



2018 Renegade Bass Tour Series Tournament Rules



2018 Renegade Bass Tour Series Official Rules

2018 Renegade Bass Tour Series Tournament Rules and Regulations

1. TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR DECISION

All decisions of the tournament director are final and may not be protested. Any questions concerning the interpretation of the rules, procedures or appropriate action must be directed to the Tournament Director exclusively.

At any time the tournament director, may impose a penalty he/she deems appropriate for any violation of the rules, procedures or sportsmanship code. Penalties, disqualifications or expulsions will be issued without the refund of any of fees or dues.

Penalties for rules violations may include but are not limited to the following:

- Loss of the total day's weight or any portion thereof.
- Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- Disqualification for a specific period or number of future Renegade Bass events or potentially a lifetime expulsion,

2. ELIGIBILITY

In addition to all of the required documentation, initiation fees, membership dues and all applicable tournament fees, expenses must be paid prior to participation in any Renegade Bass event. All anglers must be at least 16 years of age on the day of the event before they are eligible to participate in a Renegade Bass Tour Series event. Any angler less than 18 years of age may only participate with an adult (>18 years).

The Renegade Bass Executive reserves the right to decline an application or revoke an existing membership at any time.

3. OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION

Renegade Bass will utilize the digital media including the Renegade Bass website, email, Facebook and the Renegade Bass message board for any and all official announcements.



4. TOURNAMENT HOURS

Qualifying tournaments and Day 1 of the Classic will be from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Day 2 of the Classic will be from 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. During the period of 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. between day 1 and day 2 of the Classic, no tournament participants may fish on the tournament body of water.

Tournament headquarters will be open at 5:15 a.m. for registration. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day due to inclement weather or any other factors that may endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of potentially dangerous conditions.

In the event that a qualifying tournament must be cancelled, the pre-determined "rain-day event" will serve as the date for the make-up tournament. The location will be the same as the fourth qualifier.

If Day 1 of the Classic must be cancelled, Day 2 will serve as the one-day championship weather and conditions permitting. If Day 2 of the Classic must be cancelled despite the successful completion of Day 1, the championship will resume on the following Saturday at the same location.

5. EARLY WEIGH-IN

An early weigh-in period will be available from 2:00 to 2:45 pm during each qualifying tournament for the teams wishing to be off the water before 4:00 pm. Only those boats which can be safely processed during that period will be accepted under the discretion of the TD. Once that period has elapsed, the remaining boats (if any) will be obligated to proceed (at 4:00 pm) with the standard weigh-in protocol and following their block assignments. The tournament director will inspect the fish during the "early weigh-in" but reserves the right to hold any fish to be checked by the official fish inspector at 4:00 pm.

In an emergency situation where teams are unable to remain at the tournament head quarters until 2:00 pm, the team's fish will be securely contained with water, and placed in an aerated holding tank or the live release boat (if available). These fish will be weighed during the "early weigh-in" commencing at 2pm. In an emergency situation where teams arrive after 2:45 pm and cannot remain at tournaments head quarters till 4:00 pm, the team's fish will be securely contained with water, and placed in an aerated holding tank or the live release boat to be weighed at 4:00 pm. In either situation, Renegade Bass will exercise the greatest reasonable care however the Association can not assume responsibility for the fish. The team(s) in question will always be ultimately responsible for any dead fish and subsequently will be assessed any applicable penalties at the time of inspection and weigh-in.



6. TOURNAMENT WATERS

Only waters, which are accessible by boat from tournament headquarters and in accordance with MNR regulations may be fished during an event. No locking will be permitted.

7. CELL PHONES, SMART PHONES, OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Cell and Smart phones or other electronic communication devices may only be used in the event of an emergency. The use of any communication device to obtain and use fishing information from anyone during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.

8. ELIGIBLE SPECIES

Only largemouth and smallmouth bass greater than or equal to 12 inches in length (measured from tip of tail to tip of nose) are eligible for any Renegade Bass tournament event. A maximum of five (5) fish, in any combination of eligible species, may be weighed in. Attempting to weigh-in a fish less than 12 inches will result in a one (1) pound penalty per short fish brought to the scales and the short fish will not be weighed.

9. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT

Only artificial lures, including pork rind, may be used at any event. Trolling is not permitted.

10. BOAT & MOTOR

All boats must be equipped with a functional livewell (or facsimile pre-approved by tournament officials).

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. Each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is operating, as well as observe and abide by any and all province(s) and state(s) life preserver regulations that apply to his/her age. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition at all times while being worn. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.

All boats must be equipped with an approved type operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.

All boats must have an accessible US or Canadian Coast Guard capacity label.

Boats will be subject to a pre-tournament inspection. No team will be allowed to fish unless their boat has been inspected.



11. SCRUTINEERS / MARSHALLS

All the anglers who participate in the Renegade Bass Tour series and Renegade Bass Tour Classic, must fish from a boat that can safely accommodate 3 people in the event that the Tournament Director assigns you a scrutineer. All of the existing Municipal, Provincial, Federal and Renegade Bass rules pertaining to your fishing vessel apply.

For any tournament, the Tournament Director may assign any team a scrutineer. Refusal to accommodate the scrutineer may result in immediate disqualification, and may also include a potential expulsion for all future Renegade Bass events without the possibility of a refund.

Scrutineers will observe the competitors and have been instructed to report any perceived rule infractions to the Tournament Director immediately following the boat "check-in". With nothing to report, scrutineers will remain with their assigned team until they have completed the weigh-in process.

If in the event of an emergency associated with a team's scrutineer, the Team is obligated to contact the Tournament Director immediately for instructions.

12. REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION

All documentation including registration forms, waivers, proof of insurance, and proof of boater's safety course must be submitted prior to competing in the first tournament of the year. Failure to comply will result in disqualification from the first qualifying tournament without the possibility of a refund.

All Teams must submit a photocopy verifying proof of insurance for all boats to be used in the series.

All insurance waivers must clearly identify; the vessel, engine and date in effect and must include at least 1 million dollars in liability coverage for the user of the boat.

Law requires all boat operators to possess a safe boating card. If a team member makes a substitution and the substitute will act as the operator, then that substitute must possess a safe boater's card to be eligible. All competitors are responsible to ensure that the executive have a photocopy of their boater's card.



13. STARTING POSITION

All registration entries received by Renegade Bass on or before December 1st, 2017 will be eligible for the Early Bird Draw for their starting positions. This will also include mailed entries clearly identifying a post mark on or before the aforementioned date. A random draw will determine the starting positions of the members participating in the Early Bird Draw. In the event that following the Early Bird Draw a team is created from two individual anglers whom entered the draw separately, the newly formed team will be assigned the later (bigger) starting number. Registrations received after December 1st, 2017 and before March 1st, 2018 are sequentially assigned starting positions as fees and required documentation are received. No registrations will be accepted after March 1st, 2018.

14. TEAM IDENTIFICATION

Team starting identification numbers must be placed exclusively on either side of the cowling and a third starting identification number sticker must be placed on the stern of the motor cowling as depicted in the instructions accompanying the cowling markers. Teams will not be allowed to compete without cowling markers. Each team will receive two (2) sets of cowling markers at the first qualifying event. Teams requiring additional cowling markers must notify Renegade Bass one week before the event the cowling markers are required and will be assessed a \$10 surcharge per set of cowling markers.

15. STARTING PROCEDURES

Each team will take their boat to the designated **boat check area** where the boat will be inspected and registered by the shore crew. **All** boats must be officially inspected before they can participate in the tournament. Each event will commence with a trickle start in order by starting number. The tournament director will call each starting number **ONCE**. Failure to maintain blast off order or delaying the blast-off will result in being sent to the end of the blast off order.

Specific instructions modifying the starting procedures may be communicated at each event by the Tournament Director. No team will start fishing until their starting number has been called. Please check the website prior to every event for the updated Tournament procedures.



