

ORO MADRE BASS ANGLERS **TOURNAMENT RULES**

RULES: The following rules will be used for all club tournaments. The Tournament Director will be the final authority on all tournament rule interpretation.

TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: The tournament Director will have total control of all tournament weigh-ins. The Tournament Director will supervise weighing, measuring and recording of all fish. Once a member has handed his/her catch to the Tournament Director or his assigned assistants, he/she will not be allowed to handle the fish again, until returned by the tournament committee.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Tournaments are held for the benefit of the members of **Oro Madre Bass Anglers**. Participation in club tournaments is open only to club members in good standing, except for the noted exceptions below. Members participating in a club tournament agree to abide by all tournament regulations. All contestants must comply with all federal, state, and local rules and regulations.

Perspective new members, who have not fished a club tournament, may request to ride along in a tournament. The perspective member may not enter the tournament, but can fish and have his/her fished weight for information only. The perspective member must comply with all tournament regulations.

If a member has been through the draw and is fishing alone, He/she may request that a family member accompany them. This must be approved by the Tournament Director at least 24 hours prior to the tournament.

Additional exceptions may be granted at the discretion of the Tournament Director. These are meant for out-of-town friends, relatives, and special occasions only.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE: The tournament schedule will be determined in the following manner:

- (a) The tournament lakes will be determined by member ballot. Balloting will take place the final meeting of the year, in December. Each member in good standing is eligible to vote. The Tournament Director will provide each member with a ballot. The members will vote for one (1) two-day tournament lake, and seven (8) one-day tournament lakes.
- (b) The Tournament Director will conduct an open meeting to determine the order of the lakes, for the upcoming schedule. If possible the dates of the tournaments will be determined at this meeting. If not the Tournament Director will set the dates as soon as possible.
- (c) The final step will be to have the schedule approved by a majority vote of the membership.
- (d) Tournaments to determine the club standings will be scheduled during the months of February – October. During the months of November – January the Tournament Director at his discretion may schedule turkey shoots with an entry fee of \$25.00.
- (e) Tournaments will be held on Saturdays unless otherwise voted on as stated in section (c)

POINT SCORING: Points will be awarded for each regularly scheduled club tournament on the following basis:

1st PLACE	50 POINTS
2nd PLACE	49 POINTS
3rd PLACE	48 POINTS
4th PLACE	47 POINTS

In addition, each contestant will receive 50 points for participation in a club tournament. No bonus points will be awarded for BIG BASS.

There will be eight (9) regular club tournaments during the year. The best six (7) tournaments in points will be used for each member to determine the "Top Six" tournament qualifiers. "Bass Angler of the Year" and "Non Boater of The Year" awards will be calculated by using the total points from all nine (9) tournaments. This will allow a person to miss two (2) tournaments during the year and still qualify for the "Top Six" tournament.

Make up for any tournaments that were cancelled due to unsafe conditions must be made prior to the "Top Six" tournament.

TOP 6 TOURNAMENT: The Top 6 Tournament will be conducted as follows:

- (a) The "Top Six" tournament will be held on a date, agreed upon by the tournament qualifiers.
- (b) The lake will be selected by random drawing. Each qualifier will be allowed one lake choice in the drawing.
- (c) No pre-fishing will be allowed after the lake selection.
- (d) Any Top 6 Qualifier scheduled to fish another tournament on the lake drawn, during no pre-fish, will have to make a choice of which tournament to fish. If he/she decides to fish the non-club tournament, the next member in line will be allowed to fish the Top Six tournament. The original qualifier will still have his/her trophy plate engraved.
- (e) In the event of a point tie for the sixth and final qualifying position, no tiebreaker will be used, both members will be allowed to fish.
- (f) Each club member qualifying for the Top Six tournament, will be responsible for furnishing their boat and an observer. The observers may be switched by draw for the tournament, at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Observers must be club members, unless approved by the Tournament Director.

