

HARRIS CHAIN BASSMASTER TOURNAMENT RULES

July 08, 2020

Section 1: Tournament eligibility and Fees

1. Any member of the Harris Chain Bassmasters that is in good standings with club is eligible to fish in club Tournaments.
2. Classic Tournament, if a new member is voted in December they will start in January of the New Year.
3. Tournament fee of \$30 per person will be paid by the non-boater which includes \$5 for big fish. \$20 goes to Tournament payout pool, and \$5 for Classic Fund.
4. Non-boater will pay boaters \$25 for gas and boat usage expenses for second tournament day of fishing.
5. Members must be 60% active in current year's function to be eligible for classic money.
6. Two day events are single point's events with only one entry fee per tournament angler.

Section 2: Lake Section

1. The Tournament Director (TD) and Weighmaster will select tournament dates for the entire tournament year which is January to December. Proposed dates will be provided to membership at the December meeting for review and final approval.

Note

Saturday and Sunday alternating days will be followed no matter if a single or 2-day tournament is scheduled.

2. At November's meeting all present members offer their lake choices to be fished for the coming year. All lakes will be voted on for approval, lakes will then be placed in a bin and the previous monthly tournament winner or designee will draw a lake to be fished at the monthly meeting. The 2-day tournament lake will be chosen at the October meeting. The previous year's lake will be not be eligible.
3. If selected lake is fishable but the date is changed due to weather or other circumstances, all club members will be notified of the date by the TD or designated club representative. In the event a selected lake has been found to be not fishable by the TD; the replacement lake will be the Harris Chain of Lakes, launching out of Lake Eustis. If selected lake is found not fishable before monthly meeting a new lake can be selected at Club meeting.
4. The 2 day Classic Tournament be held in December on the Harris Chain of Lakes, with the exception if the Harris Chain is off limits prior to a Federation Tournament which another lake is voted on.

Section 3: Tournament rules

1. No more than two (2) Fishermen permitted in each boat (Unless TD dictates otherwise).
2. Contestants may fish with any one partner no more than twice during the tournament year.
3. Culling of fish in not permitted at the weigh-in.
4. Culling of dead fish is not permitted at any time. Dead fish penalty is .25 (1/4) pound per dead fish.
5. Only artificial bait may be used. Rod length is limited to eight (8) feet. Trolling is not permitted. Participants may have only one (1) bait in the water at a time.

6. Fishing within 50 yards of a competitor's anchored (including using a Power Pole or equivalent) boat with trolling motor in the stowed position is not permitted.
7. Requirements for all boats used during a HCBM tournament:
 - a. Will be at least 16 feet in length
 - b. Have an outboard motor of at least 70 HP
 - c. Boat must have a manufacture maximum horse power rating displayed and the main motor cannot exceed that maximum rating.
 - d. Will have an operational bow mounted trolling motor
 - e. Will have a live well capable of sustaining 10 fish
 - f. Will have a rear casting deck
 - g. Any member that joined the HCBM before 11/1/2011 is exempt from Section 3, Rule 7 a. & b.
8. Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times.
 - a. It is the boater's responsibility to report any problems (loss of power, out of fuel, out of oil, etc.) on the water during a club tournament to the TD and the TD will address the problem(s) as necessary.
 - b. Any angler reporting an on board emergency (boat fire, crash, vessel sinking,) on the water must notify the TD immediately, the TD will address the problem(s) in the most expedient manner possible, this includes notifying FWC or the Police if necessary. If TD is not available then contact any HCBM board member or call 911.
 - c. Any competitor who observes an emergency situation on the water will render assistance immediately. Should this occur the TD has the authority to wave late to check in penalties for the boater and co-angler that are rendering assistance.
 - d. With the exception of launching and loading of boat, life vests and kill switches must be worn and secured any time the combustion engine is running.
9. Limits.
 - a. All tournaments will have a five (5) fish limit except June, July, and August which will have a three (3) fish limit.
 - b. Each fish presented for weigh-in must be at least twelve (12) inches in length on the Golden Rule as measured by the Weighmaster or his designee.
 - c. Only one (1) fish over sixteen (16) inches unless a waiver has been obtained, then all five (5) fish can be over sixteen (16) inches. Waivers will be distributed to all contestants prior to the launch.
 - d. Only five (5) fish may be presented at the scales as noted in 9a. Should more than five (5) fish be presented, the fisherman will be disqualified.
 - e. If a fish is presented to the scales that is smaller than twelve (12) inches (determined by TD or Weighmaster), it and the largest fish in the limit will be disqualified.
10. Proper boat maintenance should be performed as needed. Any boat found unfit for tournament usage by the TD cannot be used until the boat is repaired and deemed fit again by TD.
11. Landing nets are optional.

