

1. RULE CHANGE: The following tournament rules will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments. These rules are in effect for designated practice day(s), as well as tournament day(s). Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Rules have "loopholes", however the "spirit of the rule" will apply in all decisions. The decisions of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Participation in this tournament is by invitation and open only to members in good standing of the NY B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation who are sixteen years or older. "In good standing" defined as having shown documentation before early registration deadline that you meet all of the membership requirements for the NY B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation. Proof of age to the satisfaction of the Tournament Director shall be the responsibility of the prospective competitor. Any prospective competitor who is under 18 years of age must submit written permission from their parent or guardian at or before the reregistration.

Any boats used during NY B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation events **must be properly insured.** During the official practice and competition days, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance that **covers both the operator and the boat being used in the tournament.** Proof of insurance must be kept in the boat being used at all times. **Random checks will be conducted and any competitor who cannot provide proof of valid insurance with \$300,000 coverage will be disqualified.** Acceptance of this proof is by the decision of the tournament director.

An approved completion of a boating safety course is required as described by the governing laws of the states or provinces approved for angling in any particular event. Anglers under the age of 18 for a specific tournament must have completed a boating safety course and must provide proof of completion at re-registration.

The Tournament Director has the right to refuse entry to any competitor. Any entry form Postmarked after the early registration deadline, midnight on the Saturday two weeks prior to the scheduled tournament date, will be assessed a \$40 late fee that must be paid at or before the re-registration, the Tournament Director has the authority to waive the late fee if circumstances dictate he do so. All anglers must have a properly completed and signed official entry form submitted prior to the end of the re-registration period. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of entry forms prior to the early registration deadline date and also reserves the right to extend the acceptance period. The Tournament Director also reserves the right to limit the number of entry applications. Any refunds must be requested prior to the early registration deadline for that event; after that, entries will be non-refundable and nontransferable unless approved by the Tournament Director due to emergency circumstances.

3. PRE- TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be no off-limit days prior to the start of official practice for any NYBCF points events. **There will be an official practice period beginning at safe light on the Thursday** before the first day of the tournament. This official practice period will close at 3 p.m. on the day prior to the tournament. All contestants must be off the water by this time. It is the responsibility of the contestant to know and observe these dates and times. During the official practice and during the official tournament a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of, nor enter the tournament waters with a professional guide, State or Federal wildlife employee, or any other person deemed a local expert on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director unless they are a contestant in the

tournament. During the official practice days and official tournament days, competitors may not “SKIN DIVE”, “SCUBA DIVE”, swim, use swimming apparatus such as goggles, use underwater cameras or use any mechanical, optical or digital device which allows an angler to view beneath the surface of the tournament waters. Polarized sunglasses without any special digital enhancements i.e. google glasses and commercially manufactured sonar/depth finders are allowed.

4. RE-REGISTRATION: It is every competitor’s responsibility to know when and where reregistration is being held. If for any reason a competitor is unable to attend the official reregistration period they must get authorization in advance from the Tournament Director. Otherwise, **FAILURE TO RE-REGISTER IN PERSON DURING THE DESIGNATED RE-REGISTRATION PERIOD SHALL RESULT IN A ONE POUND PENALTY.** Any angler that fails to re-register prior to the beginning of the tournament draw will be disqualified.

Linked Entries: It is the responsibility of tournament competitors to identify their respective linked boater or non-boater partner, before the early registration deadline when submitting their tournament entry forms and again during the re-registration process. Boaters may only link with non-boaters and non-boaters may only link with boaters. Boaters and non-boaters who link themselves (evening the field of competitors) and pay their entry fees prior to the early registration deadline will be given priority entry into each tournament they fish in. By linking, a boating competitor guarantees they will use their boat during competition and the linked nonboater will be guaranteed entry into the event.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Maximum courtesy and sportsmanship must be practiced at all times, but most especially when boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the NY B.A.S.S. NATION's effort to promote courtesy, safety and conservation may be deemed reason for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice, reregistration or during the official tournament, which includes the weigh-in and awards presentation, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification for this and all future tournaments.

6. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by the tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. The preserver must be snapped, strapped or zipped securely and maintained in that condition any time the combustion engine is running. **Use of inflatable life vest is allowed but U.S.**

Coast Guard regulations require that the user must either wear the inflatable at all times or have a second approved chest type life preserver on board the vessel if the inflatable is removed.

