

***MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS
of Arizona Inc***



Tournament Rules

“WE PRACTICE CATCH AND RELEASE”

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MIDWEEK BASS ANGLERS OF ARIZONA INC

TOURNAMENT RULES

Revision 0 Mod 0: January 1, 2023

ARTICLE 1: TOURNAMENT RULE CHANGES

a. Proposed amendments must be submitted in writing, on the approved club form, to the presiding officer at a regularly scheduled board or general meeting during the year. Normally, regular changes to the tournament rules will be made only once a year. Proposed changes will be read at the October meeting and voted on at the November meeting. All changes will normally become effective on 1 January of each year unless implemented sooner by the members through the 'Waiver of Tournament Rules' provision. Hard copy changes to the bylaws will normally be made only once a year.

b. In order to ratify an amendment proposed in accordance with the above procedures, all members present will be invited to vote. A majority vote will be required to pass. Abstentions will be counted as neutral. Proxy or absentee votes will not be allowed. It will be the responsibility of the secretary to notify all members, not present at the meeting at which the proposal was originated, of the nature of the proposals.

c. Rule changes will not affect any previous or ongoing tournament.

ARTICLE 2: ENTRY FEES AND POTS

a. All tournament entry fees will be established or modified by the Board of Directors

b. All prize money won will be split among team members.

c. **Big fish pots** – Big fish pots are a part of the basic entry, and not an option. They are open to any eligible member who properly registers for a Midweek Bass monthly tournament. There are two big fish pots: One 5 Pound Pot and Two Big Bass Pots.

(1) **5 Pound Pot** – The Five Pound pot is awarded to the qualified team that legally catches the biggest bass (largemouth or smallmouth) five pounds or over.

(2) There is no penalty for a dead fish in the Five Pound pot. A dead fish qualifies, assuming it was legally caught. However, dead fish penalties are applied against the total weight for the tournament.

(3) **Tie Breaker** – If more than one five pound or over bass is caught, the heaviest bass wins. In the case of a tie, the money is split between the teams.

(4) The same team **cannot** win the 5 Pound Pot and 1st or 2nd Big Bass Pot at the same time. A team **cannot** win more than one award for Big Fish Pots.

(5) The amount of the Five Pound pot award is \$1000 for a team and \$500 for a solo boater.

(6) **Big Bass Pot** – the Big Bass Pot is awarded to the top two bass not over 5 lbs legally caught by a properly registered team during the tournament.

(7) There is no penalty for a dead fish in the Big Bass Pot. A dead fish qualifies, assuming it was legally caught. However, dead fish penalties are applied against the total weight for the tournament.

(8) The same team **cannot** win both the 1st and 2nd place pots for Big Bass. A different team with the next biggest fish will win.

(9) The amount awarded is established by the Board of Directors, based upon the number of entries.

d. **Goon Fish Prize** – The Goon Fish prize is won for any fish caught that is not a large or small mouth bass. All tournament tackle and equipment rules apply.

(1) The practice of catch and release is the standard for Midweek Bass with regard to bass. It is our intent to expand this policy to help with the safe release of large goon-fish such as catfish, buffalo fish, carp, and other large fish deemed worthy to return to the water to live.

(2) This policy will apply during Midweek Tournaments, for goon fish deemed too large to survive in the live-well all day long.

(3) Procedure: During a tournament, if a team catches a goon fish so large as to not reasonably be expected to survive in the live-well all day long, or such fish is so large that it will affect the survivability of the bass if it is kept in the live-well all day long, then that fish may be weighed on the lake during the tournament and released. Verification of the weight of the large goon-fish must be done by a team that is also fishing the Midweek Tournament, but it has to be a team other than the team that caught the fish. A photograph is also recommended, but not necessary. After a weight is verified by both teams, write the weight down and release the fish. At the weigh-in and while the scales are still open, tell the Tournament Director what you caught, how big it was, and who verified its weight. In the event that this happens to more than one boat during a tournament, if the weights of the two fish are within 10% of each other, then a tie will be declared (this is done because of using two separate scales).

ARTICLE 3: PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- a. Participants must be members in good standing of Midweek Bass Anglers.

ARTICLE 4: REGISTRATION

a. Each contestant must pre-register and pay the designated entry fee. If unable to attend the monthly meeting, entry form and fees must be received by the Tournament Director prior to the start of each general meeting on the first Wednesday of the event month in order to be eligible to fish a club point tournament. Late entries will not normally be accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances. The club retains all forfeited entry fees. There will be ***NO LAKE REGISTRATION OR PAY AT THE LAKE ALLOWED.***

ARTICLE 5: TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

a. There will be no “lake lock-offs” for Midweek Bass Anglers tournaments. When fishing in conjunction with other organizations, the sponsoring organization rules will be observed.

