

Memphis Bass Association

(Formally Fed Ex Bass Association)
Memphis Bass Catchers
Rip Their Lips Bass Club

Amended 2-04-2009

TOURNAMENT RULES

- 1. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Sportsmanship, Courtesy, Safety, and Conservation are expected from each member and any infractions of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. It is the responsibility of each participant to meet all laws and regulations of each state in which a tournament is held concerning boat safety, registration, fishing licenses, etc.
- 2. BOATING COURTESY:** A contestant may not run his boat (combustion engine) between the shore line and another contestant's boat that is within 50 yards of the shore line.
- 3. SAFETY:** Safe boating must be observed at all times by all tournament participants. Safety vest must be secured properly any time the combustion engine is running. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
- 4. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** No Alcoholic beverage shall be allowed in the boat or in the possession of the participants during tournament fishing hours.
- 5. BOAT CHECK:** Each team should have their boat in the water and the live wells checked prior to the start time. Live wells may be checked after the boat is in the water. All boats must meet all coast guard and state requirements, and have an aerated live well.
- 6. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETINGS:** There will be a meeting 15 minutes prior to blast off; to cover weigh-in time and designate the official check in point upon return. "OFFICIAL" time will also be announced in order to synchronize watches.
- 7. BLAST-OFF:** At the pre-tournament meeting, the official blast off location will be announced. All contestants must start the tournament at that designated location; unless they have mechanical problems and they have notified the Tournament Director previously. Only the Tournament Director may release the boats. All Blast Off times will be announced at the Tournament meetings.
- 8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live" or "prepared" baits will be permitted with the exception of pork or pork-type strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spinning, or spin casting reels and rods may be used. Only one rod

may be in use at any one time. Other rigged rods may be ready in the boat for substitute purposes. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional manner. Trolling is not allowed. Drifting or Strolling (with Electric Trolling motor) are permitted.

9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Contestants may not fish any area that you have to get out and push or pull your boat into or out of. Nor within 50 yards of another M.B.A. tournament boat which is anchored (anchor in the water and trolling motor up). No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yards circle claimed by him. No contestants may run into an area where another contestant is drift fishing or running his trolling motor, drop anchor and insist that the first leave. All angling must be done from the boat. A contestant must not leave the boat to land a fish. Contestants must leave and return to the "OFFICIAL" checkpoint by boat (unless other wise instructed). Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of an emergency or where safety is involved. In emergency or mechanical problems, one or both partners may take their fish; get into another boat and come to the weigh in. Fishing in water designated "OFF LIMITS" or "NO BOATING" either by club officers, Federal, State, Or Local Authorities, for whatever reasons, will be cause for disqualification.

10. CHECK IN: Any team not checked in at the appointed check in point, on time will be penalized one pound for any portion of the first five minutes, two pounds for more than five but less than ten minutes, three pounds for more that ten, but less than fifteen minutes and disqualification for more then fifteen minutes. To receive any points for a tournament; a team must check in with a M.B.A. Club Officer before leaving the tournament lake. If a team chooses to leave before the weigh in; they may speak with an M.B.A. Officer or leave a note on or in a Club Officer's tow vehicle. At the end of the weigh in any team (s) that began the tournament and are not accounted for at the end of the weigh in will forfeit the entry fee and receive zero points for that tournament.

11. WEIGHT IN: All fish are to remain in the live wells until the tournament director calls for you team's catch. **There will be no culling at the ramp.**

12. SCORING: Scoring will be determined by total fish weight (see point system). The tournament winners will be determined by the total weight accumulated during tournament hours. Legal tournament fish includes: largemouth, small mouth, Kentucky (or spotted), and Red Eye Black Bass. A total of five (5) fish may be weighed in per boat. At no time shall a contestant have more than five (5) bass in the live well, upon catching the sixth (6th) bass, one live fish must be culled immediately. Any fish that has died must be kept and used in that team's creel. No bass will be counted that is shorter than twelve (12) inches or the Lake's requirement if more restrictive in length. A "GOLDEN RULE" will serve as the OFFICIAL measuring device. If a contestant is unsure if a fish is of legal size, a courtesy measurement may be requested prior to presenting fish for weighing. But if the request is not made before presenting the catch for counting and weighting the illegal fish will be disqualified, plus 1 lb penalty removed from the team's total weight. Illegal fish is defined as any bass shorter than 12 inches, or shorter than the lake's limit, or within the lake's slot limit. Any bass that appears to have

been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited at the discretion of the tournament Director. A penalty of ¼ (0.25) pound of weight will be deducted for each dead fish that is weighed. The right may be granted by the Club Officers to keep a trophy fish for mounting purposes. At each tournament, the team earns points based on their finishing position in that event (see points system). To obtain fish for the annual fish fry; the Club Officers may select to keep the fish from one or more tournaments.

13. **TIES:** Ties in weight will be broken by the team with the largest number of fish. If it is still a tie, a coin toss will determine the placement.

14. **LICENSED GUIDES:** No contestant may fish with a Professional Guide (a person which earns a living from guiding other anglers on the tournament lake) within a week (7 days) before a tournament, nor may a team use a Guide for any tournament as an alternate member.

15. **HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS:** In the event of dangerous weather or water conditions, the Tournament Director (under council of the other Club Officers) will have the final say as to the safety of the conditions. The Tournament Director may elect to start, postpone or cancel the tournament. Any team electing not to fish this tournament will be able to get a refund or roll their entry fee over to the next tournament.

16. **PROTEST:** In the case of a protest, the protesting team must make their protest to the Tournament Director at the time of presenting their creel to the Tournament Director for weighing.

- A. The Tournament Director will at that time announce a protest has been made
- B. The Tournament Director will call the other Club Officers together to hear and investigate the protest.
- C. The Tournament Director will continue the weigh in.
- D. After the weigh in the Tournament Director and Club Officers will attempt to conclude the matter before leaving the ramp.
- E. If the matter cannot be concluded at the ramp, the Club Officers will have 7 days to complete the investigation and notify the club membership.
- F. If no protest are made at the ramp, but undeniable evidences of a violation is brought to the attention of the Club Officers: the team that violated a Tournament Rule will be disqualified from that tournament. No points, prize money or refund will be awarded the violating team. Other team's points for that tournament will not be adjusted. Prize moneys will be adjusted.

POINT SYSTEM

1st place	55 points
2nd place	50 points
3rd place	45 points
4th place	40 points
5th place	39 points

Each place there after will be awarded one less point than the place above them. Down to the place where a team (s) does not weight any fish. All teams that participate in a tournament, but fail to weigh any fish in will receive 10 points. All teams participating in a tournament will receive a minimum of 10 points. If the number of teams participating and weighing fish in any one tournament brings the points down below 10 points; points will be added to the top places to permit all teams at least 10 points.