

2009

Official Tournament Rules and Procedures



2009 MHBP Tournaments		
Date	Water	Draw Meeting
May 3	Horsetooth (T)	April 1
May 16	Pueblo, CO (I)	May 6
May 17	Pueblo, CO (T)	May 6
May 30	Lonetree (I)	May 6
June 20	Boyd (T)	June 3
July 18	Horsetooth (I)	July 1
August 1	Carter (T)	July 1
Sep 26-27	Pueblo (Classic)	Sep 2

Key: (T)eam (I)ndividual payouts.

MHBP Tournament Committee (MHBP-TC)		
Tournament Director	Steve Long	720-204-1978
President	CD Osborne	303-772-5091
Vice Pres.		
Secretary	Phil Putnam	303-651-3467
Treasurer	Dennis Moe	303-678-8854

Unless otherwise specified, these rules apply during the official tournament period; from the blast-off time to the check-in time.

1. TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE: The Mile-Hi Bass Pioneers Tournament Committee (MHBP-TC) consists of the MHBP Tournament Director (MHBP-TD), President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Only committee members who are present will vote on tournament related issues during the tournament.

2. RULE VIOLATIONS: Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the MHBP-TC. The decision of the MHBP-TD and MHBP-TC shall be final in all matters. Each competitor agrees to report to the MHBP-TD or his designated alternate any violations or infractions of these tournament rules. The failure to report violations of these rules or false verification of scorecards will be cause for disqualification. When a rule is broken, the MHBP-TC may impose disqualification, forfeiture of prizes,

entry fee, and prohibition from participation in subsequent MHBP tournaments. Only MHBP members participating in the tournament may file protests against other anglers or the MHBP-TC. Protests must be made in writing within 30 minutes after the official check-in time and must clearly identify the rule violation, angler(s) name and time of violation.

3. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Tournaments are open only to members of the MHBP Chapter and guests sponsored by a member. MHBP-TC must approve all guests and will determine specifics of the guest participation. Normally, guests are only allowed to fish as a non-boater and only one tournament a year before joining. Exceptions may be approved by the MHBP-TC. Guests will be required to read and obey by the MHBP Tournament Rules. Guests may fish with their sponsor and participate in awards, but not placement points. Guests will not displace MHBP members. Boaters must submit proof of \$300,000 boating liability insurance per incident to the MHBP-TD before using a boat in a MHBP tournament.

4. REGISTRATION: Anglers must register with the MHBP-TD or delegate at the MHBP meeting prior to the tournament and pay the entry fee of \$35.00 and optional Big Bass of \$5.00 per day. It is the responsibility of each angler to obtain the information provided at the registration briefing. The MHBP-TC reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of tournament applications prior to the deadline. Insufficient notice of cancellation prior to the start of a tournament can result in forfeiture of entry fee. Boaters and non-boaters will be paired by random selection. When more boaters than non-boaters are registered, boaters not drawing a partner will be allowed to fish alone. MHBP will try to find a non-boater to avoid the fishing alone situation. See special card recording rules for fishing alone. When more non-boaters than boaters are registered MHBP will try and find a boater. If a boater cannot be found the MHBP-TC will determine how to resolve. It is the responsibility of the contestants to attend the pre-tournament briefing and maintain contact during the tournament. Each boat will be given a number for determining launch order.

5. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE / OFF-LIMITS: There are no off-limit days and no official practice days for the regular tournaments. During two day tournaments the lake is off-limits between the tournament days. Off-limits for the MHBP Classic lake is off-limits from the preceding Sunday midnight until the official practice day the day before the tournament. It is the responsibility of the competitor to know and observe these dates. During the official practice period and tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advise of anyone for the purpose of locating or catching Bass, nor may enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employees or any person deemed a "expert" on these waters by the MHBP-TC unless he is a contestant in the tournament.

6. SAFETY: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all anglers. During the official practice and tournament, each competitor is required to provide and wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This life vest must be securely worn (strapped, snapped or zippered) at all times when the combustion engine is operating and off the trailer. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of

bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted due to bad weather or other conditions.

