

Lac Du Bonnet Bass Championship

Rules & Regulations

2019

Tournament Format

1. The Lac Du Bonnet Bass Championship (the 'tournament') format is a two person team, single day, total weight, live release tournament.
2. The Tournament Director has the right to delay or shorten the tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations.
3. The Lac Du Bonnet Bass Championship, it's promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers and affiliated organizations assisting the operations of any of the tournament; their agents and/or agents and assignees are not responsible for any death, injury, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the tournament howsoever cause. ALL COMPETITORS MUST SIGN THE ENTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT.

Participation and Eligibility

1. Competitors must be a minimum of eighteen (18) year of age unless they have permission from their parents or guardians
2. All anglers must possess the required license as per the 2019 Manitoba Fishing Regulations.
3. The Lac Du Bonnet Bass Championship Committee reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual or team for any reason that the Committee may deem appropriate, including refusal to refund paid entry fee.

Entry Fee and Registration

1. Entry fee per team is \$120.00 if paid in full on or before June 5, 2019 or \$150.00 if paid in full after June 5, 2019 (Canadian funds).
2. Team registrations and release of team number motor tags will take place on Saturday, June 8, 2019 at the LaVerendrye Boat Launch at 7:00 a.m. Teams must receive rule updates, team number motor tags and complete registration before leaving the dock on tournament day.
3. Full refunds or cancellations will be issued providing sufficient evidence of the inability to participate (i.e. doctor's note, emergency, etc.).

Pre-Tournament Practice

1. Unlimited pre-tournament practice is allowed.
2. All Competitors must cease pre-tournament practice by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to tournament commencement (i.e. by 4:00 p.m., Friday, June 7, 2019).
3. No contestant may enter the tournament waters for the purpose of catching or locating bass or possible fishing locations after the cease of pre-tournament fishing. Violation will result in tournament disqualification.
4. Moving fish from one location to another during pre-tournament practice is prohibited. Violations will result in tournament disqualification.

Live Release of Fish

1. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of built-in or securely fastened, properly aerated or circulating live well.
2. Any fish mauled, altered or injected with water or a foreign matter will result in a team's immediate disqualification.
3. Under no circumstances are dead fish to be released.
4. For the proper handling of fish during weigh-in, the use of the supplied live release bags is mandatory.

Penalty for Late Check-In

1. Competitors who are late checking in for weigh-in after the required return time for whatever reason, including breakdown, will be disqualified.

Scoring

1. Only Smallmouth Bass legally caught on a tournament day by angling qualify for weigh-in. Violation of this rule will result in tournament disqualification.
2. A daily limit of FIVE (5) bass per team may be weighed. A team may possess the daily limit as outlined in the 2019 Manitoba Fishing Regulations while angling only. While under main engine power, no more than 5 bass may be possessed per team.
3. No more than TWO (2) bass exceeding 40 cm in length per team may be possessed or presented for weigh-in. Official measurement for bass is from tip of closed mouth to tip of pinched tail. Teams in possession of or presenting for weigh-in more than TWO (2) bass exceeding 40 cm in length will be disqualified.
4. Each team's fish will be presented to the Weigh Master in the containers supplied by the tournament organizers.
5. The Weigh Master's scale and measure board are the official equipment of the tournament.
6. All weights called by the Weigh Master are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
7. Dead or non-releasable bass presented for weigh-in will not be weighed.
8. Species caught other than Smallmouth Bass must be returned to tournament waters immediately. No fish, other than Smallmouth Bass will be kept in the boat during tournament hours, up to including the completion of weigh-in for the tournament field.

Boats and Motors

1. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disallow the use of any boat, motor and/or equipment deemed unsafe, inappropriate or unsuitable.
2. All boats must be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in length. Canoes, dinghies, barges, houseboats or similar craft are not permitted.
3. All boats, motors and their equipment must meet Canadian Coast Guard standards.
4. All boats equipped with any emergency kill switch must have the kill switch securely attached to the operator whenever the boat is on plane.

Launching and Morning Equipment Inspections

1. Teams are required to have their equipment ready and on the water thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Late arrivals will be penalized and leave at the end of the take off after all other teams have departed.
2. Boat inspections will commence at 7:00 a.m. at the LaVerendrye Boat Launch.
3. Teams must have all tackle boxes, hatches and live wells ready for inspection.
4. Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to: team number motor tags properly affixed; operation of live well; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen, or freeze-dried bait, no underwater cameras and for required safety equipment.
5. Failure to report for daily boat inspection will result in disqualification of their catch.

