



## ~ B.A.M. Tournament Rules ~

- 1. RULE CHANGES:** These rules shall remain in effect and unchanged throughout the current tournament year unless specifically superseded by state or local law. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director.
- 2. PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY:** Only current members of the BAM are eligible to fish in any BAM event. Anglers wishing to participate in BAM events may do so at any time prior to the start of an event. At least one team member must be 18 years of age or older to participate, however, if both members of a team are under the age of eighteen, then they must present written permission from a parent or legal guardian. The BAM reserves the right to deny participation to anyone at any time.
- 3. LIABILITY INSURANCE:** All members must carry a minimum of \$100,000 of liability insurance on any boat they might use during an BAM Tournament Event. Failure to do so or reporting of false information will result in disqualification. Anglers must provide proof of insurance upon request.
- 4. SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times while engaged in BAM sanctioned events and all boats must have a full complement of safety gear as required by USCG regulation. Any time the internal combustion motor is on both participants must have a USCG approved PFD on and securely fastened. Operators must have the kill switch armed with lanyard firmly secured to the operator. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors. The decision to shorten or cancel tournament days will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- 5. ALCOHOL/DRUGS:** Participants will refrain from the use of alcohol and or drugs during the course of the tournament event. Participants that are discovered to be using or under the influence of alcohol or drugs during an event will be immediately disqualified. The tournament event is not officially over until the close of scales. This prohibition does not extend to the use of prescribed medications for ongoing medical issues.
- 6. BOATS AND MOTORS:** Motors may not exceed the horsepower rating on the BIA plate for those boats meeting BIA standards, nor any manufacturer's plate affixed in lieu of BIA ratings. All boats used in BAM events must be equipped with a functioning kill switch as well as aerated live wells capable of sustaining a full tournament limit during the event. Participants who operate a boat & motor with "tiller steering" shall also have a kill switch lanyard when applicable.
- 7. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Participants in BAM events are expected to follow the highest standards of courtesy, safety, angling etiquette and adherence to game and fish laws. If an angler or team is found to have not conducted themselves accordingly, disqualification from the event and BAM may result.
- 8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fish must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner using one rod which may not exceed eight (8) foot in length (measured butt to tip). Intentionally snagging fish is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used, live and or prepared bait is not allowed, the only exception being "pork rinds" or its equivalent. Trolling with the aid of the internal combustion or electric trolling motor is not permitted. Communication devices such as cell phones, marine radios or CB's may only be used for emergency purposes or contacting the director. After checking in and near the weigh in location, a courtesy board will be provided which will be the same as the official board used for the event.

- 9. POLYGRAPH:** Anyone participating in a BAM tournament will be subject to a polygraph exam and or voice stress analysis if requested by the tournament officials. Examiner's decision must be accepted without appeal. Entrants understand that the failure of such test or refusal to take the test will disqualify them from the tournament.
- 10. CALSSIC OFF-LIMITS:** Tournament waters are off limits After 3:00 pm on Friday September 8<sup>th</sup>. 2023
- 11. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** All angling activities must be done from a previously inspected boat. No fishing will be allowed within 50-yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or tied, with its trolling motor stowed out of the water, without the anchored boats permission. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole with the trolling motor in the up position. Absolutely no hole-setting or holding of a fishing spot, this will not be tolerated. Competitors may not exit their boat to facilitate access to "other" waters. Tournament directors will determine, and announce, all off-limit areas.
- 12. NO-WAKE:** Boats will not pass another's competitors' boat in any no-wake zones at any time during tournament hours except for boats that may be changing course within the zone, boats which have stopped or are engaged in fishing activities.
- 13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** Teams must depart and return from a specified point by boat unless otherwise noted. Teams arriving late will be disqualified. In case of an emergency (I.E. Motor Failed) a team may bring their fish back in a competitor's boat but there must be at least one member from each team present when checking in. All fishing must cease upon checking in, disqualification will result for fishing after checking in.
- 14. SCORING:** Teams must cull down to their limit of 5 fish before returning to the official ramp site. The 5 fish must measure a minimum of 14 inches\*, mouth closed, tail compressed (\*local/state limit applies). Teams presenting more than a tournament limit shall be disqualified. Dead fish presented for weight will receive a 8-ounce (0.500) deduction from total weight. Tournament standings will be determined by total weight of all competition days. Only largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be scored. Teams presenting fish for weight, and which are subsequently determined to be "short", shall be penalized the weight of the short fish PLUS the big fish of the sack.
- 15. BIG BASS:** Competitors may choose only one bass out of their bag as an entry into the "big bass side pot/s". You may weigh 2 bass at the Classic if we have 2 bass pots.  
You cannot weight a dead fish in as big bass. Big bass must be alive.
- 16. TIES:** In the event of a tie at the event, big bass will be the deciding factor. In cases of a big bass tie, then The money will be split.
- 17. FISH RELEASE:** All fish caught and weighed in at an BAM event must be released at the official weigh in location. Failing to release your fish at the official release location will result in an automatic disqualification.

