

PIKES PEAK BASS MASTERS TOURNAMENT RULES

L OVERVIEW: The rules and regulations for tournaments held by the Pikes Peak Bass Masters are designed to ensure that guidelines have been established that are fair for all, while not biased to the advantage of any one member. The following rules of tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the P.P.B.M. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be *left* exclusively to the tournament committee. In the event of a rule violation, the tournament committee may impose such sanctions as they deem appropriate, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final in all matters.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Participation in tournaments is open only to members of the Pikes Peak Bass Masters, who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of B.A.S.S. and Colorado Bass Federation. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitors. During the official practice and competition days of any Pikes Peak Bass Masters tournament, no contestant may operate a boat unless the contestant has submitted documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000.00 boating liability insurance to the P.P.B.M. tournament director. This documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date and must be received prior to each tournament. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the tournament director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner, or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself, shall not be eligible. A properly completed and signed entry form must be received by the tournament director by the application deadline date. Entry deadline date for each tournament shall be the first meeting prior to the tournament. Rules for late entry will depend on the pairings. If the pairings are uneven; boater and non-boater will be matched. If two boaters are matched the first boater always has boat priority. If the pairings are even; it will be the responsibility of the contestant to find a partner who is a club member. When a contestant enters a tournament after the entry deadline, that contestant will start at the end of the line unless the tournament director decides otherwise.

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: For tournaments held in conjunction with the State Federation, their off-limits and practice periods will be followed. The exact dates and times of the practice period and the off-limits period must be obtained from the tournament director. The competitor must know and observe these dates. For P.P.B.M. Tournaments, except the Championship there are no official off-limits practice periods. During the official practice and during the

tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, VHF marine band, cellular phone or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather information. Each competitor agrees to report to the tournament director any violations or infractions of these rules.

4. REGISTRATION AND PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Each competitor must check-in, with the tournament director, between 5:00 A.M. and 5:15 A.M. each day of the tournament, at the tournament site. Failure to check-in during the prescribed time shall result in a penalty of one (1) pound. Each contestant must register with the tournament director and pay the tournament fee at the monthly meeting prior to the tournament. Entry fees must be paid by the Wednesday prior to the tournament. The tournament director, at his discretion, may reassign partners (late entries) prior to the morning take-off.

5. PAIRING OF PARTICIPANTS: There will be two (2) contestants per boat. The pairing of contestants will be accomplished by a drawing of names, directed by the committee. In the event that two (2) boaters are not matched with non-boaters, they will be paired. It shall be their responsibility to mutually agree on whose boat will be used. If they cannot mutually agree a coin flip will determine the boater. The contestant going as a non-boater will be given preference in the next tournament entered to use his boat. No two (2) contestants will fish two (2) consecutive tournament days together. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to be at the official check-in site on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. Contestants must stay within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day. Each contestant is responsible for the well-being of their catch during the tournament.

6. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and tournament each competitor is required to wear a coast guard approved chest-type life preserver (non-boaters should provide their own life preservers). This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition, until the competitor has reached his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut-off. Any contestant who violates this rule will be disqualified. The tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather. Tournament water may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.

Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs by any competitor during the official practice or tournament shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and future tournaments, Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times; especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the P.P.B.M. may be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing state regulations. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, shall be allowed within 50' of the weigh-in area.

8. **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, etc. Only one (1) rod and reel (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) may be used at one time. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat, ready for use. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.

9. **HORSEPOWER REGULATION:** Maximum horsepower for all outboards will not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972. The horsepower must not exceed the rating specified on the rating plate.

10. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** All boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear; there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are fourteen (14) feet or more in length. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

11. **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard Safety Equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and livewell that is properly aerated to adequately keep alive, the catch of bass by both fisherman using the boat.

12. **BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:** A full discussion must be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected water an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing location must be

considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operation and maintaining a tournament bass boat, the non-owner partner will share the expenses for the competition day per the attached schedule. All contestants will pair themselves up with travel partners. Travel partners shall consist of boater and non boaters. In the event that contestants cannot pair themselves, the Tournament Director shall pair contestants.

13. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by the tournament committee and submitted to the membership for approval. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within fifty (50) yards of any marina gas pump or within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's boat which is anchored or secured in a fixed position, with the trolling motor out of the water. Any water within these boundaries posted "off-limits" or "no fishing" by State or Federal agencies will be off-limits. Also the live bass release area established by the tournament director will be off limits and will be announced at the tournament briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament contestants.

14. **LAUNCHING:** Contestants will launch in the order drawn at the meeting prior to tournament. The tournament Director can postpone or cancel a launch for safety reasons. If a contestant chooses not to launch when the rest of the field launches, he/she will be disqualified for that day.

15. **CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Contestants must not depart the boat to fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in the case of dire emergency. In an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by another competitor or a rescue boat. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, in order for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions, both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the tournament officials, and if enough time is left for competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed. The competitors can continue to fish and their catch will be counted. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except at the direction of the tournament officials.

16. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be only one (1) official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with the rules set forth by the tournament director. At check-in, proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together until check-in or weigh-in is complete.

17. **SCORING:** Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the total pound-and-ounce weight of each competitors catch during the competition days. Only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, red eye or shoal bass will be scored. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species/varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than five (5), or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state or special limit will prevail. The official minimum length for bass shall be established by the tournament committee at each tournament. Weight will be recorded on the official score card immediately and both partners will initial the score card at that time. Tournaments with official weigh-ins will have weigh-masters. One weigh-master will be responsible for measuring fish. The measurement of fish will be done by one person only and their decision is final. Bass which fail to measure the official length shall incur penalties at the rate of one (1) pound for each bass, and the loss of that fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Anyone bringing in more than the legal limit for weigh-in will lose their largest fish presented for weigh-in. Any bass that appear to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Each competitor is expected to keep his bass alive by the use of a properly aerated livewell . Ties will be broken by (1) big bass, (2) total number of fish or catch, (3) weight for the day.

18. **PENALTY POINTS:** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized four (4) ounces of weight which will be deducted from their daily score.

19. **LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area, at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of his day's catch, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Anyone late by 15 minutes or mote will automatically be disqualified for that day. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, all competitors will proceed to the weigh-in site. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

After the tournament begins, all fishing is prohibited, except during tournament hours. Upon completion of each tournament the total weight will determine the tournament standings, and will be used to determine the year end standings. Points per tournament will be awarded as follows:

1st Place = 100 Points

2nd Place = 95 Points

3rd Place = 92 Points

4th Place = 90 Points

5th and remaining places shall be one less point than below the preceding placement. (5th=89, 6th=88, etc)