**2023 MANSFIELD BASSMASTERS**

**TOURNAMENT RULES**

**January- 2023**

1. **Basic Points Allocation**
2. All tournaments, with the exception of one (1) team tournament, will be fished for individual points.
3. First place will be fifty-five (55) points with all other tournament’s participants receiving points equal to his/her place of finish according to total weight of fish (i.e. 2nd = 54 points, 3rd = 53 points, etc.) Any tournament participant that fishes the tournament but doesn’t weigh any legal fish will receive 5 points less than the lowest weighted participants’ points. For instance, if the lowest weight of 2 lbs receives 20 points, then all others contestants with zero (0) weight receive fifteen (15) points)>
4. If only one person places in a tournament, then that person wins all. All money is paid out during all tournaments.
5. No club member participating in any club tournament will be awarded less than one (1) point, regardless of weight.
6. The Tournament Director will be responsible for turning in all accumulated points to the Secretary/Treasurer on a monthly basis.
7. All non-boaters will be responsible for payment of all boat fuel. Vehicle fuel expense will be shared with the owner of the towing vehicle. These rules must be met to receive tournament points/winnings. Only the boat owner may waive this rule.
8. If no fish are weighed in at a given tournament, no money will be paid back to members. All tournament fees will go back to the club.
9. Angler of the year will be determined by the total combined points of the best 10 tournaments of the year. Only if you fish more tournaments than 10 will you be able to drop one tournament. If you fish 11 tournaments you will be allowed to drop your lowest point tournament.
10. No communication by phone between fishing members during tournament hours, unless it is an emergency.
11. A top 10 Championship will be on a lake chosen by the club membership not competing at the end of the season. There will be a $20 entry fee, winner take all, and a plaque will be awarded to the winner as that year’s champion. This does not affect the angler of the year. Qualifiers will be the top 10 in final Angler of the year points plus anyone that has fished all 11 Tournaments for the year.
12. Paper tournaments are an option on slot lakes.
13. **Check-In and Check-Out at Tournament**
14. Prior to fishing a club tournament, all tournament participants are required to check in with the Tournament Director. If you are paying at the ramp, then you must pay by check, this is to eliminate the confusion of keeping up with who has paid cash. If a tournament participant wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that person MUST notify the Tournament Director or his representative, that will be present at the weigh-in site in order to receive points/monies for that tournament. His or Her fish must be tagged prior to transferring them to the other boat. They must be kept separate thru weigh-in.
15. **Schedule and Fishing Times**
16. All tournament dates, lakes, and backup lakes, will be set and finalized by the Tournament Director at the December meeting prior to the first tournament of the year. The Tournament season will be considered February through June and September through November. Tournaments can be held during any of these months. The two deleted summer month tournaments are to be fished in the spring. (March through June)
17. The start and end times for each tournament will be set by the Tournament Director. In the event of unusual circumstance, the Tournament Director may change the start/end times notifying all tournament participants.
18. A lake may be fished only once per year.
19. Selected Tournament Lake will be off-limits at published sunset time per Farmer’s Almanac for the day prior to the scheduled tournament.
20. There will be no set minimum or maximum distance for proposed tournament lakes.
21. There will be 11 tournaments fished per year. If you fish all 11 then you may drop your lowest point tournament. If you fish 10 or less, then no drop will be allowed. One two-day tournament will be considered as one tournament, and One two-day tournament will be considered as two separate tournaments….
22. **Method of Fishing**
23. Rod and reel only—Artificial baits only (include pork trailers).
24. NO controlled trolling is permitted, either with the trolling motor or the big motor.
25. Fishing from a boat, tube, shore or sitting on a bucket at the dam is permitted.
26. All tournament participants must honor any lake “off-limits” areas.
27. Only one rod/reel/line may be in use at a time (i.e. if you’re hung up, you must retrieve/break off line prior to using another rig).
28. **Safety**
29. All contestants must wear an approved U.S.C.G life preserver any time the boat is on plane and the boat driver must have the kill switch attached.
30. All boats must be equipped with an operable kill switch.
31. All boats must have all required U.S.C.G. safety equipment on board and meet all U.S. C.G. and boat manufacturer’s safety specifications.
32. Absolutely NO alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are to be in the boat or be consumed on the water during tournament hours. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION AND FORFEITURE OF ALL ENTRY FEES AND POINTS!
33. **Courtesy**

A distance of one hundred (100) feet must be kept from another member’s boat unless both boat owners waive this rule.

