

Official Hawgtown Bassmasters Tournament Rules Tournament Rules – version 2022

1. Eligibility:

Participation in the Hawgtown Bassmasters Qualifier series is limited to Full Members of and in good standing with the Hawgtown Bassmasters. Associate members of Hawgtown are eligible, but in the event of a non-balanced field for a tournament that cannot be remedied before the draw, the associate member will be placed behind full members in draw order. OBN chapter members and B.A.S.S. Nation State Club members that are 16 years of age or older may put their name into the draw and will be paired with a Hawgtown Member in the event that the number of Boaters and non-boater members from Hawgtown are not even. This is subject to the discretion of the Tournament Committee and may be revoked at any time. Entry fees must be paid in full prior to the day of the event (eTransfer), unless specified otherwise (Boys weekend) or at the dock before fishing in exceptional circumstances. No exceptions to this rule. Order of draw priority in Hawgtown events are as follows:

- a. Full Hawgtown Member;
- b. Associate Hawgtown Member;
- c. Ontario B.A.S.S.Nation Member; and,
- d. Another State B.A.S.S Nation Member.

2. Teams/partners:

Teams will consist of 2 members and will be randomly selected by a drawing of boater and non-boater. Boaters will fish as the boater and the non-boater will fish as the non-boater. The results of the draw are final and will only be adjusted in the event of one team member canceling, breakdown or other exceptional circumstances. In this case, the tournament directors will try to replace the team member that has dropped out.

The reason for canceling will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Cell phone numbers will be given out for each tournament. If a boater or non-boater is going to be late for the tournament, it is his/her responsibility to contact the Tournament Director or any Tournament Committee member before the start of the tournament. Failure to do so will result in disqualification and/or forfeiting of fees and possible membership status.

3. Sportsmanship:

Competitors in Hawgtown Bassmasters Tournaments are expected to follow standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from this and all future Hawgtown Bassmasters Tournaments. Any and all complaints against another competitor must be filed before the end of weigh-in. No complaints will be heard or acted upon thereafter.

4. Tournament waters:

All water accessible by boat from the lake is deemed to be tournament waters unless specified by the Tournament Director. Locking through to other waters is not permitted.

5. Proof of Boat Insurance:

During the competition day of any Hawgtown Bassmasters tournament, no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 boating liability insurance. This documented proof must show effective date and expiration date and must be in the boat for verification. It is also the boater's responsibility to ensure that their boat contains the required safety equipment and be in safe operating condition. All boat occupants must wear life vests when combustible engine is running. Non-boaters are responsible for coordinating the availability of a life vest with boaters. If boater does not have a life vest for the non-boater, the non-boater will be responsible for bringing one..

6. Safety and Boat Equipment:

Approved Personal Flotation Devices must be worn by each competitor while the big motor is running during all tournaments. Competitors are reminded that inflatable life vests are only considered PFDs by the authorities when worn. Boats must be equipped with an operational kill switch which must be attached to the driver when the combustion engine is operating. All Federal and Provincial fisheries and boating regulations must be followed. Minimum length of a boat is 15 ft. Canoes and Inflatables are not permitted and kayaks are exempt. No drugs or alcohol will be consumed during the official tournament hours.

7. Pre-tournament Practice:

Tournament waters are open for pre-fishing up until 6pm the day before the tournament.

8. Transporting and Stocking of Bass:

Transporting bass for the sole purpose of stocking an area for tournament use is prohibited.

9. Boat and Motors:

All Boats must meet Canadian Coast Guard regulations and/or the rating provided by a valid Transport Canada registration certificate. In the case of boats "not rated" by the manufacturer and/or Transport Canada, the horsepower must not exceed a factor of 14.5 horsepower per foot of boat. Horsepower must not exceed the limits set by the manufacturer's rating plate attached to the boat (with 250 HP max.).

