

Mt. St. Helens Bass Masters Tournament Rules

1. BOATS AND MOTORS - All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations (insurance, tags, lights, lifejackets, etc.). There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat on which it is used. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have an aerated livewell large enough to sustain a tournament limit in releasable condition. Aeration tablets may be used.
2. SAFETY – Boating safety must be observed at all times during practice and competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on and fastened anytime the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch must be attached to the driver during competition day. No Alcohol or Illegal Drugs may be consumed during tournament hours. Any angler issued a citation for any reason during tournament hours will be disqualified.
3. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT – All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of a combustion motor is not permitted, however “dragging” with an electric motor is considered legal. Only artificial lures may be used. Only one rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during competition.
4. MISC. RULES - During tournament hours, Anglers must stay aboard their boat except for designated areas, and are allowed to fish only in designated tournament waters. No boat to boat contact is allowed except for emergency. During tournament hours, a contestant must not have the assistance or advice from anyone to locate bass except from another entered contestant in the tournament. Failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules will be cause for disqualification. Two teams may fish from the same boat as long as each of their five fish are kept separate.
5. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS - No fishing is allowed inside the host marina. All fishing must be done from a previously inspected boat. Boats may not be trailered to and from weigh in during tournament hours unless under the direction of the tournament director. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you will not be tolerated. Contestants may not leave the boat to land a fish.
6. ENCHROACHMENT – A “25 yard rule” is in effect at all times during competition. No contestant’s boat may move within 25 yards of another contestant’s boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without the consent of all contestants involved. No contestant may fish within 50 yards of an anchored boat without the consent of that contestant’s boat. In the case of an anchored boat, if consent is granted for one boat, it must be granted for all. A boat moving from

one area to another may infringe upon this zone as long as the parties that are moving do not fish and do not intentionally disrupt the area. Judging distance is very difficult on the water. As a general rule of sportsmanship, all anglers should give all others enough room to make a reasonable cast to fish an area.

7. WEIGH-IN – Each team, whether a one-person team or a two-person team, may weigh a total of five fish. All fish must measure a minimum of ten inches in length, measured with mouth closed, and tail may be fanned to the advantage of the Angler. Size minimums may be larger if State Regulations require. A penalty of .20 lbs. per dead fish will be deducted from the total weight. Any team bringing more than five fish to the scale will be disqualified. Any team weighing a short fish will be assessed a one lb. penalty plus the loss of the short fish. Any team who is late to weigh-in will be penalized one pound per minute up to fifteen minutes. After fifteen minutes, no weight will be allowed.
8. SCORING – Points will be awarded to teams on a placement basis, and will be awarded as follows. First place team – 25 points, second place – 24 points, third place – 23 points, etc. Ties will receive same point values. Example: Tied for third, you add third and fourth place points and divide in half. Next place would be fifth place. Biggest fish will decide ties.
9. TROPHIES – Trophies will be awarded the day of the tournament. Trophies will be awarded to the first three places.