



Battle On the Woods 2024

Sponsored by Wildcard Excavation

Rules & Regulations

Tournament Format

1. The LOTW (the 'tournament') format is a two-person team, single day, total weight, live release tournament.
2. The Tournament Director has the right to delay or shorten the tournament, subject to weather and/or safety considerations.
1. The LOTW, its promoters, employees, sponsors, organizers, hosts, Directors, Officers, and affiliated organizations assisting the operations of any of the tournaments; their agents and/or agents and assignees are not responsible for any death, injury, liability, fire, theft or loss that may result prior to, during or after the tournament howsoever cause. ALL COMPETITORS MUST AGREE TO THE ENTRY AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THE WAIVER OF CLAIM, RELEASE, AND INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENT UPON SUBMISSION OF TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION.

3.

Participation and Eligibility

1. Competitors must be a minimum of eighteen (18) years of age unless they have permission from their parents or guardians
2. All anglers must possess the required license as per the 2024 Ontario Fishing Regulations.
3. The Manitoba Bass Anglers Executive Board reserves the right to refuse entry to any individual or team for any reason that the Committee may deem appropriate, including refusal to refund the paid entry fee.
4. The tournament is limited to Manitoba Bass Anglers Members only. If you are not a member, visit our website at www.mbbass.ca to sign up.

Entry Fee and Registration

1. The Early Bird Entry fee per team is \$200.00 if paid in full on or before August 6th, 2024, at 11:59 PM by eTransfer or Cash. All entries after that time will be \$250.00. WALK-UPS ARE PERMITTED BUT ARE CASH ONLY!
2. The boat draw will be held on Aug 7th at the monthly meeting.
3. The last day for all entries is Friday, Aug 16th, 2024 at noon. The tournament director will assign you a boat number based on when your entry has been paid and received Team number motor tags will take place on Saturday, Aug 17, 2024, at the Lake of the Woods Marina in Norman Bay after a boat inspection has been passed.
4. Canceling your entry fee after noon on Aug 16, 2024 will result in a DQ and your entry fee will be included in the tournament pay-outs.
5. Full refunds will only be issued if a team can provide sufficient evidence of the inability to participate (i.e. doctor's note, emergency, etc.). These will only be considered if the evidence is submitted to the tournament director before noon on Aug 16th, 2024.

Pre-Tournament Practice

1. Pre-tournament practice is allowed up till 3PM September 15, 2023
2. No competitor may enter the tournament waters for the purpose of locating bass or possible fishing locations AFTER 3PM August 16, 2024 up until tournament commencement.
3. Violation will result in tournament disqualification.
4. Moving fish from one location to another during pre-tournament practice is prohibited. Violations will result in tournament disqualification.

Live Release of Fish

1. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of built-in or securely fastened, properly aerated, or circulating live well.
2. Any fish mauled, altered, or injected with water or a foreign matter will result in a team's immediate disqualification.
3. Under no circumstances are dead fish to be released.
4. For the proper handling of fish during the weigh-in, the use of the live release bags is mandatory. Live release bags will NOT be provided.

Penalty for Late Check-In

1. Competitors who are late checking in for weigh-in after the required return time for whatever reason, including breakdown, will be disqualified. Competitors are strongly urged to contact MBA staff to notify them if they will be late or absent.

MB Bass tournament director for the Wpg River Contact Ryan Gigolyk 204-961-0109



Scoring

1. Only Smallmouth Bass and Largemouth Bass legally caught on tournament day by angling qualify for weigh-in. Violation of this rule will result in disqualification.
2. The Weigh Master's scale and measure board (The Judge brand) are the official equipment of the tournament.
3. A daily limit of FIVE (5) bass (any combination of Smallmouth and/or Largemouth) per team may be weighed. A team may possess the daily limit as outlined in the 2024 Ontario Fishing Regulations while angling only. While under main engine power, no more than 5 bass may be possessed per team.
4. The minimum length of each bass is twelve (12) inches. Bass will be measured with the mouth closed and the tail pinched. Bass presented for weigh-in which fails to meet the minimum length will not be weighted and the team will be disqualified.
5. Each team's fish will be presented to the Weighmaster in the containers supplied by the tournament organizers.
6. All weights called by the Weighmaster are immediately official and are not thereafter contestable.
7. Dead or unreleasable bass presented for weigh-in will not be weighed.
8. Species caught other than Smallmouth Bass or Largemouth Bass must be returned to tournament waters immediately. No fish, other than Smallmouth Bass will be kept in the boat during tournament hours, up to including the completion of the weigh-in for the tournament field.

Boats and Motors

1. The Tournament Director reserves the right to disallow the use of any boat, motor, and/or equipment deemed unsafe, inappropriate, or unsuitable.
2. All boats must be a minimum of fourteen (14) feet in length. Canoes, dinghies, barges, houseboats, or similar craft are not permitted.
3. All boats, motors, and equipment must meet Canadian Coast Guard standards.
4. All boats equipped with any emergency kill switch must have the kill switch securely attached to the operator whenever the boat is on plane.

Launching and Morning Equipment Inspections

1. Teams are required to have their equipment ready and on the water no later than fifteen (15) minutes prior to the scheduled departure time. Late arrivals will be penalized and leave at the end of the take-off after all other teams have departed.
2. Boat inspections will commence at 7:00 a.m. at the Lake of the Woods Marina Docks.
3. Teams must have all tackle boxes, hatches, and live wells ready for inspection.
4. Boats will be inspected for, but not limited to; team number motor tags properly affixed; operation of the live well; kill switch operation; no live, dead, frozen, or freeze-dried bait, no underwater cameras, and for required safety equipment.
5. Failure to report for daily boat inspection will result in disqualification of their catch.

