

CLEARWATER LEAGUE “IN-HOUSE” RULES AND PROCEDURES
2011/2012 SEASON

CLEARWATER BASSMASTERS ACCEPTS THE PRINCIPAL THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE HONEST AND WILL STRIVE AT ALL TIMES TO ADHERE TO THE RULES AND ETHICS WE ALL BELIEVE IN.

GENERAL

1. It is required that members know what the procedures and rules relating to in-house tournaments are. These rules are designed to ensure that all members are guaranteed impartial and fair treatment at all times, and must not be seen as an insinuation of dishonesty in any way.
2. Trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places at each in-house. Floating trophies with a keeper trophy will be awarded for, the Club Champion (Gents, Ladies and Junior) 2nd, and 3rd places, the largest Large-mouth for the season, the largest Small-mouth for the season and the heaviest bag of (3) fish for the season. The trophies/awards will be handed out at our end of season prize giving to the winning members. (In good standing only).
3. The onus for returning the floating trophies is that of the receiving member by no later than June's monthly meeting.
4. The best six in-house results for each angler will count toward the Club Champion and league position.
5. Other events and awards may be made at the discretion of the General Membership.
6. The dates and venues for in-houses shall be predetermined at the beginning of the season by the committee. The committee reserves the right to change the venue with 7 days advance notice.

RULE 1 - COMPETITION FORMAT

- a. 3 sessions with a bag limit of 3 fish.
- b. One attendance point will be awarded to all members who are present at each weigh-in after a session, therefore a maximum of 3 points per in-house can be collected. These points will be added to the points gained during each session.
- c. Any other competition or cast for cash arrangements must be formulated and agreed upon at the Tournament Director's meeting.
- d. Members are encouraged to bring along guests (adults and children) to promote our club, bass fishing, outdoors etc. The guests scores may count and be registered on the score sheet for that event.
- e. Guests will not be eligible for trophies or the big fish badge.
- f. A guest may fish in a total of 3 in-houses per season.
- g. Guests are bound by the rules laid out by Clearwater Bass Masters and it is up to the responsible member to ensure that this is adhered to.

RULE 2 - COMPETITION BRIEFING

- a. A Tournament Director's meeting will take place prior to the commencement of all in-houses, confirming start and end times as well as outlining any extraordinary situations.

RULE 3 - CERTIFICATES OF COMPETENCY (COC or Skippers Tickets)

- a. Each Clearwater Bassmaster member that operates a vessel will be required to have a valid COC.
- b. Members who fish with another member as a partner for any event will not be required to have a COC, These members will be authorized to operate the vessel whilst the holder of the valid COC is also on the vessel but at no time other than in an emergency may they operate a vessel whilst not in the company of a valid COC holder.
- c. Each member that is a holder of a COC will be required to give a copy of the document to the club Tournament Director who will then file the said document in the club COC register.
- d. Any member not in possession of a valid COC wishing to operate a vessel will under no circumstances be allowed to participate in any club sanctioned fishing event.

RULE 4 - CERTIFICATES OF FITNESS (COF)

- a. All Clearwater Bassmaster members who own a vessel that is longer than 3 meters in length or with an outboard motor greater than 15HP will be required to have a valid COF for the said vessel.
- b. Each member that has a COF for his or her vessel will be required to prominently display the COF number on his or her vessel.
- c. Each member is responsible for providing a copy of the COF to the club Tournament Director who will then file the said document in the club COF register.
- d. The Tournament Director shall take the responsibility of informing all members when their COF is due to expire at a club meeting and it will then be the individual member's responsibility to ensure that the COF is renewed.
- e. It is each member's responsibility to provide the Tournament Director with a copy of any updates COF's.
- f. Any member that does not renew the vessels COF and is therefore not in possession of a valid COF at the time of fishing a club sanctioned event for the vessel will under no circumstances be allowed to participate in the event.
- g. Each member will be responsible for maintaining all the safety equipment required for a valid COF on his or her own vessel at all times.
- h. Random safety equipment checks can be done at the Tournament Directors discretion.
- i. Each member who owns a vessel that requires a COF will be required to sign the Clearwater Bassmaster Safety Letter which will be kept by the Tournament Director in the club COF file.

