

Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament

Official Tournament Rules

July 6 & 7, 2018

1. Entry fees and deposits are non-refundable.
2. At least one competitor must be 18 years of age or older. Competitors under the age of 16 must have written parental consent from both parents/guardians.
3. If a rule protest is submitted, cash winning competitors must agree to take a lie detector test and pass it before receiving their prize. The cost of the test will come out of the payback if the protest stands. If the team in protest wins, the protesting team will pay the cost of the test.
4. There will be zero tolerance for unsportsmanlike conduct. Automatic disqualification will result without refund. All competitors are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the Mitchell's Bay Area Association, the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament Committee, the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament Sponsors, and to the sport of fishing. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - a. Violation of or failure to comply with any of the rules of the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament.
 - b. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
 - c. Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
 - d. The use of words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of this paragraph.
 - e. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament Committee shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (minus deposit) or to disqualify a competitor.
5. Only artificial lures are to be used (No live bait allowed). Fish regurgitation is not permitted. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Participants may use only one rod at any one time.
6. The presence of bass in competitors live wells during pre-fishing is not permitted.

7. When competing in a Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament event, you must only hold bass in the live well. Any other species of fish must be released. Species of non-releasable fish must be reported at the Check-in Boat.

8. The minimum size of BASS brought in is 12".

9. Short fish will not be weighed and a 0.50 lb. penalty will be applied for each short fish.

10. The Official Pre-Fish Day for the 2018 Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open is Thursday, July 5, 2017 until 5:00 pm; all anglers must be off the water by that time and report to the registration meeting. During Official Pre-Fish Day, competitors are not permitted to render guide services or fish with non-competitors except for members of their family or to fulfill sponsor obligations.

11. The Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Tournament event fish limit is 5. The penalty for retaining more than the event limit, whether you are running or you are weighing-in, is as follows:

a. a team will be asked to cull down to the event limit.

b. the Tournament Director will cull the same amount of fish that competitors are over with a maximum of 5 fish starting with the biggest fish.

c. if a team has retained more than double the event fish limit, disqualification will occur.

12. When culling, you must possess one less than the legal limit. Traveling with more than the event fish limit is not allowed.

13. You must have an operating live well.

14. A 0.50 lb. penalty will be deducted per dead fish.

15. A dead fish will NOT be weighed-in as an entry for the "Big Fish" contest.

16. You must wear an approved flotation device while the outboard is running. Manual Suspenders/vests or manual inflatable life jackets are not acceptable. Automatic Suspenders/vests or automatic inflatable life jackets are acceptable; however, they will be inspected for expiration at the time of check-in. If you choose to wear, at your own risk, an automatic Suspenders/vest, automatic inflatable life jacket or a U.S. COAST GUARD approved life jacket, you must have an approved Department of Transport Canada life jacket within your vessel (if in question, Tournament Official's decision will stand).

17. A fishing license is required and you may be asked to produce it at any time. Please ensure it is on your person at all times during the tournament. Failure to produce your license will result in your withdrawal from the tournament. Conservation licenses will not be accepted.

18. All Federal and Provincial fishing, boating and criminal laws must be obeyed at all times.

19. There will be no fishing allowed within 100 yards of a ministry net.

20. Boundaries are any water accessible by boat except when legally marked “no trespassing” or “sanctioned”. Please note that a license is required to fish in marked water around the Walpole Island Reserve.

21. Identification numbers must be affixed to a motor, outside windshield or flag post and made clearly visible.

22. You must maintain 50 yards from another competitor’s boat at all times. However, in circumstances where there are two teams on a river system less than 50 yards, they may cross one another on opposite sides and adhere to all good sportsmanlike conduct.

23. Competitors are not allowed to board or approach another vessel during the event unless there is an emergency.

24. If in need of fuel or repairs, one competitor is to remain with the boat at all times and a proof of purchase receipt must be kept to show Officials if required. Competitors must stop fishing during this time.

