

UMF FEDERATION RULES

Ultimate Match Fishing Federation Standard Rules and Scoring:

Many standard bass fishing tournament rules apply in the UMF Federation. Tournament standings and final winners will be determined by the pound-and-ounce or digital weight of your catch. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted bass qualify. **The limit is 5.** Only bass which measure the state required length (Consult with your State Department of Natural Resources for more information), or more on a flat board are to be weighed. In the event of a tie, the total number of fish weighed will be the first tiebreaker. The second tiebreaker will be the largest bass by weight of each competitor.

Each competition will be divided into four (4) periods, ranging from a minimum of 30-minutes to a maximum of 2-hours in length depending upon each competitor's preference. **Time Out**, or a break between quarters to transfer tackle and gear is strongly suggested. Each competitor must agree on the designated clock for keeping track of quarter time. Competitors will change positions from front to back of the boat accordingly at the end of each quarter. A coin toss will determine which angler begins the match in control of the boat and trolling motor. The angler who wins the coin toss can accept control and take quarters 1 and 3, or defer control and take quarters 2 and 4 at his or her discretion.

Each competition will begin with a **Free Run** time from the launch point. The first quarter will not begin until the angler in control of the boat makes his first cast. The competition will end at the expiration of the fourth period on the water, with the angler in control of the boat not required to factor in run time back to the marina or check in point.

Unlike the professional version of UMF, **a Referee or an Observer is not mandatory** and there will be no penalties assessed in UMF Federation matches for line violations. However, in the spirit of competition and sportsmanship, UMF Federation anglers must direct their cast exclusively to their half of the boat during the competition.

Conservation and fish care is critical. **A fish care penalty of .25 pounds (digital) or 4 ounces will be assessed for each dead fish weighed in.** Please, take care of this resource for yourself and others. Take care of your fish.

Each competitor must agree on the scale to be used for the final weigh in. Hand held digital scales are acceptable, as are scales used by bass clubs and organizations for tournament events.

While it is not necessary or mandatory to have an observer or referee present during your match, we do recommend it. This will help resolve any issues that may occur on the water. Remember, these matches are meant to be fun, so go ahead and give your referee or your observer a whistle.

Sportsmanship

Once again, in the spirit of competition, please abide by the line and fish only from your half of the boat. In addition, malicious behavior including touching another competitors tackle, fish or person (say you happen to push your competitor in the lake) is unacceptable. Malicious behavior of any kind will result in an immediate disqualification.

Certifying Match Results

At the end of each match, both competitors are required to sign the official UMF Federation scorecard. **Download the Score Card under “Know the Score”**. Only signed scorecards can be submitted via fax or mail for the match to be certified and count in the official standings. So sign it and send it. Here’s the address:

UMF Federation
PO Box 53038
Cincinnati, Ohio 45253
or Fax your score sheet to:
513-889-2536

Safety

Please, play responsibly. Always wear your life jacket and make sure your kill switch is connected. All standard tournament safety rules apply. Please observe all laws and regulations on the water and be safe out there.

All UMF Federation member who submit certified score sheets voluntarily submit to the possibility of random checks by the UMF Federation Competition Committee to validate match authenticity. Furthermore, all UMF Federation members are subject to polygraph testing to confirm match authenticity and verify results.