Start & Tournament Hours

1. Tournament angling hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Teams will be started in order of their assigned team number issued at registration. Official start time is 8:00 a.m. and official return time is 4:00 p.m. At commencement of official start time, teams will be called and released every few seconds using a signal flag (trickle start). Each team must acknowledge by waving at the Official Starter.
3. Any team starting or attempting to start out of order will be held back by the Official Starter until all boats have departed.
4. Any team with lures in the water prior to their official start/release according to assigned boat number will be disqualified.
5. Return/check-in time for all teams is 4:00 p.m. Any teams returning for weigh-in after 4:00 p.m. will be disqualified.

Sportsmanship and Courtesy

1. It is strictly prohibited for any competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any weighable fish to, from or with any competitor or non-competitor.
2. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, particularly with regards to boating and fishing in the vicinity of a non-competitor.
3. Use of cellular phones is prohibited unless for emergency situations only.

Safety

1. All competitors must practice safe boating at all times during tournament fishing.
2. Every competitor must wear a fully secured Coast Guard approved life jacket whenever the main combustion engine is in operation.
3. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by competitors during the tournament fishing hours.
4. Any team charged with an offense by any law enforcement agency during the tournament fishing hours will be disqualified.
5. Competitors may not leave their boats except in the event of a thunderstorm, lightening or severe weather or other emergency. Anglers may in these situations, pull onto the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.
6. Every team, whether weighing fish or not, must check in at the check-in dock located at the starting location. The penalty for failing to report will be disqualification of the team. The check-in dock will be ready for check-ins at 12:00 p.m. each day. If breakdowns force a team in early, they must check in at the designated weigh station.

Mechanical Breakdowns or Emergencies

1. A team that has a mechanical problem may not use a different boat to finish that tournament day.
2. In the event of a break down the competitor must call the following phone number (204) 295-9420 and get clearance from the tournament Official to either transfer their catch to another competitor's boat or be towed in by another competitor. The transfer of fish can only be done if there are two live wells and one competitor from the broken down boat must accompany the catch back to the check in.

On the Water

1. Competitors are personally responsible for knowing all tournament rules, as well as the current Manitoba Fishing Regulations and Canadian Coast Guard regulations. Teams found to have violated federal or provincial fishing and boating regulations during the tournament may be disqualified when this information is confirmed by tournament Officials. This judgment could also apply to eligibility to participate in future tournaments.
2. Competitors are not allowed to toss or pass any items (to another boat or to receive any items) from another boat.
3. All teams and their equipment are subject to inspection at any time during the tournament. Committee patrol boats may come alongside, following proper identification, and if necessary, board to check for adherence to all tournament rules. No other boat may come in contact with a Competitor's boat at any time.
4. No competitor shall step on shore without approval or accompaniment by a tournament Official (except in adverse weather conditions).
5. No fishing information may be given to or exchanged with competitors during the tournament fishing hours by tournament or non-tournament anglers.
6. Each boat must respect a 50 foot diameter fishing circle, which may not be fished or navigated through by another boat.
7. Competitors are expected to co-operate as much as possible with official video and still photography personnel.

Tackle and Equipment

1. Only artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind and commercially available liquid attractants may be used.
2. No live, dead, frozen or freeze-dried bait of any kind may be used or possessed by any competitor during the tournament. Teams caught using prohibited baits will be disqualified.
3. The use, in live wells, of commercially available fish care chemicals is permitted.
4. The use of underwater cameras or any similar device is prohibited during the tournament.
5. Use of BISONIC EQUIPMENT is prohibited.
6. All items and equipment are subject to inspection at any time during the tournament. Official tournament boats may come alongside and come aboard and inspect the competitor's boat at any time.

Violations and Protest

1. General Penalties: teams may be disqualified from the tournament for frequent or major infractions of the rules and will not receive a refund of their entry fee. Examples of major infractions include unsafe boating practices, gross angling ethics violations and violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors, such as; movement of fish, use of live bait, fishing out of bounds, caged fish, violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations, exchanging fish between
2. Each team captain has the right to file a protest when they have firsthand knowledge that a rule has been broken or violated by another team.
3. The "violations" Committee will be comprised of the top 3 team captains, and they will interpret the rules according to their 'spirit and intent'. The decisions of the Committee are final, and not subject to review at any time.
4. If the protest is found to be valid, the penalized team will be dealt with as the Committee sees fit.

Boundaries

1. All waters accessible by boat from the LaVerendrye Boat Launch in the Winnipeg River including south to the Seven Sisters Generating Station, north to the McArthur Falls Generating Station, Lac Du Bonnet proper, Bird River and Lee River south to the Pinawa Dam. See graphic below for detail.

Tie Breakers

1. In the event of a tie, the team with the heaviest single bass of the tournament will govern.

Changes and Amendments

1. The Executives of the Manitoba Bass Anglers retain the right to change or amend any or all of these preceding rules at their sole discretion without prior notification or consultation with the Competitors.

For more information or in case of emergency please contact

Ben Lang (204) 295-9420

Graphical Representation of Boundaries

