

Lake Guntersville Bass Masters Tournament Rules and Regulations

GENERAL

The following will be applied in conducting all bass fishing tournaments of the Lake Guntersville Bass Masters (LGBM). Implementation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the officers of the club. The decision of club officers shall be final in all matters.

PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation in tournaments will be open to club members and perspective members of the club or guests of members. The authorization to fish and pairing of fishing partners will be done at the regular club meeting preceding the tournament.

All members, prospective members, and guests must sign a liability release form annually before participating in any club functions. These forms will be valid for one club year (November 1 - October 31).

Article I-Sign-up

A. Upon entering the club meeting, sign up for the next tournament. You must declare your intention to be a boater or non-boater at this time. A member may sign up another member. Tournament monies must be paid upon sign up at the meeting for all entries.

B. The Tournament Director will pair members by draw.

C. A prospective member must sign up for the next tournament at the meeting. Two non-members may not fish together.

D. To prevent prospective members from being bumped or drawn together, the Tournament Director may alter the draw.

E. Partners will make arrangements prior to the tournament for transportation to and from the tournament site. Each partner shall be responsible for 50% of the cost of transportation, lodging, ramp fees, and boat expenses, but not including any expenses related to pre fishing or early arrival to tournament site. Costs related to pre-fishing and/or early arrival to the tournament site shall be borne by the fishermen involved.

F. Fishing hours will be announced at the meeting prior to the tournament. If necessary, a tournament may be cancelled or shortened, by the tournament director. Rescheduling of any canceled tournament will be decided by club vote.

G. If two members are drawn together, and neither has access to a boat. The Tournament Committee may alter the draw to accommodate the members, if possible. Non-members will be paired last.

H. Any member may refuse a partner at the time of the draw. The refusing partner will have the last starting position.

I. No members can fish together in consecutive draw tournaments. No two members can fish more than two times in a club tournament year by draw, unless it approved by the TD.

J. If you are signed up by another member and you don't show up at the tournament without ample notice (24 hours) to your partner, you must sign up yourself for the remainder of the year. If your partner can't find another partner, you will be responsible for half your partner's expenses.

K. Members may fish two times in one year without going through the draw, unrestricted by other tournament drawing rules.

Article II - Prospective Members

A. Prospective members are eligible for fish out awards only, and no year end points until voted in.

B. Prospective members must be present at the meeting in which they are voted on and pay club dues at that time. Dues will be prorated based on the month that a member is voted into the club.

Article III - Guests

A. Guests are ex-members and others who do not fish with the club on a regular basis. Each guest may only fish with the club two times per year. Guests will pay a \$5.00 guest fee for each fish out to the treasurer. Guests are not eligible for fish out awards or year end points.

B. Prospective members may not use their own boats in a tournament until they become members. Ex-members of the LGBM, fishing as guests, may use their boats with the permission of the TD.

Article IV Tournament Rules

A. Safe boating conduct and all necessary precautions must be observed at all times.

1. Everyone in the boat must wear a Coast Guard approved life vest and the kill switch must be attached to the boat operator whenever the combustion engine is running.

2. Any boat used during club events shall be at least 14 feet in length, and have a minimum of a 40 H.P. engine, a kill switch, an electric trolling motor, a depth finder, and an aerated live well or an aerated 48 qt. ice chest and proper insurance for the boat.

3. When necessary, one or both partners may take their fish and equipment, get into another participants boat, and return to the dock and still have their weight counted as valid.

4. If a member observes anyone in an emergency situation, or stranded, they must stop and offer assistance unless it puts them in danger.

B. Members will not violate Fish and Game laws, lake rules, nor display poor sportsmanship to anyone during tournament hours.

C. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs may be in a member's possession during tournament hours.

D. All Black Bass less than the legal tournament size limit shall be returned immediately to the water.

E. If you are late to the ramp and the tournament has started, you must check in with another participant on the water before you start fishing.

F. Each member has the right to operate the trolling motor, unless unqualified to do so, and to choose the fishing area for one half of each day.

