



MINN-KOTA



HUMMINBIRD

Tournament of Champions

10/09/10

OFFICIAL RULES—VERSION 2.0

1) TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- The Tournament of Champions format is a one person, fishing for one day, total combined length, live release Tournament, October 9, 2010, starting at 8:00 am and ending at 3:00 pm.
- The Tournament Director has the right to delay or shorten the Tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations.
- All Competitors and Officials will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner. As Competitors, each person represents not only themselves and Sponsors, but also the Tournament of Champions, Officials and other competitors.
- The Tournament of Champions, its promoters, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers and affiliated organizations assisting in the operation of any aspect of the Challenge, 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..

2) PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- Competitors must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age as of October 8, 2010, unless they have the permission of their parents or guardians. All participants, upon signing an accepted entry form, will in effect be signing a waiver form.
- All anglers must possess a valid Manitoba and Ontario Fishing License except those exempt by the provincial fisheries regulations.
- The Tournament of Champions reserves the right to refuse entry to any Individual for any reason that the Tournament Committee may deem appropriate.

3) ENTRY

- The top 5 point leading Manitoba Bass Angler members as of October 6, 2010 at 7:45 PM qualify for entry into the Tournament of Champions.
- One (1) additional entry into the Tournament of Champions will be drawn for Manitoba Bass Angler members who score a minimum of 500 points on or before October 6, 2010 at 7:45 PM. This "Wonder Draw" will be made during the MBA Learning Seminar on October 6, 2010 at 8:00 PM, Smitty's on Regent, Winnipeg, Manitoba. The "Wonder Draw" winner must either be in meeting attendance or available by telephone to confirm their acceptance into the Tournament of Champions. If this confirmation is not obtained, or is declined, sequential draws will be made accordingly. This process will continue until confirmation is made.

4) REGISTRATION

- Individuals must receive rule updates, starting position numbers and sign waiver forms before leaving the dock on tournament day.

5) LIVE RELEASE OF FISH

- Every effort must be made to keep Bass alive.
- Under no circumstances can a fish be purposely altered.
- 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 Individual.
- Under no circumstances are dead fish to be released. See 8-g and h.

6) 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 disqualified.

7) PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- Tournament waters will be announced at the MBA Learning Seminar on October 6, 2010 at 8:30 PM, Smitty's on Regent, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

8) SCORING

- Only Smallmouth and/or Largemouth Bass legally caught on tournament day by angling qualify for measurement. Violation of this rule is tournament disqualification.
- Competitors will be accompanied on the water with a Tournament Official. Each Tournament Official will carry an official measure board, score card and life jacket and are the official equipment of the Tournament.
- A daily limit of Five (5) Bass per Individual will be measured. The penalty for failure to comply is disqualification.
- Bass measurement is from tip of closed mouth to tip of pinched tail.
- Each Competitor's fish must be presented to the onboard Tournament Official for measurement immediately after catch.
- All measurements, upon verbal acceptance by the Competitor, and then publicly called by the Tournament Official, are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
- Dead Bass presented for measurement will not be weighed.
- No fish, other than one (1) Bass will be kept in the boat while reporting for measurement.
- The Winner of the Tournament of Champions will be made public at the MBA Gala and Awards Night. Tournament Officials will not disclose any results from the Tournament of Champions until that date.

9) BOATS AND MOTORS

- All boats must be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in length.
- No barges, houseboats, or similar cumbersome craft will be allowed.
- All boats, motors and their equipment must meet Canadian Coast Guard standards.
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to disallow the use of any boat, motor and/or equipment deemed unsafe, inappropriate or unsuitable.
- 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.
- Individual Number Motor Tags will be given out at registration. The numbers must be affixed to the driver side cowling of the main combustion engine so that they are clearly and plainly visible.

10) LAUNCHING AND MORNING EQUIPMENT INSPECTIONS

- Boat inspections will be conducted on the docks at the Tournament waters between 7:00 and 7:55 am.
- Individuals are required to have their equipment ready and on the water twenty (20) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Late arrivals will be penalized and leave at the end of the trickle start.
- Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to: Individual Motor Numbers properly affixed; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen, or freeze-dried bait, no under-

- water cameras and required safety equipment. Individuals must have all tackle boxes; hatches and live wells open for easy inspection prior to the arrival of the Tournament Officials.
- Failure to report for daily boat inspection will result in disqualification of their catch.

11) TRICKLE START

- The Official Starter will release the Individuals by using a trickle start, commencing at 8:00 AM.
- Individuals will be started in order of their assigned start positions (except those who have been penalized). They will be called and released every few seconds using a signal flag and number call.
- Any Individual starting or attempting to start out of order will be held by the Official Starter until the balance of the flight has parted.

12) SPORTSMANSHIP AND COURTESY

- It is strictly prohibited for any Competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any measurable fish to, from or with any other Competitor.
- Use of cellular phones and CB's are prohibited except in use of emergency.

13) SAFETY

- All Competitors must practice safe boating at all times during tournament fishing. Every competitor must wear a fully secured Coast Guard approved life jacket or flotation 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.
- 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 the their catch.
- In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, or severe weather, Competitors 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 forces them ashore.
- Every Individual must, at the end of the tournament day, report to the Official Tournament Check-In Station. The Penalty for failing to report at the end of the tournament will be automatically placed as the last boat out in the next MBA Tournament entered.

14) MECHANICAL BREAKDOWN OR EMERGENCIES

- In the case of an emergency or mechanical breakdown, Cellular phones, CB's, and VHF Marine radios may be used. NOTE - IN THE EVENT OF BREAKDOWN A COMPETITOR MAY ALSO USE AN ONSHORE PHONE IF OTHER COMMUNICATION METHODS ARE ABSENT OR FAIL TO WORK.

15) ON THE WATER

- Competitors are personally responsible for knowing all Tournament Rules, as well as the current Manitoba and Ontario Fishing Regulations and Canadian Coast Guard regulations. Penalty: Individuals 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.
- Competitors are not allowed to toss or pass any item(s) to another boat or to receive any item(s) from another boat.
- All Individuals 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.
- No Competitor shall step on shore without approval or accompaniment by a Tournament Official (except in adverse weather conditions). Refuelling is permitted at designated marinas between 10:00am and 2:00 pm on tournament day.
- No fishing information may be given to or exchanged with Competitors during the Tournament fishing hours by Tournament or Non-Tournament anglers.
- Each Boat must respect a 20-foot diameter fishing circle, which may not be fished or navigated through by another Boat.
- Competitors are expected to co-operate as much as possible with official video and still photography personnel.

16) TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- Competitors may use only artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind, and commercially available liquid attractants. Landing nets may be used.
- 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.
- The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during the tournament. If such equipment is found in a competitors boat during boat checks or during tournament fishing hours the offending Individual will be immediately disqualified.

17) RULE(S) VIOLATIONS

- General Penalties: Individuals may be disqualified from the tournament for frequent or major infractions of the rules. 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 Individuals and unauthorized use of under water cameras.

18) TIE BREAKERS

- In the event of a tie, the Individual with the largest Bass will govern.

19) CHANGES AND AMENDMENTS

- The Tournament of Champions 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.
- Final Approved Official Rules of the 2010 Tournament of Champions will be given to all Individuals as part of their Registration Package the day of the tournament, subject only to clarification(s) arising prior to October 8, 2010.
- For more information, please contact Jaret Horbatiuk at (204)297-8840 or at info@manitobabassanglers.com.

