

Bloomington Normal Bass Club Tournament Rules 2009

1. The rules will stand as printed. If there is any question about any rule, the final decision and/or interpretation will be determined by the rules committee. Any protest regarding any Bloomington Normal Bass Club tournament must be received by the Tournament Director, or his designated director, no later than ½ hour after the tournament.
2. All entries must be in the hands of the rules committee by drawing time at the club meeting prior to the tournament. Any person entering tournament with a non-boater will be guaranteed use of their boat. The drawing of partners will be at the conclusion of the club meeting. If an odd number of entrants are received, the odd man drawn will have the option to fish alone or he may elect not to fish and get his entry fee returned at that time.
 - A. As in the past a member may enter a tournament and sign up with his/her spouse, including in-laws, immediate family member or grandchild under the age of 18. In certain special cases other children may be afforded the opportunity to fish with a club member, upon approval of tournament committee prior to the sign up meeting.
 - B. Children, immediate family member or grandchild under 17 has the option of fishing with a parent in all scheduled tournaments at no charge. Prizes will be awarded to children 15 and under catching keepers. **Anyone over 17 years of age will be required to pay an entry fee, this includes family members fishing together.**
 - C. If a club member signs up with a child or family member and either (child/family member) cannot fish the club member will be paired with a no boater if one is available, only ONCE during the tournament year the club member will be allowed to fish alone in the boat. Should this incident happen a second time, even if it involves a different family member, if no partner can be found at the ramp the entry fee will be returned and the contestant will not be allowed to fish/compete in said tournament.
 - D. If a minor, 16 years or older, wishes to enter the open draw for partners, they may do so provided that:
 - a. They are a member in good standing.
 - b. They, not being of majority must have the co-signature of a parent or guardian on both membership application and tournament blanks.
 - E. All other members wishing to enter and fish in our tournaments may do so as follows:
 - a. Sign up with tournament committee one hour prior to official starting time of tournament. That member may fish only with a member of his immediate family.
 - b. If a contestant has signed up at a club meeting with a member of his family as a partner, and that family member cannot fish; the contestant will be paired as **2D** above.
 - c. If the contestant cannot fish, then his wife can only be paired with another contestant as per rules 4A & 4B if requested.
 - d. Senior members aged 60 or over may participate and sign up together. All other rules shall apply.
 - F. New members must pay membership dues at meeting prior to fishing a tournament. No memberships will be sold at the ramp
3. When a contestant has signed up and been paired with a partner and does not participate, the following guidelines will apply:
 - A. If a contestant does not notify the tournament director of his intent not to fish prior to 5 p.m. the Friday preceding the tournament, he may forfeit his entry fee. If tournament director is notified accordingly, than entry will be credited toward next tournament.
 - B. If, after 5 p.m. Friday and/or on the way to the tournament, an illness, accident or other problem occurs, the decision as to the penalty will be up to rules committee.
4. When a contestant's partner cannot fish and complies with rule 3A, than said contestant has the following options:
 - A. If he is the only contestant having this problem then he may fish alone.
 - B. If two or more contestants have this problem, they will be paired together, and in case of an odd number remaining, revert back to rule 4A. If both members being paired have boats, than the member signing up at the meeting for open draw will be able to use his boat as a first option. If both members signed up at the meeting, than a coin will be flipped to determine which boat will be used.
 - C. If said odd number contestant in either rule 4A or 4B cannot secure a boat, the committee will return his entry fee upon request.

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5. Safety and sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation are expected from each contestant fishing our events. No alcoholic beverages will be permitted in the boat during tournament hours. Not following this rule will result in disqualification.
6. All contestants should be at the starting point at least 30 minutes prior to take off time to allow check-in with committee.
 - A. Fishing hours will be announced at time of drawing.
 - B. Takeoff procedures will be announced at meetings and will be strictly followed.
 - C. Bass live wells and kill switches will be checked prior to takeoff.
7. If a contestant is late for check-in and takeoff has been started, the following will apply:
 - A. Before said contestant begins to fish, he will notify a member of rules committee who will inspect his boat for compliance to rules. Failure to check in with a rules committee member will result in disqualification.