- 18. PROTESTS/DISQUALIFICATION:** Directors must be notified of all protest before close of scales. Protests also, must be submitted in writing within 10 minutes of the closing of the scales. A "protest committee" consisting of three (3) fellow anglers, randomly drawn by the tournament director will address all protests. Teams disqualified from individual events will still receive show-up points.
- 19. Conservation:** In support of conversation, no penetrating cull can be used. This will result in immediate disqualification of that event.
- 20. SUBSTITUTIONS:** Up to 2 substitutions may be used during the regular season if one team member fishes with the sub. A sub could participate in the classic if they had previously fished at least one half of the regular events in one specific division. Teams with a member who unexpectedly cannot attend the classic may utilize a sub from the division qualified from first, if none are available, then a sub from another division may be used. Exceptions to this rule maybe made by the executive director in cases of death, disability, employment status, or military duties. \*No subs will be allowed in the One-on-One Divisions.
- 21. TEAMS:** Teams must be declared at the first event fished in any one specific division by either member of the team. If both members of the team are present for any event in a specific division that they have declared themselves as a team they must fish together for their points to count towards their total team points. Members of a team that decide to fish apart during the same event in a specific division where they have declared themselves as a team no points will be awarded to the original declared team.
- 22. DIVISION'S POINT CHAMPIONS:** Points Champions of each division will be determined based on all tournaments fished in that division.
- 23. CLASSIC QUALIFIERS:** You must fish [10 of 12 on the 12-tournament series](#) or [5 of 6 on the 6-tournament series](#) in one division to qualify for that year classic. Exception to that rule that may apply is if a division cancels for inclement weather and does not make up a tournament.
- 24. ONE ON ONE QUALIFIERS:** Championship qualifiers for the One-on-One Championship will be based on all 6 events or all events scheduled for that division. Any angler competing in 5 of 6 events One on One division will automatically qualify for the championship.
- 25. Buy In:** Anglers and teams will be allowed to buy into any BAM event during the regular season. Entry fees must be giving to the director before the start of the event to be counted. These entry fees will go into the tournament payout. Anglers/teams who buy into an event will receive show up points. You must fish 50% to qualify for the Classic buy in.
- 26. CLASSIC TAKE OFF:** 1<sup>st</sup> Day will be by luck of the DRAW. 2<sup>nd</sup> Day will be in REVERSE of day one. All staff members will go out at the end of first flight and will have to be in 15 to 30 min. early each day.
- 27. DIRECTORS:** Tournament directors have the right to deny anyone entry from any and or all BAM tournaments.
- 28. PRO/GUIDE EXCLUSIONS:** Individuals' serving as licensed guides or are paid for guiding on tournament waters within the pre-ceeding 30-day period are not eligible to participate in events held on those waters for tournaments.

**29. Classic Bad Weather:** Classic is a 2-day tournament but due to a bad weather day can and will be 1-day tournament.

**30. POINT SYSTEM:** Point system based on year-to-date standings only. Point system with 50 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place. 49 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place on down by weight if you do not catch a legal fish, you will 10 points from the last place that caught fish. (Example) 1<sup>st</sup> place = 50 points – 2<sup>nd</sup> place = 49 points - 3<sup>rd</sup> place = 48 points 4<sup>th</sup> place = 47 points 5<sup>th</sup> place did not catch a fish -10 point from the last place that cough fish = 37 point. **6 tournament Division will double in point Will start at 100 points. Will be -20 point from the last place from the last place that cough fish. Point system for One ON One will start at 50 points.**

Bam angler of the year is based on all tournaments fished with in all bam events. BAM Team Angler of the year is based on all Tournament fished with in BAM as a team.