Nonboaters

using an inflatable life vest are responsible for possessing their own second life vest if they want to remove the inflatable. The tournament director has the right to require the use of running lights at all times, and the authority to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. The NY B.A.S.S. NATION reserves the right to impose boat speed limits at any or all tournaments.

Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER OR ANYTIME DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT, AT WHICH TIME ALL FISHING MUST CEASE.

7. LICENSE, TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: By signing the entry form you have stated that you have a current New York State Fishing License and any other license/permit required. If another state or country license is required you must produce the proper license at reregistration. If an angler has not produced the required license prior to the send-off, the angler's catch will be disqualified if they are unable to produce the required license(s) at the time of weigh-in.

Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition, landing nets are allowed. During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single man made device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single man made lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (17). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device.

No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass or where hooked outside the mouth regulations are in place, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

Competitors, including those who have been "cut" from competition in an event, are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: All boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch device that must disconnect causing the engine to shut off anytime the operator leaves the operating position. Violation of this rule during the official practice or tournament days will result in disqualification. Fishing boats may be used that are 17 feet or more in length. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a means of fishing is prohibited.

No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted for use on the official practice or tournament days by any competitor. The definition of stick steering shall be made by the Tournament Director. Bladder type and/or

auxiliary gas tanks and cans are specifically not allowed, only tanks that were originally factory installed and/or dealer installed as permanent equipment are allowed. No other gas may be stored onboard for use during a tournament.

9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: The minimum horsepower for all outboard motors used in competition will be 90 HP. The maximum horsepower for all outboards used in competition will be 250 HP, and must not exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each competitor agrees, by their signature on the entry form, to submit the boat and outboard motor used in a tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower rating, falsifying information on the entry form, or altering the horsepower rating plate or numbers is forbidden, and will result in disqualification.

10. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and enough properly aerated live well space to adequately maintain a live limit catch of bass by both anglers using the boat. The Tournament Director shall have sole responsibility for determining whether aeration capacity is "proper and adequate". Boaters must make a back seat available for nonboaters each competition day.

11. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat will be given a flight and position # at the briefing following registration. Boaters will use the identification specified by the Tournament Committee until they are checked in by the timekeeper and have reported to the weigh-in area at the end of the tournament.

12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: It shall be the responsibility of the pair to agree on sharing boat operational expenses prior to the send-off, which should also include any additional expenses such as lock fees and launch fees. Additional fees are the responsibility of the anglers unless otherwise noted. Boaters will fish from the front boat deck and have the option to select the waters fished, non-boaters will fish from the rear deck at all times. Nonboaters may drive the boat to assist with the loading or unloading process, or in the event of an emergency. Non-boaters may cast in any direction.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATION: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. It is the responsibility of each competitor to obtain this information. Unless otherwise stipulated in the re-registration briefing, fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within a 25 yard radius of a marina gas pump or within the area designated as too close to the weigh-in site. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing an object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate local, State or Federal regulations.

14. COMPETITORS MUST STAY IN THE BOAT: Competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of an emergency. In such an emergency, contestants must stay within sight of each other and their catch, to the extent the emergency permits. Under no circumstances should a competitor ever leave the boat to land a fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Trailering of boats during the tournament hours is prohibited, except at the direction of the Tournament Director. Competitors may move from their boat to that of another competitor, or to a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. All fishing

must cease until both contestants are back in an authorized boat. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the boat at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat.

15. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official checkpoint for the sendoff in the morning and weigh-in in the afternoon. This checkpoint shall be designated at the reregistration tournament briefing. At the time of the sendoff, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with the rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At weigh-in, all boats shall IDENTIFY THEMSELVES TO THE TIMEKEEPER and proceed immediately to the weigh-in area.

PARTNERS MUST STAY TOGETHER AND CHECK IN WITH TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, EVEN IF NEITHER HAVE FISH TO BE WEIGHED.

16. SCORING: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners will be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. Only largemouth and small mouth bass will be weighed. Limit shall be a total of 5 of the above species per day. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of New York State. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the limit described above, nor will a competitor be allowed to cull a dead fish during a tournament. Violation of either of these rules shall be reason for disqualification. The official length for the bass shall be the state limit for the water being fished. All bass will be measured with their mouth closed and only bass that measure the official length or more on the straight line will be weighed in. Each bass presented for weigh-in that fails to measure the official length will not be weighed in as part of the competitor's catch, plus each fish under the official length will accrue a ONE POUND penalty per fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total weight of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Each competitor must present their catch to the weigh-ins officials and the weight of their catch must be certified by their signature. Bass must not be put stringer at any time during the tournament. Specifically designed bags, which increase survival rates will be furnished by the Tournament Director.

