

# Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. Tournament Rules

These rules must be strictly adhered too by all participants in all organization tournaments. The Tournament Committee is ready to fully enforce all the outlined rules within this document. The final interpretation, and decisions of these rules will be made by the Tournament Director/Chairman.

## Tournament Officials

Tournament Officials shall be outlined in the organization's constitution and by-laws.

## Tournament Rule Changes

The following tournament rules will remain unchanged after set by tournament committee each year. Any changes to set rules must be conducted in the off season. Off season will be defined as the period between the last tournament of the season until the first tournament of the following season. Any and all changes to said rules will be presented to the club per Article VII of the Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. Bylaws.

## Tournament Schedule

The tournament committee will establish the yearly tournament schedule and present said schedule to the club thirty (30) days prior to the first scheduled tournament of the upcoming tournament season.

The established yearly tournament schedule will define that year's tournament season for scoring purposes.

The Tournament Committee may change the pre-established tournament location/date/time to preserve the safety of participants due to natural hazards outside human control. Any cancelations will be rescheduled at the tournament committee's direction. The Tournament Committee members will make every effort to contact participants as soon as possible but no later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the scheduled tournament start time.

Any other changes to the approved yearly schedule are prohibited unless approved by a majority vote of the club membership in attendance of a scheduled meeting. Said changes must occur no less than thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled event.

Any other unforeseen issues that present a potential hazard to participants may also be taken into consideration but must be approved by the club president. The club vice president may act on the president's behalf if communication cannot be established in a timely manner.

## Tournament Fees

Entry fees per participant, per tournament will be thirty (\$30.00) US dollars per day.

## Sportsmanship

Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected from each participant. An **inebriated** contestant will not be tolerated during a tournament. All state and local laws must be strictly adhered too. Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. promotes a CATCH & RELEASE program. A trophy bass (largemouth- 7 lbs. or heavier, smallmouth- 4 lbs. or heavier, or Kentucky- 4 lbs. or heavier) may be mounted as a reproduction of that fish. All other fish must be returned to the water after they are scored/weighed per tournament scoring rules. Any fish caught while in violation of said rule will result in disqualification of the total fish length/weight.

## **Disqualification**

Disqualification is defined as the loss of an angler's current (individual/total) fish weight caught on that specific tournament day for purposely or accidentally violating a published club rule

The disqualified weight for each angler will be recorded for historical tracking and potential protest ruling purposes but will be designated with a "DQ" code and will not count toward Tournament or Seasonal Point calculations and/or Tie Breaking Rules.

Disqualification Codes:

- Late Penalty Disqualification (Total Weight) - LPDQ
- Leaving Boat Disqualification (Individual Fish Weight) - LBDQ
- Fishing Location Disqualification (Individual Fish Weight) - FLDQ
- Sportsmanship Disqualification (Total Weight) - SSDQ

## **Tackle and Equipment**

Only artificial lures and pork lures are allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Only one (1) fishing rod and reel may be in use at one time.

Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure. A single lure is defined as a single man-made device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time.

## **Boat and Motor, Safety, And Basic Boat Equipment**

Fishing boats may be used that are fourteen (14) feet or more in length, powered by a motor that is not in excess of the B.I.A. rating on that boat. Every boat must have the standard Coast Guard Safety Equipment on board. Each participant is responsible for their own Coast Guard Approved life vest/preserver. A functional factory installed bilge pump and a factory installed aerated live-well is required. **A workable kill switch is mandatory.**

## **Participants and Eligibility**

Participation in tournaments is open to members of Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. in good standing, who are sixteen (16) years of age or older. Any member under eighteen (18) will need a parent/guardian release form signed and presented to the President and Tournament director plus a waiver release form.

Participants/Members must have their past and current Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. and approved affiliated club membership dues along w/entry fees paid up current as to the last monthly meeting prior to the tournament date if they want to be eligible to fish.

Tournament participants must have previously signed a waiver release, releasing all other participants, the host sponsors and tournament officials, approved affiliated club, and the Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. from all claims or injury and/or damage incurred in connection with all tournaments, before participation in same.