**31. LATE PENALTY:** Immediate disqualification. You must be in sight of the launch and or / director and off plain and not fishing.



**Bass Anglers of Michigan  
Mail to Shawn Green  
7919 6 Mile Rd.**

**MEMBERSHIP FEE \$50.00 BY MAIL  
MEMBERSHIP FEE \$50.00 ONLINE**

**Battle Creek, Mi. 49014**

**Family membership applies only to minor children 16 years and under  
RELEASE, INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT**

In consideration of participating in BAM fishing tournament and for other good and valuable consideration, I hereby agree to release and discharge from liability arising from negligence. Bass Anglers of Michigan Series LLC and its owners, directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, participants, and all other persons or entities acting for them (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Releases") on behalf of myself and my children, parents, hers, assigns, personal representative and estate, and agree as follows:

1. I acknowledge that fishing involves known and unanticipated risk which could result on physical or emotional injury, paralysis or permanent disability, death, and property damage. Risk includes, but are not limited to, fishing; Medical conditions resulting from physical activity; and damage clothing or other property. I understand such risk simply cannot be eliminated, the use of safety equipment, without jeopardizing the essential qualities of the activity.
2. I expressly accept and assume all the risks inherent in this activity or that might have been caused by the negligence of the releasees. My participation in this activity is purely voluntary and I elect to participate dispute the risk. In addition, if at any time I believe that event conditions are unsafe or that I am unable to participate due to physical or medical conditions, I will immediately discontinue participation.
3. I hereby voluntarily release, forever discharge, and agree to indemnify and hold harmless release from any and all claims, demands, or cause of action which are in any way connected with my participation in this activity, or my use of their equipment or facilities, arising from negligence. This release does not apply to claims arising from intentional conduct. Should releasees or anyone acting on their behalf be required to incur attorney's fee and cost to enforce this agreement, I agree to indemnify and hold them harmless for all such fees and cost.
4. I represent that I have adequate insurance to cover any injury or damage I suffer or cause while participating in this activity, or else I agree to bear the cost of such injury or damage myself. I further represent that I have no medical or physical condition which could interfere with my safety in this activity, or else I am to assume- all risk that may be created, directly or indirectly, by any such condition.
5. If I file a lawsuit, I agree to do so solely in the state where releasees facility is located, and further agree that the substantive law of that state shall apply.
6. I agree that if any portion of this agreement is found to be void or unenforceable, the remaining portions shall remain in force and effect.

**By signing this document, I agree that if I am hurt or my property is damaged during my participation in this activity, I may be found by a court of law to have waived my right to maintain a lawsuit against the parties being released on the basis of any claim of negligence.**

I have had sufficient time to read this entire document and should I choose to do so, consult with legal counsel prior to signing. Also, I understand that this activity may not be made available to me or that the cost to engage in this activity would be significantly greater if I were to choose not to sign this release and agree that the opportunity to participate at the stated cost in return or the execution of this release is a reasonable bargain. **I have read and understood this document and I agree to be bound by this by its terms.**



# Adult Membership

**Bass Anglers of Michigan**  
**Mail to Shawn Green**  
**7919 6 Mile Rd.**

MEMBERSHIP FEE \$50.00 BY MAIL  
MEMBERSHIP FEE \$50.00 ONLINE

**Battle Creek, Mi. 49014**

Family membership applies only to minor children 16 years and under

## Please Print Clearly

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

**Must Have**  
EMAIL Address \_\_\_\_\_ **Need**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Member# \_\_\_\_\_



## Youth Membership

PARENT OR GUARDIAN AGREEMENT (Must be completed for participant under the age of 17) BAM 1-1 -2023-V1.0

### Youth

In consideration of \_\_\_\_\_ (Print minor's name) being permitted to participate in this activity, I further agree to indemnity and hold harmless releases from any claims alleging negligence which are brought by or on behalf of minor or are in any way connected with such participation by minor.

Parent or Guardian name \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

(Must Have)  
(Email Address \_\_\_\_\_ Need)

(If notarization is necessary, please sign & stamp this side of form.)

Youth Member# \_\_\_\_\_ we will send you a card

**Your Youth Membership is good to the age of 17  
Please keep your card and number**