Start & Tournament Hours

1. Tournament angling hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Tournament officials will determine how boats will start prior to tournament commencement (i.e. trickle start or shotgun start). The decision will be communicated to all anglers prior to tournament commencement.
3. Any team starting or attempting to start out of order will be held back by the Official Starter until all boats have departed.
4. Any team with lures in the water prior to their official start/release according to the assigned boat number will be disqualified.
5. Return/check-in time for all teams is 4:00 p.m. Any teams returning for weigh-in after 4:00 p.m. will be disqualified.

Sportsmanship and Courtesy

1. It is strictly prohibited for any competitor to give, offer, accept or suggest the exchange of any weighable fish to, from or with any competitor or non-competitor.
2. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, particularly with regards to boating and fishing in the vicinity of a non-competitor.
3. Use of cellular phones is prohibited unless for emergency situations only.

Safety

1. All competitors must practice safe boating at all times during tournament fishing.
2. Every competitor must wear a fully secured Coast Guard-approved life jacket whenever the main combustion engine is in operation.
3. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed by competitors during the tournament fishing hours.
4. Any team charged with an offense by any law enforcement agency during the tournament fishing hours will be disqualified.
5. Competitors may not leave their boats except in the event of a thunderstorm, lightning or severe weather, or other emergency. Anglers may in these situations, pull onto the nearest shoreline until it is safe to continue fishing.
6. Every team, whether weighing fish or not, must check-in at the check-in dock located at the starting location. The penalty for failing to report will be disqualification of the team. The check-in dock will be ready for check-ins at 12:00 p.m. each day. If breakdowns force a team in early, they must check-in at the designated weigh station.

Mechanical Breakdowns or Emergencies

1. A team that has a mechanical problem may not use a different boat to finish that tournament day.
2. In the event of a breakdown the competitor must call the following phone number Ryan Gigolyk 204-961-0109 and get clearance from the tournament Official to either transfer their catch to another competitor's boat or be towed in by another competitor. The transfer of fish can only be done if there are two live wells and one competitor from the broken-down boat must accompany the catch back to the check-in.

On the Water

1. Competitors are personally responsible for knowing all tournament rules and the current Ontario Fishing Regulations and Canadian Coast Guard regulations. Teams found to have violated federal or provincial fishing and boating regulations during the tournament may be disqualified when this information is confirmed by tournament Officials. This judgment could also apply to the eligibility to participate in future tournaments and MBA membership.
2. Competitors are not allowed to toss or pass any items (to another boat or to receive any items) from another boat.
3. All teams and their equipment are subject to inspection at any time during the tournament. Committee patrol boats may come alongside and request proper identification, and if necessary, board to check for adherence to all tournament rules. No other boat may come in contact with a Competitor's boat at any time.
4. No competitor shall step onshore without approval or accompaniment by a tournament Official (except in adverse weather conditions or emergency bathroom situations).
5. No fishing information may be given to or exchanged with competitors during the tournament fishing hours by tournament or non-tournament anglers.
6. Each boat must respect a 50-foot diameter fishing circle, which may not be fished or navigated through by another boat.
7. Competitors are expected to co-operate as much as possible with official video and still photography personnel.

Tackle and Equipment

1. Only artificial lures, manufactured baits, pork rind and commercially available liquid attractants may be used.
2. No live, dead, frozen or freeze-dried bait of any kind may be used or possessed by any competitor during the tournament. Teams caught using prohibited baits will be disqualified.
3. The use, in live wells, of commercially available fish care chemicals is permitted.
4. The use of underwater cameras or any similar device is prohibited during the tournament.
5. Use of BISONIC EQUIPMENT is prohibited.
6. All items and equipment are subject to inspection at any time during the tournament. Official tournament boats may come alongside and come aboard and inspect the competitor's boat at any time.

Violations and Protest

1. General Penalties: teams may be disqualified from the tournament for frequent or major infractions of the rules and will not receive a refund of their entry fee. Examples of major infractions include unsafe boating practices, gross angling ethics violations, and violations that clearly give the competitor an unfair or illegal advantage over other competitors, such as; movement of fish, use of live bait, fishing out of bounds, caged fish, violation of provincial and federal fishing and boating regulations, exchanging fish between.
2. Each team captain has the right to file a protest when they have firsthand knowledge that a rule has been broken or violated by another team.

3. The “violations” Committee will be composed of the top 5 team captains, and they will interpret the rules according to their ‘spirit and intent’. The decisions of the Committee are final, and not subject to review at any time.
4. If the protest is found to be valid, the penalized team will be dealt with as the Committee sees fit.

Boundaries

1. Ash Rapids and French Portage/ Big Narrows are the cutoffs for the MBA LOTW Tournament. (See Diagram)



Tie Breakers

1. In the event of a tie, the team with the heaviest single bass of the tournament will govern.

Changes and Amendments

1. The Executives of the Manitoba Bass Anglers retain the right to change or amend any or all of these preceding rules at their sole discretion without prior notification or consultation with the Competitors.

Law Enforcement

1. By agreeing to these rules and conditions, you are waiving any privacy rights between yourself, the Conservation officers of Manitoba, Ontario, and all other law enforcement officers and the MBA. You agree that if you have any interaction with law enforcement during the tournament hours, the officers have the right to contact the MBA and its tournament officials to report the situation. If the member of law enforcement provides the MBA with any information about an infraction, the MBA will take the side of the officer in any given situation and result in disqualification.

For more information email the MBA or in case of emergency contact Ryan Gigolyk at 204-961-0109