10. Aerated Livewells:

All boats must be equipped with fully operational livewell(s). Each legal bass weighed in dead will receive a penalty of 4 oz. The team's dead fish will not qualify for the 'Big Fish' Award, bonus points, Angler of the Year and/or tie breaker eligibility. The Tournament Director or designate has the authority in assessing the status of Bass and applying penalties.

11. Delays or Cancellation:

The Tournament Director has the right to delay or cancel the start of the official tournament because of bad weather, lack of light, fog or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. In the event that the tournament date or lake needs to be changed for whatever reason, then the following will be the order in which the change will be made:

- a. It is preferred that the lake is changed before changing the date;
- b. In the event that the lake cannot be changed, then the date will be changed; and,
- c. In the event that the lake and the date cannot be changed, then the tournament will be cancelled.

12. Size and Limits:

If the tournament is a non-MLF format, a maximum of 5 Bass per team (Largemouth or Smallmouth) per day may be presented for official weighing. Minimum size is 12 inches (tip to tip). Bass measuring less than minimum are ineligible, and a 1-pound penalty shall be deducted from the total team weight. Amendments to this rule will be determined by the Tournament Director prior to the start of a Tournament, based on requirements under the Ontario Fishing Regulations and the body of water being fished. (i.e. Georgian Bay). MLF tournaments will follow the current MLF rules posted on the MLF website:

<https://majorleaguefishing.com/circuits/bass-pro-tour/rules/> (as they relate to size and limits)

13. Late Penalty:

At the tournament Directors discretion, a penalty of 1 pound per minute may be applied for being late (to the check-in) up to 10 minutes. Any competitor more than 10 minutes late may lose all their weight for that day's catch. Late penalty to be directly applied to team's largest fish. See Rule #15 regarding transferring fish to another competitor's boat.

14. Official Checkpoint:

Tournament Director or designated member will determine blastoff and weigh-in locations and times before the tournament starts. It is the responsibility of each competitor to know the blastoff and weigh-in locations prior to the commencement of the tournament.

15. Emergency or Breakdown:

In the case of an emergency or breakdown and after contacting the Tournament Director. Properly tagged fish may be transferred to another competitor's boat for transport to the weigh in. One of the competitors whose fish are being transferred must accompany them to the weigh in.

No competitors may step ashore without first contacting a Tournament Director and advising of their plans to step ashore and provide the reason. Competitors may step ashore to use washrooms at marinas.

16. Tackle and Equipment:

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait will be permitted except for pork strips, rinds, etc. Only 1 rod and reel may be in use by an angler at any time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your boat companion. Nets are allowed. The use of grippers in landing bass and piercing cull tags are prohibited.

17. Prizes and Ties:

In the event of a tie for any place in the tournament, the competitor with the biggest fish shall win. In a virtual tournament, the weight recorded in the app shall be used to decide the tie. In a tournament where the fish are being weighed and to avoid delay during the weigh-in, competitors are responsible for maintaining their biggest fish in the event of a tie. After the weigh-in, the competitors that are tied will be asked to present their biggest fish for weigh-in. If one competitor failed to maintain their biggest fish, they will be assigned no weight for their biggest fish. If both competitors failed to maintain their biggest fish, the points and prize money shall be combined and split between the two competitors equally. The big fish/lunker pot will be awarded to the competitor with the biggest fish. If there is a tie, then the points and prize money shall be split between the two competitors equally.

18. Tournament Fees:

Regular tournament fees are \$50 per individual with \$5 of it allotted to the big fish pool. The non-boater (s) will pay the boaters \$50 entry fee as a means of compensation for boating costs. The boater and non-boater shall decide on an amount to be paid for gas, launching fees, parking. At a minimum it is recommended that the non-boater(s) pay \$20 directly to the boater. Therefore, if a two-person team is paying; it will be the non-boater paying a total of \$100 and \$20 directly to the boater. If a single person is entering (due to not enough non-boaters), it will be the boater paying the entry fee of \$50. Tournament awards are 80% of the entry fees collected to the top 3 teams as follows: 40% to 1st place, 25% to 2nd place and 15% to 3rd place. The remaining 20% of entry fees will be utilized for club supplies, annual awards, etc. The Big-fish/lunker pot will be all paid to the competitor with the biggest fish. All payouts will be completed via e-transfers as soon as possible. Winning teams will split the winnings 50% boater 50% non-boater.