25. In the case where a team’s boat is deemed to be no longer functional, the team may seek a tow from another vessel (competitor or non-competitor). If the towing team feels for any reason that they cannot tow a competitor’s boat (as it may jeopardize their standings), the stranded team must respect the decision and either wait for another boat or release the caught fish and seek the first ride back in to the marina.

26. Fish can be transferred to another competitor’s boat only if one of the downed team members stays with the fish. If you choose to transfer your fish into a competitor’s live well, the live well must be separate or you must use an approved fish friendly perforated sack complete with draw string ensuring your fish cannot be combined with the rescuing team’s fish. Tagging systems are not acceptable and if fish are combined accidentally or otherwise, both weights will not be accepted. No fishing is allowed while the rescued competitor is in the boat. All competitors in the rescue boat must proceed directly to the check-in point where the fish will be transferred to the Check-in Boat for the weigh-in show. Once the fish have been transferred, the downed boat must be brought back directly to the tournament site for inspection. If, after inspection, the boat is found to be tampered with, then disqualification may result and the rescuing team questioned. If the team is in a payout position, the prizes will be held until the boats are inspected. The rescue team is responsible for making sure the rescued angler(s) is wearing a DTC approved life jacket. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Anglers are asked to use the Canadian Tire Mitchell’s Bay Open Bass Tournament emergency number to keep Officials informed.

27. If a team breaks down and requires a tow by the Event Officials, the competitors must release their fish. The Canadian Tire Mitchell’s Bay Open Bass Tournament Committee, acting as the Tournament Official, must keep it fair and equal to all competing anglers and, therefore, cannot act in individual cases as it may conflict and could possibly alter the final results.

28. If a boat, which has broken down, returns to the tournament site and the team manages to repair their vessel and/or changes boats, the new boat must be rechecked by a Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament Official prior to transferring the fish.

29. All teams must report to the designated Check-in Boat at the end of each day. Teams may check in at the Check-in Boat up to 30 minutes prior to the check-in time. Any boats arriving after the allowed time will be penalized 1 lb. per minute. The late penalty will be applied starting with the biggest fish.

30. Competitors must be off the water by 5:00 pm the Thursday night prior to the weekend events.

31. The official blast-off time is 7:00 am and weigh-in time is 3:00 p.m. each day (alternative times will be used for additional flights). If time changes are required, notification will be given to anglers by email or in person.

32. If in case of extreme weather conditions or in a state of emergency, the event may be delayed, rescheduled, restricted or cancelled.

33. Boats must be 14' or greater and canoes are not permitted.

34. All boats must carry a minimum of \$1,000,000.00 insurance liability. Proof of insurance must be shown at registration.

35. All boats entered in the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament events are allowed to carry only the maximum horsepower rated for the vessel. The Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament reserves the right to refuse at its discretion an unsafe vessel.

36. All motors must have a working kill switch which must be worn when the outboard is running.

37. Any protest of violations made prior to check-in time must be made at the Check-in Boat. Any violations occurring after check-in can be made to the Tournament Director. The cost of a protest is \$75.00.

38. If an infraction of the tournament rules is witnessed, it must be reported. Neglect to report an infraction to a Tournament Official may lead to disqualification.

39. In the event of disqualification, the competitor may be fined or required to compensate to continue to fish in other events. No refunds will be given upon disqualification.

40. The Tournament Official rulings are final. All rules and regulations apply to all Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament anglers.

41. If there is a tie for first place, a fish-off will be held and the first regulation fish weighed-in will win. Combining the payback spots and splitting the money equally will resolve ties for the other positions.

42. The Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament reserves the right to exceed the limited field and payback accordingly.

43. The Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament is solely responsible for the provision of the percentage paybacks and not responsible for sponsored prizes.

44. As a competitor that has filled out and signed the registration form, you have given the Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament the right to use video or pictures taken during the tournament, weigh-ins and all tournament related functions for future tournament advertising.

45. The Canadian Tire Mitchell's Bay Open Bass Tournament Director reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations as he sees fit.

Rules updated October 22, 2017