

MFG Bass Series Rules

Field Size: The field size for a qualifying series event is 9 anglers

Participation: Series events are open to all anglers on a first come basis. Each participant is responsible for bringing their own official who will be placed in competitor boat during event.

Series Defined: A Series competition will be comprised of five (5) rounds:

Series Qualifying Round 1 – 9 Anglers competing, top 3 advance bottom 6 eliminated.

Series Qualifying Round 2 – 9 Anglers competing, top 3 advance bottom 6 eliminated.

Series Qualifying Round 3 – 9 Anglers competing, top 3 advance bottom 6 eliminated.

Series Qualifying Round 4 – 9 Anglers competing, top 3 advance bottom 6 eliminated.

Series Qualifying Round 5 – 9 Anglers competing, top 3 advance bottom 6 eliminated.

Series Championship Round – Up to 15 Anglers competing, top 3 paid positions

One qualifier per 3 boats for each event.

Payout is only in the Championship Round. Angler entry fee (\$200) covers their Qualifying Round and their Championship Round should they advance. Total Payout \$7,200.00 based on 45 Anglers.

Periods: Each Series Qualifying and Championship Round will be broken up into three periods. Anglers are required to return to a designate rendezvous immediately after each period.

Series Qualifying Rounds: Up to 9 boats per event with 1 in 3 boats qualifying for the championship. (ie. full field of 9 qualifies top 3, 6 boats qualifies 2 and less than 6 only 1).

Series Championship: Up to 15 Anglers comprised of the top 3 from each of the Qualifying Rounds forming a field of 15 Anglers. The Angler with the highest total weight of scoreable bass will be declared the winner. The Series Championship Round payout will be spread over 1st, 2nd and 3rd place finish

COMPETITION RULES AND GENERAL ENFORCEMENT

1. LAWS, BOATS, SAFETY AND WEATHER

MFG Bass Series Anglers must adhere to all federal, state and local laws. MGF Boat Officials are required to contact the MGF Commissioner in charge with any questions or concerns about an angler's potential action that may violate a law. Based on the set of circumstances in connection with the violation, the Commissioner, at his discretion, will issue an immediate penalty and or disqualification.

Each angler will be permitted to use their boat for tournament competition and should be fully equipped with all essentials to meet state water safety requirements including proper insurance.

The MGF Commissioner or his designee has the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an event because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Competition waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. We will be monitoring the weather at all times during the competition day and will communicate to your MGF Boat Official via text message and phone.

In the event that dangerous conditions develop, MGF will suspend the competition for all participants and instruct you to immediately take cover. If at any time you feel you are in danger, and your MGF Boat Official HAS NOT been contacted, you should take cover immediately until the conditions have improved.

2. SPORTSMANSHIP

MGF Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any violation of the standards may be deemed cause for disqualification.

Use of alcohol or drugs (other than drugs purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during MGF Events could be cause for automatic disqualification.

Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters.

MGF Boat Officials have the responsibility of reporting to the Commissioner an angler's sportsmanship violation or a flagrant violation for any act that reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation and/or clean waters.

3. MGF COMMISSIONER'S ROLE

Interpretation and enforcement of rules shall be left exclusively to the MGF Commissioner and/or his assigned designees at the competition.

In the event of a rule violation, the MGF Commissioner and/or his designees may impose such sanctions as disqualification and/or prohibition from participation in subsequent MGF Competitions.

4. MGF BOAT OFFICIAL'S ROLE

A volunteer MGF Boat Official is required to become familiar with MGF Competition Rules and general enforcement.

MGF Boat Official will accompany each MGF Bass Series angler throughout each day's competition.

Each MGF Boat Official is required to have a SmartPhone scoring device with internet and texting ability.

MGF Boat Officials are also required to supply their own personal flotation device that's is Coast-Guard approved and must be worn at all times while the combustion engine is running.

MGF will supply each volunteer Boat Official with the following: An approved MGF scale, MGF event log book, pens, extra batteries and a Boat Official Shirt. Boat Official are required to turn in all supplied items at the end of their event (except shirt) .

The MGF Boat Official will serve as rules enforcer and the official scorekeeper.

The duties of the MGF Boat Official will be to weigh and record the weight of each scorable catch in the log book as well as update the MGF Scoring System using their Smartphone.

MGF Boat Officials are also responsible as “time keepers” throughout day notifying Anglers as to when “lines are in” and “lines are out”.

Specific Penalty Violations will be assessed “on the spot” by the MGF Boat Official and all other violations will be reported to the MGF Commissioner or his representative.