RULE 5 - USE OF LIVE-WELLS

- a. Live-wells, adequate in size to accommodate the boat's limit of fish, will be used on each boat and have an aerated or freshwater supply system.
- b. The tournament director may reject live-wells that do not conform to the sports norm.

RULE 6 - LIVE-WELL INSPECTION

- a. Prior to the commencement of any session of the in-house, all live-wells will be empty of fish.
- b. Hatches for purposes other than live-wells may be opened for inspection, as will coolers and other watertight containers, no matter their purpose.
- c. Inspections may be carried out on and off the water, no more than 30 minutes before the starting time of each of the angling sessions.
- d. Inspections may be carried out at the discretion of the Tournament Director prior to each session.
- e. Inspections may be carried out between sessions to determine if the live-well is operating in good working order.

RULE 7 – SAFETY

- a. All members taking part in Clearwater club tournaments are obliged to have their boats fitted with kill switches in operating condition. Kill switch checks may be done prior to each session by the Tournament Director. The Tournament Directors decision is final.
- b. Each person on the boat shall wear life jackets and use the kill switch while the internal combustion engine is operating. Members are required to do these at all times and a self policing policy will be adopted, club members are encouraged to watch other members and point out if they were not wearing a life jacket or using the kill switch.
- c. Any member who does not have a life jacket at the start of an in-house will not be permitted to start the in-house.
- d. Standard safety rules pertaining to local waters, including the "rule of the road" (shore on RHS, resulting in counter-clockwise movement) will be observed at all times.
- e. When boats approach ahead, they shall pass with the other boat to the left (port rule) at a distance and speed so that the wake of neither will endanger the other e.g. always stay on the right side of the boat approaching.
- f. Overtaking in the same direction shall be executed with discretion and the overtaking boat shall maintain its course until well clear of overtaken boat(s). Generally, the overtaking boat should keep to the deep-water side of the other, without endangering boats approaching head-on.
- g. Boats approaching at right angles shall apply the port-rule. The boat with the other on the port (left) side has right of way. The other boat shall alter course and/or speed so as to pass astern of the boat with right of way.

- h. Powerboats shall give way to boats under sail or hand power, irrespective of the right of way.
- i. If, in their opinion, a member appears to be incapable of operating his boat in a safe manner, the tournament director may exercise their right to disqualify such person, in that event.
- j. All boats will be equipped with an oar or trolling motor, one lifejacket per angler, red flag, an anchor, a 30 meter rope, some form of bailing mechanism and any other requirements determined by law.
- k. Safety is paramount, and in the event of inclement weather conditions, the majority attending will decide on a cancellation or delay until conditions improve. This decision will be binding on all members.
- l. For safety reasons any member may request the Tournament Director or any committee member to consider a delay in the start of an in-house session if the conditions pose a potential safety threat (wind, lightning, fog etc). Such a request should be made at least 30 minutes before the scheduled start time or immediately that there is deterioration in conditions. A decision will be taken in the best interests of safety and the event.

RULE 8 – SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. Members will at all times display a high standard of sportsmanship and courtesy to both fellow members and members of the public.
- b. The principles of conservation will be promoted at all times.

RULE 9 - INJURED FISH

- a. Bass, which are willfully mutilated, will be disqualified at the discretion of the weigh master, whose decision will be final.
- b. The introduction of materials or devices that cause an increase in weight/mass of a fish shall be deemed as willful damage and will be just cause for the disqualification of the member concerned.
- c. Old and/or accidental injuries, which do not cause the fish to be heavier than if it were not injured, will be accepted.
- d. Living fish, that have partially ingested their prey, shall not be weighed until the protruding remains of such ingested prey are safely removed and not count towards the weight.

RULE10 - WEIGHING FISH & FISH LIMITS

- a. Only the member will handle his/her catch to be weighed and presented for scoring. Helpers may be provided but will not handle the fish.
- b. Once a member enters the weigh-in area, the fish in their possession become the property of the weigh-master who may also inspect their live-wells at any time.
- c. The fish limit will be 3 (three) live fish only per angler on the boat in any one time, regardless of the statutory (license) limits stipulated in any particular region.
- d. In the event of a member having more than the legal limit of dead or alive fish anywhere on the boat at the weigh-in, the angler will be disqualified for that session.

