

BASS CAPITAL BASSMASTERS  
TOURNAMENT RULES  
EFFECTIVE  
1 JANUARY 2019

1. Interpretation and enforcement of the rules is the sole responsibility of the Tournament Director and the Advisory Board, their decision is final. Any complaints must be brought to the attention of the person in charge of the weigh-in **within ten (10) minutes of the completion of weigh-in on the tournament day.**
2. All local, state, and federal laws and regulations apply. Each boat must have the required Coast Guard safety equipment. A life jacket must be worn and a safety stop switch must be attached any time the boat is on plane.
3. No alcoholic beverages are allowed in any boat during tournament hours and may not be consumed until the weigh-in has been completed.
4. Each contestant MAY request and have his turn in the front of the boat and his choice of waters for 1/2 of the day's activities.
6. All waters are permissible for fishing that can be reached by boat from the weigh-in site unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Director.
7. All fish must be taken by rod and reel with artificial lures. Only one rod and reel may be used at any time and trolling is not allowed. No culling of dead fish at any time or culling of fish at the boat ramp. Weigh-ins will follow Florida's size, possession and limit laws, however, the Tournament Director may invoke stricter limits. Violation of this rule will result in the loss of the illegal fish and a one (1) pound penalty for each illegal fish will be imposed. Fish will be sized with mouth closed, tail squeezed on a flat board. Any alteration to fish will result in loss of ALL weight. Only five (5) legal fish may be in your possession at any one time. A four (4) ounce penalty, from total weight, will be assessed for each dead fish. Weight of the big fish for the month will be as is whether dead or alive.
8. Contestants will be penalized one (1) pound for each minute they are late at the weigh-in site. After fifteen (15) minutes all weight will be disqualified.
9. No fishing within a radius of fifty (50) yards from the center of another contestant's properly anchored boat with raised trolling motor. No one may cast within that fifty (50) yard radius unless all other contestants are allowed to fish in that area. Permission to cast within that fifty (50) yard radius must be given by the anchored boat.
- 10) **All fish must be brought to and from the scales in specified weigh-in bags** and weighed in specified baskets, on the same scale. A member of the Tournament Committee, a member appointed by the Tournament Director, or a club official must supervise the weighing of fish. All live fish must be released in a timely manner.
11. Contestants will fish in two man draw teams from the same boat. No contestant may switch boats during the tournament, except in emergencies or boat failure. Each contestant is responsible for keeping his fish separate from his partner's.
12. Pairings will be made as follows: 1st one boater drawn with 1 non boater until just boaters are left. Boater to Boater drawings will be conducted as follows: Each Boater drawn will have the option to be the boater and use his boat or go as a non-boater. If he chooses to go as a non-boater he will be paired with the next boater drawn. If there are not enough boats for all of the non-boaters the random draw will determine which non-boaters can fish. Prior to the draw, a non-boater may volunteer to not fish. Non-boaters who cannot fish due to lack of boats will receive last place points. Every effort shall be made to ensure a non-boater will not be left out of two tournaments in a row. Unless there has been an extreme or dire emergency, your name will not be entered for the tournament after the regular meeting. Any emergency changes to the pairings must be made prior to Thursday at 9pm preceding the tournament by notifying both the tournament director and your

scheduled partner. A pattern of failing to notify or entering your name to the tournament late is grounds for removal from membership as may be considered by the advisory board. Pairing changes that are necessary or desired for good reason on the day of the tournament are allowed if no objections from rest of competitors. Pairings shall not be changed to gain an advantage. Pairing changes shall not become habitual.

13. All contestants are required to be present for the official tournament start; only those with excusable delays are eligible to fish once the tournament begins. In the event a contestant is late, for whatever reason, he must locate another club member and inform that person of his arrival before he begins to fish. If a contestant is more than one (1) hour late he/she will be disqualified for that day.

14. All contestants are expected to complete the tournament. Should the need arise for early withdrawal, the contestant must contact the Tournament Director, or one of the other contestants of that day, prior to withdrawing. If the contestant wishes to have his catch up to that point weighed, he/she must arrange for another contestant to hold his/her fish and bring them to weigh in at the end of the tournament, else, the contestant who withdraws will score zero weight for that day. The contestant will not be allowed to protest the recorded weight for that day. Should the contestant withdraw early without notification, he/she will be disqualified from the tournament and receive no tournament points. If the contestant wanting to withdraw early is a boater with a non-boater, the contestant must make every effort to accommodate the non-boater's desire to continue fishing for that day. At the very least, the non-boaters catch to that point should be transferred to the boat of another competitor to be weighed in at the end of the tournament.

15. Tournament entry fees are due and payable prior to the official drawing for pairings. An exception to prepayment will be for those with conditions that preclude their attending the regular meeting. Once your name is entered in the pairings you are obligated to pay your entry fee. Late payment will only be accepted from those with emergency situations. In any event payment of fees must be paid prior to fishing. Fees are **NOT** refundable.

16. Off-limit time on tournament waters is by the direction of the Tournament Director and the Advisory Board approval. Non-contestants will **NOT** observe or interfere with members who are fishing a monthly tournament.

17. A competitor may be disqualified for breaking any laws during the competition.

18. Only six anglers will occupy the top six places and receive the award for placing in the Top 6. Ties resulting in more than six anglers in the top six places will be broken first by total weight for the year, second by the most fish caught for the year and finally (or in the event missing or ambiguous records) by a coin flip.

19. It is each angler's responsibility to check his standings (points) total every month. Any protest on standings must be filed **at least three days prior to the next scheduled monthly meeting**.  
Example: Tournament points not added correctly, points not given for attending meeting, points not given for buying the tournament.

20. All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves and Bass Capital BassMasters. In case of any conduct not complying with these standards, Bass Capital BassMasters shall have the right to disqualify a contestant.

21. Any boater that operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her co-angler or any co-angler who unfairly handicaps his/her boater, in the judgment of the tournament director, may be disqualified for that day.