

**UNITED BASSMASTERS**  
**Tournament Rules**

1. The Tournament Committee shall be present at each tournament to ensure proper functioning of the By-Laws.
2. All participants shall be randomly paired by non-boat owners selecting boat owner partners in United Bassmasters club tournament. Open tournaments shall be either draw or buddy tournaments.
3. Non-boat owners shall pay a \$25.00 fee to boat owners as compensation for expenses.
4. A full discussion of fishing locations must be held between the boat partners. Non-boaters must be allowed equal access to their fishing locations. Also, boat owners should make every effort to position their boat so that the non-boater will have equal access to the fish.
5. Members are prohibited from fishing with the same member more than once a year. On two day tournaments, non-boaters are prohibited from going to first day boaters spots.
6. The Tournament Director must approve all changes in pairings. He should be contacted as soon as problems occur.
7. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Carelessness or unsafe operation of any boat will be grounds for disqualification.
  - 7A. The following constitutes a tournament ready boat:
    1. All safety equipment is working and installed.
    2. Running lights are working.
    3. Trolling motor is working.
    4. Live well is working.
    5. Big engine is working.
    6. Able to carry two (2) people safely.
    7. Has a seat in the back of the boat for non-boater.
8. All boat occupants are required to wear a Coast Guard approved life vest while the boat is being powered by the gas engine and "on-plane". Boat owners are required to provide the non-boater with an approved life vest; however, non-boaters are encouraged to have a vest to their personal fit.
9. Contestants are responsible for their own liability. All boat owners are required to have their boats insured.
10. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the boats during a tournament. Violators will be disqualified for that tournament.
11. Any member whose boat is deemed unseaworthy by the tournament committee will not be allowed to use his boat. He will be designated a non-boater until the boat is properly repaired.

12. All participants shall depart at blast-off and return at the appointed time. Participants are encouraged not to arrive late for tournaments. In the event a contestant arrives late, he must do the following:

Before any fishing begins, you must find a United Bassmasters member on the lake. Tell him you were late for blast-off and request that he physically check your live well. After he verifies that your live well is empty, he should then advise you of the creel limit and the weigh-in time. You must then pay him your entry fee and then you may begin fishing. At weigh-in, you and the member who checked your live well should see the Tournament Director of his designee. You should state that you were late and give your reason. The Tournament Director will ask the member to verify that your live well was checked and found empty and that you paid your entry fee.

Any late member to fails to follow all of the above steps will not be allowed to weigh-in any fish.

12A. If you are late for a tournament and you miss pairings and don't call before pairings, you lose half of your day's weight. Job, family emergency, accident, lost are approved excuses for being late, not "I overslept." Pairings are 1 hour before safe light. (If safe light is 7:15 a.m., pairings are at 6:15 a.m.)

13. A penalty of ten (10) ounces per minute will be deducted from total weight for late returnees. Any participant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will lose all credit for the day's catch. Each participant must be inside the book marker to be counted as on time.
14. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait. All bass must be caught live in a conventional manner. No trolling is allowed. Only casting or jigging methods may be used.
15. Any area posted or cordoned off and restricted to boats by the lake authority will be an off limits area to tournament boats. Anyone violating this rule will be disqualified for that tournament.
16. Once a tournament is in progress, no participant may leave the boat to fish a bank, wade, or fish by any other method. Leaving the boat for safety reasons, i.e., thunder/lightening storms or to answer a "nature call" is permitted.
17. At no time shall one boat fish closer than fifty (50) yards of another contestant who is anchored with the trolling motor in the up position.
18. Only largemouth, smallmouth, Kentucky, or spotted bass will be weighed in. The limit will be 5 fish per participant. All bass must meet the minimum state regulation governing the waters being fished. The weigh master will use a "Golden Rule," with the fish's mouth closed, tail fanned, to determine length.
19. All fish weighed in are under the control of the tournament committee and will be returned to lake alive when possible. Every effort must be made to keep fish alive. For each dead fish brought to the scales, two (2) ounces will be deducted from the total weight of the contestant.

