



MORSON BASS INTERNATIONAL August 19 & 20, 2017

TOURNAMENT RULES

The following are the rules of the 2017 Morson Bass International (MBI) Live Release Tournament

TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- a) The Morson Bass International (MBI) Tournament format is a two person team, fishing for two days, total combined weight, live release tournament.
- b) The Tournament Director has the right to delay or shorten the tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations.
- c) All Competitors and Officials will conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner. As competitors, each person represents not only their team and sponsors, but also the MBI, officials and other teams.
- d) MBI, its promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers and affiliated organizations assisting in the operation of any aspect of the tournament, their agencies and/or agents and assigns are not responsible for any death, injury, damage, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the tournament howsoever caused.
- e) All references to money are in Canadian Dollars.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- a) Competitors must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age as of June 30 of the year of competition, unless they have the permission of their parents or guardians. All participants will require a WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT signed by them or by their parents or guardians if applicable.
- b) All anglers must possess a valid Ontario Sport Fishing License except those exempt by the provincial fisheries regulations. All boat operators must possess a Pleasure Craft Operator Card (Boater Safety) except those exempt by the provincial fisheries regulations.
- c) MBI reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual or team for any reason that the Tournament Committee may deem appropriate.

ENTRY FEE

- a) The entry fee for the Tournament is \$400.00 (Canadian Funds) per team.
- b) The entry fee is non-refundable.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

- a) Unlimited Pre-tournament practice is allowed.
- b) Moving fish from one location to another during pre-tournament practice is prohibited, unless specifically requested by the Tournament Director for special purposes. Violations could result in tournament disqualification.
- c) All competitors must cease pre-tournament fishing by 4:00 p.m. the day prior to Day 1 of the competition.
- d) No contestant may enter the tournament waters for the purpose of catching or locating bass or possible fishing locations after daily tournament hours.

BOAT NUMBERS AND ANGLER KITS

Boat numbers and angler kits will be available to registered teams at the rules meeting on Friday, August 18, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at the Morson Hall.

RULES MEETING

- a) The rules meeting will be held at the Morson Hall starting at 6:30 p.m. on the Friday immediately prior to Day One.
- b) Teams must receive rule updates and starting position numbers at rules meeting. At least one and preferably both members of the team must attend the Officials Rules Meeting.
- c) If not able to attend. You must notify the committee prior to the rules meeting. Boats may still enter Saturday morning; if required rules will be reviewed.

LIVE RELEASE OF FISH

- a) Fixed or portable aerated live wells capable of supporting life are mandatory and every effort must be made to keep Bass alive.
- b) Under no circumstances can a fish be purposely altered.
- c) Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, stringered, injected with water or other fluids, containing foreign matter to add weight or showing white gills or soft flesh will result in disqualification of the team.

PENALTY FOR LATE CHECK-IN

Contestants who are late crossing the finish line at the end of the day for whatever reason, including breakdown, will be penalized 4 oz. (0.25 lb) per minute for each minute they are late, up to five minutes maximum. 4 oz. (0.25 lb) will also be deducted for every minute late for any fish being weighed towards "Big Fish: daily prize. Contestants arriving 5:01 minutes late and onwards will have that day's weight disqualified. GPS Clock will only be used for official tournament time. The GPS Clock at the doc check-in is the official time.

SCORING

- a) Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass legally caught on a tournament day by angling qualify for weigh-in.
- b) A daily limit of five (5) bass per team will be weighed. A team may possess the daily Ministry of Natural Resources limit while angling only. While under main engine only five (5) bass may be retained in the live well(s). The penalty for failure to comply is disqualification of the day's weight.
- c) The minimum length is twelve (12) inches measured from the tip of the nose with mouth closed to the end of the tail with the tail compressed.
- d) Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to meet the official minimum length will not be weighed and that day's weight will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each "short" fish. In the event that assessing weight penalties results in a negative total weight for the day, the negative weight shall be carried forward to the next day or subtracted from the existing team total, whichever is appropriate.
- e) Each team's fish must be presented to the Weigh Master or his/her assistants in the official bags supplied by the tournament organizers.
- f) All weights, upon verbal acceptance by the team captain, and then publicly called by the Weigh Master, are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
- g) Dead bass presented for weigh-in will be weighed. Four (4) ounces will be deducted from the total daily weight for each dead or non-releasable fish that is weighed.

BOATS AND MOTORS

- a) No barges, houseboats or similar cumbersome craft will be allowed.
- b) All boats, motors and their equipment must meet Canadian Coast Guard standards.
- c) The tournament director reserves the right to disallow the use of any boat, motor and/or equipment deemed unsafe, inappropriate or unsuitable.
- d) All boats equipped with an emergency kill switch mechanism must have the kill switch tether securely attached to the operator whenever the boat is on plane.
- e) Team number motor tag will be given out at registration. The numbers must be affixed to the right (starboard side) cowling of the main combustion engine so that they are clearly and plainly visible. Additional start position numbers may be given out at the beginning of Day Two and shall be affixed to the bottom left corner of the main motor tag before starting.

