

BLARNEY BASSMASTERS RULES

1. Must have valid Illinois fishing license and Fox Waterway permit for boat.

2. Must have current up-to-date insurance to compete in any event. You will be required to sign a waiver before the fishing a tournament. Blarney Bassmasters reserves the right to post pictures/video taken for any purpose before, during, or after an event.

3. This is a 20 week program with an 8 hour, one day Classic (Saturday) at the end of the season. Annual membership fee will be \$40.00. To be eligible for the Classic, you must fish a minimum 16 of the 20 weeks. You will be able to “buy-in” one extra tournament if you only fish 15 weeks. If you do not fish all 20 weeks, there will be an additional \$5.00 fee for the Championship for every tournament you’ve missed. You are permitted to fish alone three (3) times and use a sub three (3) times throughout the season. Subs must be a paid member of Blarney Bassmasters. You will be permitted to use a sub for the Wednesday Night Classic only if the sub has qualified. You will be allowed to fish alone for the Classic if your partner cannot make it.

4. Each tournament;

- Take off position will be drawn before tournament start. Each boat will receive a take-off card number, please wait your turn to get in line for take-off and hold your take-off card so people can see it.
- Depart from Port of Blarney (Ackerman’s Channel).
- All boats must proceed, in order, to the mouth of Ackerman Channel at Grass Lake Rd Bridge. If you intend on fishing back in Ackerman, you must go out to the mouth of the channel and “tag up” before turning around and going back into Ackerman Channel.
- Live well check must be performed. You will receive a trolling motor ribbon once live well check is complete.
- Weigh in times will be announced prior to take-off. You will be disqualified for being late to check in, no exemptions. You must have your take-off card to the trailer by check-in time! At check-in, you must declare the number of fish you are weighing. If you come to the scale with more fish than you’ve declared, you will be disqualified.
- 5 fish limit, 14” inch minimum length. Largemouth/smallmouth bass only. No smallmouth can be weighed until June 15th. Per state law, if any person is fishing alone, only 3 smallmouth can be possessed and brought to the scale. If a short fish is brought to the scale, you will be disqualified. Courtesy bump board available on request.
- A 1lb penalty will be incurred per dead fish. No dead fish will count toward the Big Bass pot. No more than 3 dead fish may be weighed. There will be no culling of dead fish.
- Any protest must be submitted, in writing, prior to completion of weigh-in. If you allege a violation by another competitor and do not officially protest the violation, you are in violation of rules and will be disqualified.
- Ties will be broken by number of fish, then big bass weight, then by a coin toss
- If a scheduled Wednesday tournament falls during a no-wake high water level on the Chain, the tournament will be cancelled and all members will get credit for that tournament as part of the 16 tournament requirement
- You are not allowed to pass another competitor in a no-wake area
- Speed limit before and after sunset is 25mph. Running lights must be on at this time.

- Absolutely no alcohol/narcotic drugs are permitted in your boat during the tournament, no exceptions.
- No fishing while main engine is running (exemptions may be granted in emergency situations – this must be approved by a tournament director prior to an exemption being issued)
- No trolling is allowed via combustion or electronic motor
- No live bait or dead prepared bait.
- Scent sprays, pure liquids, and lure dyes are permitted
- Artificial lures only. All artificial lures must comply with state and local laws.
- Only 1 line may be in the water, per angler, at any given time. A cast must be fully completed before another rod can be picked up and used.
- Must use weigh-in bags provided by Blarney Bassmasters

5. Off Limits

1. Long Lake (no casting into Long Lake)
2. Brandenburg Lake (no casting into Brandenburg)
3. Duck Lake (no casting into Duck Lake)
4. North of the Wisconsin state line on the river
5. The mouth of Ackerman Channel at Grass Lake back to the old gravel bridge
6. The marked Sanctuary south of the Rt134 bridge
7. Beyond the canoe basin up Nippersink Creek (no motor area)
8. Any state, federal, or Fox Waterway marked “no boat” or “no motor” area.

6. Boat requirements

- Minimum HP 25
- Must have tether kill switch in working order. Tether must be attached to driver while combustion motor is running.
- Must have operating and recirculating/aerated live well
- Tiller steering is allowed

7. Kill Switches - must be attached and operational. Life jackets must be worn while main engine is running, no exceptions. This will result in an immediate DQ.

8. Any ticketed violation during tournament hours will result in an immediate DQ.

9. Blarney Bassmasters reserves the right to polygraph any competitor for any reason. Refusal to comply is grounds for immediate disqualification and forfeiture of any prizes and/or monies.

If launching at Port of Blarney you must have current season pass or pay daily launch fee.

NOTE: All highlighted rules apply ONLY to Wednesday Night tournaments.

NOTE: ANY ISSUES THAT MAY ARISE RELATING TO RULES AND ARE NOT POSTED ON THIS SHEET ARE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR(S).