

2019 40th Annual Minnetonka Classic Bass Tournament Rules

- 1. PARTICIPATING AND ELIGABILITY:** Any person 18 years of age or older may participate. Any person age 16 or 17 years of age may participate with parent or guardian or have signed permission slip from same to be eligible to participate. Limit is 100 team entries. The MN B.A.S.S. Nation tournament committee reserves the right to reject any and all entries. By paying the entry fee, you agree to the rules and agree that all liabilities of the sponsors and tournament directors are waived with no exceptions. Payouts based on 100 teams.
- 2. REGISTRATION:** Each team must return a completed entry form with full payment Postmarked by May 22nd 2018. The rules will be reviewed and interpreted, and boat positions drawn at the pre-tournament meeting on May 31st 2019, registration and late entries will be from 5:30pm – 6:30pm with the meeting starting at 6:45pm. Late entries will be accepted after May 22nd 2018 at the pre-tournament meeting (only) if team space is available (first come first serve) along with a \$30.00 late entry fee in **(CASH ONLY)**. Pre tournament meeting is at American Legion Post#398 2333 Wilshire BLVD Mound, MN.
- 3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** Bass opener, up to sunset. May 31st 2019.
- 4. SAFETY:** All contestants are required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver at any time the main combustion engine is operating. All boats are required to be equipped with an OPERATING SAFETY TETHER (KILL) SWITCH. Any boat 16 feet in length or longer; and/or has a built in fuel system is required to have a fire extinguisher, horn or whistle, and a throwable life preserver.
- 6. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** Engine horsepower must not exceed the maximum horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacture.
- 5. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Maximum courtesy will be shown at all times. Any boating rules broken is cause for immediate disqualification... (Speeding in slow zones, etc) Contestants choosing to have other occupied boats "HOLD" fishing areas will be in violation of this rule section. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are allowed to be consumed or in contestants boats. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are to be at or consumed at the weigh-in site.
- 7. TICKETS:** Any team that receives a ticket from the DNR or the Sheriff's Water Patrol during tournament hours is grounds for disqualification.
- 8. NOISE AND SPEED LIMITS:** A person may not operate any watercraft on the lake so as to exceed a noise level of 80 dbs at 50 ft. The sheriff may order a noise test. A. 40 miles per hour during the daytime B. 20 miles per hour during the nighttime C. 5 miles per hour in the following areas: quiet water areas, that area within 150 feet of the shore of the lake, that area within 150 feet of an authorized bathing area or swimming, and authorized scuba diver's warning flag, and anchored raft or watercraft, or a dock or pier.
- 9. ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATIONS:** Prior to entering Lake Minnetonka, all watercraft that have been in waters known to be infested with Zebra Mussels, which presently include the Mississippi down stream of St. Anthony Falls and the Mississippi in Iowa, Duluth Harbor and Estuary- Lake Superior, Two Harbors-Harbor area- Lake Superior, St. Louis River (down stream of Fond' du Lac dam. Wisconsin areas include, Big Elkhart Lake (Sheybotgan Co.), Silver Lake (Kenosha Co.), Lake Geneva (Walworth Co.), Racine Quarry (Racine Co.), Lake Michigan, must be thoroughly dried or washed down with hot water at least 140 degrees F., inside and out. Also, participants must clean all lake weeds from watercraft including live wells and other internal locations, as well as external locations including trailers, upon leaving the lake. Additional rules may apply.
- 10. TACKLE&EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial baits are allowed. No trolling of lures is permitted. No raised platforms allowed on boats. Nets are allowed to land your catch. Underwater cameras are not permitted.
- 11. LIVEWELLS:** All boats are required to have operating live wells – either recirculating or flow-through.
- 12. OFF-LIMIT FISHING LOCATIONS:** Contestants will not fish any marked spawning grounds. Contestants will not fish within 150 yards of the tournament weigh-in location. Courtesy will be observed while fishing same shorelines. No anchored boat shall permit any competitor to fish within 50 yards of his anchor.
- 13. OFFICAL CHECKPOINT:** Ease-off location and times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting at 6:45 pm Friday May 31st 2019. Weigh-in will be at Mound Bay Park (Surfside), Mound, on Lake Minnetonka.
- 14. SCORING:** Largemouth & Smallmouth bass are eligible to be weighed, with an six (6) fish limit per team. There will be a 12 inch minimum length (Common Bass Pro Ruler) per fish. Any short fish weighed in will be deducted a penalty of one (1) pound from the remaining catch. One pound will be deducted for each dead fish weighed in. All measured fish will be closed-mouth and fanned-tailed for measuring. Any team bringing more than the tournament limit of 6 fish to the scales will be disqualified.
- 15. LATE PENALTY:** Anyone arriving late for ease-off will be allowed to fish after boat inspection and then placed at the end on the line for ease-off. Any contestant not in for weigh-in at his or her specified times will be disqualified.
- 16. TIES:** Three levels of tiebreakers will be used...1st: Total number of fish weighed in by each team, 2nd: largest fish, 3rd: splitting of the prize.
- 17. PROTESTS POLYGRAPHS:** Any protest regarding tournament contestants must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director by the start of the awards ceremony. Tournament Director reserves the right to require a polygraph test of any participant at any time. This test does not have to be administered on site and may be set up by the Tournament Director at his/her discretion. All participants agree to abide by the results of any polygraph test administered. In the event of a protest the protesting team or individual must present in written form a detailed account of the complaint and a 75.00 protest fee to the Tournament Director. The letter or the acknowledgement of a letter being written must occur within the window of time mentioned above. The fee will be returned only upon positive verification of the protest and the tournament director has the discretion of mailing any and all checks to any teams pending the outcome. All decisions regarding protests will be made with the "spirit and intent of the rule" taken into "best context" with the director's decision being final.
- 18. COMMUNICATION:** Anglers shall be prohibited from using, but not limited to cell phones, pagers, text messaging or marine band radio during tournament hours, other than for an emergency or contacting a tournament official. Contestants must stay a boat length away from any other boat during tournament hours.
- 19. WEIGH-IN:** You must report your boat number to the tournament official check in boat by your weigh in time. Any bass presented for weigh in that shows signs of being on a stringer, caging, out of the ordinary condition or coloring will not be weighed. Contestants can only use tournament supplied bags to transport the fish to the scales.
- 20. BOAT INSPECTION:** A full interior compartment check prior to "Ease off" will be conducted at an access or at the ease off location. After inspection boats will be "tagged" with an identifying tape which will be required to stay visible on the boat during tournament hours.
- 21. INSURANCE:** Liability insurance with coverage in Minnesota, with minimum amounts or \$300,000 is required.
- 22. PUBLICATION RIGHTS:** Each contestant agrees to allow MN B.A.S.S. Nation the sole and exclusive right to take and publish photographs, motion pictures, and/or videotape footage of him or her as a contestant and use this material, or dispose of it, in any legal manner without further permission or compensation to the contestant.