



# *MONTGOMERY COUNTY BASS CLUB*

LATEST REVISION DATED 11-11-2019

## MCBC Tournament Rules and Regulations

*Chris Lanier President  
Evan Ledford Tournament Director*

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# *Montgomery County Bass Club*

## MCBC Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. **Safety:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is running. The preserver must be strapped, snapped and zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches the fishing location and the combustion engine is shut-off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.
2. **Sportsmanship:** Competitors in MCBC tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol and non-prescription drugs or controlled substances during tournament hours is cause for expulsion from membership from the club. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regards to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors, who may be on tournament waters. At no time shall a competitor fish within 50 yards in either direction of another person's boat (competitor or non-competitor) provided you were not at that location first. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorable upon the MCBC's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.
3. **Pairings for MCBC tournaments** will be of random drawing (unless specifically stated) and will take place at the club meeting prior to the tournament. Additionally, Boaters and non-boaters cannot be paired up for consecutive club tournaments nor can they be paired up more than 2 times during the season unless there is no feasible alternative. The tournament fee will be \$25.00/per person (\$10 will go for payment of 3 places; \$5 for Big Bass Pot; \$5 into club treasury; \$5 into Classic). Pre-paid tournament fees will be refunded if member cancels tournament participation due to an unexpected work scheduling or medical/family emergency reasons, per discretion of the tournament director/committee. **Boater order would be drawn first.** After a boater has been paired with a non-boater, that boater will not be paired again until all participating boaters in a point tournament have drawn a non-boater for the year. After 8:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament, boaters without a fishing partner may elect to bring a guest or fish with another non-paired boater; however, they are limited to fishing with the boater drawn immediately after them during the tournament draw. Effective January 2014 Boaters entering a point tournament after the draw are restricted to being non-boaters; Exceptions can be granted by the sitting officers on a case by case basis.
4. **Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial lure may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one (1) casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only one (1) is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in conventional sporting manner. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
5. **Boat and Motor:** For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Fishing boats of 14 feet or more in length may be used. A small gas or electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering.

6. **Basic Boat Equipment:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment including a boat oar and throw cushion. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and LIVE-WELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN AND KEEP ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH ANGLERS USING THE BOAT. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate.”

7. **Boat Operation and Expense:** **A full discussion should be held between the two partners prior to departure to determine licensing requirements, sharing of expenses and safety issues.** Distance traveled to fishing location must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on an amount for sharing operational expenses, **the recommended amount is thirty dollars (\$30) for the day. However, this does not preclude the Boater and Non-boater from agreeing to a different amount.**

8. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of an emergency or for bathroom breaks.

9. **Official Launch Site & Postponement or Relocation of a Tournament:** The MCBC Tournament Schedule will identify the chosen dock site for launch and weigh-in at the close of the tournament. There may be a change in the starting time, tournament location or the postponement of a tournament, if in the opinion of the Tournament Committee; it is not safe to conduct a tournament due to adverse weather conditions, and/or unsafe ramp or water conditions. If the Tournament Committee decides to relocate a tournament prior to the morning of the tournament, 100% of members fishing must be notified.

10. **Guests:** Club members will be limited to two (2) guests total per tournament year. In all cases, guests will be required to fish as a Non-boater and allowed to only fish with their sponsor. Guests cannot accumulate points nor can their fish be added to the weight of the sponsor for point purposes. All guests will be required to sign a waiver prior to fishing the tournament. Members will be required to state that they are bringing a guest prior to the draw. Guests cannot be brought to consecutive point tournaments nor can any one guest fish more than 2 point tournaments per year.

Additionally once the member states that they will be bringing a guest, they will be using one of their allocated invitations regardless if the guest actually attends or not.

In the event that a club member declares that they are bringing a guest prior to a point tournament, but does not fish that tournament, the declared guest will not count against their guest allocation, nor will it affect their ability to declare a guest in the following tournament. It will only count against their allocation if they fish the tournament in which they have stated they are bringing a guest.

A guest is defined as a family member, friend or potential member.

Members who are on a reserve status or former members who wish to fish a point tournament may do so as part of the draw. However, they are limited to 1 point tournament per season and may not accumulate points unless they have paid their dues prior to the tournament.

After 8:00 pm on the Wednesday prior to the tournament, boaters without a fishing partner may elect to bring a guest. This guest will not be counted as a guest allocation provided the boater had fully participated in the draw and never drew a club member as a partner.

11. The Tournament Director will determine the Angler of the Year and the State Team Qualifiers by totaling points earned during the tournament season.

