



2012 Missouri TBF Bass Federation Open Tournament Series Rules

1. **RULE CHANGES:** The following rules will remain unchanged after set by the Tournament Committee. Interpretation shall be exclusive to the Tournament Rules Committee. THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS IS FINAL. The Tournament Committee includes the Tournament Director, President, Vice-President and those designated by the Tournament Director.
2. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:**
 1. Participation is open to general fishing public who enter by registration deadlines. Any angler wishing to participate after that date is at the discretion and majority vote of the Tournament Committee.
 2. Missouri TBF members wishing to participate must be members in good standing of the Missouri TBF Bass Federation, TBF National Federation, and FLW on or before the registration deadline.
 3. Anglers must be 16 years of age or older. Anglers under 18 years of age shall have the registration form co-signed by a parent or legal guardian.
 4. Boaters must provide a certificate of insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 liability coverage.
3. **ENTRY FEES:** Entry fees shall be \$50.00 per angler each tournament day. There will be an optional Big Bass pot held for each tournament day at \$10.00 per contestant. Entry forms must be RECEIVED no later than:
 - Thursday March 1, 2012 for Series Days 1 & 2 at Lake of the Ozarks
 - Saturday March 10 & Sunday March 11, 2012;
 - Thursday April 12, 2012 for Series Days 3 & 4 at Truman Lake
 - Saturday April 21 & Sunday April 22, 2012
4. **PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** No contestant may be on tournament waters for purpose of locating bass or potential fishing waters after 5:00 PM on the Friday before the tournaments.
4. **REGISTRATION: NO pre-tournament meeting night before.**
 - **Pre-takeoff Meeting: All Anglers must check in at take-off site 45 minutes prior to take-off.**
 - Pairings for Day 1 and 3 will be e-mailed to participants on Wednesday night prior to tournaments.
 - **It will be the responsibility of each angler to communicate with their partner prior to the tournaments.**
 - Pairings for Day 2 and Day 4 will be posted at weigh-in site at end of Day 1 and Day 3.
 - Cell phone numbers must be provided for each contestant. If any contestant does not have a cell phone, they must provide a cell phone for another person who can contact them.
6. **CONTESTANT PAIRING:** Any boater who provides the registration of a co-angler with their registration form is then guaranteed to be drawn with a co-angler. **Guaranteed boater status is contingent upon both anglers competing.** All others will be taken in order of entry (date of entry). Individual entries will be paired (boaters and co-anglers) as matches are available. If additional boaters remain, boaters will be paired with boaters. Determination of boat use by boaters paired together will be determined by paired boaters or by coin flip. Pairings and take-off order will be randomly assigned.
7. **TAKE-OFF AND WEIGH-IN TIMES:** These times are listed on the contestant entry forms and will also be posted on the TBF website at www.themissouritbf.com
8. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Type III – Coast Guard approved chest type personal floatation device (PFD), **(must be snapped or zipped)**. If there is serious trouble with any boat/motor, or any type of condition that is a threat to the safety of the anglers which prevents the return by boat, competitors may return by whatever means are available

as long as they stay in constant sight of each other. Tournament officials will rule on the validity of any such transfer and their ruling on such matters shall be final.

9. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances are allowed during registration, or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
10. **LURES:** Only artificial lures and pork style baits are allowed. Only one rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. Trolling as a method of fishing either by combustion motor or electric motor is prohibited. All bass must be caught alive and in a sporting manner in accordance with the Missouri Department of Conservation Wildlife Code.
11. **BOATS AND MOTORS: All boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch, which MUST be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating.** Fishing boats 14 feet or more in length will be accepted if powered by an engine of 10 to 250 horsepower. All tournament boats must have the required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment aboard and in working order. No boat will be allowed to participate in the tournament if it exceeds the horsepower limit stated on the B.I.A. rating plate attached to the boat. If no plate is attached, the N.M.M.A. rating formula, as stated in the U.S. Coast Guard handbook 33CFR, part 188, sub-part C, will be used to check conformity. All tournament boats must have properly aerated live-well space to maintain alive a limit of fish for each angler. All Missouri Water Patrol laws apply. **Use of telephones, CB's, or similar communication is to be for emergency use only.**
12. **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat will be properly registered and tagged in accordance with Missouri law. Dealer boats with proper tags and insurance may be used. Co-angler is responsible for checking live wells prior to take-off.
13. **BOAT OPERATION AND FISHING WATER:** A full discussion will be made between paired partners, as to schedule of boat operation and fishing location. **This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and in each partner's water. Time must be equally divided for the entire day.** If a co-angler waives the right to operate the positioning motor or the boat owner deems conditions due to wind, weather, current, or other circumstances jeopardizes safety or property and render owner control necessary, co-angler still has the right to his/her waters. Boat fuel expenses must be discussed, mutually agreed upon by paired anglers and PAID prior to take-off time. The boater must have a rear seat of some type available.
14. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Partners should honor each other's water while demonstrating integrity and good sportsmanship at all times. Fishing your first day partner's water on the next day is not allowed unless the matter is discussed with him and an agreement is struck. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the matter should be taken to the Tournament Director before the start of the fishing day for resolution.
15. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Anywhere on the tournament lake except within fifty yards of another contestant's boat that is previously at anchor, any areas marked off limits by the Corp of Engineers, or within the boundaries of the take-off marina cove buoys. There will be no trailering of a contestant's boat to get to any fishing water location. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
16. **BREAKDOWNS:** Should a tournament boat become inoperable, one member of that boat's team may bring both contestants' fish to the weigh-in as long as he/she is picked up by another tournament boat. Both members of the second boat must verify the catch of the disabled boat's contestants, and sign their weigh-in slips. Each disabled contestant's fish must remain separate while in the second boat. Exchanging a disabled boat for a partner's operational boat is allowed only if the contestants stay within constant sight of each other and the operational boat has proper insurance documentation turned in to the Tournament Committee prior to the start of the tournament day. Every attempt will be made to contact a tournament official notifying them of the exchange during fishing hours. At a minimum, notifying the Tournament Director of the exchange must be done during weigh-in. No other exchange of a disabled boat is allowed.
17. **SCORING:** Only Largemouth, Kentucky, and Smallmouth Bass will be counted and weighed. Total stringer weight by pounds and ounces (or 1/100 lbs.). Only five fish per day will be weighed. Bass may not be handled by anyone other than tournament officials after being brought to the scales. Any contestant bringing more than five fish to the scales will have his/her largest bass removed from the stringer. Bass that appear to be mangled, frozen, mashed or mauled will be measured and credited only at the discretion of the weigh-in officials. The official measuring board is the "Gator Grip Gold Rule" on a flat surface.. Minimum fish length is determined by MDC lake rules. Paired anglers must remain in site of each other until each angler has weighed unless rule #16 applies.
18. **DETERMINATION OF STANDINGS:** Final standings for each tournament day shall be determined by the total weight of each contestant's catch after each day of competition. If deemed necessary, the tournament