You are only allowed to be late once during tournament year.

8. If you and your partner leave the lake prior to weigh-in time and do not notify a participant of tournament whom will be at the weigh-in, you will lose 10 classic points unless a true emergency exists.
9. Contestants who fail to appear at the official weigh-in area on time will be penalized 5 percent of total weight for each minute they are late. Contestants with fish who fail to arrive at weigh-in within 15 minutes of official deadline will lose all weight credit for the day. Boat or engine problems or failure will not be valid excuses for late arrivals at the weigh-in.
10. If there is serious trouble with any boat or engine, high winds or any condition preventing return by boat, you may return by whatever means available, as long as you stay in sight of your paired partner. Under no circumstances will you leave your partner. Violation of this rule will disqualify both contestants.
11. Only artificial lures are to be used. No live worms, minnows or any other live bait of any kind is allowed. Pork rinds, pork frogs, eels or strips are permitted. The use of an underwater camera is prohibited during tournament hours.
12. All bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted) must be 12 inches long or over to qualify to weigh. If a longer length is imposed on tournament waters, that length will be observed. Fish will be measured from the tip of nose with mouth closed to longest point of tail using a Golden Rule Gator bump board. Once bag of fish is turned over to weigh master, he and he alone has the control of bumping fish and his decision will be final. If an attempt is made to weigh in a short fish determined by weigh master, a penalty of 25 classic points per fish will be made. Said fish will not count in total weight of the day's catch and contestant will lose 1 pound per short fish from day's weight.
 - A. The official bump board will be made available for contestants to use as a courtesy bump prior to bringing fish to the scales. This board will be released after all those that do not request it have weighed their fish.
 - B. The smallest fish or all fish in each contestant's bag will be measured prior to being weighed.
13. Largemouth bass weighing 6 pounds or more and Smallmouth or Spots weighing 4 pounds or more may be kept without penalty, although we do stress catch and release. All other live fish must be returned to the lake. If this rule is not strictly followed; you will be disqualified from this tournament. There will be no stringing of fish under penalty of disqualification. All boats must be equipped with some form of aerated live well capable of sustaining two limits of bass.
14. All fishing must be done from boats. All fish must be landed by contestants from within the boat. All boats must stay in the water during fishing hours, unless specified at the meeting. No trailering of boats from one location to another will be permitted.
15. Tournament contestants cannot fish within 50 yards of another contestant's boat which is anchored on a spot or fishing a shoreline first. Questions regarding off-limit areas for a particular site will be answered and determined at meeting prior to open draw.
16. Boat partners are expected to work out an agreement as to boat operation giving equal front deck time to both. Each contestant is expected to share boat operation 50 percent of time. The person who is operating boat has the privilege of selecting route and fishing area. In the event one chooses not to operate the boat and his choice is satisfactory to his partner, the contestant waiving the privilege still has the right to choose the route and fishing area 50 percent of time. Anyone found deliberately operating the boat in such a manner as to handicap his partner shall be disqualified from the event.

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17. Due to the cost of gas and maintaining a boat, the person not furnishing the boat will pay for gas and oil for that, day and split launch fees, etc. with the boat owner. Guidelines for cost:
 1. 1 H.P. - 25 H.P. -----\$15.00
 2. 30 H.P. - 60 H.P. -----\$20.00
 3. 65 H.P. up -----\$25.00
18. All contestants must have in their possession an U.S. Coast Guard approved life jacket or vest, and must wear it anytime gas engine is running. All engines in use in our tournaments must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch and cord fastened to operator whenever engine is in running mode. If found in violation of this rule contestant will be disqualified.
19. Electric (trolling motors) is permitted for moving boat into and along fishing areas. Trolling of lures is prohibited.
20. No person may use more than one rod at a time, but there is no limit to the number of rods pre-rigged in boat.
21. It is prohibited for any contestant to offer fish to his partner. It is also prohibited for any contestant to accept fish not actually caught by him or suggest his partner give up a fish as a gift. Not following this rule will be reason for disqualification from this and all future tournaments of Bloomington Normal Bass Club.
22. The rules committee retains the right to alter various rules if conditions warrant.

