

MICHIGAN BASS CHAPTER FEDERATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP GUIDELINES

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP ELIGIBILITY

Each year the Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, Inc. holds a State Championship to select a thirteen (13) angler team to represent Michigan in the B.A.S.S. Northern Divisional Championship Tournament.

All affiliated Local Chapters may send members to the State Championship provided ALL of the following requirements have been met:

Each contestant must be a member of B.A.S.S. (with a current paid magazine subscription), be a current paid member of a National BASS Federation Club and be a current paid member of a Michigan BASS Federation club. Local Chapters are allowed to send all of their members to the State Championship as long as they are on the club roster as of the date set forth by the Board of Directors at the December meeting. Each Local Chapter must submit a roster of officers and members to the Federation Membership Director by the date designated by the MBCF Board of Directors at the December meeting. The member's name and correct information must appear on that roster. The Local Chapter must be in good standing with Michigan BASS, B.A.S.S. and the BASS Federation Nation.

Revenues from the State Championship, less expenses, will be used to help fund the Michigan team to the Northern Divisional Tournament, with the minimum acceptable amount being sufficient to pay reasonable and customary expenses of each team member. At year's end the balance in the State Championship fund will be \$00.00. Entries must be received on an official entry form or the Local Chapter is not eligible. The Five (5) members of the Local Chapter who will compete for the club award must be designated on entry form. Each Local Chapter will be responsible to send equal number of boaters and non-boaters. Each Local Chapter will be responsible to designate an alternate boater for resolving the pairing problems.

Contestants may only fish one B.A.S.S. State Championship annually. If a competitor has fished a B.A.S.S. State Championship in another State during the calendar year they are not allowed to compete for the Divisional team thru the Michigan BASS Chapter Federation State championship that same year.

Anglers participating in any Michigan Bass Chapter Federation sanctioned event shall observe the B.A.S.S. code of conduct and all applicable rules for these events. Anglers shall at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on this Federation, BASS, it's members, officers or representatives, or sponsors. All anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of Bass fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctioning from events, up to permanent banning from competition, membership or any combination thereof as deemed appropriate by the Federation.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

I. RULES:

Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee and Michigan BASS Board of Directors. Penalties up to disqualification may be assessed for being guilty of any infraction of these rules. All rules have "loopholes." It is the intention of the Federation to provide an honest sportsman-like tournament. In the interest of good sportsmanship, contestants are reminded that the "spirit of the rules" shall prevail in all judgement cases. Note: Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament committee. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters.

II. PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in the tournament is by qualification through the Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation, Inc. local Federation Chapters. Persons who are 16 years of age or older may be eligible to participate. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the prospective competitor. A properly completed official application form MUST BE IN THE MAIL TO THE DESIGNATED TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL AND POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN MIDNIGHT OF THE DEADLINE DATE. Entry fees for each person entered are due with the application.

Refund of the entrance fee will be made only if proper notification is made to the Michigan Bass Federation prior to the deadline. Proof of insurance is also due at this time.

III. REGISTRATION:

There will be a registration meeting the evening prior to the first day of competition. The time and place will be announced by the tournament committee. Each competitor must register in person, at the time and place prescribed. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours may result in disqualification.

IV. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:

Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. Whenever possible, no contestants from the same club, will be paired, nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day. Announcement of pairings for both days will take place at the registration meeting. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed-upon location with sufficient time remaining to check-in at the official check-point and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. When two contestants check-in at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is completed. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him/her to be counted on the score of any other contestant. Both contestants will be disqualified. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the practice period or during competition. It is the boater's responsibility to ensure their boat is fully operational before start of the tournament. If a boat breaks down at some point during the tournament, the boater is still required to fish both days. If the boater can obtain another boat (from their club's Alternate Boater or another source), that boater may use that boat as long as the replacement boat meets the Federations criteria and the Federation is provided with proof of adequate insurance coverage. If no boat is available, the boater must go as a non-boater for the remainder of the tournament, and the club would be responsible to provide an Alternate Boater to replace the original boater.

V. SAFETY:

Safe boating must be observed at all times, by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, chest type life preserver. This life preserver must be properly strapped, snapped, or zipped securely any time the combustion engine is running. Violation of the rule shall be grounds for immediate disqualification. All boats must be equipped with a KILL SWITCH, which must be attached to the driver when the combustion engine is running.

VI. BOAT AND MOTOR:

Fishing boats may be used that are at least 16 (sixteen) feet in length (larger waters may require minimum 18 ft boat). 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 SEPARATE and adequately maintain two (2) limits of fish alive. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in a federation tournament shall not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the B.I.S./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 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 forms, or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or boat, would be grounds for immediate disqualification from M.B.C.F. tournaments. Each boat may be given an inspection check by a tournament official prior to the start of each day.

A numbered device will be given to each competitor. This device must be displayed upon the request of a tournament official and turned in to the officials at afternoon check in.

VII. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

While on the lake during practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed "professional expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Committee. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Officials any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. All practice fishing shall cease at 4:00 p.m. the evening prior to the start of the first day of tournament competition. No tournament contestant shall be allowed on the tournament waters, once competition has begun, outside the designated tournament hours.