Affiliated club membership is defined in Article VII and VIII of the Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. Bylaws.

## **Contestant Pairings**

The partner pairings will be determined and announced at the meeting prior to the tournament. It will be the partner's (Non-Boater) responsibility to contact the boat owner (Boater) prior to Thursday the week of the tournament. Failure to do so will result in the boat owner obtaining or being given another partner. For two (2) day tournaments, a draw will be held at the end of day one (1) for day two (2). To make sure all club members get to fish in club tournaments, when pairing, club members will be selected before any guest pairings.

If you are not going to be present at the meeting, but plan on fishing the tournament, it is your responsibility to contact another member that will be at the meeting, so that person may voice your intention. It is not the responsibility of the member present to contact members to determine intent.

### **In the event that the draw is odd, the following methods will be used**

#### **1. More Boaters Than Non-Boaters**

- A. An odd Boater may be asked to find a guest partner.
- B. A Boater may opt to leave his boat and fish as a Non-Boater.
- C. A Boater may fish without a Non-Boater (Solo Contestant). Solo Contestant rules apply.

#### **2. More Non-Boaters Than Boaters**

- A. A Non-Boater may be asked to find a guest Boater.
- B. A Non-Boater boat owner may be asked to take his boat.

### **Vehicle/Boat Operation and Expense**

As a rule, Boaters will fish from the front deck, Non-Boaters will fish from the rear deck. Additional casting positions, for the Boater and Non-Boater, may be permitted at the Boater's discretion on a per tournament basis.

During both practice and competition, Non-Boaters are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the Boater's boat in emergency situations except for loading and unloading from trailers with the Boater's permission.

Any Boater that, in the judgment of the tournament committee, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Non-Boater, may be disqualified. At no time may a Boater request that the Non-Boater not fish.

The following arrangement of sharing expenses shall be used. The minimum expense reimbursement shall be paid to the boater by the assigned non-boater prior to take-off at each tournament, based on the following schedule:

- Large Lakes (>10mi<sup>2</sup>) - \$30.00 per tournament day
  - Truman, Ozarks, Mark Twain, Bull Shoals, Stockton, Smithville, Pomme, Table Rock ...
- Small Lakes (<10mi<sup>2</sup>) - \$30.00 total
  - Thomas Hill, Long Branch, Little Dixie, Finger, Rogers, Macon...

Any additional expenses must be discussed, agreed upon and paid prior to take-off.

### **Check-out Time of Tournament**

All watches in each boat should be synchronized before the checkout to ensure on time returns.

For all participants that are on the water at takeoff time, five (5) bonus tournament points will be awarded.

A neat, safe, orderly take-off at each tournament is a must. A form of the "ooze-out" system of starting will be used. Each boat will be permitted to take off as soon as the boat immediately in front of your position is on "Pad or Plane". Rule exception: Small Lakes that are idle only (i.e. Binder, Little Dixie Lake, Hwy. J, ...)

### **Permitted Fishing Locations**

Fishing is permitted any place on the tournament water. No fishing is permitted within **50 yards** on Large Lakes (>10mi<sup>2</sup>) and **30 yards** on Small lakes (<10mi<sup>2</sup>) in any direction of another contestant's boat that is anchored, unless by invitation. Includes use of mechanical anchors i.e. power pole, talon, spot lock, ....

Any fish caught while in violation of said rule will result in disqualification of the individual fish length/weight.

## **Tournament Scoring**

Participants of club tournaments will follow the club five (5) fish limit rule and any applicable Missouri Department of Conservation Regulations.

The weigh-in will be handled by the Tournament Committee. One (1) member from each boat must be present at the weigh-in.

Scoring will be determined by the scoring adopted by the club and available on the currently used tournament score card.

- See **Exhibit A: Tournament Score Card**

Each contestant will carry a pre-printed score card on which to keep his partner's tally.

