

MBC 2018-2019 Teams Tournament Rules (Revised 9/05/2018)

1) These rules are for all 2018/2019 MBC "Teams Tournaments". These rules will remain unchanged during the **2018/2019** season. It is the responsibility of each entrant to know these rules. Ignorance of the rules is not a defense for violation of them. **Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes of the official check-in time of the final flight at each tournament;** The Tournament Director may assess a penalty/disqualification without a written protest. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

2) PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY - Participation is open to all that meet the eligibility requirements that follow. However, MBC reserves the right to refuse participation in MBC events to anyone. Teams Tournaments require those anglers under the age of 18 years must have written consent of parent or guardian. **A "Team" consists of one or two anglers.**

- One member of a 2-person team may fish alone at a MBC Teams event. However, points will not be awarded if the other partner fishes the same event with a different partner.
- Check in with the tournament director or designated MBC Official prior to the start of a tournament for boat number assignment and Boat inspection (*see item 16*).
- Check in with the tournament director or designated MBC Official **before** leaving a tournament or that tournament will not be counted (**no exceptions**).

3) CHAMPIONSHIP PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY - In order to qualify for the Teams Championship you **MUST** qualify by competing in 5 of the 7 scheduled tournaments. **The Championship will be a 3 day tournament with the field being reduced to the top 10 Teams on day Three.**

4) SAFETY - All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations. Boat owners must carry liability insurance that shows date of coverage for the event with a minimum \$250,000 boating liability coverage on that particular watercraft. Random checks will be conducted. Safe boating shall be observed at all times. During competition, each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life jacket anytime the combustion engine is controlling the movement of the boat, except upon entering or exiting the boat. Anyone found operating a boat in an unsafe manner in the opinion of the Tournament Director may be disqualified. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device which must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is controlling the movement of the boat. All boats must have a float cushion on board. Each contestant is responsible to have proper safety equipment to meet all applicable laws.

5) POLYGRAPH TESTING - All contestants are subject to testing by polygraph machine. Failure to pass a polygraph test, either at the tournament site or at any time after the tournament is concluded, may result in forfeiture of any or all awards. In the event of polygraph testing, the final decision on tournament results is pending the outcome of the polygraph test.

6) BOAT AND HORSE POWER REGULATION - There is no minimum length or minimum horsepower requirements to compete. Horsepower shall not exceed the horsepower rating for that boat or the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each boat must contain all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated or recirculating livewell to maintain alive a team limit catch of fish. Ice chests with an aerator are acceptable upon approval of the Tournament Director.

7) LIVE FISH - Contestants shall make every effort to keep all fish alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. MBC strongly recommends the use of chemical additives in livewells. 1 lb will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The Tournament Director will make all judgments of fish mortality. Five (5) fish in the livewell. Once the sixth (6th) fish has been caught, one member of the team must be in the process of culling before the other member returns to fishing. If a fish dies in the livewell, keep it, it will not be counted against your team limit. It is against the law to put dead fish back into the lake.

8) SCORING - Scoring will be determined by the total weight of each team's catch. The limit shall be five (5) fish per team. The official minimum length for bass shall be thirteen (13) inches. Bass will be measured laying down, mouth closed, tail pinched, on a FLAT board. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure shall be removed from the catch. On slot lakes - Lake Rules Apply- Under 13" and over 16" and lake permitted slots Anyone Presenting more than the permitted amount of slots shall be disqualified MBC will award 100 points for first place, 99 points for second place, and so on. All ties will be broken by the team weighing the heaviest bass at that event. **In order to have a Big Fish weighed and receive credit towards the Big Fish Option you MUST tag your big fish prior to turning over your bag for weighing.**

9) PERMITTED FISHING METHODS AND TACKLE - All fish must be caught live in a conventional and sporting manner. Trolling is prohibited. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork rind or deer hide. No live bait may be used. When sight fishing, you must hook the fish inside the mouth. If you snag the fish, it must be returned immediately. This rule does not apply to cast & retrieve baits (crankbaits, jerkbaits, spoons, etc). Landing nets are permitted. Only one "rod and reel" may be used at a time. Rods may not exceed 8 feet in length.

10) PERMITTED FISHING WATERS - Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated as no entry, no access or no fishing. **ALL Marinas are OFF LIMITS.** All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. No contestants are permitted to leave their boat in an effort to propel or float their boat to fishing waters they could not otherwise reach; however, the use of push poles is permitted. Contestants are permitted to leave their boat for the call of nature or for an emergency.

11) FISHING HOURS - Official fishing hours will be announced at tournament sign-up prior to each event. All contestants must check in at the weigh-in site, even if you have no fish. There is an automatic disqualification for late check-ins. **DON'T BE LATE!**



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- 12) Entry Card** – an entry card will be issued to you at time of check in; this card will have your boat number information, flight number, flight check-in time, live well check, basic information, and emergency contact information. **This card must be returned when weighing fish in or not.** This is also used to track contestants safely off of the water.
- 13) PRETOURNAMENT PRACTICE (PRE-FISHING)** - Pre fishing is allowed. **Off limits are 5:00 p.m. the Friday before the tournament.**
- 14) EQUIPMENT FAILURE** - In the event of equipment failure, contestant's boat may be towed to the check-in. No person shall board or exit contestant's boat during this process, if towing is not feasible, and you must transfer fish to another boat, it must be another contestant's boat. At least one member of the team must accompany the fish to the weigh-in site.
- 15) ENCROACHMENT-** A "25 yard rule" is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant's boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant's boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants involved. A boat moving from one area to another may infringe upon the zone as long as the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. As a general rule of sportsmanship, all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area.
- 16) BOAT INSPECTION** - Boat inspection instructions will be given at the sign-up site. Failure to obtain a sign-off a boat inspection may result in disqualification.
- 17) NO ALCOHOL** - No alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs remnants, seine nets, worm containers, or any other illegal materials are allowed in any tournament boat during tournament hours.
- 18) OFFICIAL BOATS** - Officials may be on the water during tournament hours and can approach, photograph or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is requested to cooperate with all requests.
- 19) TOURNAMENT PROTECTION RULE** - Any act or in inflammatory statement(s) by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Director, is detrimental to the operator of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to MBC or any of its sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as rangers, wardens, etc.) during the practice round or tournament, may result in the temporary or permanent suspension from all future MBC tournaments.
- 20) CITATIONS** - A contestant cited by officers for violation of State or Federal fishing or boating regulations may be disqualified.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THIS AGREEMENT, AND I ACCEPT AND AGREE TO ALL OF ITS TERMS AND CONDITIONS. I ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY, WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE OF ITS EFFECT.

Participant's Signature

Date

Participant's Name (Please Print)

