



2016 Tournament Rules and Regulations

FORMAT

This is a team tournament format. However, you may fish solo if you desire to do so. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Contestants cannot leave a boat to land a fish. A live well inspection will be performed prior to being released per your launch position. Launch times and check in will be determined by the tournament director at each event. Launch order will be determined by the order that you check in at the ramp or you may pre-register by mail or online and receive your boat number for upcoming event based on the order it was received.

There is a one time \$20.00 participation fee for each new angler. Your one time fee covers you for the entire 7 event season. Each angler will automatically be entered in the drawing to be held at the final event of season at which a Lews Tournament Pro G Bait casting reel, valued at \$199.99 will be awarded.

Tournament entry fee is \$200.00 per team, \$10.00 for Big Bass (optional). Payout is 90% of total tournament entry fees and will pay one place per every six boats entered. Each angler will be required to fill out in its entirety and sign an entry form prior to competing. (5) fish limit of Largemouth and smallmouth bass.

INSURANCE & LIABILITY

It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to carry and have proof of adequate public liability insurance covering them and passengers. All contestants are required to sign a waiver absolving the tournament sponsors, co-sponsors and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have in their possession and provide proof of insurance on demand by the tournament director. All participants agree to hold harmless The Bass College and Battle on the Bay Tournament officers, directors and agents.

SAFETY

Boating safety must be observed at all times during competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver must be on and fastened anytime the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch lanyard must be attached to the driver during competition day. It is suggested that this be practiced during any practice day, but will be enforced only on competition day. A violation during a competition will result in a disqualification.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All teams are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any team who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or any Maryland Fish and Wildlife, state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified.

Specifically the use of obscene language or gestures is strictly forbidden at any time prior to, during, or after the event in the area of the host marina. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification or other penalty.

Use of alcohol or drugs, other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician, by any competitor during an official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and all future tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters.

Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Directors, is detrimental to the operation of tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to Battle on the Bay Tournament Trail, or any of its sponsors during or after the tournaments may result in temporary or permanent suspension from all future Battle on the Bay Bass tournaments.

BOATS AND MOTORS

There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have lights required by the U.S. Coast Guard.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod per angler may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made.

SCORING

Each team may weigh-in five (5) fish limit of Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass with a minimum of length per Maryland state law. Any team bringing more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. Any measurements will be done with a measuring board with the mouth closed. Any team weighing in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one (1) lb. penalty plus the loss of all short fish. A dead fish will be a one half pound penalty per dead fish.

It is the responsibility of each team to keep no more than a maximum of the tournament limit (5) fish in a live well. If more than the tournament limit is present in the live well during the event you will be subject to disqualification. **You cannot cull a dead fish.**

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS

At no time during tournament hours are any alcoholic beverages or drugs other than prescription allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water. All local and state laws will be enforced.

TIE BREAKERS

Big bass breaks all ties.

LATE PENALTY

TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

All contestants, winners and non-winners are subject to a polygraph test or a voice stress analysis examination. Failure to submit to either test will result in immediate disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test or a voice stress analysis examination in connection with any bass tournament for cheating or whose results are found to be inconclusive will not be eligible to compete in Battle on the Bay Bass Fishing Tournaments.