Scoring, Entry Fees & Prizes

23. Scoring will be as follows:
 - A. Five (5) classic points will be given to members participating in each tournament.
 - B. 95 classic points will be given to the member who wins each event, with 94 for second, 93 for third, etc.
 - C. Eight (8) ounces or .50 pounds will be deducted from weight of each dead fish weighed in.
 - D. Total weight of legal fish minus any dead fish, short fish {one (1) pound} or late (rule 9) penalties will determine place of finish and points awarded.
 - E. The tournament limit shall consist of five fish of legal size, or less if site rules are less. No more than five fish or site limit per contestant may be held in live well at any one time. Culling must occur with each successive fish caught.
 - F. Big bass award will go to person with heaviest fish for the day. Penalty ounces for dead fish do affect outcome of big bass award.
 - G. Points and Pounds standings for tournaments will be posted at the regular meetings each month.
 - H. The Points and Pounds list will determine the Classic Qualifiers
24. Entry fee is \$50.00 per tournament, per contestant and includes \$5.00 for a big bass pot. Entry blanks for tournaments can be picked up at a club meeting. Entry fees may be carried over only 1 time, more than this will constitute a forfeiture of your entry monies.
25. Entry fee money will be awarded as follows:
 - A. \$32.00 per entry will be awarded as explained in rule 26 after expenses. \$1.25 of this will go to general fund.
 - B. \$13.00 per entry will go into classic fund after expenses. \$1.25 of this will go to general fund.
 - C. \$5.00 Big bass award, if entered.
26. Trophies and money will be awarded as follows:
 - A. Trophies for each tournament, 1st through 3rd and big bass.
 - B. A big bass traveling trophy, three year-end plaques for top point leaders, one high leader for ladies one for juniors, for best six of eight events. A junior is defined as anyone who has not reached his or her 16th birthday by March 1st of that year.
 - C. Payout for each tournament:
 - a. 1st = 50 %
 - b. 2nd = 30 %
 - c. 3rd = 20%

Note: in the case of a tie, trophies will be duplicated and money combined and split evenly.

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- D. Fisherman of the year will receive \$100 and a plaque from the general fund, and 2 tickets to the McLean County Sportsmen Banquet, and a shirt appropriately logoed. Fisherman of the Year award will be presented to member with highest point totals for his scores in eight Classic Qualifier events.

Classic

- 27. A classic tournament will be held at the end of the year and will have the following guidelines for qualification:
 - A. The top 20 fisherman for the year are eligible and will be determined by a points and pounds method. One list will be maintained for points and pounds only. Your place of qualification will be determined by where your name appears on these lists. The best six of eight scores by points for each person shall determine the ranking on this list.
 - B. If any of the 20 Classic Qualifiers is unable to attend, no alternates will be sought.
 - C. The classic is a two-day event held at the posted location on the tournament schedule. There will be a meeting the week of the classic for the classic qualifiers to discuss details of location, lodging, etc. Everyone will be responsible for their own lodging, no exceptions
 - D. All participants are asked to secure a boat to use in this event. If any participant is unable to find a boat, volunteers will be asked to allow this non-boater to fish from the back of the volunteer's boat. If no volunteers are found a drawing will take place. All qualifiers' names will be put in a hat with two (2) names drawn for this person to fish the two days with.
 - E. Regular B/N rules shall apply for classic.
 - F. Total combined weight, less any penalty ounces, for both days will determine winner.
 - G. Family members, wives, children under 18 who qualify, can fish together.
 - H. The classic location will be off-limits from time of announcement until take off Saturday morning
- 28. There will be a guaranteed \$1000.00 first prize for the classic
 - 1st - 40 % of rule 25B or \$1000.00 whichever is greater and trophy
 - 2nd - 30 % of rule 25B and trophy
 - 3rd - 20 % of rule 25B and trophy
 - 4th - 10 % of rule 25B and trophy
 - Big bass \$5.00 optional each day - 100 % payback and trophy.