7. BOAT EQUIPMENT SAFETY: Every boat must have all required US Coast Guard (USCG) safety equipment. Boats must also be equipped with all equipment required by the state in which it is operating (i.e. lights, flashlight, bail bucket, etc.) Maximum horsepower for all outboard engines used in official practice and competition shall not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the USCG in their ruling of November 1, 1972. When required, each boat must have a USCG horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the USCG for similar boats. Falsifying information on the entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor is cause for immediate disqualification from MHBP Tournaments. All boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. Whenever the boat is off the trailer and the combustion engine is running the ignition kill device must be attached to the driver and the driver must be in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats not having factory installed gas tanks are restricted to 18 gallons of gasoline in the tanks that meet USCG regulations. All Bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Gas tanks must be properly secured in the boat. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. Only fishing style boats are allowed and must be approved by the MHBP-TC. Boat lights must be used from sunset to sunrise.

8. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in MHBP tournaments are expected to follow high standard of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorable upon MHBP's purpose (see bylaws) shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in a boat during official practice or competition days. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification from this and all subsequent MHBP tournaments.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc.. Only one casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt or the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at one time. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however only one is permitted in use at any given time. All Bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. Snagging or snatching Bass on spawning beds is prohibited. Any Bass not hooked in the mouth while sight fishing must be returned to the water immediately and will not be scored for the tournament. No gaffs or grippers may be used to land Bass. Trolling utilizing the gas combustion motor or electric trolling motor as a method of fishing is prohibited.

10. BOATER/NONBOATER COMMITMENT: It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on a basis for sharing operational expenses where the boater and non-boater are expected to equally provide half of the daily operational expenses. Partners should start a common expense pool by each member putting in an equal share. Then common expenses (i.e. gas, lodging, park fees, boat gas/oil, etc) are paid from the pool. Tow vehicle gas may be measured by starting and ending with a full tank of gas.

11. BOAT OPERATION: A full discussion must be held between the two boat partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to allow each partner the opportunity to fish his scheduled waters an equal number of hours. When the non-boater operates the trolling motor, he accepts full responsibility for the boat and any repairs due to damage occurring during operation unless related to normal wear and tear. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either party of fishing time. If a contestant waives the above rights, he retains the right to select the fishing waters for half of the tournament day. Any contestant who in the opinion of the MHBP-TC operates the boat in such a manner as to impair his partner shall be disqualified.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters and off-limits shall be established by the MHBP-TD for each tournament and specified at the tournament briefing held prior to the tournament. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere, except, within 50 yards of another competitor's boat who was anchored first with trolling motor up and secured in a fixed position. Any competitor who is anchored must advise any approaching competitor that they are anchored. No anchored boat shall permit selected boats within that 50 yard minimum to the exclusion of other contestant's boats. Any area within the designated tournament waters posted as off-limits or no fishing by government agencies shall be off-limits.

13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants may not store gas on the shore for the purpose of extending tournament-fishing range. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may leave their boat with their catch to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. During weigh tournaments, partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each others catch under the conditions cited above in order for that day's catch to be counted. During card tournaments, fishing must stop, and the card may be completed, signed and then brought to the weigh-in by another boater. Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except at the direction of the MHBP-TD. Contestants may depart their boat for health and safety reasons, but must stay in-sight and fishing must cease while both partners are out of the boat.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There will be only one official check-in point the afternoon of each competition day which will be identified at the tournament briefing. At launch time, each boat will undergo a kill switch check immediately prior to blast-off.

15. SCORING and PAYOUT: Tournament standing, awards, and club ranking shall be determined by MHBP Scoring System

established for the tournaments. Team (T) or Individual (I) tournament formats may be designated for each tournament. Pairings are formed by random drawing. For team tournaments payout for the tournament is based on the team's place of finish. For individual tournaments payout is based on the individual's finish. Payouts will be paid at the following monthly meeting. Trophies will be awarded to individuals at the end of the year. Big Bass winners will receive 100% of the pot. Ties for place money and Big Bass at the tournaments will be resolved by combining the place money for all positions tied and evenly splitting the money between the tied participants. Only Black Bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth, Red-eye and Spotted) shall be measured. Each competitor shall measure and record the measurement on the scorecard while being observed by his partner. Any fish not recorded immediately on the scorecard at time of catch cannot be added to the scorecard later. A contestant must not allow a Bass caught by them to be counted for another contestant. In such a case, both anglers will be disqualified. At the end of the tournament day, each participant shall sign both his and his partner's scorecards. The limit shall be 5 Bass in the aggregate per day unless the daily limit is changed and announced at the tournament briefing. Method of measurements will be announced at the draw for the tournament.

