

2015 Metro Reservoir Anglers, Inc. Invitational Tournament Trail Rules and Regulations

- 1) In submitting an application for membership into the M.R.A.I. you agree to accept all rules, conditions and judgments made by the Metro Reservoir Anglers, Inc., Board of Directors. Further, to the fullest extent of the law, you shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless the Metro Reservoir Anglers, Inc., all individuals serving on the M.R.A.I. Board of Directors, and the City of Baltimore, from and against all claims, damages, loss and expense.
- 2) The tournaments are open to those individuals who complete a 2015 Membership Application, pay their annual membership fee (or substitute fee) and receive approval by the M.R.A.I. Board of Directors.
- 3) The Board of Directors may deny membership or terminate a membership in the Metro Reservoir Anglers, Inc. at any time, for any reason. If terminated, the M.R.A.I. will return all prepaid tournament entries of the member for un-fished tournaments, plus the pro-rated membership fee (based on a six tournament schedule), plus that part of any previous tournament entry that was set-aside for the Tournament of Champions as long as the terminated member(s) first return any and all MRAI equipment in his/her possession. All individuals agree that this will be the full extent of any termination.
- 4) Tournament Fees are as follows:
 - a) Regular Tournament Registration Fees - \$100 per team per event due by 6/1/2015.
 - b) Optional Lunker Fees - \$10 per team per lunker pool (Largemouth and/or Smallmouth) per event. If no qualifying fish is caught, the lunker fee will be held over for an automatic entry into the same pool at the next event. There will be no refunds.
- 5) Lunker fees are to be paid in cash the morning of the tournament.
- 6) The maximum number of teams allowed to enter any tournament will be fifty (50) with the exception of the first Loch Raven Tournament where we are limited to forty (40) boats. Entries will be accepted for that tournament on a first come, first serve basis.
- 7) Starting positions will be determined by a random drawing at the ramp prior to each tournament.
- 8) All boats are subject to a livewell inspection prior to the beginning of each tournament. The livewell must be of sufficient size and equipped with an appropriate means of aeration capable of sustaining a tournament limit of fish.
- 9) M.R.A.I. Board of Directors members will be permitted to fish all tournaments. (Subject to TOC qualifying)
- 10) Tournament hours are 6:30 a.m. +/- to 4:00 p.m.
- 11) All participants must be **present at the launch area, have registered for any lunker pools, drawn their starting position number and have their boat prepared to launch by 6:00 a.m.** Late boats "blast off" 30 seconds after the last wave of boats that were randomly drawn. Any boat not launched prior to 6:30 a.m. is disqualified. Starting positions will not be adjusted because of late boats.
- 12) A maximum of two persons are allowed per boat, at least one (1) being eighteen (18) years of age or older.
- 13) BLAST OFF - Boats will be permitted to leave in waves of five (5) - i.e. starting positions 1-5, 6-10, 11-15, etc., with a thirty (30) second interval between waves. A team from the last randomly drawn wave will be designated as the tournament starter.
- 14) **Artificial Baits Only - No Live Bait Allowed.**
- 15) **No Trolling of Baits Will Be Allowed.**
- 16) **Only One Rod and One Reel Can Be Used at a Time By Any Contestant.** If you "hang" bait, you must either retrieve that bait or "snap it off" before using another lure.
- 17) **Alabama Rigs and any variation of Alabama Rigs are Prohibited**

