

# Bass Anglers of Michigan

## 2015 TOURNAMENT RULES

**(Last Amendment January 19, 2014)**

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Must be a member of Bass Anglers of Michigan.
2. LEGAL FISH: Largemouth, smallmouth bass, minimum length of 14 inches or more on the longest straight line with mouth closed and a pinched tail.
3. MEASURING: When official scales are set up there will be a club owned Golden Rule that will be the official measuring device, and may be used to measure fish PRIOR to bringing fish to the scales. There is no courtesy bump allowed, when the fish are in the tube the Club Rule is the official measuring device.
4. SCORING: Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each person's catch during the tournament. The limit shall be 5 of the above species per man per day or state limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation, and in the event a competitor has more than the above described limits in possession, the largest bass shall be culled first, down to the limit described. Bass "presented for weigh-in" which fail to measure 14 inches will have the "short" fish and the "largest" fish for that day released without being weighed. This shall occur for each such "short" fish. A fish will be considered "presented for weigh-in" when it is placed in the tub.
5. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Artificial lures only may be used; no trolling allowed. Only one casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited, rods up to 8.5ft. may be used.
6. OFFICIAL CHECK-IN AND HOURS: There will be only one official check-out point in the morning and check-in point in the afternoon. Point to be determined by the Tournament Director. Tournament will start at 6:00am. and end at 2:00pm. unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Director. A meeting will be held approximately 15 minutes before blast off. Members are expected to have their boats in the water by this time. Competitors will be informed of the "Official Time" and what "Time" they are expected at the "weigh-in site". Any competitor not at the "weigh-in site" by the designated "Time" will be subject to having their catch disallowed in the recorded weight.
  - a) Numbers will be drawn prior to every tournament to determine blast off order
  - b) If there is a "ooze" off declared by the Tournament Director the "ooze" off order will still be determined by the draw order.
  - c) During an "ooze" off no boat can be on plane.
7. SAFETY: Safe boating conduct according to state boating laws 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 preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is operating. The

preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in this condition until the combustion engine is off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

8. **BOAT INSPECTION:** Each boat must be given prior to the start, an inspection by a tournament official, to be sure no safety or tournament violations exist.

9. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL BE ALLOWED DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS:** Failure to comply will result in immediate disqualification.

10. **DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH:** Each competitor is expected to keep his fish alive. All fish must be kept in a live well. No stringers or baskets are allowed. The penalty for a dead fish is 8oz. off of that fish. No white or mutilated fish allowed. A fish will be considered dead when it is placed in the "tub" and exhibits no signs of life when handled. The tournament director will be responsible for this call. Each angler is responsible for taking care of their dead fish. This includes fish weighed in as "alive" but are obviously stressed and will probably not make it if released.

11. **FISHING IS LEGAL ON ANY TOURNAMENT WATERS EXCEPT WITHIN 50 feet FROM THE LAUNCH, OR 50 yards OF ANOTHER COMPETITOR.**

12. **COMPETITORS WILL BE DISQUALIFIED IF THEY OFFER, RECIEVE, OR GIVE FISH TO OR FROM ANYONE.**

13. **TAMPERING WITH ANY FISH WILL BE REASON FOR DISQUALIFICATION.**

14. **TIES:** In case of a tie for first place, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied contestants under direction of and special rules established by tournament officials.

Person weighing in the largest bass will be the number one tiebreaker.

15. **PROTEST:** Any protest must be brought to the Tournament Chairman's attention before weigh-in. If protest may affect the payback any monies affected will be held. A written protest must be sent to the Tournament Chairman within 5 days or protest will be considered null and void. A letter to the Tournament Chairman may appeal a disqualification within 7 days of disqualification.

**NOTE:** 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 tournament.

**REMEMBER!!** Each person in this club is a representative, of not only this club, but of each and every club in Michigan and the entire country. It only takes one individual's irresponsible actions to put a black mark on the sport of competitive fishing. Please use good judgment and professionalism at all times on and off the water.