

### ***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 between June 16 and October 31, dates inclusive. No Maximum size.

Tournament Date: [Click here to enter text.](#)

Tournament Weigh-in Location: [Click here to enter text.](#)

#### 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. Big bass (5 lbs +) require extra precautions and should have extra water when transporting, be prioritized for transfer into tanks with aerated water, and have extra time in recovery. Bass that are larger than approximately five (5) pounds must be either transported in mesh bags that are suspended in aerated water both before and after weighing or be held in separate bags with aerated water both before and after weighing.

## After the Tournament

Tournament participants must ensure bass are recuperated before their release. 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 or live wells, are not lively when lipped, or do not try to bite down when lipped. Dead fish should not be released to water bodies.

To allow for recuperation, tournaments shall have mobile holding tank facilities that provide high quality oxygenated and temperature conditions prior to release of the fish to the river. This may be accommodated numerous ways that include, but may not be limited to, any one of the following:

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

When bass are confined to a live well or tank, then conditions 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.

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](mailto: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.

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 W. Love  
Tidal Bass Program Manager

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Tournament Director