DAILY LAUNCHING AND MORNING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- a) Boat inspections will be conducted at the Government Dock between 6:30 a.m. and 7:15 a.m.
- b) Teams are required to have their equipment ready and on the water thirty (30) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time of their flight.
- c) Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to: Team motor number properly affixed; Day Two starting position number properly affixed; operation of live well; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen or freeze-dried bait, no underwater cameras and required safety equipment.
- d) Teams must have all tackle boxes, hatches and live wells open for easy inspection.
- e) Upon completion of the daily morning inspection, each Team Captain must sign the inspection form prior to departure from the dock.

FLIGHTS, TRICKLE STARTS, RETURN TIMES

- a) The Official Starter will release teams, by number, using a trickle start, commencing at 7:30 a.m.
- b) On Day One (1) teams will be started in order of their assigned start positions. They will be called and released every few seconds using a P.A. and blow horn system. Each team must officially acknowledge being called by waving to the Official Starter.
- c) Any team starting or attempting to start out of order will be held by the Official Starter until the balance of the flight has parted. One pound will be deducted for each position jumped if unable to hold boat back.
- d) Starting position on Day Two will be determined by Day One standings – Largest total weight is the 1st starting position.
- e) Teams may return to the dock earlier than their scheduled time but will not be weighed in until weigh in starts at 3:30 p.m.

SPORTSMANSHIP AND COURTESY

- a) All competitors must practice safe boating at all times during practice and tournament fishing.
- b) Every competitor must wear a fully secured Coast Guard Approved life jacket or floatation device while traveling from one location to another at other than trolling or drifting speed, and where so equipped tethered kill switches must be attached to the drivers' body.
- c) No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs may be possessed or consumed by the competitors during tournament fishing hours up to and including the weighing of their catch.
- d) In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning or severe weather, teams may pull onto the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing. Competitor(s) may not leave their boats during the tournament except at the Official Weigh-in Station or if severe weather or a bathroom break forces them ashore.
- e) Every team, whether weighing fish or not, must, at the end of each day, report to the Official Tournament Check-in Station.
- f) 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.
- g) All competitors must remain fifty (50) yards from another competitor's boat.
- h) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, particularly with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of a non-competitor.
- i) Use of cellular phones, CB's or VHF radios are prohibited unless for emergency reasons only.

MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN OR EMERGENCIES

- a) Committee patrol boats are prohibited from towing any competitor's boat during tournament fishing hours.
- b) Teams must notify a tournament official if an emergency or breakdown has occurred.
- c) A team that has a mechanical problem that is towed in without the supervision of a tournament official may not use a different boat to finish the day's fishing and their day's weight will be forfeited.
- d) If a team has a mechanical problem but can get back to the Morson Government Dock on their own, or is under the supervision of a tournament official they may use a different boat to finish the day's fishing.
- e) If a team does not come in on their own power the team is disqualified.

ON THE WATER

- a) Competitors are personally responsible for knowing all Tournament Rules, as well as the current Ontario Sport Fishing Regulations and Canadian Coast Guard Regulations.
Penalty: Teams found to have violated Federal or Provincial fishing and boating regulations during the tournament may be disqualified when this information is confirmed by a Tournament Official.
- b) No live bait, frozen or freeze-dried bait of any kind may be used or possessed by any competitor at any time during the tournament.
- c) The use, in live wells, of commercially available fish care chemicals is permitted.

RULE (S) VIOLATIONS AND PROTEST

- a) Each team captain has the right to file a protest when they have first hand knowledge that a rule or rules may have been broken or violated by another team. A protest must be filed within fifteen (15) minutes of weigh-in to be considered. A \$50.00 fee must accompany all protests.
- b) Witness(es) may be called to appear before the Protest Committee to provide evidence relating to the alleged rule infraction.
- c) The committee will interpret the rules according to their spirit and intent. The decision of the Protest Committee is final and not subject to review of any kind.
- d) If the protest is found to be valid, the protest fee will be returned forthwith and the team protested against must pay the protest fee and any penalties imposed if applicable.
- e) If the protest is determined to be invalid the protest fee will not be returned.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- a) Out of bounds – Hanson Bay (Government Dock Bay) and U.S.A. waters.

TIE BREAKER

The team with the biggest weight of any one day will win the tie breaker for any tie breaker.

CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

- a) Morson Bass International retains 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.
- b) Final Approved Official Rules of the 2017 Morson Bass International Live Release Tournament on Lake of the Woods will be given to all teams as part of their Registration Package, subject only to clarification(s) arising from the Official Rules Meeting held on the Friday immediately prior to Day One.