VIII. BOAT OPERATION, INSURANCE and RIDER FEES:

A full discussion must be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations and fishing destinations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat, and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each angler the opportunity to fish their

selected water an equal number of hours. Any contestant who, in the judgement of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their partner shall be disqualified. If you feel that you have had a "bad ride", and that you have not had your fair share of fishing time, or location, you must submit a protest to the Tournament Director, in writing, prior to signing your weigh-in slip. Failure of the Non-boater to exercise these rights, does not justify a protestible offense.

The rider's fee shall be a minimum of \$40.00, payable in advance to the boat owner, unless otherwise agreed upon by both contestants. If the rider fails to pay at least the minimum rider's fee, that contestant may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director if a protest is filed by the boater.

During the official practice and competition days of any M.B.C.F. 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 M.B.C.F. Tournament Director. This documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date.

IX. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures shall be used. Only one casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod may be used at any one time. No trolling will be allowed, (Trolling is considered to be "dragging" or moving any lure with either the trolling motor or combustion motor), however an electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. The maximum length for any rod will be 8 feet, butt to tip.

CB, marine radios, or mobile telephones and similar devices are intended for **emergency use only** during tournament hours. At no time during the tournament hours will these devices be used to gather any type of fishing information for the tournament. Underwater Cameras are not allowed during tournament hours.

X. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and check-in in the afternoon. That check point location will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

XI. OFFICIAL CHECK-IN & FISHING LOCATIONS:

Official check-in is at least thirty minutes before tournament starts for boat owner and rider. Tournament starting and check-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Contestants must check-in before the posted time. If a contestant is late for check-in in the morning, that competitor may be penalized 1 (one) pound from that days weight. All contestants must start from the designated location each morning. Both competitors must remain in sight of 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 trolling motor up. An anchored boat may not block a narrow waterway. If you let one competitor's boat within this 50 yard area, then you must let all competitors do so. OFF-LIMITS water so designated and posted by State, Federal, or announced by Tournament Officials must be honored by all competitors during official practice and competition. Failure to do so will be cause for disqualification.

XII. 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. The Tournament Committee will make the official Measuring device available to competitors prior to the beginning of the competition, to allow the anglers to verify their own measuring devices.

XIII. CONSERVATION and DEAD FISH PENALTIES:

Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a proper live well. All fish must be transported to the scales in designated fish weigh-in bags. It is the full intention of this Federation to ensure that all bass are released alive and with their best chance of survivability. Every effort will be made by all competitors and Tournament Officials to ensure the live release of all fish caught during the tournament. Only designated Tournament Officials will be allowed to handle fish once the fish are turned over for the weigh-in. The final decision on the "Live" status of the fish is at the discretion of the designated Tournament Official.

For each legal bass weighed in dead, the competitor shall be penalized 8 (eight) ounces of weight (or 0.5 pounds depending on the scales used). Only bass brought to the scales alive may be weighed as a "Big Bass" for purposed the competition.

XIV. SCORING and CULLING:

The final standings shall be determined by the final total weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. The limit shall be (5) legal fish of the above species and varieties per day, or the Michigan State limit for each individual. Tournament officials may conduct checks for violations. In the event a competitor is found to have more than the above described limit in possession, the penalty shall be disqualification for that day. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure 14 inches, will not be weighed and shall accrue a penalty of one pound for each short bass. The penalty shall be deducted from the daily total score of the contestant. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, will be weighted only at the discretion of tournament officials.

Culling down to a limit of fish must occur prior to the conclusion of fishing time. Culling shall not be done at the dock or weigh-in area.

XV. TIES and TIE BREAKERS:

If a tie of the total weight of more than one competitor occurs, the tie breaker will be the weight of the big fish for the day for the competitors involved.

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 weight are the same. In the case of a tie for last position for the Divisional Team determined from the State Championship Tournament, there will be a sudden death fish-off between the tied contestants under the direction of the Tournament Officials. Special rules for the sudden death fish-off will be established by the Tournament Officials.

XVI. STARTING TIME:

Safety is the only reason that the official tournament starting time will be delayed. Delays are at the discretion of the Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee.

XVII. CHECK-IN:

You and your partner **MUST** check-in at the end of each day, even if no fish were caught. Failure to check in may require a search for you and result in disqualification from the entire tournament. Emergency conditions will be up to the tournament committee. **All contestants will be penalized one (1) pound per minute up to fifteen (15) minutes, then they will be disqualified for the day only.**

XVIII. 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. Any potential winnings awarded will be held by the Federation until the issue is resolved.

By entering into a State Championship, each Contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph test, should the angler be accused of any Rule Violation. The 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 their own 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. If the anglers refuses to submit to the test, they may be disqualified by the Federation and may have additional sanctions imposed.

XIX. ABSENTEEISM:

Each competitor must take the responsibility to report their anticipated absence from fishing at the second day of competition in a timely manor. Failure to report such absence in advance to the Tournament Director or Tournament Committee Chairman may be cause to disqualify the competitor from fishing the State Championship Tournament the following 2 (two) years.

Contestants are required to submit a written form if they withdraw from the tournament at anytime for any reason. Failure to do so would result in an automatic disqualification from the State Championship for the next 2 years.