

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE
353 Water Street, 41 SHS Augusta, ME 04333
Phone 207-287-5261 - www.maine.gov/ifw
Application to Conduct a One Day Bass Tournament

Application Cost: \$52.00 for Weigh-in Tournament
\$12.00 Catch, Measure, Release Tournament

Type of application: Weigh-in, choose one: Open OR Club
 Catch, Measure, Release
 Youth (CMR only – no fee)

Bass Club Name: _____

Bass Club Representative Name: _____

Address (*Street and Apt # or PO Box*) _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ **Email Address:** _____

Date of Tournament: _____ **Hours:** _____ **AM to** _____ **PM**

Waterbody Name: _____ **Town:** _____

Weigh-in Location: _____

Number of Boats: _____ (see additional requirements under #9 on page 2 of this application)

- All applicants must provide a notarized affidavit (at least once per year) and include a current listing of club officers and members (with contact information), which indicates at least two members who have participated in an aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program endorsed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) within the last five years;
- Each tournament requires the presence of at least two aquatic plant and livewell inspectors, that have completed training endorsed by MDEP within the last five years;
- The 3rd Saturday in July is loon count; no tournaments will be allowed to start assembling before 9:00 AM;
- See reverse side of application for definitions and additional requirements.

Signature of Bass Club Representative

Date

NOTE: It is a Class E crime to obtain a permit through fraud, misstatement or misrepresentation (Title 12 MRSA Section 10757)

Please make check payable to: Treasurer, State of Maine. Mail completed application, along with check to: Fisheries Division, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 353 Water Street, 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333.

Please allow 7-10 business days for processing of this application.

Scope

These rules shall be applicable to bass fishing tournaments as authorized by Title 12, M.R.S.A., Section 12505.

Definition of a Bass Club

For purposes of determining eligibility to apply for a permit to conduct a one-day bass tournament, a "bass club" is defined as any organized group of five or more individual bass anglers which is able to satisfy one of the following criteria:

1. Provide current documentation of being a member club in a nationally recognized bass fishing organization; or
2. Provide a current listing of club officers and members along with a signed affidavit affirming that the club (consisting of at least 5 members), although not affiliated with any nationally recognized bass fishing organization, is a bona-fide independent fishing club. The affidavit must include a list of all members with contact information and must indicate those members who have participated in an approved aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program within the last five years.

Requirements (General)

1. Any bass club which sponsors a bass tournament must submit a completed bass tournament questionnaire, when requested to do so by an agent of the Commissioner, provided that such request must be made in writing to the sponsoring club prior to the day of the tournament.
2. Each tournament requires at least two aquatic plant and live-well inspectors, who have participated in an aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program within the last five years, to conduct weed and live-well inspections. Each watercraft will first be inspected immediately before a tournament participant launches prior to the tournament and for a second time after retrieval from the water immediately after the conclusion of the tournament for that participant. For watercraft that pre-fish prior to a permitted event, or continue to fish following the permitted event, an aquatic plant inspection must be completed by the operator, a passenger, or an available courtesy boat inspector.
3. All anglers in the tournament must possess a valid Maine fishing license unless of an age where a license is not required.
4. Bass tournament watercraft must be specifically identified in a plainly visible manner and a roster of participants must be available on site.
5. Only one permit will be issued on a waterbody for a specific date.
6. All fishing will be restricted to artificial lures.
7. No weigh-in bass tournaments will be permitted on a body of water less than 500 surface acres.
8. A copy of the tournament permit and a copy of the rules affecting tournaments shall be conspicuously displayed during each tournament at a location accessible to all tournament contestants.
9. Tournaments are limited to one watercraft per 35 acres with a maximum of 100 watercraft.
10. Tournaments may be Catch/Measure/Release or Weigh-In.
 - a. For Catch/Measure/Release tournaments in waters managed by MDIFW under the South Zone General Law, all bass caught must be immediately released to the location from which caught. Youth tournaments are to be Catch/Measure/Release only. There will be no application fee for Youth tournament permits.
 - b. For Weigh-In tournaments in waters managed by MDIFW under the South Zone General Law, all bass retained shall be kept in a livewell being operated with the pump(s) in a mode that constantly exchanges livewell water with fresh lake or river water as a flow-through system, except when watercraft are being operated under power of the main outboard while changing locations, or while motoring to shore immediately prior to weigh-in, at which time the pump(s) may be operated in a manner that aerates a fixed volume of water in the livewell. All bass taken shall be returned to the water from which it was caught, unharmed as far as possible, at the conclusion of the tournament day. The daily limit shall be 5 bass per participant with no weight limit.
11. The total cash value of prizes for single-day tournaments shall not exceed \$25,000.
12. The Commissioner has the authority to put any condition necessary on any tournament to assure that appropriate measures are taken to protect biological resources and address social concerns.
13. Weigh-In tournaments are not permitted in Hancock & Washington Counties from May 20 to June 30 (dates inclusive). In all other South Zone counties weigh-in tournaments are not permitted from May 8 to June 14 (dates inclusive).
14. Weigh-in tournaments are not permitted in Maine and New Hampshire Border waters from May 15 to June 30 (dates inclusive).
15. There will be no more than seven weigh-in tournaments per calendar year on any water greater than 500 acres.
16. Bass tournaments are not permitted in any waters managed by MDIFW under the North Zone General Law, except for the following waters which are exempted due to a recent history of ongoing bass tournaments: Indian Pond in Saint Albans; Moose Lake (Great) in Athens, Harmony, Hartland, and Saint Albans; Schoodic Lake in Brownville, Lake View Plt, and T4 R9 NWP; Sebec Lake in Bowerbank, Dover-Foxcroft, Sebec, and Willimantic; and Wesserunsett Lake (Hayden Lake) in Madison. On these five exempted waters, bass tournaments may be permitted as Catch/Measure/Release tournaments or Weigh-In tournaments as above, however bass tournament participants are not prohibited from harvesting bass during a permitted bass tournament.
17. No bass tournament shall occur at a public water access facility in a manner that prevents non-event participants from launching and retrieving watercraft.