**\*\*Tournament Results Points will be assessed as follows: (In case of tie, affected points are combined and evenly divided)**

PLACE	POINTS
1	100
2	90
3	85
4	80
5	75
6	71
7	67
8	63
9	59
10	55
11	52
12	49
13	46
14	43
15	40
16	38
17	36
18	34
19	32
20	30
21	29
22	28
23	27
24	26
25	25
26	24
27	23
28	22

29	21	
30	20	
31	20	30TH PLACE ON 20 POINTS
32	20	
33	20	
34	20	
35	20	
NO FISH BIG BASS	10   5	

The two (2) lowest event scores of each year for each member will not be used in the AOY and State Team qualifier selection process.

## 12. Scoring

Prior to scoring the tournament the Secretary will determine if the member is in good standing. If it is determined that the member is not in good standing prior to the tournament (IE has not paid annual club dues prior to the tournament and or is not a member in good standing with B.A.S.S.) the member will be not be awarded points for the tournament and limited to fishing that tournament. The member will also not be allowed to collect points towards AOY or the State Team until such time as the discrepancy has been resolved. Points will not be awarded retroactively unless it has been determined that the Not in Good Standing status is a club clerical error.

A. Tournament results, awards and winner will be determined by raw weight in pounds and ounces after deduction of penalty points for dead fish, if any, at the conclusion of the weigh-in. For each legal dead fish weighed-in, the competitor will be penalized ½ lb or .5 of weight to be deducted from their total weight for the tournament. The tournament director will have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

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B. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted (Kentucky), or red-eye bass will be weighed in.

C. The limit shall be five fish per contestant per day. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than their limit of fish. Upon catching your 6th fish, when having 5 fish in possession; 1 fish must be culled and released immediately back into the tournament waters. A contestant will be disqualified if more than 5 fish are brought to the weigh-in. "There will be no culling of dead fish".

D. The official length for all species of bass presented at weigh-in during MCBC's tournaments will be determined by the relevant state regulations. The minimum size will be 12" inches should the regulations allow for less than that. Bass presented for weigh-in that are short will be thrown out with a 1/2lb penalty deducted from the total weight.

E. Any bass that appears to have been mauled, mashed, mangled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament director.

F. Each competitor must present their own fish for weigh-in, exception the case of an emergency (i.e. a boat becomes disabled, one angler may take the fish of another angler in another contestant's boat to weigh-in while the other angler remains with the disabled boat).

G. Weigh-in bags will be provided by the club for transportation of your fish to the scale. You will have water in the weigh-in bag when transporting the fish to the scale.

H. The tournament year will run concurrent with the calendar year. Year-end standings and team membership will be announced after the final point tournament on the schedule. The selected team will be eligible to fish the following Regional TBF Tournament.

13. Don't Kill your Catch: Each competitor is expected to keep his fish alive by use of a properly aerated live-well. Bass stringer'ed at any time will result in automatic disqualification. The few fish that do not survive will become the property of the MCBC.

14. Late Penalty: Official tournament hours will be determined by the tournament director and posted on the approved schedule. If you are not in the no-wake zone at the designated time, you will be penalized eight (8) ounces for every minute you are late. There will be no excuses. Late penalties will be deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted towards big fish for the day. If you are more than fifteen (15) minutes late, you will lose all weight for that day. All fishing will cease at the designated check-in time. After a tournament begins, fishing is prohibited except during official tournament hours.

15. Ties: In case of a tie, tournament winnings for the place(s) involved will be combined and split evenly.

16. Cost: The cost for a MCBC tournament will be \$25.00. This includes \$5 for big bass pot (which goes for 100% for big bass) \$5 for the end of year classic, and \$5 to go in club treasury. The remaining \$10 of the tournament money will be divided as follows:

1st place boat	50%
2nd place boat	30%
3rd place boat	20%

An additional places will be paid for any tournament which has more than 30 people and for every 10 people above 30.

Example: 1-30 people 3 places  
31-40 people 4 places  
41-50 people 5 places

When places are paid above 30 people the total winnings will be \$20 per place.

17. Checks issued for Tournament winnings must be cashed within 30 days from date of issue. Checks that have not been cashed after 30 days will have a stop payment fee deducted from the winnings before a new check is issued.

18. Late Starts: If a competitor, due to an acceptable reason, which has been pre-approved by the tournament director, must start late, this person shall do the following:

(a) Notify his partner and make arrangements for pick-up at a pre-arranged time, since his partner will already be fishing.

(b) Make sure that the tournament director receives the entry fee no later than 30 minutes after the termination of the tournament. The only exception will be disabled boat in the water to which you will give your entry fee to the tournament director immediately upon arriving at the dock site.

19. Missing a Tournament: At the discretion of the Tournament Director ten (10) points will be deducted from the members yearly score if he signs up for a tournament and fails to show up, provided he has not informed his partner and the tournament director by 8:00 p.m. on the Thursday preceding the tournament.