When your partner puts his fish on the ruler, you will check the length and your decision on the length will be final with no rebuttal by your partner. Even though we're keeping track of every fish we catch on the score card(s), you will only be able to keep your five (5) largest fish from that score card to calculate your tournament total.

No fish will be brought to the weigh-in site to be weighed as Big Bass unless it is seventeen (17) inches or longer. Only one (1) fish may be weighed per contestant. Exclusion to this rule: solo contestant(s) fish over fifteen (15) inches must be brought in to weigh-in unless said participant locates another contestant to measure said fish and sign scorecard to validate.

A participant fishing by oneself (solo contestants) must follow the honor system when measuring fish twelve (12) to fifteen (15) inches. A solo contestant may opt to take pictures of each fish twelve (12) to fifteen (15) inches in case of a contestant protest. Protests will be handled by the Tournament Committee in a fair manner.

No Big Bass Award will be presented for anything less than seventeen (17) inches. If there is no Big Bass weighed in, the Big Bass Pot will be rolled to the next tournament.

At the weigh-in, the Tournament Chairman will verify the Boater and Non-Boater points, return said score card(s) to the participants for signature and collect signed score card(s) for tournament finishing position assignment.

The tournament winners will be determined by the total points accumulated during the one (1) day or two (2) day tournament. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be counted.

During the tournament day, each contestant must keep their big bass separate for Boater / Non-Boater unless said fish are marked to identify ownership. Each contestant may present their biggest fish at weigh-in as long as it is seventeen (17) inches or more in length. After the fish has been handed over to the weigh-in officials (Tournament Committee), no person except Tournament Officials shall touch said bass. In case of a dispute over the weight or length of a bass, the Tournament Committee shall make the final decision. All fish shall be released unharmed.

A bass will not be counted or weighed that is not legal length from closed mouth to the tip of the tail, measured along the fish's side with one of the approved measuring devices.

Any bass that appears to be mangled, mashed, or mauled will be weighed/measured and credited only at the discretion of the Tournament Chairman.

### **Competitors Must Remain in Boat**

At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Competitors can leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent, at which time all fishing must cease. Any fish caught while in violation of said rule will result in disqualification of the individual fish length/weight.

In the event of a needed restroom break or emergency, the following rules apply:

- Boater/Non-Boater Break – Participants may continue to fish within eyesight and hearing distance of the drop off location but must immediately return to pick up their partner. During said break, the contestant remaining in the boat must comply to all rules established for solo contestants
- Boater Emergency – All fishing must cease until Boater returns
- Non-Boater Emergency – Boater may return to fishing and comply to all rules established for solo contestants

Competitors can leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.

### **Dead Fish Penalty**

Contestant will be penalized fifteen (15) points for each dead fish they bring in during a tournament.

### **Late Penalty**

Contestants who are not in the official docking area by the end of the announced fishing hours shall be penalized one (1) point for each minute they're late, up to fifteen (15) minutes. Anything after fifteen (15) minutes will result in disqualification. These penalties will apply to all participants in the offending boat.

In the event a boat is late to a weigh in beyond the 15-minute maximum penalty rule, the total fish weight and on time bonus will not count. No tournament score card points for that tournament will be awarded for any angler in the boat. This will result in a null finishing position for the tournament day, and only five (5) Tournament Season Points will be awarded for tournament participation.

In case of a breakdown, one (1) tournament participant must be at the weigh-in with their boats score card(s) and eligible Big Bass entries.

If any boat pairings have not checked in at the check-in area within fifteen (15) minutes of the tournament end time, this shall be a signal for those contestants checked in to seek and retrieve the disabled boat and contestants.

### **Tournament Payout**

Each scheduled tournament will have three (3) separate pots for Boater, Non-Boater and Big Bass.

Boaters will be paid from the Boater's Pot, Non-Boaters from the Non-Boater's Pot.

Big Bass is open to both Boater and Non-Boater participants.

