

# **Androscoggin L/A Juniors Tournament Rules**

Revised February 14 2023

**All participants must follow current Maine state social distancing rules & regulations.**

## **RULE INTERPRETATION**

1. The tournament committee shall be solely responsible for the interpretation and enforcement of the following rules. Their decision will be final.
2. The tournament committee shall consist of: The Tournament Director, the designated weighmaster to be named per event, and an officer of the club.

## **JUDGES**

1. Members of the tournament committee are designated judges, are eligible to participate in these tournaments, and can compete for any and all prizes.
2. The Tournament Director will supervise the weigh-in and designate the weighmaster. The weight master will be a member of the tournament committee.

## **AWARDS**

1. Standard awards at each tournament will consist of 1x3 trophies for High School & Junior Divisions
2. "Lunker" trophy will be awarded to the single biggest fish caught in competition
3. At the end of the year, an "High School Trail Champion" will be awarded a trophy for each competitor
4. Year end plaques will be awarded to all National Qualifying Teams based on their finish at the State Championships, along with their respective Captain

## **TOURNAMENT RULES**

The L/A Junior BMs will obtain a State permit, and if needed an DACF Activity permit for each tournament. It is understood that these permits are granted under the following restrictions and conditions.

1. All state and local laws and regulations shall be strictly adhered to.
2. All competitors must show proof of their current fishing license and boat liability insurance of a minimum of \$300,000 before the first event.
3. Each team will be allowed a limit of 5 fish. There will be no weight limit. Upon catching the 6<sup>th</sup> fish, a team must cull one fish before they resume fishing.
  - a. Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass, to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. If a competitor has his fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials within one hour of the closing of scales to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered.
4. Only largemouth and/or smallmouth bass will be counted.
5. All bass retained shall be kept in a continuous flowing aerated, water circulating livewell with the intent to keep them alive and well. The livewell can be switched to recirculate while running the body of water in which you are fishing. All bass caught will be returned to the waters from which they were caught, at the end of the tournament day. Any team that does not return all bass to the tournament waters

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will be disqualified from that day's tournament. Dead bass must be returned as far from the weigh-in site as possible with their air bladders punctured so they sink to the bottom.

- a. TD or their designee reserves the right to inspect that a boat's livewell system is functioning prior to any club event.
- b. If at any time during an event a live well becomes ineffective it is the respective competitors in said boats responsibility to notify the TD and seek alternate arrangements.
- c. Fish can be loaded into a competitors boat when necessary to facilitate getting them weighed in on time as long as they are properly divided.
6. All teams competing in the tournament must have a valid Maine fishing license unless they are under the age at which one is required.
7. Bass tournament boats must be specifically identified in a plainly visible manner by a ribbon attached to the trolling motor, immediately after the morning boat/weed inspection and before launching of a boat.
8. A copy of the tournament permit and a copy of the rules shall be conspicuously displayed during each tournament at a location accessible to all tournament contestants. A roster of participants must also be available at the weigh-in location.
9. A minimum of 2 certified weed inspectors shall be listed on the tournament permit and they must inspect all competitors' boats prior to entry and succeeding the exit of the water body being fished.
10. Only non penetrating cull tags will be authorized.

## **CAPTAINS**

1. Captains may not cast for their competitor
2. Captains cannot reel in fish
3. Captains may net fish
4. Captains may assist in the weighing, culling and clipping of fish
5. Captains may give advice and coach throughout
6. Captains may tie knots and help clear snagged lures

## **SAFETY**

1. Safe boating must always be observed by all tournament competitors.
  - a) Use extreme caution while operating a boat within the confines of rivers and narrows and while near shorelines and hazard areas, obey the 200 ft no wake zones.
  - b) The operator of any powerboat shall pass or overtake another powerboat in motion at a safe distance and at a safe and reasonable speed.
2. During competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. Inflatables must always be worn if there is not another non-inflatable jacket in the boat. This preserver must always be worn with the kill switch attached when the combustion engine is running and in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be the reason for disqualification.
3. It is the responsibility of each boat operator to be familiar with, understand, and obey the laws pertaining to boating in Maine.
4. All boats must meet US Coast Guard safety standards, including required safety equipment.
5. All State of Maine boating licensing requirements will be enforced.

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

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1. At all tournaments, participants are required to comply with all state and local fish and wildlife regulations, Maine's boating laws, as well as the tournament rules established by this club.
2. Alcoholic beverages or drugs will not be permitted in any tournament boat or at the official weigh-in.
3. All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation always.
4. **ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:** Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and family members of anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport. (i) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
  - Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other
  - competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
  - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
  - Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors
  - Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
  - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
  - Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event, including on social media.
  - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
  - Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.

## **TOURNAMENT HOURS**

1. Tournament hours will be as listed on the tournament permit. All members and participating teams must be at the launch no later than 30 minutes before take-off. Takeoff will be no later than 8am, pending weather conditions.

## **ARRIVING LATE/ LEAVING EARLY**

1. A team must have a valid reason for leaving early.
2. Arrangements may be made for the weighmaster(at their discretion) to weigh a member's fish at a predetermined time/location.

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3. An early weigh-in will only be arranged for a club member, and said member must be present for the early weigh-in.
4. Any team who leaves early must complete a self-boat inspection and fill out the inspection form and leave it in the folder with the tournament papers at the weigh-in site. Failure to do so will result in a loss of all points for that day.
5. A late entry must find an officer or tournament committee member to acquire permission to fish prior to fishing. They must also pick-up their partner if they have one. All scheduled paired partners will fish together.