Rules decisions made by a MGF Boat Official are considered final, unless a MGF Angler chooses to submit a written protest to the MGF Commissioner.

5. THE WEIGHING OF BASS

All MGF Events shall utilize the MGF term “scorable bass”. A scorable bass is any bass caught that weighs one (1) pound or greater. Any bass caught that weighs less than one (1) pound shall be deemed “un-scorable.” Weight is now the sole determining factor for a bass being scorable or un-scorable. Length is not a factor in the scoring of a bass caught. This effectively eliminates the need and use of measuring boards in MGF events.

There is no limit to the number of scorable bass a MGF Bass Series Angler can catch and record during MGF Event competition.

Only the MGF Angler will handle bass caught during competition. Once a bass is caught, the bass will be set onto the official scale by the MGF Angler.

The MGF Boat Official will hold the official scale by the handle only with both hands and position it at eye level. The bass must be steady, allowing the scale to be clearly read first by the MGF Boat Official.

Should the bass be less than one (1) pound, the MGF Boat Official shall announce it to be un-scorable. Should the bass be more than one (1) pound, the MGF Boat Official will proceed to call the weight.

The MGF Boat Official will call the weight. If the call is challenged by the MGF Angler, the MGF Boat Official will zero the scale and re-weigh the bass a maximum of two (2) additional times and then the MGF Boat Official will make the final call, “the official weight is”. The bass cannot be dipped into the water between re-weighs.

After the official weight is announced (or after a bass is deemed un-scorable) the MGF Angler is to remove the bass from the scale, properly release the bass into the water and resume fishing.

The MGF Boat Official will immediately record the weight in writing onto the MGF “Log Book Scoring Sheet” and then enter the weight into the official MGF Electronic Scoring System being used.

6. END-OF-PERIOD SCORING

The MGF Boat Official being the “time keeper” is responsible for letting notifying the MGF Angler that the period is about to end.

At the ends of periods, the MGF Angler will be clearly notified by the MGF Boat Official when the period competition is coming to an end and when MGF Angler must stop fishing. The only deviations to the scheduled ends of periods will be if all MGF Anglers receive extra competition time because of an Official Time Out due to a Mechanical Failure, Medical Emergency or Weather, as called by the MGF Commissioner’s in Charge.

Regarding the final cast of any period, any bass hooked on the final cast must be “inside the boat” - visibly inside the gunnel - before the time expires.

The legality or illegality of a period-end catch will be determined by the MGF Boat Official.

7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Use of nets and grippers for landing bass is prohibited.

Only artificial lures can be used.

All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner.

Any bass caught while “visually fishing” must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by the MGF Boat Official before being unhooked. The weight of a bass caught by the technique of “visual fishing” can only be scored once during that day.

SPECIFIC MGF COMPETITION RULES / PENALTIES

NO INFORMATION RULE:A MGF Angler shall not pursue any action of any kind that may give that MGF Angler a competitive advantage during competition.

MGF Anglers may not talk to MGF Boat Officials about any other MGF Angler’s results or tactics used during any competition day.

(Penalty – MLF Commissioner: Sharing Information, Result: 10 min stop fishing and/or disqualification)

ASSESSING PENALTIES: If the MGF Boat Official calls a penalty on the MGF Angler, he must immediately stop all activities, including fishing. The MGF Angler is not allowed to drop his shallow water anchors or operate the trolling motor unless the boat is in immediate danger of being damaged and the MGF Boat Official gives the MGF Angler permission to do so. ALL other activities of any kind are not allowed and additional penalty time will be added for a penalty compliance violation for each occurrence.

If a penalty results from a bass Landing Violation the bass must immediately be weighed and released. The MGF Boat Official is required to manually record the weight of the bass before he starts the penalty clock.

MGF Boat Officials are not allowed to enter the weight on the Scoring System Device before the weight is first manually recorded. The MGF Angler must not request that MGF Boat Official start the penalty clock before the weight is first manually entered.

The MGF Angler must sit down on the front deck and is not allowed to do FISHING MOVE during a penalty time with the exception of moving the boat to safety.

(Penalty – Official: Penalty Compliance Violation, 1 Minute Additional Penalty)

PENALTY CARRY-OVER: If a MGF Angler is assessed a penalty at the end of Period One or Period Two, the penalty time spent will be at the “start of Fishing” in the next period. If a MGF Angler is penalized at the conclusion of Period Three in an Event Round, the penalty time spent will be at the “start of Fishing” during the next Round. The beginning ride around time cannot be used for penalty time.

