

SAN DIEGO BASSMASTERS

2019 TOURNAMENT RULES

1. All members of the San Diego Bassmasters and approved prospective members, except inactive or honorary members, may participate in tournaments. An approved prospective member is one who has been pre-fished and approved as eligible for membership by the board. Prospective members and at-large members are eligible for any tournament awards, but not year-end points. At-large members may only participate if doing so does not preclude a regular member from participating. Non-participants are not allowed in boats during tournaments.
2. Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
3. Unsafe acts committed during tournament hours may result in loss of participation points or disqualification from the tournament.
4. During tournament hours no contestant shall be under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol or any illegal substance in his or her boat. An infraction of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification for the offending party. No drugs other than prescription drugs will be allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water.
5. During tournament hours, all participants in a San Diego Bassmasters tournament shall, during the operation of the main motor, wear properly fastened life vests and utilize a kill switch on any boat capable of being so equipped. It is the responsibility of the boater to ensure that his partner has his or her life vest on and properly secured. Failure to follow these safety precautions will result in loss of participation points or disqualification from the tournament.
6. The tournament schedule consists of ten tournaments, which count towards year-end points. Year-end points are awarded for each tournament, thirty points for first place, twenty-nine points for second place, and so on, down to one point for thirtieth place. Tournament points are only awarded to those participants that weigh in at least one legal fish during the tournament. Participants not weighing in legal fish may receive participation points.
7. Weigh-in time and location will be announced prior to the tournament day. There is no provision for weighing in fish prior to the official weigh-in. Contestants who are not in the docking area on time will lose one pound of their tournament weight per each minute or portion of a minute after the tournament's weigh-in time, up to a maximum of 5 minutes after the designated weigh-in time. For multiple day tournaments only, the weight on the day the contestants are late is affected. After 5 minutes, the contestants' total fish for that day will be disallowed. There are no acceptable excuses for being late. Official time standard will be <http://www.time.gov>.
8. Tournament scoring will be total weight with a five bass per day maximum. Large fish will break ties. Anyone who brings more than 5 fish to the scales will be disqualified for the day. Each angler may possess no more than 5 fish at any time. An angler must stop fishing and cull immediately upon catching of a sixth fish.
9. Each angler is totally responsible for the care, culling and releasing of their fish. No dead fish may be culled with a live fish, period. You may not give away a dead fish to a non-participant or dispose of it in an illegal manner, such as throwing it on the bank. If you have a limit of fish, and then catch another one and kill it in the process, you may immediately throw it back, but you cannot legally possess a sixth fish, even if your partner does not have a limit.
10. All fish to be weighed in must comply with size and bag limit regulations. Length rules will be announced prior to the tournament. Short fish penalty is loss of the fish and 1 pound. The official measuring device of the San Diego Bassmasters is the Golden Rule Weighmaster flat board. Any fish weighing five pounds or more should be placed in a separate weigh bag.
11. Each eligible contestant will be awarded two participation points per tournament fished. To qualify for participation points, each contestant must be signed up for the tournament prior to the start of the draw, defined as the moment the first name is drawn for the final pairing for the tournament. Any contestant that cannot attend the general meeting tournament, can sign up for a draw tournament by notifying the tournament director, prior to the start of the draw for that tournament, of their desire to participate in the tournament. It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to verify their inclusion in the draw. Any contestant that has not signed up for a tournament prior to the start of the draw for that tournament will forfeit the participation points for that tournament. For pick tournaments, notice must be given to the tournament director at the general meeting prior to the tournament.
12. To qualify for awards or year-end points, a fish must be a largemouth, smallmouth or spotted bass.
13. Fish caught by a tournament contestant in a San Diego Bassmasters tournament will be eligible for the following year-end awards: largest bass of the year, heaviest stringer in tournament, top twelve fishermen, high point fisherman and non-boater of the year.