17. SUBSTITUTIONS

There will be one substitution allowed per team member per year for the Renegade Bass Tour qualifier events. The substitute must be a member in good standing of Renegade Bass. The team will also be allowed to have each partner fish alone for one qualifier tournament or one of the members may fish alone twice during the season. In case of an emergency one member of the team is able to fish alone a second time if both members have already each fished alone once. If a competitor elects to fish a Renegade Bass Tour event alone, they must notify Renegade Bass **at least one week** prior to such event to allow Renegade Bass to find a scrutineer.

If a team utilizes a substitute during one or more of the qualifier events the team will NOT be eligible for the Team of the Year prize. If a team fishes alone as per the substitution rule above the team will be still eligible for the Team of the Year prize.

There are absolutely no substitutions for the Classic as such; all Teams must participate as originally registered or one of the anglers may fish as an individual with an assigned scrutineer.

18. CULLING

Only five (5) fish of the eligible species are permitted in live-wells while under power of the main engine. Any competitor caught culling a dead fish back into the water or on land will be immediately disqualified from the event. Culling of a dead fish will be allowed provided that the competitors keep the dead fish in a bag and stored elsewhere in their boat during the tournament. Dead fish in the live-well count towards the team's five (5) fish limit. When anglers check-in, they must notify the tournament director of any bagged dead fish not included in their 5 fish limit. The bagged dead fish and any dead fish weighed in are the sole responsibility of the angler.

19. NON-PENETRATING CULLING CLIPS

Any part of the fish may not be punctured during the course of culling either by weigh scale or balance beam and the use of puncturing culling clips is strictly prohibited.

Only non-puncturing cull clips may be used.

20. FIZZING

To ensure successful release and obligating the angler to properly care for their fish, all fish suffering from barotrauma must be fizzed by the angler prior to weighing in.

In the event that the fish checker is unable to see evidence of the fish being fizzed that are clearly suffering from barotrauma and need to be fizzed, **anglers will be penalized with a 15**



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minute delayed started on the next day of competition for an RBT series event (qualifier or Classic) as well as the Thousand Islands Open.

Further to this penalty and in the spirit of education, Anglers that weigh-in un-fizzed fish that require fizzing will be shown how to fizz their fish and the angler must fizz the fish while under supervision prior to bringing the fish back to the live release boat.

It is recommended that fish fizzing be done in a timely manner and fish should be checked regularly to ensure they are not suffering from barotrauma and to reduce stress on the fish.

21. RE-WEIGH

Each team is allowed one (1) re-weigh and final call is made by the weigh master. The team must keep the **second weight** regardless of the result.

22. BIG BASS

Teams are allowed to weigh-in multiple big bass.

23. PENALTIES

1. The late penalty is 1 pound (16oz) per minute, up to a ten-minute maximum, at which point the team will record zero weight for the day from that event.
2. Any fish attempted to be weighed in less than 12 inches in length (measured from tip of tail to tip of nose) **will result in a one (1) pound penalty per short fish brought to the scales and the short fish will not be weighed.**
3. If a team at any point transports (in their livewell) more than five (5) fish under power of the combustion engine, their catch will be culled, commencing with the largest fish and will continue until only five (5) fish remain. Fish that have died and have been bagged and stored elsewhere in the boat for proper consumption at the end of the event will not violate the aforementioned rule.
4. The penalty for each dead fish weighed is progressive as indicated below. The number of dead fish is carried forward into each qualifier.

1 st dead fish 0.50 lbs	6 th dead fish 1.25 lbs
2 nd dead fish 0.50 lbs	7 th dead fish 1.50 lbs
3 rd dead fish 0.50 lbs	Disqualification from event 8 th dead fish is weighed in
4 th dead fish 0.75 lbs	Disqualification from event 9 th dead fish is weighed in
5 th dead fish 1.00 lbs	Disqualification from event 10 th dead fish is weighed in

The progressive dead fish penalty will apply for the 2-day Classic. However, each team will recommence from zero dead fish for the championship.

Dead fish will be clearly tagged by the fish checker and are not eligible for a big fish award.



