

# Official Rules for the I-70 Milford Lake Team Series

## 2024 Season

**Sportsmanship:** Each contestant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times especially with regard to boating and fishing in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contestant, which reflects unfavorably upon the club's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be allowed in the boats. Competitors in tournaments and club functions are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

**Rules:** The tournament rules are explained below. Interpretation of rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

**Participants and Eligibility:** I-70 Milford Lake Team Series tournaments are open to any member that has paid Annual Dues of \$40. Teams consist of two members. BASSMASTER Team Trail will receive \$10 of the dues paid. The Annual Dues are good for both the I-70 Team Trail and the Milford Lake Team Series. Throughout the season, one sub may be used. The sub is required to pay Annual Dues of \$40. In extreme situations, the Tournament Director may approve an additional sub. Members may elect to fish alone, but must have a second team member with a paid membership and the second team member must fish at least one tournament. The Tournament Director reserves the right to check any contestant for a Kansas fishing license, BASS PASS (when required), and proof of insurance for a minimum of \$100,000 liability for the boat. The Tournament Director reserves the right to deny any entry fee.

**Fees and Payback:** Each team will be required to pay \$100 entry fee to each event. All contestants are required to pay Annual Dues. 100% of entry fees are paid back at the ramp.

**Registration:** Registration times and locations will be announced for each event on Facebook via the I-70 Bass Anglers page. All contestants must pay dues and entry fee, and sign a waiver form. Starting and check-in times will be announced at registration. Any off-limits areas will be announced at the morning briefing. Boat order will be done by draw immediately after the morning briefing. The Tournament Director may have weigh-in time staggered in flights for entries over 20 boats.

**Safety:** Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver and it must be worn anytime the boat is on plane. The preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely. Extra gas containers of any kind are prohibited. Violations may be reason for disqualification.

No raised platforms are allowed (i.e., step ladders).

The Tournament Director may delay, shorten, or cancel the start of a tournament due to the forecast of bad weather 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 OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.

COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

**Basic Boat Equipment and Pre-tournament Safety Check:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each boat presented for tournament may be subject to a safety check. This check may consist of lifejackets, throw cushions, kill switches, functional live wells, lights, and bilge systems. The Tournament Director or his designated appointee shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether safety features are satisfactory.

**Boat and Motor:** All boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. **This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating.** Any boat equipped with "stick steering" will not be allowed for use during tournaments. A small motor, gas or electric, may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

**Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted except for pork strips, rinds, etc. Only bait-casting, spin-casting, or spinning rods and reel may be used. All other types, to include fly fishing rods, are prohibited. Only one rig is permitted in use at any given time. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner.

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** Fishing is permitted anywhere within the tournament lake except within 50 yards of another contestant's boat that is anchored and the trolling motor is up and in the locked position. No such anchored boat shall permit selected contestants to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed to the exclusion of any other contestant. State law states no fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump. All fishing must be done from the boat. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours.

**Official Checkpoint:** There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in that afternoon and this point shall be announced at the morning registration. In the event of severe weather, the Tournament Director may authorize trailering. Upon arriving at the weigh-in station any and all fish brought to the weigh-in master shall become the property of the weigh-in master. Only with the permission of the tournament director shall the contestants retain their fish or disqualification will result. Tying up or caging of fish under any circumstances shall result in disqualification and permanent banning from any and all future club sponsored tournaments.

**Team Standings Point System:** Points will be awarded in one point increments with 1<sup>st</sup> receiving 200 points. Teams that do not weigh-in fish shall receive 50 "show" points. The Team of the Year will be

determined by the best four finishes out of the five one-day tournaments. Teams must fish at least four MLTS tournaments to be eligible to fish the Championship.

**BASSMASTER Team Trail:** Ten dollars from each dues will be paid to BASSMASTER Team Trail. We will receive one invitation to the BASSMASTER Team Trail for every twenty-five teams entered throughout the year.

**Penalties:** CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight ounces. The penalty will be deducted from the fish's weight. The Tournament Director shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall result in a penalty of one pound for each such bass. The penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Contestants who are not at the official check-in point at that appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, starting with any weight to be counted toward "Big Bass" award. Any contestants more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. If weight does not exceed penalty then no points shall be given to that team other than show points.

**Scoring:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, and final winners, shall be determined by points earned throughout the season. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted, or hybrids of the black bass species (i.e.: mean-mouth) will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision. In the event a competitor has more than the above-described limit in possession, officials shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with the largest bass first. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. Bass will be measured on a flat measuring board **with the mouth closed**. The measuring board will be a Golden Rule brand. A sink and measuring board will be available for contestants wanting to check prior to presenting their catch for weigh-in. Once presented to the weigh-master, any short fish will be subject to penalty. Ties will be broken by big bass, then number of bass, then by bass alive, and then a coin flip.

Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered, will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the Tournament Director. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all legal fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Non-puncturing culling tags or clips are required for all I-70 Bass Angler tournaments. All tournament boats are required to have a live well treatment on board. The tournament weigh-in bags are provided for use **and personal weigh-in bags will not be accepted**. No more than four tournament weigh-in bags may be in use at any time. When in weigh-in line, please dip your bag in the provided tank until your fish are presented for weigh-in.

There shall be no excuses for tardiness, and in no case shall a contestant be allowed to make up "lost time." **All fishing must cease upon check-in.** Fishing is prohibited except during tournament hours.

**Insurance:** Boaters must carry a copy of their boat insurance showing a minimum \$100,000 liability and the expiration date on their person or in their boat. If no proof is available upon request from the Tournament Director may result in disqualification.

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contestant's boat at any time during tournament competition. Any protest must be submitted to the Tournament Director in writing, within 15 minutes of completion of the tournament. The Tournament Director will make all final decisions. In the event of a protest involving the Tournament Director, the club President shall appoint three impartial members to a tournament committee to decide if any rules were violated.

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**Horsepower Regulations:** When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard HP rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The HP rating must not exceed the rating specified on this plate.