ARTICLE 6: SAFETY/BOAT EQUIPMENT

- a. All participants shall observe local, state and U.S. Coast Guard regulations specific to boating safety at all times during tournament hours.
- b. A United States Coast Guard approved life vest must be on and secured by all competitors anytime the outboard motor is on. The boat operator shall have an ignition shut off device (kill switch) attached to themselves anytime the outboard motor is running. Each participant is required to provide his own life vest.
- c. Boats must have a working live well, properly aerated to adequately maintain a limit catch of bass.
- d. Pets are not allowed in contest boats during club tournaments.

ARTICLE 7: SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. Participants are expected to follow high standards of safety, sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation.
- b. No member will be allowed to fish a club event if the Tournament Director and the members of the Tournament Committee present, feel a contestant may be under the influence of, or in the possession of, alcohol, barbiturates, marijuana or any other controlled substance, not prescribed by a doctor. The member’s tournament fee will not be refunded. Tournament hours are from start of the pre-tournament briefing to completion of weigh-in and closure of the scales.
- c. Anyone receiving a citation from any law enforcement official during a club tournament may be Disqualified (DQ) for the event.

ARTICLE 8: EQUIPMENT AND TACKLE

- a. Only artificial lures may be used.
- b. No live or prepared bait will be permitted.
- c. Only one rod and reel may be used at any time.

- d. All fish will be caught live, in a conventional manner. No intentional "snagging" allowed. All "sight" fish must be hooked inside the mouth. If you can see the fish it is to be considered a 'sight' fish.
- e. Trolling is not permitted. Trolling is defined as drawing a lure through the water with the primary or secondary gasoline powered engine on the boat. Using the electric trolling/positioning motor to move a lure through the water is not considered trolling as long as the rod to which the lure is attached is under direct control of the contestant.
- f. Electronic equipment (i.e., depth finders, graphs, etc.) may be utilized.
- g. Use of underwater cameras or "Viewing Tubes" is not permitted during tournament hours.

ARTICLE 9: BOAT AND MOTOR

- a. Any boat used in club tournaments must not exceed the boat's BIA rated horsepower.
- b. Fishing boats used must be 15 feet in length or more. Stick or Tiller steering boats are not permitted during any club points tournament.

ARTICLE 10: BOAT INSPECTION

- a. Each boat will be inspected by a designated tournament official at the start of each day of the tournament. If a boater contestant arrives late and the tournament has already started, they must find the tournament director on the lake to have their live wells inspected before competing in the tournament. Failure to complete a live well check will result in a Disqualification (DQ).

ARTICLE 11: PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- a. NO fishing permitted within 50 yards of another contestant's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with trolling motor up. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor.
- b. NO fishing permitted within any special boundaries defined by the Tournament Director.
- c. NO fishing on any other posted water.
- d. Contestants may not leave a boat to fish or land a fish.

ARTICLE 12: TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS

- a. A specified location from which the tournament will start and finish.
- b. Weigh-in location will be designated by the Tournament Director.

ARTICLE 13: SCORING SYSTEMS. A Catch, Keep, and Weigh scoring system is used during club events.

- a. Determined by weight system used by the club.
- b. For each dead fish weighed-in, a penalty of **four (4) ounces** or **0.25 pounds** will be deducted.
- c. Only LARGEMOUTH and SMALLMOUTH bass may be weighed for points.
- d. No club minimum size limit. (Slot Lake Exception)
- e. During cooler months of January through May and September through December no more than five (5) bass may be weighed per day of the tournament. No more than six (6) bass are allowed in the boat at any time and the 6th fish must be culled immediately. During hot summer months of June through August, no more than three (3) bass may be weighed per day of the tournament. No more than four (4) bass are allowed in the boat at any time and the 4th fish must be culled immediately.
- f. Penalty for having more than a club limit of fish in possession after the tournament ends is Disqualification (DQ) for the tournament.
- g. Any culling of fish must be done prior to the official stop time of the tournament. No culling of fish is allowed within one hundred (100) feet of the ramp.
- h. No culling of dead fish is allowed. Any dead fish must remain as a part of the team's catch for the day and presented at the weigh-in. Per state law, the wasting of game fish is not allowed.
- i. When necessary, the club measuring device will be a "flat board." The club's official measuring device is a "Gator Grip Golden Rule Professional Series Board". It is the Boater's responsibility to provide a measuring board in his boat for use during the tournament.
- j. When necessary, a fish will be measured after being placed on its side with the jaw closed

pressing the nose of the fish firmly against the raised edge of the measuring board. Squeeze the tail fin lobes together to produce the maximum length. Measure in a straight line from the tip of the snout to the extreme tip of the tail. (*AZGFD Fishing Regulations*)

k. When fishing waters where size restrictions exist, the penalty for bringing a fish to the scales which is in violation of these size restrictions shall be Disqualification (DQ) for the tournament.

