

Medina Lake Bass Club

2017 Tournament Rules:

Medina Lake Bass Cats Bass Club actively supports and is morally obligated to strictly adhere to all Federal, State and Local laws governing fishing and boating. Tournament rules are established to expand on those subjects not expressly governed by law and have application to safety, sportsmanship, fishing and tournament standings. The Tournament Director (hereafter referred to as "the Director") has total authority, even in judgment decisions, and his rulings must be adhered to. Each competitor is subject to the scrutiny of the Director at all times. Failure to comply with the Director's rulings will be grounds for tournament disqualification and possible revocation of club membership. Grievances may be addressed to the Director. Changes to the Tournament Rules requires a simple majority vote of members present at the next business meeting following the formal introduction of proposed changes.

- 1. Eligibility:** Open to all club members in good standing. A club member in good standing may sponsor a "Guest" but the "Guest" must fish in the same boat as the member. A "Guest" may only fish two tournaments during the calendar year and will only be eligible for Tournament Awards. If a third tournament is fished by the same guest, pro-rated annual dues must be paid at the 3rd tournament and the "guest" will then become an active member.
- 2. Registration:** A registration fee of **\$25.00 (\$35.00 for Guests)**, \$20.00 tournament fee and \$5.00 (mandatory) Big Bass fee, will be collected from each contestant fishing the tournament. Youth members, as described in the club By-Laws, may elect to participate in only the Tournament Big Bass competition and pay on the \$5.00 fee, but this decision must be announced prior to the start of the tournament. All entry fee's are to be paid at the Tournament weigh-in and are to be collected before the scales are opened to competitors.
- 3. Tournament Format:** Tournaments will be an INDIVIDUAL Format with a **5** fish per day limit per participant. One "non-fishing" guest, provided the non-fishing guest is a spouse, significant other or immediate family member, can accompany the member during the tournament. No guest

fee will be required at the 1-day tournaments but a \$10.00 guest fee (to cover cost of club dinner) will be payable at the 2-day tournaments. No more than 3 persons, including the non-fishing guest, will be allowed in a boat during tournament hours.

4. **Honor System:** Competitors may launch at the ramp of their choice and proceed to their location to start. Under no circumstances will they start fishing before tournament fishing hours. If any person needs to leave the lake early, they must notify another club member. Weigh-ins will be held at a designated time and location as determined by the Tournament Committee.
5. **Cheating:** Any competitor caught cheating during any tournament will be disqualified from the tournament and his/her membership will be revoked without refund.
6. **Boats:** Each boat is subject to a Safety/Boat inspection, by the Director, at any time prior to the Tournament start. If the boat is deemed unsafe or not in compliance with the law or Tournament rules, the boat cannot be used for that Tournament.
7. **Sportsmanship:** No fishing is permitted within 150 feet of any other club member without that member's permission.
8. **Angling Rules:**
 - a. Only largemouth, Guadalupe and smallmouth bass will be scored.
 - b. Bass must be caught on artificial bait. Pork rind may be used.
 - c. No trolling is allowed utilizing the big engine.
 - d. Only one rod and reel per competitor may be used at any given time.
 - e. Contestants must fish from a boat at all times.
9. **Scoring:**
 - a. All bass will be scored by weight. The weights will be used for awarding prizes at each tournament.
 - b. Creel size and limit as permitted by law. Should Lake Rules conflict with these limits, the lake rules will prevail.
 - c. Only bass caught by tournament competitors, on tournament waters and during the designated Tournament fishing hours are legal for scoring.
 - d. No iced, frozen or fish with pale gills will be scored. There will be a $\frac{1}{4}$ pound (4 ounces) penalty per dead fish imposed at weigh-in. A dead fish being weighed for Big Bass of the Tournament will have the penalty deducted at the time the fish is weighed otherwise the total dead fish penalty will be deducted from the total stringer weight.

- e. Competitors not at the designated weigh-in site and "ready to weigh fish" by the designated weigh-in time, will be disqualified.
 - f. The "Golden Rule" is the standard measuring stick.
 - g. Member results will be penalized 1 pound for each under legal length fish. If a fish is deemed illegal by the measurer, a second measurer will automatically be called upon to verify for accuracy.
 - h. All members must weigh in on the same scale.
- 10. Awards:** The top three (based on 18 or fewer participants) heavy stringer positions will be awarded a cash percentage of the total collected tournament fees as follows: The club will receive 20% off the top to be placed in the club treasury, 1st place will receive 50% of the remainder with 2nd and 3rd places receiving 30% and 20% respectively. At 19 participants, a fourth position will be added and the following split will be used: 45% - 1st/27% - 2nd/18% - 3rd/10% - 4th. In case of a tie for 1st place, 1st and 2nd place money will be split. In the event of a tie for 2nd place, 2nd and 3rd place money will be split. In the event of a tie for 3rd place, 3rd and 4th place money will be split. The 1st place big bass of each tournament will receive 100% (based on 18 or fewer participants) of the total amount collected for the big bass pot for that tournament. At 19 participants, a 2nd place big bass position will be awarded at a 70% - 1st / 30% - 2nd split.
- 11. Points Standings:** Points earned by each individual, at each tournament, will be credited to each individuals points standings for the calendar year. These points will be used to determine the top 6 positions including the Angler of the Year. The Big Bass Award (end of year) will be given to the member who catches the biggest bass at any one of the Medina Lake Bass Cats club tournaments during the calendar year. The point system below explains how points are awarded to members.
- a. Meeting attendance: Members will receive 1 point for every regular club meeting that they attend during the year.
 - b. Tournament Results: Members will receive 1 point for each tournament they fish plus points equaling their total weight at each tournament.
- 12. Restricted Waters:** Fishing restricted waters during a tournament is prohibited and will result in forfeit of stringer of fish for the day. Competitors shall abide by all Federal, State and Local laws and also shall not fish within 100 yards of the weigh-in site.
- 13. Live Release:** Live release is very strongly encouraged.

- 14. Tournament Committee:** The Tournament Committee (led by the Director) is responsible for weighing all fish (all fish will be measured to confirm length), recording weights and settling grievances/protests as required. Grievances/Protests must be turned in, in writing, to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the close of weigh-in. The Committee's decisions on grievances/protests are final.

- 15. Reminders:** Safety, sportsmanship, conservation and courtesy should always be of prime concern for members of the Medina Lake Bass Cats Bass Club. These areas' should be considered both "ON" and "OFF" the water. Each competitor must ensure he/she has the proper equipment (safety, measuring device and attitude) to perform at a safe and responsible level. Safety, expenses, partnerships and transportation are the responsibility of each individual competitor. In the event of inclement weather, only the Club President has the authority to cancel or delay a tournament, but the decision may only be made during the 24-HR period preceding the tournament.