- 18) **Each angler is permitted to fish only one (1) lure per line.** (e.g. a Carolina rig or drop shot rig may not use a jig or some other hook and lure in addition to the primary lure, a topwater bait may not pull or be pulled by another bait, etc.)
- 19) Should a member of a team have to leave the premises of the reservoir during the course of the tournament, they are unable to return to competition during that event. In such a case the remaining team member may continue to fish, but is only able to weigh five (5) fish.
- 20) Boats not at the official weigh-in site by the prescribed time will be disqualified.
- 21) Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass will be weighed in. A daily limit of eight (8) bass per team can be weighed in at all tournament locations. Any team bringing more than 8 fish to the scales shall be disqualified.
- 22) All fish must be a minimum of twelve (12) inches in length measured from **closed mouth to any part of tail on the M.R.A.I. board.** Checking in a short fish will result in disqualification.
- 23) Weigh-in Procedure: All teams weighing fish are not allowed to trailer their boats before weighing. Keep all fish **in your livewell** until you are called to the weigh-in site. You will be called to weigh-in your catch in waves of five (5) boats, just as you were launched. Upon presenting your fish for measurement and inspection, you must present your team number/start position card to the attendant and then follow all instructions of the weigh-in team. Failure to follow weigh-in procedures will result in disqualification.
- 24) Dead fish penalties are as follows:
 - a) The penalty for one dead fish is 0.25 lb.
 - b) The penalty for two dead fish is 0.50 lb.
 - c) The penalty for three dead fish is 1.0 lb.
 - d) The penalty for four dead fish is 2.0 lbs.
 - e) The penalty for five or more dead fish is disqualification.
- 25) If the fish presented for lunger is dead, a 0.25 lb. penalty will be deducted from the weight of that fish for the lunger prize.
- 26) After a team's fish have been weighed, that team **must** take all live fish back to their boat for release. Live fish **must be released** into the water a minimum of 100 feet away from the boat dock into waters with a minimum depth of 20 feet. The fish may be released following the conclusion of the award ceremony if desired, provided adequate aeration continues until the time of release. Dead fish are the responsibility of the team. They can be distributed to those wishing to take fish home or they must be removed from the premises. Under no circumstances are dead fish to be left at the weigh-in site or disposed of in trash cans at the ramp area. **Failure to comply with these release procedures will result in disqualification for the event as well as all prizes for that event.** The MRAI reserves the right to verify that the fish have been properly released and/or disposed. The MRAI reserves the right to grant an exemption to this rule under extenuating circumstances but only with a majority approval of the directors prior to the boat being loaded onto the trailer.
- 27) Ties for finishing positions will be broken in the following manner:
 - a) highest number of fish wins,
 - b) largest fish wins.
 - i) If this does not break the tie, the position will be deemed a tie and the prizes and points will be added together and equally split between the tied contestants.
- 28) Any member that wishes to protest the score or conduct of a fellow competitor must do so in writing within thirty (30) minutes of the official weigh-in time. The accusing party will be responsible for the cost for a polygraph test should it be needed to resolve the protest.
- 29) All members must agree to submit to a polygraph test or forfeit the prize should a protest be lodged against them. Members agree to abide by the results of such a test. The contested prizes will not be distributed until the results of the polygraph test are reviewed.

- 30) Members are prohibited from fishing on the designated Tournament Lake, by boat or from shore, during the three days preceding the tournament. Also, members are prohibited from being “on the water” at the designated Tournament Lake during that same period. Further, members shall not actively solicit or encourage others to pre-fish for them on the Tournament Lake during the off-limits period. Nor should they willingly accept any information in regard to the fishing conditions on the Tournament Lake during the off-limits period, except those that are made public knowledge through publication.
- 31) No competitor may make arrangements to have anyone “hold” or “sit on” a fishing location in order to turn it over to any competitor, or to specifically keep any competitor from fishing an area.
- 32) At Liberty Reservoir all boats must use the main ramp only, unless instructed to do otherwise.
- 33) If a member of a team is unable to participate in a tournament, a substitute may be used. Substitutes must complete a membership application for the year, receive approval from the M.R.A.I Board of Directors and pay either:
 - a) a \$20 substitute registration fee every time they fish or,
 - b) the full annual membership fee.
- 34) Since substitutes are subject to approval of the M.R.A.I. Board of Directors, participants are encouraged to submit the names of potential substitutes for approval as far in advance of the tournament(s) as possible and thereby eliminating any problems that could arise from a disapproval at the ramp the morning of a tournament.
- 35) A current member of one team shall be allowed to fish as a substitute on another team without incurring any additional fees. Any points/prizes won shall only be attributed to the team of record for that event.
- 36) An entry form **must be completed for each tournament** completed in a manner that indicates the team name that will receive the points for that event.
- 37) An approaching boat may not fish within fifty (50) feet of another participating tournament boat unless the fifty (50) foot rule is mutually waived.
- 38) The fifty (50) foot rule is not valid during the last fifteen (15) minutes of competition within the confines of the boat dock coves. (BUT PLEASE BE COURTEOUS!)
- 39) All decisions of the Board of Directors are final. Any changes to said rules can be made only by the M.R.A.I. Board of Directors.

Drifting vs. Trolling –

Drifting – To fish by trailering a baited line behind a boat when the movement of the bait is due to the force of wind and currents.

Trolling – To fish by trailering a baited line behind a boat when the movement of the bait is due to the force of a mechanical device.