

**ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANGLERS**  
**Tournament Rules**  
*Updated December, 2011*

**A. ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION AND FEES**

1. **Tournaments are open to members in good standing and invited guests.**
2. **Guests:** Must be invited by the club at least three(3) days before the tournament.
3. **Registration:** To take place at the regularly scheduled club meeting prior to the tournament. A late registrant cannot bump a non-boater from the tournament.
4. **Tournament fees:** \$10.00 at registration; \$15.00 the day of the tournament.
5. **Withdrawal from a tournament for any reason:** Registered participants not able to attend must notify both the tournament director and their fishing partner(s) at least 24 hours prior to the tournament.

**B. SAFETY, BOAT OPERATION AND EMERGENCIES**

1. **Personal flotation devices(pfd's):** Must be worn and fastened whenever main motor is operating.
2. **Tournament participants must provide their own pfd's.** This is not a boater obligation.
3. **Boats equipped with automatic kill switch:** Must be attached to operator whenever boat is moving. Boats are not required to have an automatic kill switch.
4. **Boating courtesy:** Will be displayed at all times. Unsafe boat operation can result in expulsion from the club.
5. **Live wells:** Not required for catch and release tournaments. However, if a tournament requires a weigh-in, participating boats must have a livewell.
6. **Emergency weigh-in:** In case of breakdown or other emergency, a participant's fish may be brought to a weigh-in by another boat and/or weighed-in by someone other than the participant. Fish must be plainly marked or segregated.
7. **Common sense:** Will dictate all other situations.
8. **Shore fishing:** Permitted in any tournament.
9. **State laws concerning consumption of alcohol aboard a watercraft must be obeyed.**

**C. BOATER/NON-BOATER RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES**

1. **Courtesy:** Boat ownership requires much expense and trouble. Non-boaters should respect a boater's property and make every effort to help out. Some areas where a boater may need help are boat preparation, launching, loading, securing and cleaning the craft after a tournament and keeping alert for hazards or other boats while on the water.
2. **Insurance:** Boaters must keep a paid, up-to-date, insurance policy.
3. **The boater is in charge while on the water:** Non-boater must comply with boater's wishes in the interest of safety and comfort.
4. **Boater to return non-boater:** A boater is obligated to return to the dock at the non-boater's request.
5. **Aquatic nuisance species compliance.** All tournament contestants must comply with state laws and best practices to protect against the spread of quagga/zebra mussels and other invasive species in boating and fishing activities. (12/11)

**D. TOURNAMENT COST SHARING**

1. **Accommodations:** Any participant sharing another's camper or motor home shall pay a minimum fee of \$10.00 per night to the owner.
2. **Travel expenses:** Shall be shared equally by the driver and passenger(s).
3. **Permit or use fees:** Divided equally among those using the facilities.
4. **Food and other supplies:** Costs will be divided according to the discretion of those involved.
5. **Boat expenses:** Boat fuel and oil shall be divided equally among those using the boat.

**E. FISHING METHODS, BAITS AND RESTRICTIONS**

1. **Baits:** Any legal live or prepared bait permitted.
2. **Number of rods:** One rod allowed unless two(2) are permitted by state law.
3. **Trolling:** Permitted in any tournament.
4. **Encroachment.** When faced with a situation involving fishing in close proximity to other boats or fishing in or through water actively being fished by another team, teams are asked to communicate in a courteous and civil manner. If a problem arises teams are strongly encouraged to take steps to come to a mutually acceptable solution. This applies to tournament and nontournament boats. (12/11)
5. **All applicable laws and regulations must be obeyed.**

**F. FISH QUALIFICATIONS**

1. **Size:** All fish will be measured back to the full inch. For example, 15 7/8 inches counts as 15 inches.
2. **Measuring fish:** Lay the fish flat on a ruler or other measuring device. With the tail pinched together, measure from the tip of the head to the end of the tail fin.
3. **Limits:** During tournaments, fish that participants keep in possession shall not exceed legal limits or size restrictions set by the state fishing proclamation. However, in catch-and-release tournaments, the club may designate sizes and numbers of fish that differ from state law. (12/11)
4. **Culling:** Competitors may replace smaller fish on the point sheet with larger fish caught later during the tournament.

## G. TOURNAMENT PRE-FISHING

1. **Time:** A participant may pre-fish a tournament up to the time of the pre-tournament meeting.
2. **Exception:** Pre-fishing may be excluded from selected tournaments on a predetermined basis.