14. Properly certified non-tournament fish can also qualify members for an additional award: largest non-tournament bass of the year. To be eligible, a fish must be taken from waters and at times open to the general public. Bass caught in waters restricted to the general public are ineligible for consideration. To be eligible, the fish must be weighed and the weight witnessed by another person. Another acceptable way to submit a catch is to submit a photograph of the fish on a scale with the weight clearly visible, the weight of the fish, where caught, date caught, and the signatures of the angler and the witness are then submitted in writing to the tournament director. Fish caught after the end of the last regularly scheduled San Diego Bassmasters tournament season will be eligible for the following year's award.
15. All fish presented for weigh-in by a contestant must be caught by that contestant during tournament hours. The fish shall be presented to the tournament director at the designated time and place.
16. Competitors must leave and return to a common launch site designated prior to the start of competition. No competitor may trailer his or her boat to another launch site. The tournament director or his representative must announce any exceptions to this rule prior to the start of the competition.
17. Partners will be determined at the general meeting prior to a tournament, either by: Draw tournament - boat owners and non-boat owners are to be paired via random draw, and a member may fish with the same partner for draw tournaments only once per calendar year; Pick tournaments - free choice of partners. Every effort will be made to pair up participating members with another club member for every tournament.
18. All members of the San Diego Bassmasters who sign up for "in-town" tournaments will be placed into the draw, without exception. Boaters and non-boaters will be paired in accordance with the draw procedure determined by the Tournament Director or his designate. All non-boaters will be paired with boaters until every non-boater has been assigned to a boat. In the event there are more boaters than non-boaters, all remaining boaters will have the option of fishing by themselves. However, if additional non-boaters enter the tournament subsequent to the draw at the General Meeting, the pairings with boaters will continue in the order of the original draw until all non-boaters are assigned to a boat. Any boater that has previously fished a draw tournament, without being paired with a non-boater, will be placed into the draw in such a manner as to ensure a partner pairing will occur for the subsequent tournament.
19. For all out of town or "Pick Tournaments", every boater and non-boater will have free choice of partners for all out of town tournaments. All members that wish to participate in an out of town tournament must be signed up for that tournament prior to the start of the draw, if required, to pair up any non-paired members at the general membership meeting. Any non-boater that has been unable to find a boater pairing for the tournament will be assigned a boater by a blind draw to be conducted by the Tournament Director at the General Membership meeting. In the event any non-boaters sign up for the tournament after the drawing at the General Membership Meeting and they do not have a participating boater with which they will fish, a participating boater without a non-boater will be assigned by the Tournament Director through a blind drawing. Any boater that signs up for the tournament after the draw for the tournament will be paired up with any boater not assigned a non-boater until such time as all participating boats have two members fishing in each boat. All remaining boaters that have signed up for the tournament in accordance with the procedure outlined above, and have not been assigned a non-boater, will have the option of fishing by themselves. Any boater that has previously fished a Pick Tournament without being paired with a non-boater will be placed into any subsequent draw in such a manner as to ensure a partner pairing will occur in any remaining tournament. Any boater and non-boater pairing that sign up for the tournament after the draw will be able to participate but will not be awarded their participation points.
20. Any boater that has not signed up for the tournament by the start of the draw at the general meeting and subsequently wants to enter a tournament will only be allowed to enter as a non-boater until such time that all backseats are filled.
21. No trolling shall be allowed during San Diego Bassmasters tournaments.
22. Shore fishing is allowed where permitted by law, but partners must remain within 50 yards of each other.
23. All tournaments are closed to live bait and only artificial lures may be used. Allowed exceptions are pork rind baits and scents.
24. No contestant may utilize more than one fishing rod at a time.

25. No angler shall remove fish from the livewell or bring fish to the scales until the Weighmaster has announced that the scales are ready and assistants are in place. Fish shall be brought to the scales in an official bag only, with sufficient water to ensure the survival of the fish. Fill the bag with at least two gallons of water. The weight shall be written on an official weigh slip and the angler shall be given the yellow copy as a receipt. After the fish are weighed, the angler will immediately return the fish to the water unless otherwise instructed by a member of the tournament committee.

26. All fish shall be kept in a properly operating livewell. Use of additives to preserve the health of the fish is encouraged. Every effort shall be made to keep said fish alive. Dead fish penalty is one quarter pound (4 ounces). The designated Weighmaster will determine whether or not a fish is short or if it is dead.

27. Telephonic or other electronic communication by a competitor for the purpose of bettering their fishing circumstances will result in disqualification.

28. If a competing boat becomes disabled during a tournament, the competitor's fish may be brought to weigh in in another competitor's boat, providing all affected persons fish are distinctively marked or segregated. The competitor must accompany his or her fish to the weigh in

29. It is the responsibility of each angler to know and follow these rules.

30. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes after the scales are closed for that tournament.

31. The tournament committee will make all decisions and interpretations of these rules. All decisions are final.

32. At the end of our tournament season the Club will hold a Tournament of Champions. To be eligible an angler must win one of the ten(10) points tournaments of that season or be that seasons Angler of the Year.