



<b>Mississauga Bassmasters BASS Chapter 8665</b> <b>Tournament Rules</b> (version 20130521)		
Mississauga, Ontario Canada <a href="http://www.mississaugabassmasters.com">http://www.mississaugabassmasters.com</a>		

1. **Rule Changes:** Changes to the following rules conducted by Mississauga Bassmasters will be done by the Executive Board 10 days before and in writing with all persons contacted. Interpretations and enforcement of the rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the decision of the Tournament Director and officials shall be final in all matters. (B.A.S.S. Official rules can and or will also be enforced if a rule infraction is not listed below; to ensure integrity at all times.)
2. **Participants and Eligibility:** Participation in Mississauga Bassmasters Tournaments is by INVITATION ONLY. Tournaments are open only to members of the B.A.S.S. Nation. Anglers who are under 18 years of age must have (both) parental consent. An active member in good standing of Mississauga Bassmasters may qualify for the Ontario BASS Nation (OBN) Provincial Qualifier. A new OBN club member (joining before May 1<sup>st</sup>) must fish at least one Mississauga Bassmasters bass tournament before the OBN Provincial Qualifier in order to qualify to fish the OBN Provincial Qualifier. All participants in any Mississauga Bassmasters Tournament must sign a completed entry form.
3. **Proof of Boat Insurance:** Must be submitted prior to competing. All Boaters must have a minimum of \$1,000,000 boating liability insurance.
4. **Safety and Boat Equipment:** Approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFD) must be worn while traveling above trolling speed. Boats must be equipped with an operational ignition kill switch, which must be attached to the driver when the combustion engine is operating. All Federal and Provincial fisheries and boating regulations must be followed. Minimum length of a boat used in a tournament is 15 feet. Canoes are not permitted.
5. **Transporting and Stocking of Bass:** Transporting bass for the sole purpose of stocking an area for Tournament use is prohibited. Fish found in a livewell within 10 days prior will be classed as stocking. During the Tournament hours, anglers may not have more than the creel limit in their livewells. Boaters must allow time for Non-Boaters to cull before moving.
6. **Pre-Tournament Practice:** Tournament waters are open for pre-fishing up until 6:00 p.m. the day before the tournament.
7. **Sportsmanship:** Competitors in Mississauga Bassmasters Tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.

8. Boat and Motor: All boats must meet Canadian Coast Guard regulations. Horsepower must not exceed the limits set by the boat manufacturers rating plate.
9. No Alcoholic Beverages or Drug Stimulants: Prescription drugs which may affect an angler's performance or ability to control the boat must be reported to the Tournament Director prior to competing.
10. Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No "LIVE BAIT" or "PREPARED BAIT" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rind, etc. Only ONE casting, spin cast, or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. Maximum length of rods used is 8 feet. All bass must be caught by means of angling only, as per provincial fishing guidelines. Landing nets are permitted; Gaffs and Grippers are NOT permitted. Fish stringers may not be used.
11. Tournament Registration: Completed entry forms and full entry fees must be submitted to the Tournament Director no later than 8:00 p.m. on the specified registration date; NO EXCEPTIONS. Refunds of entry fees will only be available before the final registration date. On Tournament Day, each competitor must register in person to the Tournament Official at the Tournament starting location. Any Mississauga Bassmasters member who fails to show-up, without a bonafide emergency (and must have proof if requested by the Tournament Official) will not qualify for any club awards and/or points for the remainder of the season. Further, an angler who fails to show up for the final tournament of the year will also lose the points obtained in that angler's highest finish from previous tournaments of that year. The Tournament Director will determine if any entry fees are to be refunded.
12. Anglers Who Do Not Show: A Non-Boater that is left without a Boater may be given a full refund, or if space permits, may fish on another entrant's boat. A Boater that is left without a Non-Boater may be given a full refund, or fish with a Tournament Official or Scrutineer (over 18 years old) on board, or if space permits, fish as a Non-Boater on another entrant's boat. No anglers may fish alone in a Mississauga Bassmasters Tournament.
13. Aerated Livewell(s) and Live Bass: All boats must be equipped with fully operational livewell(s). Bass weighed in DEAD will receive a penalty of 0.50 pounds (8 ounces). The Tournament Director shall have sole authority in assessing status of Bass and applying penalties. Live Release chemical use is recommended. Dead bass shall not be culled.
14. Permitted Fishing Waters: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director and specified before the start of each Tournament. No fishing within 50 feet of another competitor's boat which is anchored and has its trolling motor stowed.
15. Official Checkpoint: The Tournament Director will determine Starting and Fishing points before the Tournament starts. Late arrivals for weigh-in will be penalized at a rate of 1 pound per minute. After 15 minutes, late participants will receive no weigh / score for their fish.

