

Erie County Bassmasters of NY

TOURNAMENT RULES



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April 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

1.) Sign Up List and Fee

- a) Any member may sign up to fish a tournament as a boater or non-boater. (Rules in Article II Section 1B of the Chapter Bylaws apply). A sign up list for upcoming tournaments will be available at the meeting prior to the tournament.
- b) By signing up for a tournament, you are indicating that you are in full agreement with the tournament rules as they are written and you are expected to follow them.
- c) There is a fee of \$30.00 per tournament, which is due at the meeting held prior to the upcoming tournament. (See Rule #19)

2.) Tournament Draws

- a) The draw for tournament partners (one boater and one non-boater maximum) will take place following the meeting preceding the tournament. Once you draw a partner or you are drawn as a partner, you must fish with that partner.
- b) If there are more non-boaters than boaters, the boaters will draw their partners. (Rules in Article II Section 1B of the Chapter Bylaws apply to the non-boaters not selected in the draw)
- c) If there are more boaters than non-boaters, the non-boaters will draw their partners. The boaters who are not drawn have the option to fish alone. They may also pair up with another boater who does not have a partner, with the permission of the Tournament Director and only after the regular draw is complete.
- d) Boaters who have previously fished alone in a tournament must a draw a partner before the regular draw is held. Non-boaters who were previously not picked will draw first before the regular draw.
- e) If you are unable to attend the meeting at which the tournament draw is held and you would like to fish the tournament, you must make arrangements with the Tournament Director 72 hours in advance. The Tournament Director will then draw a partner for you by ballot. Boaters who have previously fished alone in a tournament must a draw a partner before the regular draw is held. Non-boaters who were previously not picked will draw first before the regular draw.
- f) **Once the drawing is held, you are responsible for the tournament fees even if you do not attend the tournament.**
- g) No one shall fish alone more than once until all other boaters have done so, except in the cases of emergency cancellations.
- h) If the Tournament Director is a rider, he will draw for a captain prior to any other riders.
- i) You may not fish with the same person twice during a season until you have fished with everyone in the current roster.
- j) The launch order will be determined the day of the tournament, just prior to launch.

3: Rider Privileges

- a) Riders are entitled to use the front of the boat and trolling motor for one half of the tournament. **(Operator of the boat equipment is responsible for any damages caused while in use.)**

TOURNAMENT RULES
April 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

- b) Riders are permitted to fish an area for one half of the tournament (weather permitting).
- c) If any angler feels that their rights were denied, a complaint must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING the tournament.

4: Angler Responsibilities

- a) Non-boaters must contact their partner (boater) at least 72 hours prior to a scheduled tournament.
- b) Partners will attempt to ride together to the tournament.
- c) If a non-boater cannot contact his partner, the non-boater is to contact the Tournament Director as soon as possible.
- d) **Non-boaters are responsible for a \$25.00 rider fee payable to the boater. This will cover gas, oil, and launch fee for one full day of fishing.**
- e) No member will be drawn for the next tournament if they have not paid their fees and expenses from a prior tournament.
- f) A boater will be responsible for a \$30 fee, payable to their rider should they not show up at the tournament site. (An exception will be made if a valid excuse has been filed with the Tournament Director).

5. Tournament Responsibilities

- a) Every angler fishing must use all available means to keep fish alive.
- b) You may not stringer your bass.
- c) For each legal dead bass brought to the scale at the weigh-in, the contestant shall be penalized ½ lb. of weight from his score.
- d) There will be a 1 lb penalty accrued for each bass presented at weigh-in which does not measure the legal limit. The legal length will be determined by the Tournament Director's measuring board. Check any fish of questionable length prior to approaching the scale for weigh-in.
- e) You may only bring a legal limit of fish to the scale. Bringing more than the legal limit of bass to the scales is grounds for disqualification from the tournament.
- f) **Paper Event:** When measuring bass, the individual who caught the fish shall place the fish on the board with the other person verifying the proper technique and declaring the length. Each angler will keep track of their partner's lengths and fish totals. Only club sanctioned measuring boards are considered official and can be used for measuring fish length during a "Paper Event".

6. Cancellation

- a) Due to the limitations of two anglers per boat rule, it is imperative that all responsible parties be notified if there are any sudden changes in their plans prior to the tournament. Contact the Tournament Director immediately as well as your partner. The Tournament Director will handle all of the new arrangements and pairing partners. Failure to do so within the 24 hours prior to a tournament will hold you responsible for payments required by the above rules #4 (d. and e.).

TOURNAMENT RULES
April 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

7. Tournament Times

- a) Both contestants must be in the boat, launched, and ready to go at least 15 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. No late starts will be allowed unless all other contestants agree completely. If late, you must contact the Tournament Director via cell phone and find him on the water to have your livewells checked before you begin your day.
- b) All tournaments will start and end at the designated time (weather permitting). Members leaving early must notify a club member, either on the water, by phone call, or text message. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disqualify a member from a tournament after one warning during the season.
- c) All tournaments end at the time designated by the Tournament Director at the launch. All members must be at the launch site with lines out of the water at this time or a 1 lb. per minute penalty will be imposed. **ONE EXCEPTION: MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN.** However; **RUNNING OUT OF GAS IS NOT A MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN.** After 15 minutes late, both boater and non-boater are disqualified.
- d) During inclement weather; at least 4 hours total fishing is required for a tournament to be considered official. Participants should gather near the launch site: The Tournament Director may call off or delay the start of the tournament. Tournaments canceled due to bad weather may be rescheduled.

8. Minimum Number of Boats

- a) A minimum of 4 boats must enter the drawing in order for a tournament to be held.

