



2017 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. Any proposed amendments to the Tournament Series Rules must be presented in draft format either by the Tournament Director or Secretary either at a Board of Directors meeting or by e-mail distribution to the Board of Directors a minimum of 30 days prior to the next Board of Directors meeting. All such amendments require approval by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
2. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:**
 1. Participation is open only to Members in Good Standing with Missouri TBF who enter by registration deadlines. Any angler wishing to participate after that date or any non-TBF member wishing to fish 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 (\$180.00) per Boater and \$140.00 per Co-Angler each tournament day. There will be an optional Big Bass pot held for each tournament day at \$10.00 per contestant per day as there will be a Big Bass payout for each day.
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.
5. **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 for meeting.**
 - Pairings for Day 1 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 will be posted at weigh-in site at the end of Day 1.
 - 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 and Co-Anglers as matches being available.** If additional Boaters remain, Boaters will be paired with Boaters. Determination of which boat to use by these additional Boaters paired together will be determined by paired Boaters or by coin flip. Whichever of these individuals opts to fish as a Co-Angler, must do so for both days. If an odd number of entries exist, TWO persons can be allowed to fish alone as a Boater,. Such situation cannot be a situation whereby that person pre-determines that they want to fish alone. It will only be allowed if the number of total entries is an odd number after all entries are accounted for. The selection of that person, will be random and they will fish alone both days. **If more boaters or co-anglers are entered in a tournament, excess boaters or co-anglers may choose to change to boater or co-angler status to be paired or have their entry transferred or refunded.** Any angler who has paid their entry fee but cannot be

paired with someone to fish the tournament shall have their entry fee refunded by the Treasurer at his earliest reasonable time available to do so. Pairings and take-off order will be randomly assigned.

If prior to take-off on tournament day, a Boater's boat breaks down, the Tournament Committee will make every reasonable effort to allow a Co-Angler who brought a boat to take that Boater's place, in which case the Boater would convert to a Co-Angler for the entire tournament, regardless of which day it occurred, and the Co-Angler converting to a Boater would be considered a Boater for the entire tournament.

If a club only sends Boaters to the tournament, and one of them drops out (then it also means that the Co-Angler they were paired with for entry purposes was an extra Co-Angler, and both parties would not be allowed to fish. If however, a Co-Angler drops out, as stated above ONE boater could be allowed to fish alone. But it must be a member of the Board of Officers. So pairings for the tournament would need to be adjusted accordingly, with the Boater whose Co-Angler dropped out then being paired with the Co-Angler the Board of Officers Boater would have otherwise been paired with.

7. **TAKE OFF AND WEIGH-IN TIMES:** These times will be posted on the Missouri 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 flotation device (PFD), **(must be snapped or zipped)** any time the big motor is running. **This rule will be waived any time the competitors are within the buoys of the take-off area, except that it shall apply once each boat begins to motor forward towards take-off.** 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 should notify the Tournament Director and 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 communications is to be for emergency use only.** **Contestants may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Cell phones may be used to check weather so that anglers may determine if they want to seek cover or get off the water.**
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. Non-Boater is responsible for checking live wells prior to take-off.
13. **BOAT OPERATION AND FISHING WATER:** Boat fuel expenses must be discussed, mutually agreed upon by paired anglers and PAID prior to take-off time. Being a Boater/Co-Angler format of fishing, the Boater has full control of the boat all day and the fishing waters as well. Co-Anglers may only fish from the middle seat area or rear boat deck. Co-Anglers are only allowed to operate the boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **When doing so, the Co-Angler shall not be allowed to fish.** No Boater may operate the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Co-Angler partner. Any Boater so doing shall be subject to a protest by the Co-Angler and potential disqualification. The Boater has the option of asking the Co-Angler for a suggested fishing spot or listening to potential suggestions from the

Co-Angler, but the decision as to whether or not to go fish those spots is in full discretion of the Boater. **Boaters must fish from the front deck of the boat only.** The boater must have a rear seat of some type available. **Either angler may move from either the front of the boat to the back or from the back of the boat to the front to assist the other angler in landing a fish. Boater may move to back of boat to put fish in live well. Co-Angler is responsible for checking live wells prior to take-off.**

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 agreed upon. 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, any areas which are declared off-limits by the Tournament Director prior to start of tournament. There will be no tailoring 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 the 2 day tournament shall be determined by the total weight of each contestant's catch after both days 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 live fish weighed in, 3) largest single fish, 4), flip of the coin. Ties for the total yearly standings (if necessary) will be broken by means of 1) total number of legal fish weighed for the season, 2) total weight or the season, 3) largest single fish, 4) flip of a coin.
19. **POINT STANDINGS:** The point standings, for purposes of qualifying for the TBF National Semi-Final Tournament and Angler of the Year 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 Big Bass payout if they have contributed to same.

The 2-day cumulative weight of Missouri TBF Members will determine the top 3 Boaters and top 3 Co-Anglers from each Weekend Series to be invited to the current year TBF Missouri/Kansas National Semi-Final. Boaters will compete only against Boaters and Co-Angler will compete only against Co-Anglers in all tournaments. All vacated Tournament Series position(s) will be filled by the next qualified angler(s) from that specific Tournament Series from which they qualified, Boater from Boaters and Co-Angler from Co-Anglers respectively until we reach the deadline for submission of participants to the National TBF office or 30 days prior to the Semi-Final, whichever is earlier. After that date all vacancies will be filled from the Stand-By Angler list (i.e. AOY standings. 200 points are awarded to the winner of each Weekend Series tournament, 198 to 2nd, 196 to 3rd, etc. (ties resolved as described in rule #18) for all members. All members who receive weight credit will receive points. The points will be used to determine Angler of the Year who will have the first invitation to be "Stand-By Angler" at the TBF National Semi-Final, unless previously qualified. The Stand-By

Angler could be either a Boater or Co-Angler but is required to have a boat to take to the National Semi-Final Tournament.

If the situation occurs of Boaters being paired with Boaters in the first Tournament Series and the person who opted to fish as a Co-Angler qualifies during that tournament, it does not prohibit them from fishing the second Tournament Series as a Boater. If they qualify as a Boater for National Semi-Final during the second tournament, then they will vacate their qualifying position as a Co-Angler from the first Tournament Series and the next highest finishing Co-Angler from the first Tournament Series shall step into that qualifying position.

In addition to the 12 Anglers qualified from the two Series Tournaments, each Chapter shall be allowed to send one Boater and one Co-Angler to TBF National Semi-Finals Tournament who did not otherwise qualify.

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. Should a Boater have to leave the tournament for any reason, a Co-Angler from the same Club will need to be cut from the tournament also. The same applies should a Co-Angler need to leave the tournament, a boater from same Club will be cut. **Any contestant leaving tournament waters for any reason shall notify the Tournament Director and/or another Officer before leaving the tournament area. All efforts will be made to allow such contestant's partner to continue fishing for the day.**
22. **PAYOUT:** Big Bass payout will be one (1) place for every boater entrant up to 15, two (2) places for boater entries 16-30 and three (3) places for boater entries above 30 with a total limit of up to three (3) places. Payout will be 100% of paid Big Bass entries. Big Bass payout is for largest bass weighed daily. There will be no other tournament payout. 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.