

**MAINE DEPARTMENT OF INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**  
353 Water Street, 41 SHS Augusta, ME 04333-0041  
Phone 207-287-5261 - www.maine.gov/ifw  
**Application to Conduct a One Day Bass Tournament**

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**Application Cost:** \$52.00 for Weigh-in Tournament  
\$12.00 Catch, Measure, Release Tournament

**Type of application:**  Weigh-in, choose one:  Open OR  Club  
 Catch, Measure, Release  
 Notification of Youth Event (CMR only – no fee)

**Bass Club Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Bass Club Representative Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** (*Street and Apt # or PO Box*) \_\_\_\_\_

**City, State, Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Tournament:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Hours:** \_\_\_\_\_ **AM to** \_\_\_\_\_ **PM**

**Waterbody Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Town:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Weigh-in Location:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Boats:** \_\_\_\_\_ (see additional requirements under #9 on page 2 of this application)

- All applicants must provide a notarized affidavit (at least once per year) and include a current listing of club officers and members (with contact information), which indicates at least two members who have participated in an aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program endorsed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) within the last five years;
- Each tournament requires at least two aquatic plant and livewell inspectors, that have completed training endorsed by MDEP within the last five years;
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in July is loon count; no tournaments will be allowed to start assembling before 9:00 AM;
- See reverse side of application for definitions and additional requirements.

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**Signature of Bass Club Representative**

**Date**

**NOTE: It is a Class E crime to obtain a permit through fraud, misstatement or misrepresentation (Title 12 MRSA Section 10757)**

Please make check payable to: Treasurer, State of Maine. Mail completed application, along with check to: Fisheries Division, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, 41 SHS, Augusta, ME 04333-0041.

### **Definition of a Bass Club**

For purposes of determining eligibility to apply for a permit to conduct a one-day bass tournament, a "bass club" is defined as any organized group of five or more bass anglers which is able to satisfy one of the following criteria:

1. Provide current documentation of being a member club in Bass Anglers Sportsmen Society (BASS) or other nationally recognized bass fishing organization; or
2. Provide a current listing of club officers and members along with a signed affidavit affirming that the group is a bona-fide independent fishing club. Affidavit must include a list of all members with contact information and must indicate those members who have participated in an aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program endorsed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP) within the last five years (see #2 below for additional requirements).

### **Requirements (General)**

1. Any bass club which sponsors a one-day bass tournament must submit a completed bass tournament questionnaire, when requested to do so by an agent of the Commissioner, provided that such request must be made in writing to the sponsoring club prior to the day of the tournament.
2. Each tournament requires at least two aquatic plant and live-well inspectors, who have participated in an aquatic plant and livewell inspection training program endorsed by MDEP within the last five years, to conduct weed and live-well inspections. Each boat will first be inspected immediately before a tournament participant launches the boat prior to the tournament and for a second time after the boat is retrieved from the water immediately after the conclusion of the tournament for that participant.
3. All anglers in the tournament must possess a valid Maine fishing license unless of an age where a license is not required.
4. Bass tournament boats must be specifically identified in a plainly visible manner and a roster of participants must be available at the location of the weigh-in.
5. Only one permit will be issued on a waterbody for a specific date.
6. All fishing will be restricted to artificial lures.
7. No weigh-in bass tournaments will be permitted on a body of water less than 500 surface acres.
8. A copy of the tournament permit and a copy of the rules affecting one-day tournaments shall be conspicuously displayed during each tournament at a location accessible to all tournament contestants.
9. There shall be a separate permit for Open and Club tournaments. Club tournaments are limited to a maximum participation of 15 boats; except on waters exceeding 1,000 acres where trailer rig parking for all participants does not occur at a public boat launch facility, then a maximum participation of 20 boats is allowed. Open tournaments are limited to 35 acres per boat with a maximum of 100 boats. Youth tournaments will be scheduled in cooperation with IF&W and no permit will be required.
10. Tournaments may be Catch/Measure/Release (CMR) or Weigh-In. Youth events are to be CMR only.
  - a) In CMR tournaments, all bass caught must be immediately released to the location from which caught.
  - b) In Weigh-in Tournaments all bass retained shall be kept in a live-well being operated with the pump(s) in a mode that constantly exchanges live-well water with fresh lake or river water as a flow-through system; except when boats are being operated under power of the main outboard while changing locations, or while motoring to shore immediately prior to weigh-in, at which time the pump(s) may be operated in a manner that aerates a fixed volume of water in the live-well. All bass taken shall be returned to the water from which it was caught, unharmed as far as possible, at the conclusion of the tournament day. The daily limit shall be 5 bass per participant with no weight limit.
11. The total cash value of prizes for single-day tournaments shall not exceed \$25,000.
12. The Commissioner has the authority to put any condition necessary on any tournament to assure that appropriate measures are taken to protect biological resources and address social concerns.
13. Weigh-In tournaments are not permitted in Aroostook, Hancock, Piscataquis and Washington Counties from May 20 to June 30 (dates inclusive). In all other counties weigh-in tournaments are not permitted from May 8 to June 14 (dates inclusive).
14. There will be no more than seven weigh-in tournaments on any water greater than 500 acres, only four of which may be open tournaments.