

2011 SEASON RULES

(Subject to change)

RULE CHANGES - These rules could be subject to modification if needed throughout the season. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director. Failure to comply with any rule may result in disqualification. The decision of the tournament director and/or ruling board shall be final in all matters. Tournament Director may choose a ruling board consisting of a panel of the tournament director and 2 contestants. Contestants will be selected from boat draw positions 3 and 7. Any protest must be stated before the start of the weigh-in.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY – Participation is open to all who are 12 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the competitor. A properly completed and signed official entry form and the entry fee must be presented to the tournament director prior to the tournament. A single entry/release form will apply to all yearly events. Tournament Director reserves the right to accept or decline any registration at any time. Any person entering a tournament that is under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form. One (1) or two (2) contestants per boat. To encourage youth participation, a youth may participate if accompanied by an adult 21 years or older and has written approval by his/her legal guardian or parent. In addition, youth under the age of 16 years old do not have to pay the membership fee (The adult fishing with the youth is still required to pay the membership fee). All participants must have a valid Minnesota Fishing license.

Refunds & Credits – No refunds apply at any time. A credit may be given to an angler if a life-threatening emergency situation or a death in the family has arisen that has caused the angler to miss a tournament. Credit must carry over to the angler the following year or it is forfeited. Disqualification from a tournament for any reason will result in a forfeit of entry fee

Official Check-in – There will be an official check-in station for tournaments. It is your responsibility to check in before and after the tournament. Failure to go through boat check, blast off check-in, and weight-in check-in will result in disqualification. Competitors not at the checkpoint (boat off-plane) at the designated time will be penalized at the rate of 1 lb. per minute, deducted from his total weight for the day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late for the check-in will be disqualified for the day. Any competitor may join the tournament within 1 hour of start time provided they check-in with tournament director on the water. A cell phone number 218-851-5941 will be available to determine location of "on the water" check-in.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE – No pre-fishing is allowed the day of the tournament. (Excluding TOC- TOC pre-fishing is closed September 6, 2011 until the TOC on September 10, 2011).

REGISTRATION - All entry forms and payment must be received prior to tournament blast off. Pre-registration is highly encouraged, yet onsite registration is still available. Entry fee is \$50 per event and a single annual \$25 membership fee. Boat draw will be disclosed at the pre-blast-off meeting. Membership fee will not be refunded. Boat limit is 15 boats (16 boats including the Tournament Directors Boat).

SAFETY - Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times. Each competitor must wear a serviceable U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver (PFD). This preserver must be worn, strapped, snapped or zipped any time the combustion engine is operating and until the combustion engine is shut off. The boat operator **must** have a safety-stop switch attached to his person when the combustion engine is running. Violation of either the PFD or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.

SPORTSMANSHIP - All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed in the boat at any time. Drunkenness at any official activity will be grounds for immediate disqualification. Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash back to the dock for disposal. Any violation of state, local or federal laws may result in immediate disqualification. If a participant is disqualified for a rules violation, all other contestants in the boat will also be disqualified.

WAIVER AND LIABILITY: All tournament contestants must read and sign the form entitled "Waiver and Release" that is printed on the entry form. Your signature on this form will constitute a certification that the contestant has read and understood the "Waiver and Release" form. All terms of the "Waiver and Release" form are hereby incorporated by reference into these rules in the same manner as if the terms of the "Waiver and Release" form were printed verbatim in these rules.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT - Only artificial lures with the exception of pork rind may be used. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All angling must be done from the boat. Anglers are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters unless needing to retrieve lure or in case of emergency (i.e. nature call or bad weather). Citizen band radios, marine radios and cellular phones are allowed in the boat for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during the tournament.

BOAT AND MOTOR - All boats must be considered safe to fish for a 4 hour tournament. Determination of an unsafe watercraft is solely at the tournament director's discretion. All boats must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Each boat must also have a properly aerated or re-circulating live well to maintain a live limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will not exceed the maximum horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard rating specified on the rating plate maximum.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS - Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated by federal, state or local officials or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat, anchored or not. Competitors invoking the 50-yard rule must hold their boats steady. Any competitor that allows any other competitor to fish within 50 yards of his boat has suspended the 50-yard rule and opened the water to all competitors. No competitor can be within 10 feet from a non-competitors boat or person on the water, in a boat, or on a dock. Off limits waters stated by the tournament director.

TOURNAMENT HOURS - Official start and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 3.5 hours fishing time. In the case of adverse weather conditions, the tournament director will open weigh-in early. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament director reserves the right to cancel the tournament for reasons of safety. The tournament director will make the call as to cancel any tournaments at 3:00pm no matter what. Cancellations will be made via the Thursday Night Bassin Facebook page, please allow until 3:15pm for the posting on the forum. If we have one or more cancellations due to weather, there are make-up weeks built into the schedule. Credits will be issues to those who have pre-paid.

SCORING - Each competitors catch will determine tournament standings and placement. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5). At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling must be done immediately. Minimum length will be 12 inches. A penalty of 1 lb. will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish and a penalty of 4 oz. will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. Fish must be able to stay/swim upright to be considered as a live fish. If big bass is weighed dead, a 4 oz. penalty is subtracted from the scale weight. A contestant that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately. All live fish will be returned to the lake and the tournament director will dispose of any dead fish. Points earned will be determined on place of finish. Example: 1st place = 100pts, 2nd place = 99 points etc. If a team doesn't weigh-in any fish they will earn 35 "show" points. In order to receive show points, you are required to notify the tournament director in person that you will not be weighing in.

SUBSTITUTION – Substitutions of either team member will be allowed, for a total of 4 subs for any team over the course of the season. Membership fees will apply. No substitutes are allowed for the TOC. Anyone qualified for the TOC may fish alone if there partner is unable to make it. The TOC is a 5 fish limit.

TIE - In case of a tie, big bass will be tie breaker. No big bass weighed-in by contestant will equal 0.00 lbs. If both parties don't weigh-in big bass then a flip of the coin will determine place. Example, a tie for first place: the loser of the flip is awarded second place. In the event of a tie for big bass, the largest bag will win big bass.

TEAM OF THE YEAR - The boat with the most points of the best of 10 out of 11 qualifying events will earn the "Angler/Team of the Year" title. In case of tie, tiebreaker will be total fish first and total weight second will determine winner.

TOC QUALIFICATION - Top 12 teams will qualify for TOC eligibility. Ease-off is based on final point standings. 8 qualifying events must be fished to participate in the TOC. Big Bass pot (\$10 per boat) is 100% payout. Big Bag pot (\$20 per boat) is 100% payout. No substitutes are allowed for the TOC. Anyone qualified for the TOC may fish alone if there partner is unable to make it. The TOC is a 5 fish limit.