

Gopher Bassmasters

Pan-O-Prog Bass Tournament - Official Rules

One team member must attend the pre-tournament meeting at 5:40 am.

Casperson Park on Lake Marion (Dakota County), Lakeville, MN

Official Rules and Regulations

Registration, Ease-off and Pre-Tournament Meeting

Contestants must enter as two-person teams. No single angler teams allowed.

Any angler 16 years of age or under must be teamed with their parent or legal guardian; or 1.) angler provides Tournament Director with a liability waiver signed by parent or legal guardian and 2.) competes with a partner who is at least 18 years of age. Minimum age of any angler competing is 14 years.

All applications will be accepted on a first-come basis (based on post-mark date), with a full field being 35 teams/boats.

Boat check-in will begin at 4:30 a.m morning of the tournament. All participants must leave and return to Casperson's Boat Launch. Boats will be inspected prior to the start of the tournament.

Boat numbers and ease off position will be assigned by random drawing the morning of the tournament. Draw ordered is first come, first serve, based on check-in order.

One member of the team must be present at the pre-tournament meeting (south of landing, main point at Shelter C) at 5:30 am the morning of the tournament. If a team is not in attendance, the late party must meet with a member of the tournament staff for a rules meeting, which may delay their take-off. The late team may only take-off once approved by the tournament director.

Off-limits, practice

Practice/Prefishing will end at 6:00 p.m. the evening before the event. Off-limits begins.

Competition

All participants must wear a life jacket while under power of the main motor.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances may be consumed by participants prior to or during tournament hours or be allowed in the boat.

Participants may NOT leave his/her boat during competition unless verbal permission is obtained from Tournament Director. The only exception to this rule is to retrieve a 'hung' lure from a dock or similar structure. When removing a 'hung' lure from such a structure, the participant must return to the boat as soon as lure is no longer 'hung'. Any fishing action made by a participant while on the structure will result in disqualification.

No participant may anchor closer than 50' to another participant's boat or fish within 20' of another boat.

One (1) fishing buoy/marker may be used at a time per team. When using a buoy, participants are allowed a "casting distance" halo around the buoy and another participant's boat may not interfere within a "casting distance" of the buoy/marker.

All 'no-wake' areas must be observed.

No live bait or underwater cameras allowed during tournament hours.

Live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to sustain a limit of fish in as good and releasable condition as possible.

All [Minnesota fishing laws/regulations](#) will be followed. Any violation of state law, by an individual or team, will result in team disqualification.

Scoring, weigh-in

Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass may be scored toward tournament weight.

Each bass must measure twelve (12) inches or greater, on the tournament director's bump board. Any team that brings a fish less than 12" (aka 'short' fish) to the scales, will be penalized 1 pound off their total weight and have the short fish disqualified.

Six (6) fish limit per team.

Prizes will be by total team weight. Ties will be broken by number of live fish weighed and then weight of the largest fish per team or, if needed, by the tournament officials. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the tournament weigh-in.

Any fish mauled, mashed, frozen, injected with water or other fluids/substances containing foreign matter to add weight, or showing extreme loss of gill color may result in disqualification at the discretion of the tournament officials.

Tournament hours are 6:00 am - 1:00 pm. A team will be penalized one (1) pound for every minute they are late to check-in area. Disqualification for 15 minutes or greater.

CATCH AND RELEASE PROMOTED - four (4) ounce penalty per dead fish.

Culling of dead fish is NOT allowed and results in disqualification of entire day's catch.

Scales will open at the official weigh-in site at 11:30am. Fish can only be weighed with a weigh-in bag provided by Gopher Bassmasters.

Protest, Rule interpretation and enforcement, and sportsmanship

To submit a protest, a tournament participant/team must protest the alleged violation of another tournament participant/team's infraction (state law, no-wake, cheating, etc.) in writing. To submit a protest, a participant must notify the Tournament Director that they wish to file a protest before official closing of the scales on the day of the alleged infraction. The protesting party must obtain a protest form from the Tournament Staff and complete the protest form and return to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the official closing of the scales on the day of the alleged infraction. The protest must be accompanied by a \$50.00 deposit. The \$50.00 deposit shall be returned if a protest is found to be valid.

In the interest of good sportsmanship, it is expected participants will not crowd or impede other participants. Other than going to shore for adverse weather conditions, no two participants' boats may pull up to each other during tournament hours.

Patrol boat(s) may pull up and inspect participants at any time. Anyone found violating a rule will be immediately disqualified, and the disqualification will be announced at weigh-in.

It is the intention of the directors to provide an honest, sportsmanlike tournament. Participants are reminded that the "Spirit of the Rule" will prevail in all judgment cases.

Refunds and promoters

Tournament fee refunds after June 26 will be at tournament directors discretion. Alternates will be on a first-come basis after the 35 teams have been filled.

Promoters, tournament officials and organizations assisting in the tournament operation, their agencies, agents, etc., are not responsible for death, injuries, damages, liability, theft, or any loss of any kind to entrants. Each entrant upon signing any entry form will, in effect, be signing a waiver form.

Person or companies named on the flyer have paid a fee or granted a service for advertising services only.

Last Updated: 01/31/2017