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Dead fish are the responsibility of the anglers and will not be accepted at the live release boat. Failure to retain in your possession for consumption any dead fish weighed in will result in a penalty as determined by the tournament director.

24. SCORING

Cumulative weights will be recorded for each team throughout the qualifying series. Teams will be ranked according to their total aggregate weight, irrespective of the number of qualifying events fished. The top forty teams plus ties and any additional team(s) that have won a qualifier event but are not in the top 40 in Team of the Year standings qualify for the classic.

25. TIE BREAKS

In the event of a tie for first place of a qualifying event, the first place prize will be split between the teams. In the event of a tie for first place of the Team of the Year (as determined at the fourth qualifier event), the tie will be broken by the team who weighed in the heaviest bag during the fourth qualifier. The second tie break is the team that weighed in the heaviest bag during the third qualifier. In the event of a tie for first place in the Classic, the tie will be broken by the team with the heaviest day one bag.

26. SHORE LEAVE

All contestants must remain in their boats at all times during tournament hours except when instructed at tournament headquarters. Participants may only exit their vessel to use washroom facilities. One team member must remain in the boat at all times.

27. SAFETY

As a function of safety, all teams are obligated to check in with the Tournament Director at the end of each tournament. In the event that a team must leave early, the team **must absolutely** check in with the **Tournament Director** before leaving the site. Failure to do so will result in a penalty.

28. LIFEJACKETS

All anglers must wear a personal floatation device (PFD) or lifejacket at all times while under power of the internal combustion engine during tournament hours. Participants may elect to wear a self inflating PFD while under power of the combustion engine. A self-inflating PFD does not qualify as an approved floatation device unless it is worn and therefore anglers must also have at least a conventional PFD or lifejacket on board if they wish to remove their inflatable PDF.



29. SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. Anglers must conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the Renegade Bass organization, the Renegade Bass sponsors, the sport of fishing and Renegade Bass's efforts to promote the sport. All contestants are obligated to adhere to the tournament rules and procedures as well as any additional instructions communicated by the Tournament Director. Interpreting and potentially manipulating a rule or the spirit of a rule in the interests of advantage will be deemed a violation of the sportsmanship code and will result in a penalty.

Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament director, is detrimental to the operation of the tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to Renegade Bass or any of its sponsors, or to regulatory agencies or their officers (such as rangers, wardens, fishery biologists, etc.) during the practice round or tournament, may result in a temporary suspension or expulsion from all future Renegade Bass events.
- Violation of or failure to comply with any of the Renegade Bass rules, regulations, guidelines and procedures.
- Any act that is considered threatening behavior to another competitor, Renegade Bass shore staff, Renegade Bass executive member or tournament director.
- Failure to comply with directions or orders given by the tournament director. (i.e. when to bag fish, when a competitor can load their boat.)
- Failure to comply with municipal, provincial and federal laws and regulations. (i.e. this will also include complying with all official Federal marine speed limits and all no wake zones).
- The use and or possession of illegal drugs or the consumption of alcoholic beverages will not be tolerated at any Renegade Bass function.

30. PROTEST PROCEDURE

COMPETITORS WISHING TO MAKE AN OFFICIAL PROTEST MUST DO SO BY REPORTING TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY BEFORE WEIGHING THEIR FISH AND BEFORE THE WEIGH-IN IS COMPLETED. THEIR OFFICIAL PROTEST MUST BE SUBSTANTIATED BY AT LEAST ONE OTHER TEAM. A CONDITIONAL DEPOSIT OF \$ 100.00, MUST ACCOMPANY ALL PROTESTS. A REFUND WILL ONLY BE ISSUED IF THE PROTEST IS UPHELD. THE PROTEST WILL BE COMMUNICATED TO AND ONLY TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. AT SUCH TIME AND IN SUCH A MANNER, THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR SHALL MAKE HIS/HER DECISION; REPORT IT TO THE RENEGADE BASS EXECUTIVE AND THEN TO THE TOURNAMENT CONTESTANTS. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS DECISION IS FINAL.