In Boat/Scale Weigh Tournaments: MHBP will designate and approve all scales to be used. The morning before the tournament, the MHBP-TD will calibrate and record the measurement of all scales. Only the approved scale will be used for weighing bass. If a scale fails, then the anglers are responsible for finding the boat with the extra scales. Prior to launch the extra scale boats will be announced. The Bass is weighed and weight recorded on card..

Golden Rule Tournaments: A "Golden Rule" showing 1/4" increments will be the measuring device. Measurement of the fish shall be done with the fish's mouth touching the vertical end of the Golden Rule with the tail fanned. When the overall length falls between marks on the measuring device, the longer length shall be used. The minimum length is 12", which is rounded up to 12 1/4" unless modified by the MHBP-TC. The MHBP-TD will determine the weight of each fish scored using an approved length/weight table.

Fishing Alone: When a boater fishes alone, all Bass larger than the lake limit must be verified by another tournament angler. The Bass must be kept alive in the livewell until you come upon another tournament angler to witness and initial the measurement on the card. The witness initials confirm the measurement and that the Bass was alive. Dead Bass cannot be measured. To determine the finish position against the teams in the tournament, the average pounds from all non-boaters will be added to the angler fishing alone pounds. The payout will be half of the total team.

Three in a Boat: When necessary three anglers may fish from a boat. The Boater's weight will be combined with each non-boater to form two teams.

MHBP Club Scoring System: The scoring system is based on points determined from place of tournament finishes. Each competitor who weighs a legal Bass and places in a given tournament shall receive points as follows: 50 for 1st; 49 for 2nd; 48 for 3rd; graduated to 0 points. A legal Bass must be recorded on the scorecard to place in the tournaments. If a Bass is not recorded, then points for participation are awarded based on the last place points minus 10 points. The lowest two tournament scores are

dropped, which may be a 0 from a missed tournament, and the sum of remaining scores count in the end of year final club ranking standings and Angler of the Year determination. To break a tie the highest total pounds for the counted tournaments will be used.

MHBP Classic: MHBP members that fish 3 regular tournaments will be invited to the MHBP Classic. With approval of the MHBP-TC, members may "buy-in" to the Classic by paying the amount that is rolled into the classic payout for the missed tournaments up to 3 tournaments, plus a \$10 "buy-in" fee. A random draw will pair anglers. Tournament fee for the Classic is \$35.00 with optional \$10 a day Big Bass pot.

16. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH: Each competitor is expected to keep their Bass alive by minimizing the handling of the Bass and immediately returning the Bass to the water.

17. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official check-in point at the proper time or cards not in on-time will be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late, to be deducted from their days catch, including any weight to be counted toward "Big Bass award". Any competitor arriving over 15 minutes past the check-in time will forfeit the total weight of the day's catch. There will be no excuse for tardiness. After proper recognition at the check-in point, the competitors will be allowed time to proceed to the weigh-in area, but fishing for that day must cease.

18. PATCHES AND SIGNAGE: MHBP encourages the use of patches, logos, and other signage to promote sponsors and supporters.

19. GENERAL CONDITIONS: None of the above rules shall prohibit a MHBP-TC member from approaching or boarding a competitor's boat during the official practice days or competition days.

Mini-Tournaments

MHBP Rules apply with the following exceptions:

- If Draw tournament, then the draw is at the ramp at ____.
- Tournament will end at _____. Exact time will be given at the draw.
- Late arrival (after draw) may join tournament by finding another competitor and paying entry fee before fishing.
- \$10.00 entry fee and optional \$5.00 big Bass.
- First Place Team takes all payout.
- Non-boaters share in expenses, with a minimum of \$5.00 for gas.
- Placement points are not given.
- Lake is off limits the day of the tournament, but boats may be launched before draw. Boats must remain in no wake area until sendoff.

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