Each participant's entry fees will be split per pot by the following schedule:

- Boater / Non-Boater Pot – \$25.00
- Big Bass Pot – \$5.00
  - Example: Five (5) Boats with five (5) Boaters and three (3) Non-Boaters participating
  - \$30.00 Entry Fee per participant = \$125 Boater Pot, \$75 Non-Boater Pot, \$40 Big Bass Pot

The Boater and Non-Boater pots will be paid out to one (1) tournament finishing position per five (5) boats entered.

- 1-5 Boats, One (1) place paid, 1<sup>st</sup> Place, per Boater/Non-Boater pot
- 6-10 Boats, Two (2) places paid, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> per Boater/Non-Boater pot
- 11-15 Boats, Three (3) places paid, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, & 3<sup>rd</sup> per Boater/Non-Boater pot

Boater and Non-Boater pots will be divided by the following schedule:

- 1-5 Boats = 100%
- 6-10 Boats = 60/40 Split
- 11-15 Boats = 50/30/20 Split

Big Bass Pot is paid at 100% to the participant with the heaviest weight of a single (1) eligible fish.

An eligible fish must be seventeen (17) inches or greater in length, caught during tournament hours, per tournament rules. If there are no fish eligible, the Big Bass Pot will be carried over to the next scheduled tournament.

In the event of a Big Bass Tie the following tie breaker rules will be used:

- 1st Tie Breaker – 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest fish for that tournament by length
- 2nd Tie Breaker – Highest total score on participant's tournament score sheet for that tournament
- 3rd Tie Breaker – Coin Flip

### **Tournament Season Points**

Individual tournament finishing position will be calculated using the current length/weight conversion chart that determines a participant's tournament score. You must have at least one (1) scorable fish to be eligible to receive a finishing position.

- See **Exhibit B**: Tournament Position Point Sheet

Tournament season points will be awarded for finishing positions based on a decreasing one (1) point increment schedule:

- Fifty (50) season points for first (1<sup>st</sup>) place
- Forty-nine (49) season points for second (2<sup>nd</sup>) place
- Forty-eight (48) season points for third (3<sup>rd</sup>) place
- ... Down to twenty-one (21) season points for thirtieth (30<sup>th</sup>) place
- Any participant not catching a scorable fish will be awarded five (5) tournament season points
- Finishing position for a two (2) day tournament will be calculated daily for a maximum value of one hundred (100) tournament season points
- Any member representing the club at a higher affiliated level that cannot participate due to scheduling conflicts will be awarded twenty-five (25) tournament season points for the conflicting event per day

In the event of a finishing position tie, payout for eligible recipients will be determined by the following Tie Breaker Rules. Finishing position will still be documented as a tie for points purposes, and appropriate Tournament Season Points awarded.

Example: Three (3) people tie for second (2nd) place during the tournament. The tie breaker rule will be used to determine who will earn the payout money for second (2nd), third (3rd) and fourth (4th) place, however all three (3) participants will receive the forty-nine (49) Tournament Season Points for finishing in second (2nd) place.

#### Tie Breaker Rules:

- 1st Tie Breaker – Number of fish weighed in
- 2nd Tie Breaker – Longest fish for the tournament day
- 3rd – 6th Tie Breaker – Longest preceding fish through the five (5) fish limit comparing largest to smallest.
- 7th Tie Breaker – Longest fish weighed in for the year.

Tournament finishing positions, in the event of a tie, will default to matching positions determined by the number of people involved in the tie.

Example: If three (3) anglers tie for second (2nd) place, then the fifth (5th) angler in line, behind the first (1st) angler and the three (3) anglers tied for second (2nd), will default to fifth (5th) place, and receive the Tournament Season Points eligible for a fifth (5th) place finish.

Overall tournament season point totals (finishing positions) will be used to determine current tournament season rankings and club placement awards.

Tournament Season point totals will run from the first eligible club tournament, established by the current tournament schedule, up to thirty (30) days preceding the last directors meeting held prior to the state championship tournament. This rule will allow submission of the State Championship Team roster in a timely manner.

