

ERIE WATERS BASS ANGLERS ASSOCIATION

Association Rules

2007 Officers:

Name	Title	Home #	Cell #	Email
Dennis Stotz	Commissioner	825-9165	912-5744	djstotz@adelphia.net
Roy Mura	Treasurer		570-5338	roy.mura@muralaw.com
Andrew Lawson	Communications	839-3059	946-8434	andrew.lawson@sodexhousa.com
Mark Jacobs	Sgt.-At-Arms	648- 3825	863-4290	mtjakes@earthlink.net
Paul Brown	Social Director	992-9574	369-0168	brownpskb@aol.com

2007 Association Rules:

These rules will apply to all Erie Waters Bass Anglers Association (EWBAA) events. It is each member's responsibility, for himself and any guest, to read and comply with these rules, as well as any local, state, and/or federal laws, rules and regulations.

A. Officers' Duties

Commissioner: Preside over all meetings and direct all official business. Appoint and direct all committee functions. Supervise all EWBAA functions.

Treasurer: Collect and account for membership dues. Disburse prize monies in accordance with EWBAA rules.

Communications Director: Maintain current roster of all members. Keep running track of all members' catch measurements. Communicate EWBAA weekly and year-end results to all members. Communicate weekly boat assignments, as may be necessary.

Sergeant-At-Arms: Assign non-boaters to boaters, as may be necessary on a weekly basis. Oversee catch measurement verification. Settle any disputes regarding measurements.

Social Director: Plan and organize social functions for EWBAA members and guests.

B. Membership

1. A yearly membership fee of \$100.00 and valid fishing license are required upon acceptance into the Association. To qualify for weekly prizes, guests must pay a \$10.00 weekly entry fee. Members must notify the Treasurer via email of any guest who will be competing by no later than Wednesday at noon each week. Member will then be responsible for ensuring guest's payment.

2. Membership can be granted, denied or revoked by 2/3 majority vote of the Association. Membership can be revoked only for serious violations of these rules or good cause.

3. Membership is open to anyone 21 years of age or older. No new member may join for that season past week #7.

4. Proposed changes in Association rules are to be discussed in September. Rule changes for the following year will be voted on in October at a general meeting.

C. Sportsmanship

1. All members are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy towards others, safety, conservation and obey all laws during EWBAA activities. Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the club rules, or violates the state fishing laws or lake rules, may be disqualified. Club members or guests cited by law enforcement officers for violation of state or federal fishing or boating regulations may be disqualified.

2. The use of communication devices, including cellular phones or 2-way radios, during EWBAA events between contestants for purposes of discussing boat or fish locations, depths, fishing techniques or bait, etc., is strictly prohibited.

D. EWBAA Events

1. **Competition Dates:** The Association will compete on each Thursday evening from 5:00-9:00 PM, beginning May 10, 2007 and ending on August 30, 2007. There will be no rain-out or make up dates. Anglers fish at their own risk and are to use their best judgment on whether and where conditions permit them to fish.

2. **Boating Rules:** Safe boating rules and regulations must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a chest-type U.S. Coast Guard life preserver anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be fastened securely until the combustion engine is shut off.

3. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** All New York State and Canadian waters of Lake Erie and the Upper Niagara River, subject to New York State and Province of Ontario angling laws and regulations.

4. **Number & Size of Catch Entries:** Each member or paid guest may enter one (1) fish per week over 12" in length.

5. **Measuring Entries:** During the New York State Lake Erie "trophy" season (encompassing the May 10th through June 21st weekly competition dates) entry will be made from digital photograph of the angler and fish on and showing the measuring device. Digital photographs must show the entire fish and measured length on the measuring device. Digital photos must be emailed each week by no later than Saturday at noon to the Communications

Director and Sergeant-At-Arms. To be eligible for weekly and/or annual prizes, all anglers must meet at 9:00 PM at a pre-designated spot to hand in their signed catch recording forms. During the “trophy” season, each angler’s best catch submission must be verified by at least one (1) EWBA member.

6. Beginning June 28, 2007 and continuing through the end of the 2007 season, to be eligible for weekly and/or annual prizes, all anglers must meet at 9:00 PM at a pre-designated spot to measure their live catch and record their measurement.