1. **Weigh-In**
2. The Tournament Director will keep the official time.
3. All contestants must be at the weigh-in site at the designated end time. Late arrivals will lose one (1) pound from total weight for each minute late up to a maximum of fifteen (15) pounds/fifteen (15) minutes. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will forfeit all weight.
4. There is a 10 inch Minimum on all species of fish to be weighed in at any lake, including slot lakes. Other than this exception, tournaments will adhere to state regulations regarding size and numbers unless the specific lake’s stated number and size limits are different.

These restrictions apply to largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass, and Guadalupe bass.

1. All Fish will be measured on the “Golden Rule” measuring board.
2. One-fourth (1/4) pound will be deducted from the weight of each dead fish brought to weigh-in.
3. Any illegal/short/slot fish will have the entire weight of that fish disqualified plus two (2) pounds deducted from the total weight.
4. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director or his representative within fifteen (15) minutes after last fish weigh in.
5. If you have to leave the lake early, it is permissible to allow a club tournament member who is participating to weigh your fish as long as each participant’s fish can be separated, and club rules followed. Director was notified and approved.
6. **Trophy Awards**
7. A Mansfield Bassmaster Plaque will be awarded to each tournament winner, however, only one first place plaque will be awarded per person per calendar year. An engraved plate will be awarded to the first, second, and third place winners for each tournament.
8. Angler of the Year is to receive a trophy and $100.00 prize for winning at the end of the year.
9. A prize will be awarded at the end of the year for the heaviest fish.
10. A prize will be awarded at the end of the year for the heaviest stringer.
11. A prize will be awarded at the end of the year for sportsmanship of the year.
12. Top 10 Champion winner award.
13. **Tournament Money/Winnings**
14. The tournament entry fee is Fifty (50) dollars. This amount is to be prepaid at the monthly club meeting prior to the specific tournament or mailed (postmarked) to the Tournament Director no less than one week prior to the specific tournament. PayPal is also acceptable with an additional $3.00 surcharge per payment. Make checks payable to Mansfield Bass masters. Tournament fees will be divided as follows: twenty five (25) dollars to place finishes, five (5) dollars to big bass pot, and fifteen (15) dollars to the club and five dollars (5) to the 7lb pot.
15. Payout percentage is based upon number of entries. Fourteen (14) or less entries will pay a 70% / 30% split to 1st and 2nd places. Fifteen (15) to Twenty Five (25) entries will pay a 60% / 25% / 15% split to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place. Twenty Six (26) to Thirty (30) entries will pay a 50% / 25% /15% /10% split to the 1st, 2nd,3rd, and 4th Place. Thirty One (31) or more entries will pay a 45% / 20% / 15% / 10% / 10% split to the 1st,2nd,3rd,4th, and 5th place.
16. Big Bass = one winner = entire big bass pot including $5.00 paid out per entry and monies paid by guests to fish for big bass only.
17. The 7 lb Pot will be awarded to the largest fish seven (7) pounds or greater if the contestant qualifies. If the contestant does not qualify, the next qualified contestant with the largest fish seven pounds or greater will be awarded the 7 lb Pot. There is no cap on the 7lb pot. This includes $5.00 per angler per tournament until a 7# or larger is caught. Minimum payout for the 7lb pot is $100.
18. Winnings will be awarded at the next club meeting following the specific tournament.
19. If you prepay to fish a tournament and are not going to be able to make it, you must text, email or call the treasurer before the tournament, or you lose your money.
20. If a check is not cashed within 90 days, it will be cancelled and rewritten and the cancellation costs will be incurred by the angler.
21. **Guest**
22. The number of guests participating in any club tournament is unlimited, provided all club member non-boaters are accommodated. Number of guests per year per member is also unlimited. However, guest participation for each member is capped at three tournaments for a single person per year. After the 3rd tournament, they will be required to join the club to fish.
23. Any guest fishing a club tournament may participate only in the Big Bass pot for that tournament. The fee is $5.