

Bass Anglers of Michiana Tournament Rules and Point System

Revision: January 2010

- I. **Safety:** Safe boat operation must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. The P.F.D. must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. The P.F.D. must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches the destination and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

- II. **Sportsmanship:** Competitors in BASS ANGLERS OF MICHIANA (BAM); tournaments are expected to follow highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be cause for disqualification. Drunkenness by any competitor during the fishing time of the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and all future BAM tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be allowed in the boats (See By-Laws, Article V). Courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the BAM effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

- III. **Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, and etc. Only one rod (8 foot maximum) and reel may be used at a time by each angler. Other rods and reels may be in boat ready for use. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Members will be permitted to use a landing net during BAM tournaments.

- IV. **Horsepower Regulations:** Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in tournament competition cannot exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of Nov. 1, 1972, 250 hp max. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information or altering the rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for disqualification.

- V. **Boat and Motor:** For safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with an ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's

body (P.F.D.) anytime the combustion engine is operating. A small electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling (baits pulled behind a powered boat) as a method of fishing is prohibited. Boats must be 14 feet or more in length. It has been determined that boats with stick steering present greater than normal safety hazards and boat so equipped shall not be permitted to be used in the tournaments.

- VI. **Basic Boat Equipment:** Every boat must have required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. It must have a functional bilge pump. In addition, it must have properly aerated live well space, to adequately maintain a live limit of bass by both anglers.
- VII. **Boat Operation and Expense:** A discussion must be held between the two anglers prior to morning departure as to the schedule of boat operation. This schedule must permit each angler 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 his/her selected waters and equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either angler fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing water for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner, (if protested) shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, the non-boater partner is expected pay the boater at least \$20 per day for gas and oil. Travel expense for distant multi-day tournaments are at least divided equally between the boater and the non boater paired for the first day regardless of who the non boater travels with to the tournament.
- VIII. **State and Local Laws:** It is the responsibility of each tournament member to know and obey all regulations governing the tournament body of water. Any infraction of these resulting fines is the responsibility of the offending tournament member. As a practice the tournament director should announce official sunrise at each tournament to help members avoid running violations.
- IX. **Boat Insurance:** All boats used in a club tournament or function, must have a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance. The boat owner is required to have a certificate of insurance on file with the club secretary. This document must have the boat description, coverage amount and the effective dates. A copy of the certificate of insurance along with boat registration must be in the boat at all times.
- X. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except; within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was

anchored first (trolling motor up, motor off, anchor over side). No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action doesn't violate the state or federal laws or regulations. Contestants must not leave the boat to land fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during competition. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future BAM tournaments of that season.

Both competitors must remain in boats at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may leave their boat to: assist a boat operated by other competitors; or to rescue a boat. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other, and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch to be scored. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions, you must contact tournament director if possible to report emergency or breakdown. An exception to this rule is for one of the persons requiring a restroom break. Both competitors must cease fishing. If after the emergency situation is resolved, and enough time remains, competitors can resume fishing.

- XI. **Official Checkpoint:** There shall be one official point for checkout in the morning, and check-in in the afternoon. At the time of checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full compliance with all rules. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves.
- XII. **Scoring:** The total weight of each competitors catch during the tournament shall determine tournament standing and final winners as well as points toward total standings. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less, or a special limit is established by tournament officials, not to exceed state limit. Only bass, as described above, shall be weighed in which measure at least the legal length on a straight line with the mouth closed and the tail (optional) pinched together. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed at the discretion of the tournament director.

At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the limits described above. In the event a competitor has more than the above described limit in possession at weigh-in, tournament officials shall cull the largest fish first, down to the limit. Each competitor must present his/her catch to the weigh-in

officials, and the weight of the angler's catch is verified by the angler's partner of that day.

Any person making it known, to a club officer, that he wants to become a tournament member and has not yet met the fishing requirements, as defined in the By-Laws, may count points toward total standing earned from only two club tournaments fished immediately preceding the acceptance vote of club members and dues payment.

- XIII. **Penalties:** For each dead legal length bass presented to weigh in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 0.50 pounds which is deducted from the total weight of his daily catch. Competitors who are not in the official check point area, as described in rules, at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of the anglers catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than fifteen minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper check in, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check in. The Tournament (Director, President) shall have sole authority for assessing penalties.
- XIV. **Ties:** The heaviest fish of competitor's daily catch will be used to break ties for any position. It is the responsibility of the angler to pick a big fish to be weighed for the tiebreaker.
- XV. **Pairing of Contestants:** If at all possible, two contestants are assigned to each boat. Fishing partners will be drawn at the club meetings. The contestants that are present at the meeting will have the right to use their boat, before boaters that are not present. Any changes in the pairings must be approved by the Tournament Director. It is the non-boaters responsibility to contact the boater at least 72 hours prior to the tournament day to make travel arrangements. Contestants will be boater or non-boater for the entire tournament day, except in the case of a break down or emergency.
- XVI. **Protests:** All protests must be submitted in writing and presented to the Tournament Director no later than 5 minutes after the weigh-in ends. All protests shall be as definitive as possible and reasonably exact with respect to the circumstances of incident being cited. All protests must be signed and dated by the individual filing the protest.
- XVII. **Weigh in:** All BAM tournament weigh-ins will be conducted by the club officers as follows:
- a. Measuring of fish - President

- b. Weighing of fish - Vice President / Tournament Director
- c. Recording of weight - Secretary

In the event one of the above mentioned individuals are unable to attend the tournament, the treasurer will take their place. No officer will be permitted to measure or weigh their own fish and will be performed by another available tournament member.

- XVIII. **Throw-outs:** Each tournament member is allowed two throw-outs per year. At the end of the regular season, the tournament director will throw out the two lowest scoring tournaments for each member. This does not include the classic. The member only loses the points awarded for these tournaments. The member still gets the show points any trophies that have been won for these tournaments.
- XIX. **Eligibility:** To be eligible for Top 8 you must fish at least 4 regular tournaments. Your membership must also be a paid in full.
- XX. **Don't kill your catch:** Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly aerated live-well. Bass must not be on stringers at any time during the tournament and bass thus handled will be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by tournament officials, and these bags must be used for weigh in.
- XXI. **Top 8 Scoring:** Members that have the eight (8) heaviest weights by the December meeting will be eligible to attend the Top 8 Tournament. Scoring weights include:
- a. BAM Tournament weight accredited by the Tournament Director
PLUS
 - b. One (1) pound for each sanctioned BAM Club function the member attends. Functions may include monthly meetings, open tournaments, fund raisers, etc.
- BAM Members participating in the Top 8 are entitled to keep all monies won.