ENTRY FEES: The entry fee for each club tournaments will be \$27.00. The allocation of each entry will be as follows:

\$ 11.00	TOURNAMENT POT
\$ 2.00	BASS ANGLER OF THE YEAR
\$ 10.00	RETAINED BY THE CLUB
\$ 1.00	TOP 6 CHAMPION AWARD
\$ 1.00	NON-BOATER OF THE YEAR AWARD
\$ 2.00	TOURNAMENT BIG BASS

The entry fee for the (1) two-day club tournament will be \$54.00. The allocation of each entry will be as follows:

\$ 22.00	TOURNAMENT POT
\$ 4.00	BASS ANGLER OF THE YEAR
\$ 20.00	RETAINED BY THE CLUB
\$ 2.00	TOP 6 CHAMPION AWARD
\$ 2.00	NON-BOATER OF THE YEAR AWARD
\$ 2.00	TOURNAMENT BIG BASS FIRST DAY
\$ 2.00	TOURNAMENT BIG BASS SECOND DAY

TOURNAMENT AWARD: A plate will be engraved and awarded for FIRST PLACE, SECOND PLACE, THIRD PLACE, and BIG BASS for each tournament. In addition each member qualifying for the Top 6 tournament will have a plate engraved. The tournament pay out will be allocated in accordance with the following schedule:

<u>Place</u>	<u>1-5</u>	<u>6-11</u>	<u>12-17</u>	<u>18-23</u>	<u>24 or more</u>
1st	100%	60%	55%	50%	47.5%
2nd		40%	35%	30%	27.5%
3rd			10%	15%	12.5%
4th				5%	7.5%
5th					5.0%

In the event fewer contestants weigh in fish than there are places to be paid, the tournament pot percentages due those contestants weighing fish will be paid to them for their respective places. Any remaining monies in the tournament pot will then be divided equally among the placing entrants.

Members placing in one of the top three positions or catching tournament big fish, for the first time, will also be award their perpetual trophy.

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP AND YEAR END AWARDS: The boating and non-boating members who accumulate the most total points from participation in all nine (9) club tournaments, during the year shall receive the Club's annual "Bass Angler Of The Year" and "Non-Boater Of The Year" awards. Both awards will include a trophy and cash prize.

The club member who wins the Club "Top Six" tournament will receive the "Top 6 Champion" award consisting of a trophy and cash prize.

The club member catching the largest bass of the year will receive a trophy.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION: In order for a member to participate in a tournament, he/she must be entered in the tournament draw, and pay the entry fee prior to the tournament. The member need not be present for the draw. Members unable to fish the tournament will have until the day before the tournament to contact the tournament director. This will allow enough time to make any rearrangements necessary.

A member unable to attend the meeting need only contact another member to have his/her name entered in the draw. Each contestant will submit an entry form along with the entry fee to the Tournament Director at the meeting preceding the tournament. There will be no late entries. Late entry fee payments will include a \$5.00 late penalty fee.

Boat partners and start numbers will be drawn at the meeting preceding each tournament. Every effort will be made to not pair two members who have already fished together.

Official tournament hours, blast-off and weigh-in times, and all other necessary tournament information will be announced at the tournament draw meeting.

The Tournament Director will announce the tournament headquarters/launch site for each lake at the time of the draw.

Contestants are responsible for being on time for the tournament. The Tournament Director will give final instructions prior to blast-off. Boat checks will be conducted at the discretion of the Tournament Director prior to launch.

There will no roll-over or transfer of tournament entry fees, any entry fees paid become property of the club, whether or not the member fishes the tournament. It is expected the members not showing up for a tournament will notify the tournament Director at least 24 hrs prior to the tournament. **No exceptions.**

SAFETY: Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed. Each contestant must have a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device. Each boat must also be equipped with an approved engine kill switch. Flotation devices must be worn, zipped and snapped anytime the main engine is in operation. Failure to observe safe boat operation or failure to use personal flotation devices properly will constitute a disqualification.

There will be no alcoholic beverages allowed before or during any tournament.

SPORTSMANSHIP: While attending all Oro Madre functions each member represent the club as a whole. Prime importance shall be given to high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. These basic sporting principles are expected and demanded of all contestants at all times. Care should be taken to present a good impression of bass fisherman to the general public at all times. Absolutely no firearms, alcoholic beverages, drugs or narcotics will be in the possession of any contestant during club activities. Any violation will be cause for complete disqualification.

SIGHT AND BED FISHING: When sight or bed fishing, a fish is legally caught only after it takes the bait in it's mouth before the hook set. Snagging of a fish in anyway will be considered a violation of the clubs rules and regulations. Any fish which has taken the bait in it's mouth and then is caught, will constitute a legally caught fish, the point of entry of the hook is not an issue.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial bait or lures may be used. No live bait or prepared baits will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spinning or spin-casting rods and reels may be used. Only one rod may be used at any given time. Rods may not exceed a maximum length of eight feet. All fish must be caught and landed from the boat. Trolling is not permitted. The use of landing nets, depth finders, temperature gauges, oxygen meters, pH meters, etc., will be allowed.

