

# **BERGEN BASSMASTER - 2011 TOURNAMENT RULES**

## **ELIGIBILITY:**

- a) Any member not under tournament suspension.
- b) Observers and life members may fish, but are eligible for lunker only.

## **ENTRY FEE:**

- a) There will be no entry fee per tournament for members. As part of the annual membership fee, all members are invited to participate in the tournament at no charge. Each member is eligible for tournament winnings, lunker and 6 pound lunker pool.
- b) Since there are no fees for entering a tournament, no refunds will be given for those members who cannot attend.
- c) Observer Entries:
  - 1) Observers are eligible to participate in club tournaments on an invitation basis.
  - 2) Observers are eligible to win the tournament lunker pool and the observer lunker pool. They are not eligible for the tournament payouts or the six pound lunker pool.
  - 3) Observer entries will be \$10 per tournament. This will entitle them to observer lunker pool and the tournament lunker pool. Observers can win the observer lunker pool but not necessarily the tournament lunker pool. In order for an observer to win both pools, they must have lunker for the entire tournament.
  - 4) Refunds will be given to observers who are forced to withdraw from an event.

## **TOURNAMENT DRAW:**

- a) The drawing of boat numbers and partners will be done at the pre-determined meeting and handled only by the tournament committee.
- b) During the regular season, two anglers will not fish more than one tournament together unless no other options exist. If this case arises during a draw, the boater retains his boat number and another non-boater is drawn.
- c) Boater members paired with observers owning boats retain the right to use his own boat unless an agreement is made to use the observer's boat.
- d) Partner draws are final. No substitutions will be made for any reason. Anyone refusing to fish with his drawn partner will be disqualified from the tournament.

## **BOAT INSPECTION:**

No boat will be allowed to participate unless first being inspected by a committee member for:

- a) Coast Guard approved life jackets for each angler.
- b) Livewells are empty and in working order.
- c) Running lights, if needed, are in working order.
- d) Each angler is responsible to have in possession a valid license for the state.
- e) Each boater and/or person operating the boat must have a proper boating license and Coast Guard approved certificate.

**BOAT QUALIFICATION:**

In order to qualify for use in a tournament, a boat must meet the following requirements:

- a) Have at least 1 working livewell and be capable of keeping 2 limits of fish alive.
- b) Must be 14' in length, trailered and powered by at least 25HP.
- c) Have a working kill switch to be used whenever the gas outboard is running.
- d) Must not be powered by an engine exceeding the maximum rating for the boat.

**NO SHOWS:**

- a) Any entrant failing to show up for a tournament and fails to notify his partner and the tournament committee, shall be held liable for half his partners expenses for that tournament. Failure to make such payment will result in automatic club suspension until such payment is made.
- b) If a boater fails to show up, his non-boater partner will receive only his consolation points unless other arrangements are made.
- c) Excessive lateness and no shows may result in club probation and possible tournament suspension.
- d) Unless a substitute rider (non-boater) is found, any rider who drops out with less than 3 days (72 hours) notice is liable for ½ of the boater's expense.

**BOAT OPERATION:**

- a) Each partner is entitled to half of the tournament time in selecting of fishing waters. The boater is not required to surrender operation of the boat.
- b) Each contestant is required to wear a chest type life preserver any time the combustion engine is in operation.

**BOAT EXPENSE:**

- a) Each partner is responsible for half of the operating expenses including gas to and from the site, tolls, launch fees, gas and oil for the boat.
- b) If a non-boater fails to make arrangements for payment, the boater must notify the tournament committee within 24 hours. The non-boater will be put on tournament suspension until payment is made.
- c) If the non-boater feels the boater is asking an unfair amount, he is to pay the amount and notify the committee within 24 hours. The committee will review the case and make ruling.

**OFF LIMITS:**

- a) Unless proposed by the tournament committee and ratified by the regular membership, there is no "off limits" before a tournament.
- b) Being found on the site during a ratified "off limits" period will result in an automatic disqualification.

**SIX POUND POOL:**

- a) A six pound largemouth or five pound smallmouth qualifies.
- b) If more than one fish qualifies, the fish most over the benchmark wins the pool (i.e., a 5 pound 6 oz smallmouth will beat out a 6 pound 2 oz largemouth).
- c) The six pound pool will increase by \$36, or by \$1 per roster member, prior to each point's tournament.
- d) The six pound pool will be capped at \$1000.00 and any additional money will carry over to a second six pound pool. The second six pound pool will become eligible at the next regular points tournament.

**AM/PM CHECKPOINTS:**

- a) Each member must clear a livewell check and must check in at weigh-in to receive any points.
- b) An angler missing the AM blastoff must find a member in good standing and have his livewell checked PRIOR to fishing in order to be included in the tournament field. Until checked, no fish will be counted in the tournament.

**LATE PENALTY:**

- a) Official time will be announced at blast-off by blast off boat agreed to by Tournament Director. Check-in time will be sharp according to official time determined by Tournament Director. Lateness will be rounded UP to the next whole minute and penalty applied.
- b) Late penalty will be 1 (one) pound of weight per each minute late.
- c) Lateness of more than 10 minutes or when a penalty exceeds the angler's total weight, the catch is disqualified and the angler will receive only show-up points.
- d) Any angler not checking in at weigh-in will be disqualified and receive no points for the event.
- e) Each angler is responsible to check with blast off boat to verify official time.