16. Remain in Boat: Anglers may not leave their boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in the Tournament Waters during Tournament Day. No angler may present fish for weigh-in if his/her boat has been removed from the water. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat, except in case of emergency. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the Tournament Official and enough time remain for competitors to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and catch will be counted.
17. Scoring: Tournament standings and Big Fish prizes shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the competition day(s) of the Tournament. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. The creel limit shall be determined prior to the event by the Tournament Director. The minimum size of bass presented for weigh-in is 12 inches, measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Bass measuring less than 12 inches are ineligible and will receive a 1 pound penalty.
18. Ties: Ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the Individual or Team with the largest weighed fish; Each individual angler or Team is responsible for weighing a Big Fish; If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points.
19. Pairing of Contestants: For Draw Tournaments, two contestants will be assigned to each boat by a DRAW, held at the registration meeting before the tournament. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to check-in and depart on time. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him/her to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both shall be disqualified from the Tournament.
20. Boat Operation & Expenses: A full discussion MUST be held between the two partners prior to the morning check-in as to the schedule of boat operation. Each angler must be permitted equal time to fish selected waters; travel time must be considered. If an angler doesn't allow a partner equal time, it is considered handicapping and unfair, and the angler will be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat and tow vehicle, it is strongly suggested that the Non-Boater share the cost of gas and oil for the boat on Tournament Day.
21. Tournament Official: None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament Official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the Official Tournament Competition Day(s).

22. Big Fish: Big bass prize is included in the entry fee. Anglers may choose ONE bass for big fish weigh-in. Only the angler may select his/her bass. Bass eligible for the big fish prize must be alive and over 12 inches in length. (No Dead Bass will be considered for Big Fish)
  - i. In the event of tie for big fish, the angler with the largest daily limit will win the big fish prize.
23. Starting Positions: Will be determined by order of Boater entries. All Tournaments will start with a trickle-start.
24. Official Protest: Competitors wishing to make a formal protest must do so with the Tournament Director no later than 15 minutes after the final fish is weighed-in. A \$20 protest deposit must be submitted, which will be refunded if the protest is upheld.
25. Misinterpretations: Of Regulations and/or Event Rules is no excuse for failure to comply. All Mississauga Bassmasters Tournament Rules and event-specific rules are available in writing. The decision of the Tournament Director is final.
26. Angler of the Year: Points will be awarded to each angler based on their Tournament results (50 points for 1<sup>st</sup>, 49 for 2<sup>nd</sup>, etc.) Anglers must weigh-in at least one legal size bass to qualify for receiving points in the fashion. Anglers who do not weigh-in any bass will be awarded 10 points toward their Angler of the Year standings. Anglers will receive a minimum of 10 points for competing in a Mississauga Bassmasters Tournament. At the end of the tournament season, the angler who has accumulated the most points will be declared the Angler of the Year. In the case of a tie, the total overall weight of fish weighed-in by the tied anglers will be the deciding factor; greatest weight wins.
27. Number of Boats for an Official Event: Four and no less than four boats must be registered and paid for, to allow a club tournament to proceed.
28. Angler(s) Day Ends: Once the individual or team has had their one weigh-in and the fish are removed from the scale and recorded, the participant(s) is done with the day's Tournament Event.
29. Catch and Release Open Water: The Boater and Non-Boater weighing-in their fish must take all fish caught on that boat, back out to appropriate (open) water and released.
30. Electronic Communication Devices: Competitors may not use any electronic communication device (cellular phone, blackberry, radio, etc.) to transmit or receive any fishing related information during Tournament hours. Electronic communication devices may be used for emergency purposes only.

## CLUB CLASSIC RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS

1. All club tournament rules apply to club classic.
2. Entry Fee is \$60.00, with all monies collected being paid to the winner(s)  
\$50.00 goes towards main pot prize, \$10.00 goes towards Big Fish prize
3. The classic is a winner takes all event.
4. Secondary Prizes:.. If the Classic field has at least 10 anglers competing, The Mississauga Bassmasters will pay the following years club dues for the Runner up, as well as the the third place Angler. (This only includes club dues. The club will not pay for an individual's BASS number.) The Runners up must weigh in at least one fish.
5. The Classic Lake choice is not revealed until the draw meeting prior to the classic
6. Once location is revealed, the Lake is closed to all competitors. Anglers found in violation of this rule, will be disqualified.
7. Number of anglers eligible for classic is based on;
  - i) The calculated total number of boats during the Mississauga Bassmasters tournament season, (bass only) divided by the number of events, (bass only) minus one.  
If the number has a decimal, that number is then rounded down to the nearest whole number.  
Example: in 2012 we had 40 total boats. Divided by 5 events= 8 boat average.  
Subtract 1 from that number, Therefore, the classic was capped to 7 boats.
8. To Qualify;
  - i) An Angler(s), who wins either a, "Draw Team" or a "Draw Individual" Mississauga Bassmasters bass event, containing at least 10 boats or more during that same year, and who fishes at least 3 club, (bass) events will automatically qualify for the Classic.
  - ii) The top anglers from the Boaters division, based on AOY standings, and an even number of Non-Boaters based on AOY standings will be invited to fish the Classic.