l. Penalty of sixteen (16) ounces or 1.00 pound per minute up to fifteen (15) minutes will be charged to contestants who have not returned to the tournament director designated start/stop area by the official weigh-in time.

m. Contestants will be Disqualified (DQ) after fifteen (15) minutes late. For a two day tournament, if a team is DQ'd for one day then this means they are DQ'd for both days. If a team is late for the weigh-in, while not DQ'd, they get zero (0) weight for that day's catch.

n. Tournament Director's watch is the master time piece. All contestants must return to headquarters, with or without fish, or be Disqualified (DQ). Late penalties will become effective at 'Official Time' plus one (1) minute.

o. **Breaking "Place Ties"**. In the event that two or more tournament teams have exactly the same weight, it will be considered a tie, and both teams will be awarded the same points determined by the higher number finish. Example: Two teams tied for 9th Place, both teams receive 9th Place and 142 points. After the points are awarded to the tied teams, the next highest team after the two tied teams would receive 11th Place and 140 points.

p. If the teams are tied for a place that pays money, then the money involved will be split equally. Example; if there is a tie for 2nd Place, both teams will be awarded 2nd Place points, and the payout monies for 2nd and 3rd Place will be divided equally between the teams tying. In this case there would be no award for 3rd Place points. This rule does not apply to the 5 Pound Pot; see Article 2:c. (5) for details of that rule.

q. In the event that two or more tournament teams have identical weights for the tournament's Big Fish, and this weight is not 5 pounds or more, the money for 1st and 2nd place Big Fish will be combined and awarded in equal amounts to the teams with the identical weights. The rule for ties of big fish 5 pounds or larger is detailed in Article 2.c. (5).

r. At the weigh-in, once the contestant has passed his sack of fish to the Weigh Master, the contestant cannot touch the fish again. Any angler may request a one-time immediate "re-weigh" of their fish before leaving the scale area with their sack of fish. Once a sack of fish has left the scale area, the angler loses his right to request a re-weigh and any request of that nature will be denied.

s. **FOR SLOT LIMIT LAKES** the following rules will apply and will supersede pertinent rules for non-slot limit lakes.

(1) Size limit is under 13 inches and over 16 inches. No fish within the lake slot limit may be kept in the possession of the contestant unless lake rules are relaxed by the Game & Fish Department. Fishermen in violation of slot limit rules will be Disqualified (DQ) for the day and may be subject to prosecution by the Game and Fish Department.

ARTICLE 14: BREAKDOWN OR EMERGENCY ON THE WATER

a. In the event of a breakdown or emergency on the water prior to the end of a tournament, the tournament director must be notified immediately. If cell phone reception is not available, then another contestant may be notified. There will be no late penalties assessed as long as the fish are presented to the Tournament Director before the scales are closed. The scales are closed after the last on-time contestant is weighed. After the scales are closed, a zero weight will be recorded for all parties involved in the situation.

b. The disabled team is allowed to transfer his day's catch to another contestant for transport immediately back to the weigh-in. The tournament director must be notified, both teams must stop fishing, one member of the disabled team must accompany his fish on the assisting vessel, and the fish must be either marked or separated to avoid confusion.