**RULES OF SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- a) No fishing within 100 feet of an anchored tournament boat.
- b) No fishing within 50 feet of the tournament launch site.
- c) No one may leave the boat to catch or land a fish.
- d) Only one rod is to be used at one time.
- e) No natural bait is permitted.

- f) Trolling is not permitted.

Failure to abide by rules of sportsmanship will be reviewed by the tournament committee and a possible disqualification or penalty may result.

All state and federal laws and regulations on boating and fishing apply.

Use of alcohol or drugs will result in disqualification.

No one will be permitted to fish alone without the permission of the tournament committee.

Any angler offering or accepting a fish to/from anyone else will be immediately disqualified. Club suspension follows until the case is reviewed by both the Executive and Tournament committees.

**PROTESTS:**

- a) All protests and reporting of rule infractions must be made verbally to the tournament committee within 30 minutes after weigh-in.
- b) Identity of protesting members will remain confidential.
- c) The accused party will be invited to state his case at the next tournament committee meeting.
- d) The tournament committee will review the protest, make all judgments and apply any penalties.

**COMMUNICATION ON THE WATER:**

- a) Unless for emergency use, cell phones and other electronic devices used to communicate between anglers during a tournament, are prohibited.
- b) During tournament hours contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or have any body place markers in the water to mark fishing spots for them.

**POINT'S TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION POLICY:**

A tournament may be cancelled at any time prior to the start of the tournament.

- a) Before tournament day: After consulting with other officials, President and Tournament Director will make final decision and communicate the information to all members.
- b) At the launch: Tournament Director and President will solicit consensus from all in attendance and then make the call.

- c) All members scheduled to fish shall receive show up points for the cancelled event.
- d) An alternate date for possible cancelled tournament will be added to the tournament schedule. Normally, it will fall on the first or second Saturday after the 7<sup>th</sup> point's tournament. Exact date to be identified in the final tournament trail schedule.

**CLASSIC QUALIFICATION:**

To fish the Classic, a member must be in good standing as outlined in the BY-LAWS. Space permitting, registered observers may fish the Classic at their own lodging and food expense (for lunger money only).

**CLASSIC EXPENSE:**

- a) All expenses will be split between drawn partners.
  - 1) Day 1 partners split travel to location.
  - 2) Day 2 partners split travel from location.
- b) On the water & launch expenses are split daily.
- c) Whatever the means of travel, an angler is in no way to split expenses with anyone other than his drawn partners.
- d) Angler's entry fees will be for \$10 per day for lunger pool. This will entitle them to individual lunger pool per day. No angler is committed to entering lunger pool.

**CLASSIC PAYOUTS:**

- a) Payouts will be awarded to the top five individual finishers in the event.
- b) First place shall pay the amount of \$250. Subsequent places are the same as regular tournaments bringing the total payout to \$500.

**TOURNAMENT SCORING:**

- a) Scoring will be determined by creel weight.
- b) Minimum length is 12 inches unless a higher state legal limit applies.
- c) A person with a fish in question of the minimum length (closed mouth, pinched tail) must ask for a courtesy check PRIOR to handing his bag to the weigh-in official. Legal fish count, shorts are returned to the water. Failure to announce a potentially short fish PRIOR to handing over your bag will result in a 1 pound penalty.
- d) A 4 oz penalty will result for each fish brought to the weigh-in that is unable to be released alive
- e) Culling of a dead fish will result in an automatic disqualification.
- f) Each fish caught by an angler is considered to be in his possession. Culling of fish is to be immediate. If at any time, other than culling, an angler is in possession of more than the legal limit, he will be disqualified and receives no points for the event.

**STANDINGS:**

- a) Year to date standings are based upon the total points accumulated from the regular tournaments.
- b) All ties are broken by highest total weight.
- c) State team tournament representation will be the TOP 6 anglers in standings.
  - 1) The three highest finishing boaters are guaranteed boaters.
  - 2) Next three finishers are deemed alternate boaters or non-boaters.
  - 3) Alternates to the team tournament are subsequent finishers from the prior year's standings.

**POINTS SYSTEM:**

- a) First place will receive 40 points.
- b) Places are counted down in one (1) point intervals.
- c) Four (4) consolation points will be awarded to those not weighing in fish.

**AWARDS:**

- a) ANGLER OF THE YEAR (boater/non-boater): Awarded to the member compiling the most combined points for his category.
- b) HEAVIEST CATCH (boater/non-boater): The anglers weighing in the largest catch for his category in a regular points tournament.
- c) LUNKER OF THE YEAR: Awarded to member who weighed in the largest lunker at a regular points tournament.
- d) ROOKIE OF THE YEAR: Is awarded to the member fishing his first FULL season who accumulates the highest point's total of all other rookies.
- e) MOST IMPROVED: Awarded to the angler the tournament committee feels has improved in ability and standing the most over the past season.
- f) SPORTSMAN OF THE YEAR: As voted on by the members.

**PAYOUTS:**

- a) All Tournament Payouts, including the lunker prize will be fixed and guaranteed regardless of number of participants.
- b) Payout distribution is as follows:
 

1st Place	\$200
2nd Place	\$100
3rd Place	\$ 75
4th Place	\$ 50
5th Place	\$ 25
Lunker	\$150

Observer Lunker – Based on number of observers per tournament.  
(\$5.00/observer + \$5.00/tournament)
- c) A separate \$25 payout will be awarded to the top finishing angler fishing as a non-boater providing that angler did not already place in the tournament's top five finishers.

