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## **Petawawa Bassmaster Tournament Rules (Updated March 2021)**

1. Tournament hours will be from 7:00am to 4:00pm with the exception of the Fall Brawl which will begin at 8:00am. In the event that the start time is delayed the tournament will still end at 4:00pm.
2. Competitors will be permitted to fish all non-restricted waters accessible by boat. See the section titled exceptions to fishable waters at the end of this document. Restricted waters include, but are not limited to, those waters restricted by the Department of National Defence (DND), Hydro One and Quebec Hydro. In the instance where there is no physical barrier to the restricted waters and the restricted water is not a designed no-fishing zone (such as a fish sanctuary), competitors may cast in the restricted waters but no part of the a competitor's boat may cross the imaginary line between any white markers and/or coordinates that defines the restricted area. Violation of this rules is immediate disqualification without refund. No docking (except for a gas up) or over- land transport is allowed unless the Petawawa Bassmasters declares an exception is necessary. Violation of this rule will cause a disqualification of the offending team.
3. Any Competitor under the age of 18 must be accompanied by someone over 18 years of age.
4. Each team is permitted to weigh in five bass in combination of largemouth and smallmouth bass. Only five fish will be weighed for the official weight score. If a team empties more than five fish into the weigh-in basket, that team will be disqualified.
5. Any regurgitated matter will be removed from the weigh-in basket when the fish are placed into weigh-in basket. If the fish to be weighed regurgitate matter after they have been placed in the basket, the regurgitated matter will be included in the total weight.
6. Each team is permitted to have no more than six fish in your livewell at one time. If a bass that is not part of your creel or a non-targeted species die whenever it is caught by your team, it should be brought in and handed over to tournament officials. The team will not be penalized.
7. Only subspecies of Bass (Largemouth Bass and Smallmouth Bass) will be weighed starting at 4:15pm. This allows our weighmaster to complete the tournament at the same time as other competitors and have time to set up.
8. PBM will define the start/finish location on the body of water. All boats must be off plane and proceeded at a slow speed keeping wakes to minimum when approaching the docks for weigh in.
9. One pound late penalty will be assessed for every minute after 4:00pm. A time check will occur just before blast off so all boats can sync their time with tournament time.
10. Aerated livewells are mandatory.
11. Minimum size limit is 12 inches, measured from the tip of the nose to the tip of the tail. Tournament Director will have final say on whether or not a fish meets the minimum size limit.

12. There will be ¼ lb (4ounce) penalty for each dead fish. A fish will be determined dead if it's condition has deteriorated to a state in which it is unable swim under its own power and it is determined by the Tournament Director that it's chance of survival is unlikely. A dead fish will not qualify for a big fish prize.
13. A team can make 1 request, in total, to re-weigh their total catch or big fish. The weight registered on the re-weigh in will become the recorded weight used in the tournament.
14. In the event of a tie, in any prize position, the prize money will be combined and split evenly.
15. To be eligible for the Big Fish prize, the fees must be paid prior to blast off. The big fish **MUST BE ALIVE**. Each team is responsible for their selection of the fish to be weighed. Each team may weigh only one fish for the big fish prize, and may win only one big fish prize.
16. No live bait is allowed.
17. No alcohol beverages or illegal substances or substances that could impair driving a vehicle/boat is permitted.
18. No fishing will be permitted on tournament waters after 3:00pm the day before the tournament.
19. Competitors must abide by all applicable boating and sport fishing regulations.
20. Competitors must remain in their team boat at all times during the tournament. A competitor may return to the weigh in station in another boat with their fish to be weighed if their boat has broken down. They must stop fishing and go directly to the weigh in to be eligible for the weigh in.
21. While fishing, no one is allowed to board a competitors' boat during the tournament.
22. All competitors must wear CSA approved life jacket when the main motor is running. Have a kill switch attached to the life jacket, proof of insurance, paid the tournament fee and have lights working before blast off and a valid sport fishing licence.
23. Last team to register for the tournament is responsible for blast off signals to the boaters. Instructions to the boaters to be given by the Club President or Tournament Director or a member of the PBM Club. Competitors must check in at the tournament headquarters before 6:30am. If a prepaid team arrives late to an event, they must seek a Petawawa Bassmasters Club Member for inspection of the boat prior to commencement of fishing. If a team fails to be inspected, that team will not be eligible for that tournament.
24. Competitors are to be 100 feet away from the nearest boat when fishing during the tournament.
25. Blast of will be done one at a time, or if conditions permit two at a time, in the order of registration after Petawawa Bassmaster Club members have blasted off.
26. Teams may protest violations of the above rules by other teams. The fee to file a protest is \$25.00 (no personal cheques accepted). The fee is refundable if the protesting team wins the protest. The protest must be brought to a Petawawa Bassmasters Executive prior to the start of the awards presentations.

### **Rules Pertaining to Club Members Only**

1. All Club Members are required to be back for weigh-in by 4:00pm.
2. Club members unable to fish in a tournament due to special circumstances may recruit a substitute from outside Petawawa Bassmasters to fish in their place (for open events only). For Club Only events, anglers may choose to recruit a junior angler from Petawawa Junior Bass Anglers, or may

choose to fish alone. The member will be allowed to retain points earned by their substitute towards Angling Team of the Year and positioning for the next years Provincial Qualifier. Each team is allowed up to, but no more than two substitutes per season, and must provide reason for absence from the club event. All requests for substitution of a member are subject to approval by the Petawawa Bassmasters Executive Committee.

### **Exceptions to Fishable Waters**

A). Anglers are **not permitted** to go beyond the Highway 17 bridges that cross over the Muskrat and Snake rivers when fishing a Petawawa Bassmasters event on Muskrat Lake out of Cobden, Ontario.

B) On the Ottawa River, anglers are not permitted to enter Chalk Bay, or any other area where entry is prohibited by municipal, provincial, or federal regulation.

**\*\*Anglers who do not respect these boundaries will be disqualified from competition without refund.**