

Special Conditions for Black Bass Tournaments without the Slot Limit Stipulation

Tournament Participants are allowed to possess 5 fish with a minimum size of 12 inches. No Maximum size.

Tournament Date: _____

Tournament Weigh-in Location: _____

For Tournament Director

All directors are responsible for advising their participants of all conditions and to monitor compliance.

A DNR-signed copy of these conditions must be displayed at the site of the tournament along with a copy of the permit.

The permittee or a tournament director must be present at the time of the weigh-in.

The participants of the tournament must possess a copy of a valid Participant Permit (see last page) signed by the Tournament Director.

The participants of the tournament must possess a valid fishing license to fish tidewater in the State of Maryland and personal identification.

Tournament organizers shall ensure that all fish are handled expeditiously in a manner that maximizes the survival of all fish.

For Tournament Participants

Tournament participants may not possess or weigh-in more than the total daily bag limit for black bass (5), regardless of the number of weigh-ins.

Each boat will have one or more functioning aerated live well(s). Anglers not meeting this requirement may not participate in the tournament. A functioning live well is defined as one that has a working aeration or oxygenation system or a flow-through system to pump fresh water into the live well. Each live well shall be inspected by the permittee or a tournament official prior to the tournament's starting time to ensure they are operating properly.

Only artificial lures may be used.

A culling system must be utilized that reduces fish handling stress and injury (e.g., clips and color coding). Devices that require punching a hole in the fish's mouth are NOT permitted. Fish should not be lifted from a live well by culling tubes, ropes, etc.

All dead fish are a part of a participants' bag and must be part of the weigh-in; no culling of dead fish.

A penalty of at least 0.25 pounds (four ounces) must be imposed on a participant for each dead fish.

Bass shall be transported to and from the vessel to the weigh-in site in water-filled containers with sufficient water to cover the fish, except during the actual measuring/weighing process.

Bass shall not be kept in water-filled containers longer than two (2) minutes prior to, during, and after weigh-in without supplemental aeration and/or water exchange. Because of their potentially greater demand for oxygen, bass that are larger than approximately five (5) pounds must be either transported in mesh bags that are suspended in oxygenated water both before and after weighing or Individual bass over approximately five (5) lbs shall be held in separate containers-bags of oxygenated water both before and after weighing.

After the Tournament

All tournament participants shall release fish to a holding tank and not release them directly to the water. To accommodate this, tournaments shall have mobile holding tank facilities for keeping bass alive and in good condition. This may be accommodated numerous ways that could include any one of the following:

1. operating a release boat;
2. using tanks on a trailer or in the bed of a truck;
3. using a pre-release tank to hold bass or refresh bass before their release to the water;
4. using live wells of bass boats to recuperate bass before being released to the water; or
5. arranging assistance from DNR if redistribution of bass is desired by the director (http://dnr2.maryland.gov/fisheries/Documents/Policy_On_Redistribution.pdf).

Conditions for holding tanks are:

1. The total weight of bass confined shall not exceed one pound per gallon of water (for example, a 25 gallon live well should hold no more than 25 pounds of bass).
2. Each tank shall be equipped with aeration, air injection, or oxygenation system.
3. Holding tank water temperature shall be maintained at the river surface water temperature or no more than 7 degrees Fahrenheit below the surface water temperature.

The length of time a bass should recuperate following a tournament may depend on the individual fish. Bass that are exhausted and need time to recover often remain still at the bottom of tanks, are not lively when lipped, or do not try to bite down when lipped. Dead fish should not be released to water bodies.

Live bass should be released to an approved site following a tournament. Approved locations at popular weigh-in sites are labeled here: <http://tinyurl.com/hnpt25o> or a printed map of a specific area can be provided to the Director - please contact Joe Love (joseph.love@maryland.gov; 410-260-8257). If a weigh-in occurs at a location that is not labeled on the map, please contact Joe Love.

Bass caught from a river should not be released to a pond/lake, or vice versa.

Other

~~Additional and alternative special conditions may be developed with assistance from the Department. Additional Special Conditions may be added by Regional Fisheries staff as deemed necessary.~~

Failure to comply with the Special Conditions may result in the termination of the tournament and/or cancellation of remaining permits for that organization.

Department employees may terminate a contest if, in his/her opinion, any permit condition has been violated or a substantial impact to the resource by the contest is observed or expected.

Within 30 days following the tournament, the permittee shall submit a completed tournament activity report. Failure to submit the report will result in denial of future permits.


Joseph Love

Tidal Bass Program Manager, MD DNR

Tournament Director's Name

Tournament Director

