

Welcome to the 2010 TOC on Lake Minnetonka

Welcome 2010 TOC Anglers;

Paperwork and Deadlines

The cut-off date for club membership/state slots was **May 1st**. The Secretary will be sent 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.mnbfn.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.

Since I live in Rochester, the **deadline** for having the paperwork postmarked to me is **Midnight, Friday, August 20st 2010**. **If this works well, I plan on continuing the postmark policy through my term as tournament director.**

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.

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.

As most of you know Lake Minnetonka has numerous local regulations that can get you into difficulty if you are unaware of them. The lake speed limit (affecting you anglers) and the lake noise ordinance prior to 7:00AM (affecting the tournament director's decisions) are just two examples. While I, with the help of the Water Patrol, hope to cover all regulations that are important at Wednesday's registration meeting, everyone should check the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District's website (www.lmcd.org) to become familiar with their regulations. Also remember that everyone that brought a boat to the event will need to sign the form that says you followed the authorized procedures to rid your boat of exotic species. 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.

FUNDRAISER

At this time we are still planning to have a raffle with proceeds going to support two local charities at the Wednesday night meeting. These plans are dependent upon procuring enough prizes. Since there is a chance of not having a raffle, we will have a mandatory food drive to support the local food shelf. All participants will bring 5 food items (box or can) or \$5.00 to the registration meeting.

In closing, please remember that we are guests in the Lake Minnetonka 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 507-281-2817 my work number is 507-2853407 and my cell number is 507-261-0682. September 6th, I will be arriving in the Twin Cities area and as of this time I'll be saving the Federation a little money by staying at one of my in-laws. The earlier we can resolve the issues, the smoother things will run.

Thank you and good luck!

Tim Allen
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