournaments. Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, the final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each team's catch during the tournament. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day per team. You may not cull within 50 yards of the launch area. In the event a team is found to have more than the above described limits at check in, the tournament official shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure 14 inches shall accrue penalties at a rate of one pound for each bass. The penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the team. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a team checks in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Their catch must be certified by the signature of both partners.

5. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Artificial lures only shall be used. Only one casting, spin casting, or spinning rod may be used at any one time. No trolling will be allowed, however, an electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. The maximum length for an rod will be 8 feet, butt to tip. During the tournament (any official practice and competition days), a contestant may not use a CB radio, a VHF radio, cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants may listen to the marine band weather information.

6. OFFICIAL CHECK-IN AND FISHING LOCATIONS: Official check-in is at least 15 minutes prior to start of pre-tournament meeting, for at least one of the team members. If neither of the team members is present, the team will be penalized one pound per minute they are late. Tournament blast-off and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. All contestants must start from the designated start area. Both team members must remain in sight of each other, and each other's catch, in order for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitor's boat, which was first anchored, with the trolling motor up. An anchored boat may not block a narrow waterway. If you let one competitor's boat within the 50 yard area, then you must let all competitors do so. Fishing is not permitted within 50 yards of marina gasoline pumps, or within any waters posted off limits by state or federal agencies.

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such emergency, contestants may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other contestants or a rescue boat. If a contestant must violate any of the above conditions to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown, both contestants must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be in possession of at least one of the team members at all times in order to be counted in the tournament. If the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the contestants to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed and the contestants will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during the tournament is prohibited, except the direction of tournament officials.

7. SAFETY: Safe boating must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. This life preserver must be properly worn any time combustion engine is running. Violation of the rule shall be grounds for immediate disqualification. All boats must be equipped a WORKING KILL SWITCH, which must be attached to the driver when the combustion engine is running. Any time the combustion engine operating and in gear there must be a driver at the driver's seat in full control of the boat. The Tournament Committee has the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of contestants. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. No prefabricating of ladders or platforms is allowed.

Only factory stock equipment is allowed. Anglers may never stand on any other sections (ie. seats/consols) or motors for the purpose of locating fish during all tournament hours.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: Fishing boats may be used that are at least 14 feet in length. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. Every boat must have all State and Coast Guard required equipment. In addition, it must have live well space to adequately maintain two (2) limits of fish alive. Maximum horsepower for all outdoor motorboats used in a federation tournament shall not exceed the horsepower limitation set by the B.I.A.U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached by the manufacturer. Each competitor agrees that the boat and motor used in the tournament may be inspected by factory trained personnel and/or tournament officials if there is any reason to suspect that the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden. Falsifying information on entry form, or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or boat would be grounds for immediate disqualification from M.B.C.F. tournaments.

9. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat must be given an inspection check by a tournament official prior to the start of each tournament. A numbered device will be given to each competitor which shall remain in the boat until turned in at each days weigh-in.

10. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in M.B.C.F. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice of during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future M.B.C.F. tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the M.B.C.F.'s effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the M.B.C.F.'s efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification or suspension from, or any other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

11. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. It will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

12. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH: Each team is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly aerated live well. All fish must be transported to the scales in designated fish weigh-in bags.

13. DEAD FISH: For each legal bass weighed in dead the team shall be penalized 0.25 pounds of weight (or 4 ounces depending on the scale used).

14. TIES: In the event of a tie for any of the money winners, the monies shall be added and split evenly. Duplicate trophies, where applicable, will also be awarded. Example – first place tie: money from first and second place will be added and equally divided. Two first place trophies will be awarded. The next award will be third place. Ties occur when both total weight and big bass weights are the same. In the case of a tie for first place in the Classic Championship Tournament there will be a sudden death fish-off between the tied teams under the direction of the Tournament Officials. Special rules for the sudden death fish-off will be established by the Tournament Officials.

15. CLASSIC SERIES TEAMS: Participants will NOT be allowed to fish alone. Each Team will be allowed only ONE substitute during the Tournament Series. No Substitutes will be allowed at the Classic Tournament.

16. POST-TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN: Each team MUST check in after the tournaments completion, even if no fish were caught. Failure to check in will result in a search for your team on the tournament waters. A one pound penalty will be assessed for each minute late up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes total catch is disqualified.

17. CHEATING: Anyone accused of cheating will be brought before the Board of Directors of the Federation within thirty (30) days for a hearing and, if found guilty, will be suspended from M.B.C.F. for life and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. This decision will be reported to other tournament and fishing organizations.

18. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS: None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contestant's boat at any time during the tournament.

19. PRACTICE/COMPETITION: All practice fishing shall cease at 6:00 p.m. the evening prior to the start of the first day of competition. No tournament contestant shall be allowed on the tournament waters for the purpose of locating fish once competition has begun, outside of competition, or official practice hours. However, this rule shall not be interpreted to prevent contestants from proceeding by water to and from launch or docking facilities during the mornings prior to the start of competition or at the conclusion of each day's competition, or from entering tournament waters for reasons approved by the Tournament Committee such as releasing bass or for publicity photos, etc. If an off-limits period is announced for a period prior to any tournament, during the official practice, and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purpose of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife/fisheries agency employee or any other person deemed an "expert" on the tournament waters by the Tournament Committee, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. In no case should a contestant have bass in possession in the boat during the tournament any time other than competition hours unless approved by the Tournament Committee for reasons such as those already stated.

20. ENTRY FEES AND LATE ENTRIES: The entry fee for each tournament day will be \$150 per Team, when they are received at least 7 days prior to the tournament date. Late entries will be accepted up until 15 minutes prior to the start of the pre-tournament meeting. There will be a late fee of \$10.00 fee per Team, imposed on all late entries. Late entries must be filed with the Tournament Committee. It is the responsibility of the anglers to ensure the entry forms are received by M.B.C.F.

Inquiries should be directed to: Larry Gargus, (810) 664-5895, lgargus@michiganbass.net

Entry Forms should be mailed to: Michigan Bass Chapter Federation, Larry Gargus, 3695 Hunt Road, Lapeer, Michigan 48446