committee may determine the break of ties, by means of 1) total number of legal fish weighed 2) total number of alive fish weighed in, 3) largest single fish, 4) flip of the coin.

Ties for the total yearly standings and divisional team qualifying will be broken by means of 1) total number of legal fish weighed for the season, 2) total weight for the season, 3) largest single fish, 4) flip of a coin.

- 19. POINT STANDINGS:** 200 points are awarded to winner of each qualifying tournament, 198 to 2nd, 196 to 3rd, etc. All anglers who receive weight credit will receive points.

The following applies to point standings for Missouri TBF Bass Federation Members ONLY:

The point standings for Missouri TBF Bass Federation members, for purposes of qualifying for the Divisional Team, will be calculated separately from the standings for the entire field, eliminating any non-TBF anglers and realigning the resultant point standings accordingly. Non-members are only eligible for daily payout.

For purposes of the total year-end point standings, each angler will drop the points for the tournament with the lowest score and only count the three highest point totals. The top 4 finishing Missouri TBF Members from year-end point standings (ties resolved as described in rule #18) will be invited to the 2011 Missouri TBF Divisional Team. The top 2 anglers will be boaters and the next 2 highest qualifying anglers will be non-boaters at the 2011 Divisional tournament. Anglers who qualify in position 3 or 4 may advance their position to a boater if they finish within the top 4 positions at the State Championship. Their then vacated Tournament Series position(s) will be filled by the next qualified angler(s) from the Tournament Series.

- 20. PENALTY: Dead Bass Penalty:** For each dead bass weighed in, eight (8) ounces (or 0.50lbs.) will be deducted from the total weight. Short Fish Penalty: any fish brought to the weigh-in failing to measure the minimum length shall result in a one (1) pound deduction from the total score of legal fish plus loss of short fish. **Late Penalty:** Contestants, who are not officially checked-in on time, shall be penalized 1 pound of their total weight for each minute that they are late up to 15 minutes, after which they will be disqualified.
- 21. WITHDRAWAL:** Any contestant who must leave tournament should make every effort to report to the Tournament Director before 5:30 am of the fishing day. Any contestant who leaves tournament without just cause and without notifying Tournament Director before 5:30 am on contest date shall cause a 1-year suspension in that contestant's eligibility to fish TBF events. Tournament Committee's decision will be final.
- 22. PAYOUT:** Payout will be one (1) place for every five (5) entrants for each day based on final point standings. Payout will be 50% of the paid entries. Big Bass payout will be one (1) place for every ten (10) entrants, up to three places. Payout will be 100% of paid Big Bass entries. Other prizes or merchandise will be awarded at the discretion of the Tournament Committee.
- 23. EXTRA GAS CONTAINERS:** Participants cannot carry extra gas containers in their boats.
- 24. PROTEST:** Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes after the weigh-in is closed. The Tournament Committee will make all final decisions.
- 25. PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK:** In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, and related activities conducted by the Missouri TBF Bass Federation, each angler so participating BY EXECUTING THE ENTRY FORM, acknowledges and agrees that: a) The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to each person or their property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and b) Each angler has been advised by Missouri TBF Bass Federation, and has had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document, and, c) EACH ANGLER KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE MISSOURI TBF BASS FEDERATION, ITS OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OR PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT ("RELEASES") OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM THAT ANGLER'S PARTICIPATION; AND, d) Each angler willingly agrees to the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, any angler observes any unusual significant hazard during their presence or participation, they will temporarily remove themselves from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official, and, e) EACH ANGLER, FOR THEMSELVES AND ON BEHALF OF THEIR HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE MISSOURI TBF BASS FEDERATION, ITS OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, AGENTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH THEY SUFFER OR WHICH THEY ARE FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY THEIR NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.