20. Weighing in a short fish or more fish than allowed will result in the loss of the largest fish in your creel. The tournament committee will not pre-measure your fish, it is your responsibility.
21. Any member who is delinquent in dues or other fees will not be allowed to weigh-in fish in a tournament. It is the responsibility of each member to check with the club treasurer to ensure compliance with financial obligations.
22. Only tournament committee members will be allowed to weigh and measure fish. Unless your fish are being weighed, members are asked to stand back and clear of the scales.
23. If a boater notifies the Tournament Director that he must leave the lake prior to the weigh-in, the Tournament Director will determine if that person will be designated a non-boater. This is in fairness to any non-boater selected to fish with that boater. You must be at weigh-in to weigh fish in. Early leaving participants may hand off fish and they must be marked with culling balls, this is due to break downs or personal reasons.
24. Any protests must be filed with the Tournament Director before the end of the weigh-in. At the conclusion of the weigh-in, the tournament results are final and no protests can be filed. The tournament committee will make the final decision on any protests and their decision regarding appropriate actions will be final and not subject to appeal.

25. Tournament purses are as follows:

First Place -----	35%
Second Place -----	25%
Third Place -----	20%
Fourth Place -----	10%
Big Fish -----	<u>10%</u>
	100%

26. The tournament purse for the United Bassmasters Classic tournament will be decided by the tournament committee with the approval of a majority vote of club members at the September monthly meeting.
27. Tournament points will be awarded based on total weight of fish caught by the member during each tournament. Weights will be accumulative throughout the tournament season.
28. Selection of the United Bassmasters 6-man team to the Regional Elimination tournament will be based on the top six finishers in the club tournaments. If a selected member cannot participate in the regional, the next member in line will have the opportunity to move up and represent the club.
29. Each non-boater is limited to 6 rods, tackle box, necessary protective apparel and equipment, and a small (6 pack) cooler.

30. Each member to fish the club tournament must be in good standing with both the club and FLW/TBF financial requirements.

**UNITED BASSMASTERS  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

LAST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ FIRST NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE(H) \_\_\_\_\_ (W) \_\_\_\_\_ (CELL) \_\_\_\_\_

FAX \_\_\_\_\_ (PAGER) \_\_\_\_\_ SPOUSE'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

BASS MEMBERSHIP # \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

PREVIOUS CLUB AFFILIATION(S) \_\_\_\_\_ NAME OF CLUB(S) \_\_\_\_\_

OFFICES HELD (IF ANY) \_\_\_\_\_

FISHING EXPERIENCE \_\_\_\_\_ YRS \_\_\_\_\_ MONTHS DO YOU OWN A BOAT? \_\_\_\_\_

YEAR \_\_\_\_\_ MAKE \_\_\_\_\_ MODEL \_\_\_\_\_ MOTOR \_\_\_\_\_

HP \_\_\_\_\_ INSURANCE COVERAGE \_\_\_\_ (Y) \_\_\_\_ (N) IF YES, AMOUNT \_\_\_\_\_

FAVORITE LAKE(S) \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF HOURS ON LAKE PER MONTH \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

REASON FOR WANTING TO JOIN UNITED BASSMASTERS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

HOW DID YOU BECOME AWARE OF UNITED BASSMASTERS? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP**

1. Be recommended by a member at a regular monthly meeting.
2. Be approved for membership by at least 2/3 of the members present at a regularly scheduled meeting by secret ballot.
3. Be 16 years of age.
4. Be or become a member of FLW and TBF.

## **EXPENSES**

1. Annual TBF Federation Dues

New Member -----	\$35.00 State
	15.00 National
Renewal -----	27.00
2. Yearly Membership Fee ----- 15.00
3. Monthly Dues ----- 10.00
4. Tournament Entry ----- 25.00
5. Non-Boater Fee ----- 25.00
6. FLW membership at current rate.
7. Other assessments as approved by membership for fund raising projects.