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12. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted during tournament hours, including the weigh-in.
13. A late penalty of one (1) pound of the late competitors catch for each minute late will be assessed. After ten (10) minutes, the late competitor and co-angler if paired will be disqualified. No Exceptions.
14. Tournament hours will be safe light to 3:00 pm or earlier as determined by the TD, except during June, July, and August which will be safe light until 2pm.
15. Tournament pairing
 - a. Members must sign up (or have another member sign you up) for the next tournament before the beginning of the meeting, or by notifying the TD before the meeting. Exception being is early sign-up pairing for 2-day away tournaments as determined by club members.
 - b. Angler and Co-angler pairing will be determined by the HCBM tournament director.
 - c. Once the pairings are announced any member (for safety reasons or legitimate personal reasons) may ask TD to be reassigned.
 - d. Tournament pairing will begin with the first non-boater drawn being paired with the TD, and be designated as boat number one. Second non-boater drawn will be paired with the weigh master and be designated as boat number two. Then boaters will be paired with a non-boaters until all non-boaters have a boater starting with boat number three. Boats number three and four are always designated as release boats. Boaters will then be paired as tournament partners.
 - e. Boaters paired as tournament partners will have the option of fishing together (boat used will be their decision) or fishing alone (must be declared at the pairing meeting) in their own boat.
 - f. A non-boater(s) attending the monthly club meeting will take precedence over guests and absence non-boater(s) if there is not enough boaters to meet the club's needs. All non-boater(s) who are not paired with a boater shall be the first non-boater(s) drawn for the following month tournament and must be paired with a boater until all non-boater(s) have missed at least one tournament.
 - g. All anglers shall adhere to the principles of good sportsmanship.
 - h. If a co-angler has to use their boat to allow a non-boater(s) to fish, his points will be awarded as a co-angler.
16. Any boat designated as a release boat that is not available at weigh-in to release fish (unless otherwise excused by the TD.) will be disqualified, and no points awarded for participation.
17. The TD, or his designated replacement, will launch all boats at safe light, sending them out in the order that they were paired, (or amended by the TD), until all boats are launched.
18. Use of live well water conditioner is recommended.
19. All boats may be inspected by the TD before the tournament.
20. No courtesy checks for short fish will be done at the weigh-in.
21. If a member arrives late for a club tournament, he/she must physically locate and check in with a club member participating in that tournament prior to fishing in the tournament. If a club member is late for a second tournament or more in a club year he/she is disqualified from that tournament.
22. Any club member who stands up a partner for a club tournament shall be penalized five (5) points for the first occurrence. On the second occurrence the offending member will be placed on probation and may have his/her membership reviewed (for dismissal) by the Board of Directors.
23. Tournament participants will keep their fish in the live well until called by the TD to come to the scales. The TD may call the contestants in pairs to the scales in the order of boat number drawn. The fish will be transported to the scales in plastic bags with enough water to cover the fish. The fish will be removed from the bags for weighing and returned immediately after completion of the weighing-in. The fish will then be transported back to the release boat in the same bag. At no time should the fish be out of the water for more than one minute.
24. The interpretation of these rules shall be at the discretion of the Harris Chain Bassmasters officials: Tournament Director, President, and Vice President.

Section 4: Payouts and Points System

1. Tournament purse will be 100% of entry fees minus classic fund.
2. Payback:
 - a. Tournament prize money will be awarded on the following scale: Up to 7 fishermen, one place will be paid, the next increment will be at 8 (8-14) {pay 1st and 2nd}, then in increments of seven; (15-21)) {1st-3rd} except as annotated in section b.
 - b. Prize money collected from boaters will be awarded to boaters and moneys collected from co-anglers will be awarded to co-anglers based on above payout schedule.
 - c. The Classic funds collected during the HCBM Classic tournament will be applied to the next Fiscal Year budget for the next year's Classic.
3. Club points will be awarded monthly as follows:
5 points for each club meeting attended
5 points for any special club function as determined by the Board of Directors
4. Tournament points (100 point system) will be awarded as follows:
 - a. 100 points to tournament winner, 95 to second, 90 to third, 87 to fourth, 84 to fifth, 81 to sixth, 79 to seventh, 77 to eighth, 75 to ninth and all other places will decrease by one point per place, with five points being awarded to participants who do Not catch a fish.
 - b. 2 points will be awarded to the biggest bass caught.
5. In the event of a tie the following tie breakers will be used: most fish, most live fish, coin flip (coin flip

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only determines points winner, first and second place money will be combined and divided evenly between tying anglers).

6. Classic points are awarded as follows:
 - a. 1 point for attending a monthly meeting and 1 point for fishing a monthly tournament for a total of 24 available points for the tournament year.
 - b. A member must have accumulated 14 points (60%) to qualify for classic payout.
7. Angler and Co-Angler of the year points:
 - a. Each member's best ten (10) tournament finishes and from attended meetings up to eleven (11 x 5=55) and any Board of Directors approved special event will be used to determine a member's final year standing.
 - b. Co-Angler of the year will be based on best ten (10) tournament finishes that were fished as a Co-Angler.

Section 5: Protest and Violations

1. If a member has a grievance of any kind with the club, club procedure or a fellow member, he/she must submit the grievance in writing to a member of the Board of Directors. The Board will take the grievance under advisement and make decisions based on their best judgment.
2. Protests must be submitted in writing prior to payment of prize money
3. Any violation not receiving a penalty during a tournament will be handled in the following manner by the TD:
 - a. First violation within a tournament season will be a written warning.
 - b. Second violation within a tournament season will cause a disqualification from tournament that violation occurred.
 - c. Three (3) or more violations within a tournament season will cause a disqualification from tournament that violation occurred and possible termination from HCBM Club. Club board will determine if termination of fisherman should occur.