19. Remittance of Tournament Fees:

Non boaters must eTransfer \$100 to the Hawgtown Bassmasters Treasurer at hawgtown@gmail.com once the draw has been confirmed and pairings have been posted on the Hawgtown Bassmasters Website or other media location (e.g. WhatsApp). Fees must be received in full to the Treasurer 2 days before the start of the Tournament. For boys weekends payments may be paid in person prior to the event.

20. Number of boats for an official event:

To allow an official club tournament to proceed a minimum of 3-5 boats registered is required where points will be awarded to the participants. Anything less than 3-5 boats will still proceed with a Hawgtown Tournament where money can be exchanged but will not count towards the Angler of the Year status.

21. Registration and Launch:

Anglers must be registered by 5pm on the Wednesday before the tournament by registering through the Hawgtown Bassmasters Website's (if available), or other media software (WhatsApp). Draws for partners will be done on the Wednesday evening before the tournament date and posted on the Hawgtown Bassmasters Website on the Tournaments page or WhatsApp. The draw may be delayed if the Tournament Director is attempting to locate another competitor to balance the field. In the event of a blastoff start to the tournament, the order of the drawing will determine the order of the launch with the

first team drawn launching first. In the event that the Tournament Director does not conduct the launch, the last team drawn will be responsible for the boat check and launch.

22. Angler of the Year points:

Competitors will be awarded points based on their standing at the end of the tournament. The points will be on a declining basis starting with 50 points awarded to each member of the 1st place team. For example:

100 points for 1st place;

98 points for 2nd place; and,

96 points for 3rd place, etc.

1 extra point for big fish (including ties)

In the event of a tie that cannot be resolved by the use of the biggest fish, the competitors will each receive the highest available points. For example, if 2 teams tie for 3rd place, both teams will receive 96 points and the next team would be 5th place and receive 92 points. Teams that do not weigh in any fish will receive 10 point for participating in the tournament. A competitor's best 6 tournaments will be used for angler of the year totals. Competitors can use up to 2 HYPER events towards the AOY

23. Fish Care:

On a virtual event, there are no fish in a live well. The only exception is if the competitors have no working scales onboard. In the event that competitors loose connection during the event, they should take photos of their catch and upload when they have connection or present to the Tournament Director at the end of the event. Competitors must ensure that photos contain date and location tags (i.e. ensure location services are activated on the device taking photos).

Fish are to remain alive and care is to be taken with preserving them for a healthy return to the waters after an event. Any action taken to deliberately harm tournament fish in your care will result in a disqualification from the event. No culling tags that penetrate the fish shall be used during a tournament. Using piercing tags will result in a disqualification if observed, witnessed and evidenced. The only exception to this shall be the use of a properly administered "fizzing" device used only for the purpose of restoring the fish to its natural buoyancy. Teams must cull down to tournament limit prior to moving by outboard. All tournaments are catch and release and all fish will be returned to the water by the end of the tournament.

24. Conduct, Grievances & Appeals:

During any Hawgtown Bassmasters event/function, members are expected to conduct themselves responsibly. As a club we represent not only Hawgtown Bassmasters but the entire sport/tournament fishing community and must strive to keep public opinion positive. The Tournament Director may penalize or disqualify any entrant for any violation of tournament rules, fishing regulations, or un-sportsmanship like conduct. Any grievances need to be made to Club Officers at the tournament site and prior to weigh-in. The administration and interpretation of all the tournament rules will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director and the Executive Committee. Appeals may be brought to the Club's Board of Directors.