

2018 Shoreline Bass Tour Tournament Rules

The tournament director will make final interpretation and decisions regarding these rules.

1. There is a one-time yearly membership fee of \$25.00 per person (does not apply to age 15 and under). This must also be paid by all subs.
2. Shoreline is a prepaid tournament series for those who want to be eligible for the Classic, receive points, and be included in the Early Draw for takeoff positions for the season. All prepay entries and moneys must be postmarked by April 14th for the upcoming season. Boats also have the option to enter any of the Classic qualifiers on the day of the tournament for an increased entry fee. Boats that enter on the day of an event will not be Classic eligible and will not receive points. See separate document titled "Terms and Conditions of Registration and Payouts" for details.
3. The 'Big Bass' pot is split 60% (1st place) / 40% (2nd place). You may only weigh one big bass at any one tournament.
4. Entries will be received as a team entry or single entry. If you enter as a team, you will be allowed to use one sub per person per team, per season, and only one sub may be used per event. If you enter to fish alone, you are not allowed a sub. Your team/individual status is determined by how you sign up for the season. Subs will be allowed for the Classic; however, any sub must be someone who was Classic-eligible and fished the whole season but did not qualify. Only one sub may be used per boat, and the sub must be the only one used for that person for the season.
5. We will use a Q 50 point system for prepay boats. First place prepay = 50 points, second place prepay = 49 points, and so on. Boats that do not weigh fish in a tournament will not receive points for that tournament. Total points after the final Classic qualifier will determine the final standings. Eligibility for the Classic will be determined as follows: if a prepay boat wins one of the qualifiers for the season, they automatically qualify for the Classic. In addition, the top 20% of all prepay boats (not including individual tournament winners) at the end of the season, and the tournament director, will be invited to the Classic. Also, one non-qualifying prepay boat will go into a drawing for one wildcard spot in Classic.
6. Registration will begin at the tournament site at 5:30am, with a mandatory pre-tournament meeting taking place at 6:00am. Takeoff for the tournament will begin at 6:30am (light permitting). Boats should be in the water and ready for takeoff by 6:30am, with takeoff numbers 1-20 toward the front of the line. Tournaments will be from 6:30am - 3:00pm. If you are late for afternoon check-in, you will be disqualified. No exceptions.
7. There will be times when certain stretches of water will be off limits for a particular tournament due to released fish, etc. This will be up to the tournament director and will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Additionally, Shoreline tournaments are closed-lake tournaments, meaning you may only fish the body of water on which the tournament is being held. Lake Michigan is off limits for all tournaments and running to other bodies of water is prohibited. Anglers must be off the body of water for the next day's tournament lake no later than sunset the night prior. Off limits for the Classic will begin at sunset on the Sunday prior to the tournament.
8. There is a limit of five fish per boat, and only largemouth or smallmouth bass are accepted. Before starting your big engine, you must cull down to five fish. If you return to the weigh-in with more than five fish in your live well, you will be disqualified. Fish must be a minimum of 14" in length with the mouth closed on our Golden Rule. If you bring in a short fish, it will be culled, along with your biggest fish. There is a .250 lb. penalty for each dead fish. To promote fish care, there is a limit of 2 dead fish per tournament per boat.
9. Total weight will determine the winning boat and all places. Big Bass will be the tie-breaker for total weight, and total weight will be the tie-breaker for Big Bass. If two teams tie for both total weight and Big Bass during one tournament, the final result will be a tie and points (if 2 prepay boats), and winnings will be divided 50/50 between the two boats.
10. In the event of a tie for standings at the end of the year to determine Classic eligibility and/or Angler of the Year, the total weight for the season will be calculated and used as the tie-breaker.
11. Life vests **MUST** be worn when the gasoline engine is running. Operating a boat in a careless or unsafe manner could result in disqualification. Kill switches are mandatory and must be used whenever your boat is under power of the big motor.
12. You must leave and return to the tournament site by boat. If you break down, one person from your team may return in another team's boat with your fish to be weighed in. You must otherwise not leave your boat except for an emergency, illness, or inclement weather.
13. No live bait. Artificial lures only.
14. Only one rod and reel may be used per person at any one time. Maximum 8' length rods.
15. No consumption of alcohol or drugs is allowed before or during the tournament. The tournament will be officially considered concluded after all cash and prizes have been handed out.
16. No boat shall fish closer than 100' of another boat, either fishing or anchored. Proper sportsmanship prevails; give each boat an opportunity to fish their spot. NO passing in a "no wake" zone.
17. Any violation of Michigan state fishing law or Michigan boating regulations is an automatic disqualification. Drop shot rigs are technically illegal on some of the lakes Shoreline fishes; however, some DNR officers do not enforce this rule for bass fishermen. Use at your own discretion: should you choose to use a drop shot rig and you are ticketed, you will be disqualified.
18. The tournament director and a committee of three tournament members selected by the tournament director will decide protests. Protests must be submitted within five minutes of close of weigh-in.
19. Each participant will practice a high level of sportsmanship both on and off the water. The tournament director and a committee of three tournament members have the right to disqualify a team if this high level of sportsmanship is not met.
20. All participants must sign the entry form and Release of Liability form prior to the first tournament of the season.