7. **Dead Fish Penalty:** A 5 inch penalty will be assessed for any dead fish entered. No entry will be recorded unless the net length after penalty is at least 12”. A signed weekly catch recording form, with fish verified by Commissioner or his delegate, should be submitted to Commissioner. Weekly tracking spreadsheet will be forwarded to all anglers to update on current AOY status. Upon verification of the measurement and direction from the Commissioner, the Treasurer will disburse the weekly prize monies.

8. **Bait & Tackle:** Except as may be provided by the EWBA officers on a week to week basis, both live and artificial baits and lures may be used in competition. Only legal fishing methods are allowed. An angler may fish with only one rod at a time.

9. **Late Rule:** Anglers in boats which are not anchored, docked or idling at the pre-designated meeting spot by no later than 9:00 PM on each competition night will be disqualified from entering any fish that week. The Sergeant-At-Arms or his delegate will have the final say on whether any boat is late.

10. **Protests:** All protests must be made in writing to the Commissioner within 30 minutes of the official check in time. The decision of the EWBA officers shall be final in all matters. To avoid protests, if you suspect a possible infraction is about to take place, alert the would-be offender and check the rules.

11. Anglers must start, fish, and finish each event in the same boat they started in. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, the contestant’s boat may be towed to the check-in. If it is necessary to transfer fish to another boat, it must be another contestant’s boat. At least one member of the team must stay with the fish at all times and neither angler is permitted to fish while under the assistance of a fellow contestant. The team members being towed may not fish; the team members assisting the disabled boat may fish.

12. Scoring will be determined by quarters of an inch, with no rounding. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass are eligible for entry.

13. During the regular bass season, all fish will be released alive after measurement. Contestants will not retain any live bass after an event.

14. A “25 yard rule” is in effect at all times during competition events. No boat may move within 25 yards of another boat at any time for the purpose of fishing without consent of the team involved. The 25-yard limit can be waived by both boaters.

15. Anglers may not pre-fish on any Thursday during the EWBAA season prior to 5:00 PM. Any violations of this rule must be reported to the Commissioner.

16. Boat Costs: It will ultimately be up to the captain of each boat to set and collect contribution from any non-boater anglers for any launch, bait, and gas costs for each week. It is recommended that non-boater anglers pay a weekly fee of \$10.00 to the captain to defray gas and launching charges.

E. Prizes & Awards

1. **Weekly Prizes:** \$40.00 for the largest and \$10.00 for the second largest legally entered fish. In the event of a 1st place tie, the entire weekly prize of \$50.00 will be split between or among the 1st place winners. In the event of a 2nd place tie, the 2nd prize of \$10.00 will be split between or among the 2nd place winners.

2. **Angler Of The Year (AOY) Awards:** All members who have paid their membership dues by May 10, 2007 are eligible for AOY awards. To be eligible for AOY awards, a member must enter at least 10 fish. There will be five (5) AOY places paid, plus a Largest Bass, and Most Challenged Angler awards. Provided the Association has at least 25 paid members, the AOY prizes will be no less than:

1 st Place	\$500
2 nd Place	\$400
3 rd Place	\$300
4 th Place	\$200
5 th Place	\$100
Largest Bass	\$100

3. **Tiebreakers:** In the event of any ties to the AOY awards, the winners will be determined by the following tiebreakers per angler, in this order: (1) longest fish; (2) total length of all legally entered fish. In the event of any ties to the Largest Bass award, the winner will be determined by the following tiebreakers per angler, in this order: (1) second largest legally entered bass; (2) total length of all legally entered fish.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT FORM

I have read the Erie Waters Bass Anglers Association Rules and agree to abide by them. I also agree to release and hold harmless the Erie Waters Bass Anglers Association and any of its officers and members from any claim, suit, action for bodily injury or property damage I may sustain or cause to myself or anyone else, or any fee or fine I may incur, in connection with my participation in any EWBA event.

Acknowledgement form must be signed and returned with payment of annual dues.

Dated: _____ Signed: _____

For the membership roster, **please print** your name, address, and phone number.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Cell Phone Number: _____

E-mail Address: _____