- e. Where there is more than the limit of dead or alive fish present on the boat for the number of members (if more than one) on a boat and doubt is expressed as to which angler is responsible for exceeding the limit, all the members on that boat shall be disqualified for that session.
- f. The weigh-master must provide the person whose fish are being weighed with an opportunity to inspect, confirm and accept the weight recorded before releasing these fish, the onus is on the angler to make use of this opportunity. (no "after the event" queries will be accommodated)

RULE11 - LATE WEIGH-IN

- a. Fish must be taken to the weigh-master as soon as possible at the END of the fishing session. (The weigh-master will not come to you).
- b. Any angler/members who are not in the immediate area of the weigh-in at the time of closure of the fishing session will be deemed to be late for the weigh-in for that specific session and the entire catch for that session will be disqualified. The immediate area is defined as within sight and normal verbal communication range from the weigh-in site.
- c. In the event of mechanical failure that is outside of the control of the boat driver or similar unforeseen circumstances causing an angler/members and or others rendering assistance to be late for the weigh-in, the Tournament Director will make a ruling based on the circumstances presented. His ruling will be final. The angler/members affected must make every effort to contact the Tournament Director, a committee member or another club member and advise them of the situation prior to the weigh-in time.

RULE 12 – FISH CULLING

- a. Dead fish may be weighed as a part of the bag limit, however, no point(s) for the fish will be awarded, and only points for the weight will be awarded.
- b. No culling shall take place in the vicinity of the weigh station.

RULE 13 – SESSIONS

- a. Each in-house will comprise of 3 sessions with a bag limit of 3 fish per session. Start and end times for each session will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- b. In exceptional circumstances (e.g. due to bad weather conditions) sessions may be changed at the discretion of the tournament director. Each session will be treated as if new, with defined start/finish times, live-well inspections and other applicable provisions as laid down in these rules.
- c. Should any member miss or arrive at a tournament venue after the completion of the Tournament Directors meeting, the onus shall fall upon that member to familiarize themselves with any details or changes that may have been made.

RULE 14 - NO-WAKE AREA

- a. A no-wake area will be in force for at least 100 (one-hundred) meters to either side of the weigh-in site and 50 (fifty) meters to the front for the duration of the tournament.
- b. All boats within this area will proceed at idle pace (below 800RPM) so as not to cause a wake.

RULE 15 – PROTESTS

- a. Any protest is to be submitted to the tournament director no later than 10 minutes after the last weigh-in or session.
- b. Each protest is to be item specific and may be verbal or in writing along with names of witnesses (if any).
- c. No protest shall be considered or entertained after the period of weigh-in is concluded.

RULE 16 - TIE-BREAKING

- a. In the event of a tie, the bag with the most fish, followed, if necessary, by the bag containing the heaviest fish, will decide the winner.

RULE 17 - SCORING SYSTEM

- a. 1 point per kilogram of fish weighed and 1 point per fish weighed.
- b. Dead fish may be weighed, however, no points for the fish will be awarded, and only points for the weight will be awarded as above.
- c. 1 attendance point will be awarded to all members who are present at each weigh-in after a session, thus a maximum of 3 points per in-house can be collected. These points will be added to the points gained during each session.
- d. The best six in-house results for each member will count toward the club champion and league position.

RULE 18 - LURE TYPE TACKLES

- a. Angling will be with artificial lures only.
- b. No "live bait" or prepared (organic) bait shall be permitted.
- c. Only one wet line attached to a rod and reel, per angler may be used at any one time.
- d. No trolling will be permitted; i.e. no lure attached to a line may be overboard while the main (outboard) engine is running.
- e. No tethered or hand-line of any description may be used under any circumstances.

RULE 19 - ELIGIBLE FISH

- a. Only bass measuring 300 mm and over will be acceptable for weighing. The measurement is to be from the outer extremities of the closed mouth to the outer tip of the tail, with the fish placed on a flat surface.
- b. Should a member not clearly nominate any particular fish in their bag being weighed for size checking, and is then found to have an undersized fish in their bag, that sessions total bag will be disqualified.
- c. You may not leave the boat or physically enter the water to free fish caught and entangled in structure, other than to release the fish to ensure its survival. This fish will NOT count and may NOT be weighed.