G. Any damage to a boat, vehicle, or equipment, is the financial responsibility of the party at fault. The individuals involved will decide who is at fault between themselves.

H. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait is permitted.

I. No fishing will be permitted within the "off limits" area designated by TD. Before each tournament, the TD will be required to set an official launch and weigh-in time as well as to specify any "off limit" areas. Fishing in any "off limit" area or fishing before official launch or after official weigh-in time will be grounds for immediate disqualification.

J. A member cannot move in on a boat which is fishing or working an area with an electric motor, or has claimed that area by anchoring. It is permitted to courteously fish along with the other boat at a reasonable distance. No more than 50 yards distance, in any direction, may be claimed by a member. Only one dock at a time can be claimed by a member.

K. All members must leave and return to the starting point by boat. A boat may not be trailered from one fishing location to another during tournament hours for the purpose of fishing unless authorized by the TD.

L. All fish must be hooked and landed from the boat.

M. No member may leave the starting area until the start is signaled. Boats will leave according to their start positions unless they are late and /or have problems that prevent them from doing so.

N. The TD will be responsible for determining safe light for the blast off. The TD will not release participants prior to safe light.

O. All boats must be checked in at the designated weigh-in area at the cutoff time or a one pound per minute penalty will be enforced for up to ten minutes late. If over ten minutes late, the anglers' weight will not be counted. The TD will be responsible for determining any late penalties.

P. All protests must be presented to the TD in writing before the official scales close at the conclusion of any club tournament. All decisions of the TD, on protests, will be on an individual basis and will be final.

Q. There will be no trolling with the combustion engine.

R. All types of communication devices may not be used in any club tournament, except for emergency situations or to contact the TD. Doing so will result in immediate disqualification.

S. Competitors may only have the allowed tournament legal amount of fish per competitor in their boat at any time. Upon catching their first legal fish over their allowed limit, they must cull back to the allowed limit of fish before resuming to fish.

T. At any weigh in, dead fish will not be returned to the lake or disposed of at the weigh in site.

U. All live tournament caught fish must be returned to the lake unless the TD approves keeping of the fish.

V. Ties for largest bass will be determined by highest total weight for the tournament. AOY points tie will be determined by highest total weight for the best 10 tournaments.

Article V- Penalties

A. Competitors who have not checked in to the designated area at cut off are subject to a one pound penalty for each minute late up to ten minutes. After ten minutes the late competitors will be disqualified.

B. Failure to comply with any of the tournament rules and regulations during the fish out may result in disqualification.

C. Failure to comply with any Lake, State or Federal rules will result in disqualification.

Article VI - Live Wells

A. All boats must be equipped with live wells or at least 48 qt. ice chest filled with water to keep fish alive. All fish holding equipment must be equipped with an aerator. All fish in the live well must be identified separately for each member. Before each tournament all live wells must be in good working condition and capable of keeping two limits of fish alive.

Article VII - Rods

A. You may fish with only one rod at a time. Rods may be a maximum of 8 feet long.

Article VIII – Awards

A. The following awards will be given for regular Club draw tournaments:

1. 1st big fish: 10% of the \$20.00 entry fees. [\$2.00 per entrant]
2. 1st Place: 30 % of the \$20.00 entry fees.[\$6.00 per entrant]
3. 2nd Place: 15% of the \$20.00 entry fees. [\$3.00 per entrant]
4. 3rd Place: 10% of the \$20.00 entry fees. [\$2.00 per entrant]
5. 1st Heavy Boat: 10% of the \$20.00 entry fees. [\$2.00 per entrant]
[25% of the \$20.00 entry fee will go to the Club Treasury.][\$5.00 per entrant]

B. The following will be given for the end of the year awards:

1. Angler of the Year -First through Fifth place = plaque plus a Club Jacket for 1st place.
2. Perpetual Angler of the Year plaque listing the First Place Finisher.
3. Annual Lunker (Big Fish) Plaque.
4. Heaviest Individual Tournament One Day Catch- plaque-(Heaviest One Day Stringer)
5. Classic Tournament Winner- Club Jacket and plaque.