## H. DUTIES OF THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

1. **Inform all concerned:** Notify affected agencies and organizations about tournaments when appropriate.
2. **Conduct a pre-tournament meeting:** 30 minutes prior to tournament time.
3. **Designate a check-in time and site.**
4. **Organize and conduct blast-off.**
5. **Provide first day standings for two day tournaments.**
6. **Officially declare the close of check-in.**
7. **Disputes/questions:** The tournament director's decision will be final.
8. **Canceling or postponing tournaments:** The tournament director shall have full authority to determine if weather or other factors warrant cancellation or postponement of a tournament.
9. **Aquatic Nuisance Species Compliance.** Promote aquatic nuisance species education and compliance among tournament participants. (12/11)

## I. TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS

1. **Drawing:** At the regular club meeting prior to the tournament, boaters will be assigned numbers and randomly matched with an equal number of non-boaters. Any non-boaters above the number of boaters will be matched up later, if boaters become available. Shore fishing, float tubes, etc. are permissible for tournament fishing.
2. **Three in a boat:** A boater may choose to have a third angler if necessary due to too many registered non-boaters. However, this shall be strictly the choice of the boater.
3. **Boaters as non-boaters:** To provide a more diverse fishing experience for members, a person owning a boat may compete in any tournament as a non-boater.

## J. CHECK-OUT AND BLAST-OFF

1. **Check-out:** Each boat will be in the water and checked out by a tournament committee member prior to blast-off.
2. **Starting order:** Shall be determined by drawing.
3. **Starting times:** Boats will leave at 10 second intervals according to the starting order.
4. **Late arrivals:** Blast-off will not be delayed by late arrivals.
5. **Delays:** Blastoff may be delayed by the tournament director under certain conditions, such as mechanical problems with one of the boats.

## K. CHECK-IN AND SCORES

1. **Check-in:** Tournament participants will report to the check-in site at the designated time with their completed score sheets.
2. **Official time:** The tournament director shall keep the official tournament time piece.
3. **Late check-in penalties:** Four(4) points shall be deducted for each 15 seconds a tournament participant is late for check-in, rounded to the nearest 15 second interval. An angler later than 10 minutes past check-in time will receive no points for the tournament.
4. **Scores:** The tournament committee will tabulate points for all contestants and announce winners after all score sheets are checked in.
5. **The tournament director has final authority on all decisions.**

## L. POINT SYSTEM

1. **Earning points:** Only fish that fit in the size ranges determined by the club will earn points on the score sheet (or "sheet") according to length and species.
2. **Individual score:** Shall be the total points earned from all fish counted on a competitor's sheet.
3. **Team score:** A team will include all the competitors fishing from the same boat (although other assignments may also be necessary if lack of boats forces competitors to fish from shore or by other means) (2/94) Adding the individual score of each team member will determine a team's score for a tournament.
4. **Season points:** Competitors earn season points based on their performance at each tournament. The first place individual finisher for a tournament shall earn 65 season points, second place—55, third place—45, fourth place—35, fifth place—25, a competitor who counted fish on the sheet but did not finish in the top five—15, and competitor who participated but did not catch any counted fish—10. (2/95) Season points accumulate over the course of the season.
5. **Tie breakers:** Should two or more anglers score the same in a tournament, their order of finish will be decided by (1) largest fish, (2) most fish, (3) second largest fish, then third largest, etc. if necessary. (1/94)
6. **Tournament points for applicants:** Club members may include all tournament points earned as applicants in their season totals.

## M. TEAM TOURNAMENTS

1. **Team rules:** The preceding rules shall be followed for team tournaments.
2. **Points:** Total points for all anglers in each boat shall determine the standings.
3. **Accumulated points:** Season points, individual standings and big fish will accumulate according to above rules.

## N. Awards *(This section revised, 3/98)*

1. **Tournament awards:** Individuals and teams will receive first, second and third place awards for each tournament. Each tournament will also have a big fish award for the largest fish counted.
2. **Season awards**
  - a. **Walleye only:** Tournament Champion will be awarded to the angler with the highest season points. Second and third place will be awarded to the two anglers with the second and third highest season totals. Big Fish will be presented to the member catching the largest walleye during the year's tournaments.
  - b. **Multi species:** Tournament Champion will be awarded to the angler with the highest season points. Second and third place will be awarded to the two anglers with the second and third highest season totals. Big Fish will be presented to the member catching the largest fish during the year's tournaments.
  - c. **Rookie of the Year** will be awarded to a club member completing his/her first full year with RMA during the calendar year beginning in January and ending with the regularly scheduled December meeting. A member's first year officially begins at the regularly scheduled club meeting an application for club membership is submitted and ends at the regularly scheduled club meeting 12 months later. Points for this award will be determined by totaling individual points for all walleye-only and multi-species tournaments falling within this consecutive 12 month time period. Award recipient must be a club member.
3. **Ties:** In the event of ties for any tournament or season honor, duplicate awards will be presented.

## O. KEEPING FISH

1. **Participants may keep fish for table fare or other reason in a catch and release tournament.**
2. **PLEASE PRACTICE SELECTIVE HARVEST!**