20. Fishing Alone or as a Team: When a competitor has to fish alone during a tournament, the following special circumstances will take effect: each competitor will weigh-in up to their limit of fish for individual weight, points and placing; In the event that all competitors are paired up and fishing as a team the teams will first weigh- in individually for points and then the team's total weight will be combined to determine placement.

21. Rule changes: Tournament rule and regulations can be changed in accordance to article XVII in the MCBC By-laws. Interpretations of these rules shall be left to the tournament director and the tournament committee.

22. MCBC Classic - The Classic is a two day tournament held after the last point tournament of the year. The two daily weight totals will be added together and positions paid accordingly. Members must fish 6 of the 8 yearly point tournaments to qualify to fish the Classic. If an angler did not fish 6 of the 8 tournaments but wants to fish The Classic then you will owe double the entry fee of the tournament. So, if you fished 5 of the 8 and wanted to fish the classic then you would have to pay \$50 for the tournament missed which would all go toward the classic payout. If you fished 4 of 8 then cost would be \$100 all toward The Classic. Everyone fishing The Classic still has to pay the entry fee. The Classic location will be proposed and voted on as part of the club tournament schedule. Classic blast off order pre-determined based upon your angler of the year standing. Classic will pay out to 3 or 4 positions and 1 Big Fish. Classic entry is \$20, with all going to the big fish pot. The big fish will be the biggest of the two days. The classic does NOT carry any point value. No guests allowed in the classic. \$5 from each regular tournament fees will go to the Classic for payout of overall weights. Payout for The Classic will be 50% for 1st place, 30% for 2nd place and 20% for 3rd place for 3 positions. The payout will be 4 positions if there are 30 or more anglers and will be 50%, 25%, 15%, and 10%.



## APPENDIX A

### 1. Seven Pound Pot Program:

The **Seven Pound Pot Program** is for any bass, weighing 7pounds or more, caught during a point tournament. The entry fee will be set at \$25 per person per year with a cap of \$50. Additionally, entry fees into the **7 Pound Pot** must be paid prior to the first point tournament of the year for existing members or in the case of a new member prior to participating in their first point tournament. In the event a **7 pound** bass is caught during a point tournament the winnings will be paid and the program will begin again with a minimum entry fee of \$25 for anyone wanting to participate prior to the next point tournament. (Under this program any fish **Seven Pounds** or larger would be also be eligible for the Big Bass of the Year Award). Only fish caught during club point tournaments “and the club Classic/Championship” are eligible. Entry fees are to be paid to the Treasurer who will maintain a list of participants and account for the money.

### 2. Annual Big Bass Award

Beginning in February 2009 any member who wishes to compete in the Big Bass of the Year Award Program will be required to pay a \$25 entry fee. During the Annual Christmas and Awards Party the participating member who catches the biggest bass of the year will be awarded the Big Bass of the Year Pot. Any members who wish to participate in this program must have paid into the program before submitting a fish as a candidate for the Big Bass of the Year Award. Only fish caught during Club Point Tournaments can be submitted. Entry fees are to be paid to the Treasurer who will maintain a list of participants and account for the money.

## APPENDIX B

### 1. Club Funded Support

This program applies to the members who achieve a level of excellence among their fellow club members. There is no stipulation in this program that requires the club to exceed budget constraints or to incur debt in order to fulfill these articles. The funding for this program is not to exceed 12 anglers.

- a. The State Team Captain will be the current Angler of the Year. The Captain will determine the team make -up. Boater and non-boaters will be determined solely by using the final Angler of the Year Standings from the previous year as provided by the Tournament Director. New members who want to fish on the State Team and join after the final AOY Standings have been posted will be non-boaters.
- b. The following rules apply providing the club has sufficient funds as determined by the President's budget and membership to support the program. The club will fund the top 12 anglers from the club as determined by the Angler of the Year standings as of the end of the year. Anglers 1-6, will be funded by the club with state team entry fees (Currently cost \$75 entry fee) being paid and a stipend ( \$100 per top 6 competitors ) as determined under the President's budget. Anglers 7-12 will have entry fees (currently \$75) only paid with no stipend as defined by the President's budget.
- c. Any member outside the top 12, a new member or a member from another club is allowed to fish on the state team but they will be responsible for paying their own entry fees and not funded by the club.
- d. The President and State Team Captain will determine how and when the stipend will be paid. However, no funds or entry fees under this rule will be distributed to a person who does not fish as a State Team Member.
- e. The current stipend that is paid to those who make the Divisional Team is \$200. This is only paid to those anglers that are on the team, not those that are named or choose to be alternates.