

Androscoggin Bassmasters Tournament Rules

Revised November 4, 2009

RULE INTERPRETATION

1. The tournament committee shall be solely responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of the following rules.
2. Their decision will be final.
3. The tournament committee shall consist of: the Tournament Director, the designated weigh master, and an officer of the club (President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Treasurer).

JUDGES

1. Members of the tournament committee are designated judges, are eligible to participate in these tournaments, and are allowed to compete for any and all prizes.
2. The Tournament Director will supervise the weigh-in and designate the weigh master. The weigh master will be a member of the tournament committee.

AWARDS

1. Standard awards at each tournament will consist of plaques for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place finishers.
2. "Lunker" money will be awarded for the heaviest largemouth and smallmouth after each tournament. The amount of each of these awards will be one dollar for each paid club member and any paid competing guests. (A "competing guest" is a guest, who has paid a \$5 fee so that they may keep fish in the livewell, and is allowed to weigh them in at the end of the day and is eligible for lunker prizes.)
3. At the end of the year, an "Angler of the Year" plaque and/or money will be awarded to the club member with the highest total weight. The co-angler's weight at year end that is the highest among other co-anglers will be awarded a first place "Co-Angler of the Year" plaque and or cash. This does not eliminate him/her from any other club awards. Only one 1st-5th place cash award can be won by an angler from either division. If the co-angler fishes one or more tournaments as a boater he/she is then considered ineligible for this co-angler award/cash prize.

VISITORS

1. While a tournament is in progress only participating club members will be allowed in boats with the exception of official visitors approved by the tournament committee. Rule applies to CMR Tournaments.
2. Visitors who wish to compete in these tournaments will be charged a \$5.00 fee as defined in the section titled "tournament fees".
3. Visitors who wish to compete will be eligible for lunker pool only. (If there is a side pool, the competing visitor may be allowed to join in.)
4. Visitors who do not wish to compete will not be charged a fee.

TOURNAMENT RULES

The Androscoggin Bassmasters will obtain a state permit for each tournament. It is understood that these permits are granted under the following restrictions and conditions.

1. All state and local laws and regulations shall be strictly adhered to.
2. Each angler will be allowed a limit of 4 fish. There will be no weight limit. Upon catching the 5th fish, an angler must cull one fish before they resume fishing.
3. Only largemouth and/or smallmouth bass will be counted.
4. All bass retained shall be kept in a continuous flowing aerated, water circulating livewell with the intent to keep them alive and well. The livewell can be switched to recirculate while running the body of water in which you are fishing or while your boat is on the trailer at the weigh-in site.
5. All bass will be returned to the waters from which they were caught, unharmed as far as possible, at the end of the tournament day. (An angler that wishes to keep a bass shall not be penalized as long it is legal to keep this fish according to state and local law)
6. All anglers competing in the tournament must have a valid Maine fishing license unless they are under the age at which one is required.
7. If the tournament is to be conducted as a catch, measure, and release tournament the following rules will apply:
 - a) A club member will be required.
 - b) A club member must witness the catching, measuring, weighing, and recording of the fish.

SAFETY

1. Safe boating must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors.
 - a) Use extreme caution while operating a boat within the confines of rivers and narrows and also while in close proximity to shorelines and hazard areas.
 - b) The operator of any powerboat shall pass or overtake another powerboat in motion at a safe distance and at a safe and reasonable speed.
 - c) No operator of a powerboat shall pass or overtake another boat that is anchored, using a trolling motor, or otherwise engaged in the act of fishing, at a speed great enough to produce a wake.
2. During competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn at all times the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
3. It is the responsibility of each boat operator to be familiar with, understand, and obey the laws pertaining to boating in Maine.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. At all tournaments, participants are required to comply with all state and local fish and wildlife regulations, Maine's boating laws, as well as the tournament rules established by this club.
2. Alcoholic beverages will not be permitted in any tournament boat or at the official weigh-in.
3. All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation at all times.

TOURNAMENT FEES

1. The entry fees for all club members are included in the annual dues. The \$2 lunker pool fees are also included.
2. Membership dues must be paid in full before a member will be allowed to fish a tournament.
3. There will be a \$5 entry fee for any visitor who wants to compete. This fee will allow the visitor to place fish in the livewell, and weigh-in at the end of the day and be eligible for all lunker prizes.

TOURNAMENT HOURS

1. Tournament hours shall be from 8:00 AM until 4:00 PM. All members and participating anglers must be at the launch by 7:30 am.
2. There is a 48-hour cut-off time prior to all club tournaments. Any angler who fishes the tournament lake within this period will be ineligible to fish the tournament.