LINES-IN LINES-OUT RULE: Both the MGF Angler and MGF Boat Official are given the starting and ending time of each period by the MGF Commissioner. It is the responsibility of each to be aware of these “times”. Any casting that is done outside of the start (LINES-IN) and ending (LINES-OUT) times will result in a penalty plus loose of any fish caught.

(Penalty – Official or Commissioner: Penalty Lines-In Lines-Out, 10 Minute Stop Fishing Penalty)

ENCROACHMENT RULE: There is no official buoy distance rule. However, at no time is a MGF Angler allowed to interfere with another MGF Angler’s line. If a MGF Angler casts close to another MGF Angler and hooks into his line, the casting MGF Angler will be penalized. MGF Anglers approaching another Anglers area are expected express their intentions and follow MGF Sportsmanship rules.

(Penalty – Official: Hooking other’s line, 2 Min., stop fishing when line untangled)

LANDING BASS: While landing bass, the bass cannot touch the carpet or any other part of the boat inside the gunnel at any time during the process. If the bass comes unhooked from the bait and falls to the carpet or hits any other part of the inside of the boat it will be assessed as a violation. Excepted from this rule will be laying the bass on the carpet to remove a deep set hook, “only after it has been properly landed without it touching the carpet”. MGF Angler should first ask the MGF Boat Official if the MGF Angler can lay the bass on the carpet. If a bass comes off of the scale while weighing the bass it will not be assessed as a penalty.

Additionally, MGF Angler is not allowed to cradle bass or allow bass that he is landing to touch his body. A MGF Angler cannot allow a bass to touch any part of his body other than his hands or forearms. A slight touch will not be penalized. If the MGF Angler brings the bass to the body deliberately to secure control of the bass or the bass hits the MGF Angler more than slightly, then it will be a penalty. From a rules standpoint, the body is to be treated the same as the carpet. Should a IFL Angler hook multiple bass on one bait, a penalty will be assessed for every bass that touches anything inside the boat or touches the angler as described above.

(Penalty – Official: Fish Landing violation, 2 Minutes immediate, stop fishing)

RELEASING of CATCH: When releasing any species of fish that is scorable or un-scorable, the MGF Angler’s hand must be at gunnel level or closer to the water. No flipping or tossing of a bass.

(Penalty – Official: Fish release violation, 2 Minutes immediate, stop fishing)

BROKE OFF FISH: MGF does not have a Broke Off Fish penalty.

LEAVING BOAT TO FISH: MGF Angler may not leave the boat for the purpose of fishing. Leaving the boat to assist in landing a hooked bass, as an act of fishing, will result in a penalty. Although penalized, if a MGF Angler retrieves a scorable bass, the fish will count. Leaving the boat for non-fishing reasons is allowed without a penalty.

Furthermore, the MGF Boat Official may not leave the boat to help the angler for any reason. The exception for the MGF Boat Official is he may only leave the boat in a situation where the integrity of the game is at risk.

(Penalty – Official: Leaving Boat to Land fish, 4 Minutes immediate, stop fishing)

GRAPHING: Graphing between periods in order to locate bass is not allowed. Penalty will be called when the MGF Angler marks a waypoint between periods.

(Penalty – Official: Graphing between Periods, 5 Minutes at start of next period)

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE: Each MGF Angler must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. MGF Angler's life preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition any time the combustion engine is in gear. The MGF Boat Official's life preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition any time the combustion engine is in gear. If the MGF Angler or MGF Boat Official does not comply with the above the boat must be shut down until all passengers have met the Flotation Device rule.

(Penalty - Official: Safe-boat conduct Penalty, 3 Minutes immediate, stop fishing)

KILL SWITCH: The MGF Angler or other appointed driver must have his boat's kill switch connected any time the combustion engine is in gear. If the MGF Boat Official observes that the MGF Angler does not comply with the above the boat must be shut down until MGF Angler or other appointed drive attaches the Kill Switch.

(Penalty – Official: Kill-switch connection, 5 Minutes immediate, stop fishing)

SPORTSMANSHIP: A Sportsmanship Violation is defined as aggressive or hostile behavior directed at a fellow MGF Angler, MGF Boat Official, a non-competitor or any representative of MGF, including the use of profanity directed at these individuals, will not be tolerated. MGF Boat Officials are required to report violations to the MGF Commissioner.

(Sportsmanship Violation, Penalty will be determined by the MGF Commissioner)

FLAGRANT VIOLATION: A flagrant violation for any act that reflects unfavorably upon the positive efforts of MGF, MGF sponsors, spectators, fisheries conservation, and clean waters will not be tolerated.

(Flagrant Sportsmanship Violation, Penalty determined by MGF Commissioner)