Tournament Season Points will reset to zero after the last eligible tournament of the current season's schedule. Any scheduled tournaments after the State Championship roster submission cutoff date will count for the next year's Tournament Season Point totals.

#### **State Championship Team**

The Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. will sponsor a roster consisting of up to eight (8) anglers for the State Championship Tournament subject to club membership enrollment. All sponsored members must be in good standing with the tournament holders affiliate organization as well as the local club.

Sponsorship will be determined by the following schedule and current tournament season points calculations:

- Four (4) Boaters (must have fished 75% of the entered events as a Boater)
- Two (2) Non-Boaters (must have fished 75% of the entered events as a Non-Boater)
- Two (2) Non-Boaters (open to club Boater or Non-Boater participants)
- Sponsored roster will be selected using the current overall tournament season point totals in descending order
- Ties for state sponsorship positions will be broken by current tournament score (length/weight) totals

Any other eligible anglers that wish to fish the State Championship Tournament must pay any and all fees associated with said entry. Non-sponsored anglers must enter the tournament as a contestant pair (Boater/Non-Boater) to qualify. It is the Non-sponsored Boater/Non-Boater's responsibility to coordinate their team roster, registration documentation and entry fees.

The overall number of participants will be limited by the tournament holders specified team limits. If this limit is reached, precedence will be given based on current Tournament Season Point totals.

## **Fishing Sponsored Tournaments**

As part of our commitment towards this bass club, and in the best interest of Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. the Tournament Committee has set forth the following Rule: Any Member of the Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. will not be allowed to fish a tournament that is sponsored by Mexico Bassmasters, Inc. because of the conflict of interest rule. These tournaments will include, but not be limited to, any benefit tournament that we decide to sponsor during the year.

**Last Reviewed Date: 07/23/22**



# Exhibit A – Tournament Score Card

## MEXICO BASSMASTERS SCORE CARD

BOATER \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ LAKE \_\_\_\_\_

Length	OZ	LBS	Points	AM	PM	Points
12	14	0.875	4			
12.5	16	1	6			
13	18	1.125	8			
13.5	21	1.313	11			
14	23	1.438	13			
14.5	26	1.625	16			
15	29	1.813	19			
15.5	32	2	22			
16	36	2.25	27			
16.5	40	2.5	33			
17	44	2.75	40			
17.5	48	3	48			
18	53	3.313	57			
18.5	58	3.625	67			
19	63	3.938	78			
19.5	68	4.25	90			
20	74	4.625	103			
20.5	81	5.063	117			
21	87	5.438	132			
21.5	94	5.875	147			
22	102	6.375	165			
22.5	109	6.813	183			
23	117	7.313	207			
23.5	126	7.875	231			
24	135	8.438	255			
24.5	144	9	288			
25	153	9.563	324			
25.5	162	10.13	360			

TOTAL

5 POINT

TOTAL

BIG BASS \_\_\_\_\_

NON BOATERS SIG \_\_\_\_\_

## MEXICO BASSMASTERS SCORE CARD

NONBOATER \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_ LAKE \_\_\_\_\_

Length	OZ	LBS	Points	AM	PM	Points
12	14	0.875	4			
12.5	16	1	6			
13	18	1.125	8			
13.5	21	1.313	11			
14	23	1.438	13			
14.5	26	1.625	16			
15	29	1.813	19			
15.5	32	2	22			
16	36	2.25	27			
16.5	40	2.5	33			
17	44	2.75	40			
17.5	48	3	48			
18	53	3.313	57			
18.5	58	3.625	67			
19	63	3.938	78			
19.5	68	4.25	90			
20	74	4.625	103			
20.5	81	5.063	117			
21	87	5.438	132			
21.5	94	5.875	147			
22	102	6.375	165			
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25	153	9.563	324			
25.5	162	10.13	360			

TOTAL

5 POINT

TOTAL

BIG BASS \_\_\_\_\_

BOATERS SIG \_\_\_\_\_