- d. A fish that is "gilling" shall be deemed to be alive and the final decision is at the discretion of the weigh master.
- e. The weigh master is to confirm the smallest fish in every member's bag, irrespective of fish size.

RULE 20 - WET LINES

- a. No boat may approach closer than 40 meters to another boat, except by mutual consent and in the event of rendering emergency assistance to the occupants of such boat. If an angler allows any one angler into his wet-line radius, then he is obliged to allow any angler into this area.
- b. Fish shall not be transferred to another host for any reason whatsoever other than in the event of a complete mechanical failure. One of the members from the immobilised boat shall accompany the catch.
- c. There shall be an arrangement, which shall prevent catches from being confused, without mutilation of any fish

RULE 21 - METHODS OF ANGLING

- a. Angling may only take place with a recognized rod and reel, with only 1 (one) wet line in use at any one time.
- b. A landing net may be used to land fish.
- c. A member may not enter the water to retrieve a fish caught on undergrowth whilst fighting the fish i.e. to manually retrieve or catch a fish by hand that has been entangled in the depths of the water, necessitating swimming in or underwater to achieve this.

RULE 22 - PROHIBITED AREAS

- a. Members shall be disqualified for that session if encroachment is made on out-of-bounds areas, which have been declared off-limits by water affairs/nature conservation or the dam authorities e.g. dam wall areas, weirs or private property etc.
- b. Members shall be disqualified if excessive speed is applied in a no-wake area such as a sanctuary, breeding area and/or private property (where this stipulation is a condition of entry to such an area).

RULE 23 - ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

- a. No member may be under the Influence of alcohol or drugs whilst participating in a tournament. The stipulations of National Road Safety rules will apply.
- b. The use of illegal drugs or substances (as defined in common law) by contestants during tournaments is prohibited.
- c. Contravention of Rule 22 A. & B. above will constitute a serious offence and will be summarily dealt with, preventing further participation, removing (by force if necessary) the capability to operate a boat or motor vehicle until deemed safe to return such control.

RULE 24 – WASTE MANAGEMENT

- a. All non-biodegradable waste generated during a fishing session is to be disposed of at the campsite/venue bins i.e. old line, plastic, cigarette butts, plastic packets and bottles, foil packets, glass etc.
- b. If no suitable bins are available at the campsite/venue, the waste generated by the respective club member is to be bagged and taken home for safe disposal,
- c. The safety officer (TD or nominated member) will do a campsite check at the end of the tournament to ensure the camp is clean.

RULE 26 – THE CLEARWATER CLASSIC

- a. The Clearwater Classic has been added to the annual calendar of events as of 2011 and will run in parallel with the dates and venue of the regular Clearwater in-house for that month. The Classic will take place annually in August with the first in-house of that season.
- b. To qualify for the classic, members will have to have been with Clearwater for at least one full season. Non qualifiers may still fish the regular club in-house.
- c. The Clearwater Classic will run in parallel with the normal club in-house and in-house sessions (3 sessions).
- d. A floating trophy will be presented to the winner of the Classic at the following months meeting.
- e. The winner of the Classic will receive a keeper trophy and the end of season prize giving.
- f. There will be no other trophies for this event... only for the Classic champion.
- g. The Clearwater Classic Rules;
 - 5 fish limit per session (3 sessions).
 - Points will be awarded on weight only – no points per fish.
 - The most weight over 3 sessions of 5 fish wins.
 - The Tournament Director will sound the horn to start each session.
 - Live-well checks will be randomly done by the Tournament Director.
 - No pre-fishing for the Classic with a 7 day cut-off.
 - Non members / guests will not be eligible to enter the classic.
 - Clearwater's standard rules will apply with the exception of the above points.

RULE 25 - POWER OF DISQUALIFICATION

Under ANY of the above rules, the tournament director and/or committee is empowered to disqualify any member, after due consideration of the facts, deemed to have broken these rules at their level and/or apply disciplinary measures as defined in the Clearwater constitution.