ARRIVING LATE/ LEAVING EARLY

1. A member must have a valid reason for leaving early.
2. Arrangements may be made for the weigh master to weigh a member's fish at a pre-determined time/location.
3. An early weigh-in will only be arranged for a club member, and said member must be present for the early weigh-in.
4. A late entry must find an officer or tournament committee member to acquire permission to fish prior to fishing.

CHECKPOINT

1. The Tournament Director will establish a start/finish checkpoint at each tournament.
2. The Tournament Director will give a "time check" before the start of each tournament
3. Numbers will be drawn for take-off order and the person who draws the highest number will announce each take-off.
4. Take-off will be conducted in an orderly fashion with the safety of all competitors being the highest priority. Please make sure all boats are ready to take off before starting the blast off.

REST PERIODS

A participant will be allowed to take a "nature call" without penalty during a tournament.

TACKLE AND LURES PERMITTED

1. Only artificial lures may be used during the tournament. Pork strips, or rinds, will be considered artificial.
2. All bass must be taken in a conventional sporting manner, with rod and reel. Snatching or snagging visible fish will not be allowed. When fishing for visible bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth.
3. Only bait casting, spinning, or spin-casting rods (8 ft maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) will be allowed.
4. Any number of rods may be in the boat and rigged for fishing, but only one rod may be in actual use at any time.
5. Trolling is not allowed.

BOATS AND MOTORS

1. All boats must have all required coast guard equipment.
2. All boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch. This device must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating.
3. Small electric motors may be used for maneuvering the boat, but trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

PAIRING

1. Members not having boats will be paired with members that have boats by a process of a random drawing and rotation.
2. If the number of boaters is greater than the number of co-anglers, any boater that is not paired up may elect to fish alone. (catch, measure, release tournaments excluded)
3. Sharing of expenses, seating arrangements, etc. should be worked out in advance between paired anglers.
4. Every effort will be made to ensure that all club members are able to fish these tournaments. Boaters will not be allowed to fish with each other, or with a guest, if a club member is without a seat.

FISHING LOCATIONS

1. The Tournament Director will inform everyone of any water considered off-limits prior to the start of each tournament.
2. If an angler chooses to fish from an anchored boat, there will be no distance or area restrictions on other anglers. Competitors are expected to extend professional courtesy and use good judgment when entering an area that is being fished by another angler.
3. All angling must be conducted from a boat.

SCORING

1. The minimum length shall be 12 inches measured from the tip of the bottom lip (mouth closed) along a straight line to the farthest tip of the tail.
2. Short fish will accrue a penalty of 1 pound and the weight of the fish shall not be counted.
3. Dead fish weight will be counted. Dead fish may not be culled during the tournament. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following, to be deducted from their daily score: 1 dead fish — 4 oz., 2 dead fish — 8 oz., 3 dead fish — 12 oz., 4 dead fish — 16 oz.
4. In the case of a tie for any position, the angler with the largest bass by weight will be declared the winner.
5. Any dispute must be brought to the attention of the tournament committee before the first fish is weighed.
6. Competitors who are not at the official check in point at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award." Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness with the exception of a break down that is reported to the Tournament Director prior to 4:00 and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.

CELL PHONES

During tournament hours, cell phones must not be used to gather any information that would give an angler an unfair advantage over another competitor.

A TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL SHALL BE ALLOWED TO APPROACH, BOARD, AND INSPECT ANY CONTESTANT'S BOAT AT ANY TIME DURING THE TOURNAMENT DAY. INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT, AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

CASH AWARDS

1 st Place All Members	\$70.00
1 st Place Co-Angler	\$70.00
2 nd Place All Members	\$50.00
3 rd Place All Members	\$35.00
4 th Place All Members	\$30.00
5 th Place All Members	\$25.00
Lunker Largemouth All Members	\$25.00
Lunker Smallmouth All Members	\$25.00
Maximum Total Cash Awards	\$330.00

Our goal is to have a 100% live release of all the fish we catch during these tournaments. Please take care of the fish while they are in your possession.

Remember that you are representing all bass anglers as well as the Androscoggin Bassmasters, while you are competing in these tournaments. Obey the law. Respect the rights of others. Be courteous. Be safe. GOOD LUCK!!

Note: In the event of a change in the tournament schedule, all members must be notified, and rescheduling must take place at least one meeting prior to the changed tournament.