BOAT AND MOTOR: Any boat fourteen (14) ft. or longer will be allowed, provided an engine of twenty (20) horsepower or more powers it. However, no boat will be allowed if the engine exceeds the maximum Coast Guard approved rating. A livewell system is required and must be large enough and adequately aerated to maintain a limit of bass for both fishermen. It is the boater responsibility to insure a means of keeping the catches of each member in the boat separate.

BOAT OPERATING AND EXPENSES: Each partner must be offered equal time in choosing the fishing locations and operation of the trolling motor. It is expected that the non-boater will contribute \$20.00 per tournament day to the boater to help cover expenses such as gas, oil, launch fees, etc. Expenses for pre-fishing is left to an agreement between boater and non-boater.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Off-limits fishing areas will be at the discretion of the tournament director. Areas around any launching facility should be considered for being off-limits.

No fishing will be permitted within fifty (50) yards of another tournament boat without the approval of both partners in the boat, on site first.

Partners must make a reasonable effort to remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, until the weigh-in is completed for each partner.

SCORING: Only largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be scored. Each contestant will comply with the specific tournament lake laws and regulations concerning the size and number of fish that may be legally taken. Where no regulation exists a thirteen (13) inch minimum will apply. Bass will be measured on a WILL-HE-GO belly board, with the mouth open, at a 45-degree angle. Tails will be swept to check for legal length.

Any bass that does not meet the minimum length will be cause for a one (1) pound penalty to be deducted from the weight of the legal fish. The penalty will be accrued at one pound per short fish.

Contestants will not be allowed to cull fish after the weigh-in time or within the off-limits area around the weigh-in site. Infraction of this rule will cause a penalty of two pounds to be deducted from the contestant's final weight.

The utmost care and handling, to preserve and maintain the life of every bass, will be taken at all times. Two tenths (.2) of a pound will be deducted for each dead fish brought to weigh-in. Big bass will be weighed in separately and will be subject to the two tenths of a pound penalty if it is the dead fish. This applies only to the weight used to determine the BIG FISH award. In the event of a tie, the live fish would take precedence over a dead fish. If both fish are alive or dead, then the total stringer weight, with appropriate penalty points, will decide the winner.

No cold or iced fish will be weighed.

Any contestant having more than a legal limit of bass in his/her possession at the weigh-in will be disqualified from the tournament.

Each contestant agrees to release all live bass with the exception of a trophy bass, which may be returned to the contestant after the fish has been weighed.

TIES: All ties will be resolved by the Tournament Committee using the following criteria:

Tournaments

Big Bass will be the first tiebreaker. The total number of fish will be the second tiebreaker. Total live fish will be the third tie breaker, Final tiebreaker will be a coin toss, conducted by the Tournament Director.

Year End Awards

Total weight for the year will be the first tiebreaker. A contestant may not use different tournaments to determine final points and tiebreaker. The second tie breaker, will be biggest bass caught for the year.

LATE PENALTY: A penalty of one (1) pound per minute or any fraction there-of, up to five minutes, shall be imposed upon any contestant who does not check in within the prescribed time limit. After five (5) minutes the contestant will be disqualified. Such penalty will be deducted from total stringer weight. Boat breakdown is not an excuse for missing weigh-in. In the case of breakdown, contestants are allowed to transfer their fish to another boat, along with one member.

PARING: Pairing will be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee. Contestants not having a boat will be paired with someone having a boat, providing there are a sufficient number of boats entered for the tournament. Each contestant shall be responsible for knowing his/her partner at blast-off time. Contestants arriving late for blast-off will not be permitted to make-up lost time, nor will the tournament be delayed.

In the event that there are not enough non-boaters during pairings, then boaters will have the option to be paired together, or take their own boats.

PROTESTS: The time for all protests will be with-in thirty minutes of the weigh-in. All protests must be submitted to the Tournament Director, in writing

Revision Date January 5, 2000

Revision Date January 4, 2003

Revision Date January 1, 2004

Revision Date January 6, 2005