Article IX - Draw Tournaments

A. Tournament Schedule and Lake Selection Procedure

1. The Tournament Committee will provide a list of two (2) lakes per month to the club at the October club meeting. Members not in attendance may be emailed a list.
2. Each club member will have the month of October to make their choices by circling one lake per month as their favorite. The sheet with favorites circled must be completed and turned in to the Tournament Committee by the November club meeting.
3. Sheets not turned in by the November Club Meeting will be considered late and will not be counted. Completed sheets may be emailed or faxed to the Tournament Committee.
4. The list of lakes will be tallied from these sheets by the Tournament Committee. The final list of lakes will be the lakes with the most circles.
5. The Tournament Committee will have the final right to decide on a lake in the case of a tie, a danger at the particular lake, or travel or safety concerns.
6. The final Tournament Schedule will be submitted to the Club no later than the November club meeting.

Tournaments

A. There will be twelve (12) regular draw tournaments per year. These tournaments may be one or two day events selected by the Tournament Committee with the final vote of the membership.

B. The participants of a club tournament will be awarded place points on a 25-point scale and accumulated by each member for the year-end standings. The 25-point scale is as follows:

1st Place: 25 points
2nd Place: 24 points
3rd Place: 23 points
4th Place: 22 points
5th Place: 21 points
and so on through 25th place.

C. Place points will only be awarded for fish caught which are within the club set length size limits. There will be an additional 5 points awarded to each member for fishing the tournament. (Show up points).

D. Only the best ten tournaments of the year, per member, will be counted toward year end points.

Article X - Scoring

A. Tournament scoring will be determined by total weight of each tournament catch.

B. Points will be awarded for black bass only (large-mouth, small-mouth, and spotted bass).

C. The Official Limit for all tournaments shall be determined by the TD and stated for each tournament.

E. Measurement of fish will be with the mouth closed and the tail fanned.

F. Contestants scores will be in US pounds, tenths and hundreds of pounds.

G. Contestants will transport all fish from live-well to scales in bags with ample water for fish.

H. Contestants who fail to bring fish to the scales in bags with water will be penalized one pound in weight from the angler's total weight.

I. Any fish submitted for weigh-in that is not within the tournament's legal size limit will result in the contestant being penalized one (1) pound for each illegal fish and also the loss of that fish's weight.

J. Courtesy measurements by the Tournament Director or any other contestant are prohibited.

K. All fish taken from the live-well shall remain in the possession of the contestant until submitted to the TD or Weigh Master at the "Official Weigh-In".

L. Any fish submitted for weigh-in that is dead will incur an 8 ounce penalty.

M. All fish shall remain with each contestant until big bass and total weight for that angler has been determined. After scoring the fish will be released, as soon as possible, to the lake.

N. Culling of fish shall be done on the water only.

O. All decisions of the Tournament Director at the official weigh-in are final. No contestants other than the TD or Weigh Master shall measure or weigh fish without the TD's permission.

P. An angler that fishes without a partner shall add their weight to the club's average weight of all non-boaters participating in the tournament to determine the total boat weight for the angler without a partner for determination of placement in the tournament's heavy boat category. If the angler without a partner does not have a legal fish, the angler's boat weight is zero, and the club average does not apply.

Article XI – Deviation from Rules

Any conscious deviation from any of the club rules will result in disqualification from any tournament.

Article XII- Change in Tournament Rules

Tournament rules may be changed in accordance with the Lake Guntersville Bass Master's Preamble, Article VI - Amendments, Section 1.

2012 OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT: Pete Pinkerton

VICE PRESIDENT: Ben Johnson

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Joe Shelton

TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR: O.V. Bonner

WEIGH MASTER: Ben Johnson

INFORMATION OFFICER: Ben Johnson

2012 TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

Brad Smith

Bobby Rocha

Chuck Rehage

Pete Pinkerton

Ben Johnson

O.V. Bonner

Joe Shelton