ARTICLE 15: PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS

- a. Contestants will be paired by public draw, or by computer random draw, at the meeting prior to the tournament.
- b. When possible, efforts will be made so contestants do not fish more than two (2) point tournaments with the same partner during a calendar year. In addition, efforts will be made so that any boater does not fish solo twice before other boaters have fished solo once during a calendar year.
- c. Personal differences between paired contestants are not grounds for declining to fish together.
- d. For any tournament, if there are an insufficient number of either boaters or co-anglers that results in unpaired contestants, the tournament director is allowed to solicit club members for the purpose of completely pairing all contestants in a fair and unbiased manner. An unpaired boater is allowed to switch and fish as a co-angler.
- e. The co-angler shall compensate a boater for his fair share of operating expenses for a tournament, and deliver this amount to the boater prior to the completion of the tournament. This amount will be established by the Board of Directors.
- f. Repeated failure to pay required share of travel, pre-fishing, or boat expenses will be grounds for expulsion from the club.
- g. Payouts will be based on the number of boats fishing; a boat is based on two persons. If two solo boats are fishing they will only count as one boat for payout purposes. A single solo boat will not be counted in number of boats paid out. Solo boaters will only be responsible for their personal entry fees.
- h. A registered boater whose co-angler fails to show for the tournament may fish alone. A boater whose partner does not show will be required to accept as a partner any co-angler whose partner did not show. A pre-registered co-angler whose boater partner does not show will be paired with any available unpaired boater; if no boater is available then entry fees will be refunded.
- i. Only paid members of the Midweek Bass Anglers may be in a boat during the tournament except for emergency situations.
- j. Operating schedule of the boat is the responsibility of the contestants paired together. This in no way implies that the co-angler has the right to operate the boat unless the boater approves.
- k. Repairs because of damage to tow vehicle, boat trailer, boat, or boat equipment are fully the responsibility of the individual causing the damage.

ARTICLE 16: TOURNAMENT STARTS

- a. Method will be "Ooze Off" type, with safe spacing between boats.

ARTICLE 17: RULES INTERPRETATION

- a. Will be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee.
- b. Any violation of the club tournament rules may result in disqualification from the tournament or revocation of club membership.
- c. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director verbally and then in writing no later than 15 minutes after the scale is closed. A member filing the protest must have at least one witness to confirm the violation other than their team partner. A clear photograph can be used as a witness. To avoid protests, if a possible infraction is about to take place, the would-be offender should be alerted to check the rules! Tournament Committee decisions are final.

ARTICLE 18: WAVIER OF TOURNAMENT RULES

- a. Wavier of any provisions of these Tournament Rules will be by a majority vote of members present at a general meeting.

Validated: Terry Tassin
Secretary

Approved: Gary Grimes
President

November 7, 2007 Revision 1: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended primarily in the area of Boat and Motors, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 7, 2007.

November 5, 2008 Revision 2: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended to change the number of times contestants may be paired together during one year, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 5, 2008.

November 4, 2009 Revision 3 with Mod 1: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended to change the policy on basic co-angler boat operating expenses, plus other changes, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 4, 2009. Mod 1 changed the minimum length of tournament boats to 15 feet.

March 3, 2010 Revision 3 with Mod 2: This is to certify that these tournament rules were modified to provide for random computer pairings for tournaments, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on March 3, 2010.

November 3, 2010 Revision 4: This is to certify that these tournament rules were modified to provide for a change in the pairing of contestants, culling of fish, tournament entry fees, and other changes, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 3, 2010.

November 2, 2011 Revision 5: This is to certify that these tournament rules were modified to provide for a change in the club size limits, and other changes, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 2, 2011.

November 7, 2012 Revision 6: This is to certify that these tournament rules were modified to provide for a change in tournament entry fees and option pots, and other minor changes, at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 7, 2012.

November 6, 2013 Revision 7: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended to provide for Absentee voting on proposed changes to tournament rules, clarifying late penalty point determination, and changing the term non-boater to read co-angler at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 6, 2013.

November 5, 2014 Revision 8: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 5, 2014 to provide for minor changes and one major change to the rules. Weigh-in tie breaking procedures were a major revision.

November 4, 2015 Revision 9: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 4, 2015 to provide for minor gramatical changes and one major change to the rules. Big Bass tie breaking procedures was the major revision.

November 2, 2016 Revision 10: This is to certify that these tournament rules were amended at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 2, 2016 to provide for a change to the rules changing the Dead Fish Penalty to four (4) ounces or 0.25 pounds for each dead fish brought to the scales.

April 4, 2018 Revision 10 with Mod 1: These tournament rules were amended at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on April 4, 2018 to provide for a change to the wording in **Article 14: Breakdown or Emergency on the Water** as it pertains to disqualifications and penalties.

November 6, 2019 Revision 1 with Mod 0: These tournament rules were amended at the regular monthly meeting of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ on November 6, 2019 to provide for a change to the wording in **Article 13, Sub Article e and f:** as it pertains to a reduction in the number of fish to be weighed during the hotter months of the tournament year.

August 1, 2020 Revision 2 with Mod 0: These tournament rules were amended by the members of the Midweek Bass Anglers of Arizona at Phoenix, AZ by email vote (due to COVID 19 restrictions) on 4 July 2020 to provide for a change to the wording in **Article 2: ENTRY FEES AND POTS:** as it pertains to how the prize pots are managed including all big fish pots.