## **CHECKPOINT**

1. The Tournament Director will establish a start/finish checkpoint at each tournament and will give a "time check" before the start of each tournament.
2. Numbers will be drawn for take-off order and the person who draws the highest number will announce the take-off.

Take-off will be conducted in an orderly fashion immediately following the on-the-water meeting and time check, with the safety of all competitors being the highest priority. Please make sure all boats are ready to take off before starting the blast off.

## **REST PERIODS**

A participant will be allowed to take a "nature call" without penalty during a tournament.

## **TACKLE AND LURES PERMITTED**

1. Only artificial lures may be used during the tournament.
2. All bass must be taken in a conventional sporting manner, with rod and reel. Snatching or snagging visible fish will not be allowed. When fishing for visible bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by your partner.
3. Only bait casting, spinning, or spin-casting rods will be allowed.
4. Any number of rods may be in the boat and rigged for fishing, but only one rod may be in actual use at any time. A stuck lure that is not in the water is considered not in use, and another rod may be used if the stuck lure is not in the water.
5. Trolling is not allowed.

## **BOATS AND MOTORS**

1. All boats must have all required coast guard equipment.
2. All boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch. This device must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is running.
3. Small electric motors may be used for maneuvering the boat but trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
4. Outboards cannot exceed 250 horsepower

## **FISHING LOCATIONS**

1. The Tournament Director will inform everyone of any water considered off-limits prior to the start of each tournament.

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2. If a team chooses to fish from an anchored boat (poles or anchor down and trolling motor in stowed position), there will be no distance or area restrictions on other teams. Competitors are expected to extend professional courtesy and use good judgment (casting distance) when entering an area that is being fished by another team.
3. All angling must be conducted from a boat.

## **SCORING**

1. No more than 5 bass per team may be in the boat at the tournament end time. See Tournament Rules #2, and 2a.
2. The minimum length shall be 12 inches measured from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail, with the lobes of the tail squeezed together.
3. Teams choose which fish to weigh as their lunker. Lunker must be alive.
4. Short fish will accrue a penalty of 1 pound and the weight of the fish shall not be counted.
5. Dead fish weight will be counted. Dead fish may be culled during the tournament. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the team shall be penalized the following, to be deducted from their daily score: 1 dead fish is .50 lbs/, 2 dead fish is 1 lb, 3 dead fish 2.00 lbs, 4 dead fish 4 lbs, 5 dead fish 8 lbs.
6. In the case of a tie for any position, the team with the largest live bass by weight will be declared the winner.
7. Any dispute must be brought to the attention of the tournament committee before the first fish is weighed.
8. Competitors who are not at the official check in point by the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award." Any team more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness except for a breakdown that is reported to the Tournament Director prior to the conclusion of the tournament hours and in no case shall a team be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.
  - a. Boat malfunctions do not exempt a team from late penalties.

## **High School Trail Champion Scoring**

1. Winning an event will earn 100 points.
    - 1.1. Each finisher after that in order will earn 5 less points (100,95,90...)
  2. 5 points awarded for a 5 fish limit.
  3. 5 points awarded for overall Lunker
- Tie Breakers
1. Most wins for the season
  2. Most fish weighed on scorable events (for the respective team)
  3. Single biggest bag for a team scorable event
  4. Single biggest fish caught
4. The lowest scoring event for each team will be tossed to calculate the year end totals.
  5. In order for a team to earn points towards season end awards they need to fish together, no substitutions allowed.
    - 5.1. In the event a team member cannot participate either member can elect to fish alone and have their event finish count towards season points/awards.

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## **POST WEIGH IN FISH RELEASE**

1. Please make sure all fish swim away when released, if not and they need to be fizzed please contact a member that can do that. All dead fish must be belly cut and sunk to the bottom away from the public.
2. Fish to be released in the designated area or the team will be disqualified from the event and earn last place points. Designated fish release area will be determined by the TD and announced in the morning event brief.

A TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL SHALL BE ALLOWED TO APPROACH, BOARD, AND INSPECT ANY CONTESTANT'S BOAT AT ANY TIME DURING THE TOURNAMENT DAY. INFRACTIONS OF THE RULES MAY RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE TOURNAMENT, AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF CLUB MEMBERSHIP.

Our goal is to have a 100% live release of all the fish we catch during these tournaments. Please take care of the fish while they are in your possession.

Remember that you are representing all bass Teams as well as the Androscoggin L/A Junior BMs & Maine HS BASS, while you are competing in these tournaments. Obey the law. Respect the rights of others. Be courteous. Be safe. GOOD LUCK!!

**Note:** In the event of a change in the tournament schedule, all members must be notified immediately.

**Note:** Any member not fully communicating any disruption in the tournament schedule will be subject to a warning and the second time discharged from the club.

## **National Championship Eligibility**

1. High School teams must have a current Bassmaster Magazine Subscription
2. All teams must have a current BASS membership
3. State dues must be paid and current (keep in mind we qualify 1 year in advance)
4. HS Trail: We need 25 teams to fish at least 1 event in order to qualify a team through the trail, at 50 teams we gain 2 Trail qualifying spots

## **Miscellaneous**

1. L/A Junior BMs and Maine BASS Nation are not able to pair teams with Captains effective for the 2023 season due to State Regulations
  - a. Teams must find their own boats & captains