**WASHINGTON COUNTY BASSMASTERS**

**OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Rules: Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament

committee. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final in all matters.

Protest must be expressed before payout.

Participation and Eligibility: Participation will be open to members of the WCBM

only. A $35.00 entry fee plus a $5.00 optional lunker fee will be paid to the secretary before

launching at the launch site of said tournament. If no fish are caught during the

tournament the money will convert to the club.  
Non-members will be allowed one trial tournament in which they will be required to

pay only the $35.00 tournament fee. However, if the non-member finishes in a cash

position, the club dues of $50.00 will be deducted from the winning, thus becoming

a member. Any non-member wishing to fish a second tournament must pay club dues

upon registration for his or her second tournament.

All participants must possess a valid N.Y license and or VT. license (if needed) for

fishing during said year.

Registration: Each contestant must register in person at the designated check-in site

prior to each tournament.

Pairings: Partners will be paired by draw. Each contestant should meet with partner

and discuss compensation for gas and oil consumption.

Pairings are for a single tournament only. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility finding missing partners.  
  
All boaters arriving late for the pairing draw, who have not been through the non-boater cycle, will automatically be the first to pick from the non-boater draw at the next points tournament.

Safety: Safe boating shall be observed at all times. During competition each

contestant is required to wear a chest type life preserver (coast guard approved) any

time the combustion engine is running.

Sportsmanship: All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in the boats during official practice or tournament hours.

Boat Operation: Each contestant is entitled to an equal number of hours to fish his selected waters (number of hours includes travel time to fishing spot). Failure to comply with this rule shall result in disqualification. Any contestant who in the judgment of the tournament committee, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his or her partner, shall have his or her catch disqualified.

Permitted Fishing Methods: All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and

sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers.

Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling is prohibited. The use of the Alabama Rig is permissible under club regulations except for Lake Champlain. It is the angler’s responsibility to check local and state laws/rules when using this rig.

Boat & Horsepower Regulations: All boats must have the required U.S. Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated or recirculating livewell with space to maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both contestants. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition shall not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer.

Permitted Fishing Locations: Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat,

except areas designated as "Off Limits" or "No Fishing" by local, state, or federal

officials, or within 50 yards of any other competitor's boat which was first anchored

(when trolling motor is down and combustion engine is off). All angling must be

conducted from a boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to

make the boat accessible to fishing waters. The boat must remain in tournament waters

during the tournament day. Partners must remain together at all times and within sight of each other until their catch for that day has been weighed. The momentary condition of being out of each other’s sight to use the restroom is allowed.

Official Checkpoint: There shall be only one official checkpoint. Failure to go

through boat check-in the morning and afternoon of competition will result in

disqualification.

Scoring: Scoring shall be determined by the pounds and ounces together of each

contestants catch during the tournament. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass are

accepted species. The limit shall be five (5), unless the state or lake limit is less than five

(5), in which case the state or lake limit will prevail. At no time will a contestant possess

more than a tournament limit, if so, his catch for that day is disqualified. The official

minimum length limit for bass shall be twelve (12) inches, unless the state or lake limit

is over twelve (12) inches, in which case state or lake limits shall prevail. Bass will be

measured from the closed mouth to the pinched tail. There will be absolutely no courtesy

checks at the weigh-in. Bass for weigh-in which fail to measure the prescribed length

limit shall be penalized at a rate of one (1) pound for each short fish presented. Bass

may not be stringed at any time during a tournament.

Dead Fish: Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a

properly aerated livewell. Four (4) ounces shall be deducted from the total weight for

each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Dead bass cannot be culled. A dead bass cannot be weighed for lunker.

Late Penalty: Contestants who are not at the official check-in sight at the appointed

time shall be penalized at one (1) pound per minute, deducted from that day’s total. Any

contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose credit for that day's weight.

Ties: When a tie for position takes place, the winner will be determined first by

total number of fish, and then by largest (heaviest) fish for the counted tournament(s).