

Welcome to the 2009 TOC On Lake Pokegama

Welcome 2009 TOC Anglers;

Paperwork and Deadlines

The cut-off date for club membership/state slots is **May 1st**. The Secretary will be sending out notification on each club's allocations at that time by email. Included in this package are all the forms needed for registration. I am also including copies of the Tournament Rules and Schedule of Events in this package and you are required to **read and understand** them before signing the entry forms. The forms can also be found on the website at www.mnbf.org.

Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that your membership status with B.A.S.S. is current. This is not something that can be done at the last minute so take care of it early.

The **deadline** for having the paperwork to me is **Midnight, Friday, August 21st 2009**.

General Information and Reminders

We are going to continue to do the things that work, try to correct some of the things that cause "bumps" in the road, and try some new things. As with last year, we will be conducting the Alternates/TOC workers meeting early so they can get some rest the night before the tournament. I am only requiring clubs to register one Alternate. If a primary contestant cannot fish the TOC for a legitimate reason, the Alternate can take their place **providing that the club furnishes a worker or replacement Alternate**. If a replacement Alternate is provided, they must be a member in good standing with National B.A.S.S., the Minnesota Federation, and their club to be able to compete in the Alternate's Tournament and advance to the TOC. If the replacement Alternate provides a boat for practice or competition, they must provide written proof of insurance prior to approval. Each case will be reviewed and approved on an individual basis.

For those new to the process, each club can send one Alternate to the State Alternate's Tournament. As a minimum, the top 15% of competitors from the Alternate's tournament advance to the TOC. **The Alternates who do not advance to the TOC must remain and are workers during the TOC.** (If a club decides not to send an Alternate, they must provide another person as a worker for the TOC.) Clubs with two or less TOC competitors are not required to send an Alternate or worker. A recent change to the Federation bylaws allows the Tournament Director, at their discretion, to advance more than the minimum 15%, providing that there are enough workers to run the tournament. Last year at MS River Wabasha, we were able to advance 2 of the alternates to the big show.

Safety

My number one goal is to ensure everyone's safety during the entire week of practice and tournament competition. With this in mind, everyone is reminded that boats must be equipped with the serviceable safety equipment listed in the applicable Minnesota, Coast Guard, and MN B.A.S.S. Federation rules. This includes functional kill switches and working live wells. Do not wait until the night before the tournament to check your equipment. The most important safety device is your life preserver. Tournament rules require that each contestant be wearing the device and have it secured when the combustion engine is running. Anyone in violation of this rule faces disqualification from the tournament. Remember that this applies to both the practice and tournament periods. I will be on the water and checking.

The Mississippi River in Grand Rapids is narrow and can be a speed hazard. There will be a 35mph speed limit on the River use common sense when navigating the river. There are some additional rules that will be implemented in 2009. All Boats Launching at Public Accesses will be required to be inspected for evasive in the morning and pulling out in the afternoon, there will be 3 designated accesses for you to use during the tournament days. Please get familiar with these rules; if you get a ticket or are observed breaking the law by myself or another member of the Tournament Committee, or Competitor, you will be disqualified. Use common courtesy, respect other boaters and anglers, and respect the property of the lakeshore owners.

In closing, please remember that we are guests in the Grand Rapids area. I am confident that we will all be respectful and conduct ourselves in a sportsman-like manner, as you are a representative of the Minnesota B.A.S.S. Federation. Not only do our tournament rules and by-laws require it, I do as well.

Please don't hesitate to call me if problems arise or you have any questions. My home phone number is 763-421-3689 and my cell number is 612-889-6398. September 7th, I will be traveling between the Ramsey and Grand Rapids. As of September 7th, I will be staying at the Sawmill Inn in Grand Rapids. The earlier we can resolve the issues, the smoother things will run.

Thank you and good luck!

Peter Perovich
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