9. Safety Equipment and Regulations

- a) All jurisdictional laws, State and Provincial Coast Guard regulations for navigation and boat safety must be adhered to. In addition; all boats entered in a club tournament must have a kill switch for all motors over 40hp. All boats are subject to a safety inspection by the Tournament Directory prior to the first tournament event. If any boat has been determined to be unsafe for any reason, the Tournament Director has the right to disqualify it from a tournament.
- b) **ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL WEAR A COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE JACKET WHENEVER THE MAIN MOTOR IS RUNNING ; IF ANYONE IS OBSERVED WITHOUT THEIR LIFE JACKET ON AT THIS TIME THEY WILL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THE TOURNAMENT. EACH ANGLER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR OWN LIFE VEST.**
 - i. Note: **Inflatable Suspenders (USCG Type V)** - If you are using an inflatable suspender vest (USCG Type V) and plan on taking it off throughout the tournament, you must ALSO have a Type III vest onboard. It is the responsibility of the angler using inflatable suspenders, to ensure that an additional Type III vest is onboard. The only time an additional Type III vest is not required, is if you are wearing the suspenders at all times.

10. Equipment Permitted

- a) Only one rod and reel may be used at a time, 10 foot maximum in length.
- b) Landing nets are allowed for use.
- c) No live bait allowed. Only artificial lures are permitted during a tournament.
- d) Trolling is not permitted during a tournament. (See #22)
- e) Underwater cameras are prohibited during a tournament.

TOURNAMENT RULES
April 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

- f) Use of communication devices are prohibited for fishing purposes during a tournament.

11. Weigh-in Protocol

- a) No early weigh-ins allowed. Boat team #1 is charged to assist the Tournament Director and release fish at the weigh-in site. This team shall weigh-in their catch first, before all other contestants.

12. Keeping Your Distance

- a) No boat shall approach within 100 feet of another boat's intended fishing territory without prior invitation. Repeat violators can be disqualified from the tournament. In order to converse with other boaters when anglers are fishing, you must first be waved in, cease fishing and approach with caution.

13. Alcohol and Drugs

- a) No alcoholic beverages or drugs are allowed while fishing any club tournament.

14. Landing a Fish

- a) The use of a landing net is permitted in all club tournaments. Contestants are not allowed to leave the boat to land a fish or to make a boat accessible to fishing water. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of an emergency. Anglers may assist each other with the landing net.

15. Club Standings and Points Method Used

- a) Club ranking will be based on points as follows: Winner of an event shall receive 100 points, 2nd place shall receive 99 points, 3rd place will receive 98 points... etc. If you fish a tournament and do not catch a legal bass during an event, you will not receive any points for that event. Only 6 tournaments (out of 8) will count toward that year's "Angler of the Year" final standing.

16. Decisions by the Tournament Director

- a) All decisions by the Tournament Director are final. Any concerns or disputes over the Tournament Director's decisions are to be presented to the Board of Directors in writing prior to the start of the next scheduled meeting.
- b) Before takeoff, any areas designated as "Off Limits" for each tournament will be announced by the Tournament Director. It is each angler's responsibility to understand where (geographically or classification) these areas are. If any angler has a question regarding an "Off Limits" area, he is to ask the Tournament Director prior to takeoff.
(examples: Geographic - GPS coordinates, landmarks Classification – private marinas)

17. Practice Days

- a) Practice days are allowed. Boaters that are available to pre-fish before a tournament are asked to contact their partners to see if they would like to practice also.

18. Tournament Fees

- a) A \$30.00 entry fee will be split as follows: \$20.00 for the tournament prize money, \$5.00 for the Lunker pool, and \$5.00 will be forwarded to the club treasury to defray costs of the Classic.

TOURNAMENT RULES
April 2018
ERIE COUNTY BASSMASTERS OF NY, INC.

- b) Tournament payout: Nine anglers and less pays the top 2 places. Ten anglers and greater pays the top 3 places.

19. The Classic Tournament

- a) There is a \$60 entry fee (total) for the two-day Classic tournament.
- b) In order to be eligible for the Classic tournament, you must be a “member in good standing”, meeting the criteria specified in the Chapter Bylaws.
- c) Classic tournament prize payout will be based on 2 day total weights.
- d) A Lunker payout will be awarded for each day of the Classic tournament.
- e) Classic site location will be voted on by the membership present at the June meeting. There will be discussions regarding lake availability and cost analysis which will occur at monthly meetings leading up to the June meeting.
- f) You must fish five (5) tournaments to be able to fish the Classic. (Classic to Classic).

20. Priorities and Licensing

- a) Safety on and off the water is our first priority. When in doubt, the safest course of action must be taken.
- b) If entering a tournament with the potential of fishing Canadian waters, it is the responsibility of the boater to ensure that both they and their partner have the appropriate fishing licenses on board. If your partner refuses to produce their license or to purchase a license, you are to notify the Tournament Director immediately.
- c) Anyone given a summons or ticketed for any conservation violation will be disqualified from the event.
- d) Competitors are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.

21. Tie Breakers

- a) Multiple fish event: largest fish (by weight) in creel determines winner.
- b) Paper event: largest fish (by length) on paper determines winner.
- c) Lunker: split of prize money
NOTE: You cannot weigh a dead fish for Lunker competition.

22. BASS Nation Rules

- a) When visually fishing (sight fishing) for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside of the mouth.
- b) Trolling or Longlining technique is not allowed. If this technique is witnessed by members, the Tournament Director must be notified, and the member using this technique is subject to disqualification.
Example: On Lake Erie with no wind present, a trolling motor is used to maintain a “drifting speed”.