ONLY THESE BAGS WILL BE USED FOR WEIGH-IN.

17. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by the use of a properly aerated live well. For each dead bass presented to the weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized .50 pounds of weight, to be deducted from that fish. If you choose to keep a lunker for mounting, it is considered a dead fish and there will be a .50 pound penalty assessed on that lunker weight as well as the total weight of your catch. The Tournament Director and their designated appointees shall have the sole authority for assessing penalties.

18. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official checkpoint area as described in RULE #16, at their appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of ONE POUND PER MINUTE to be deducted from the total weight of their catch for that day, including any weight to be counted toward a lunker award.

After fifteen minutes from the time a boat was due to check in, the anglers will be disqualified from the tournament and no weight will be recorded. We will not issue negative weight. There shall be NO EXCUSES FOR LATENESS, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up lost time. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be given ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site. ALL FISHING MUST CEASE UPON CHECK-IN. Exact hours for starting and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament briefing.

19. TIES: Ties at all points tournaments split the dollars and the points with the exception of first place.

First place will be determined by a one-hour fish off to break the tie. Overall ties for determining placement on the state team only, will be determined by the alternate tracking system. If the tie is for points, the higher weight will have the higher placing. If the tie is for weight, the higher points will have the higher placing.

20. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS: Will be determined by a computer draw. If for any reason use of the computer is not available, the pairing will be determined by a manual draw. Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of your partner shall be at the pre-tournament briefing, which **MUST BE ATTENDED** by each competitor, unless prior arrangements have been made with the Tournament Director. It is the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location and allow enough time to be at the official sendoff area. It is suggested that a **MINIMUM OF 60 MINUTES** be allowed prior to the first sendoff time. The Tournament Committee is **NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR FINDING MISSING PARTNERS!** A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and all future tournaments conducted by the NYS B.A.S.S. NATION.

21. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS: Under the direction of the tournament director are permitted to approach or board any boat of any competitor at any time during the official practice or tournament days.

22. VIOLATION: Possible rule violations should be **REPORTED IMMEDIATELY** to the **TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR** at the weigh-in or **WITHIN 15 MINUTES** of the completed weigh-in when scales have been officially closed. It is not necessary to submit a written report or protest. Each competitor agrees to report any violations or infractions of the tournament rules within the allotted time period. **FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS** or suggestions to violate these rules or **FALSE VERIFICATION** of weigh in slips or the official entry form will be cause for **DISQUALIFICATION**. **EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THE ENTRY FORM, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ACCUSED OF ANY VIOLATION.** The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and their agents. A competitor cannot protest a rule only a violation of a rule or policy.

23. COMMUNICATION DEVICES: The use of communication devices is forbidden during official tournament hours except, in the case of an emergency, to contact a tournament official or communicate with a lock attendant.

24. SEPARATE POOLS: The following separate pools may be conducted at all points tournaments: **Lunker Pool-** Each angler will be assessed a fee for the lunker pool as part of their entry fee. Ten percent of the lunker pool money will be collected from all points tournaments during the season and paid to the angler who weighed in the lunker of the year from those points tournaments.

26. AWARD PRESENTATIONS: We encourage all anglers to be present at the awards presentations.

27. CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: The Club Team Championship will be a two day tournament consisting of two simultaneous events, to select 4 Regional Team members. The tournament format is a team format where each teams combined weight will determine the team winners and payouts. Teams will enter as six (6)

anglers, three designated boaters and three designated non-boaters. All anglers participating in this event must have been a member of a recognized New York BASS Nation club on September 1st of the previous year and in the current year. Entry fee will be \$360 per team with \$300 to the prize pool and \$30 each day for luncheon.

Designated non-boaters are not allowed to use their boat unless either they switch within their team or they are asked to serve as a boater because another team does not have a backup boater. Each club has designated their three boaters to attend and it is expected that the club will provide three boaters for both days tournament draws.

Anglers will be partner drawn in a boater/non boater format based on registration.

This tournament is not a pro/am format. Anglers will split the fishing day in half and will be re-drawn for the second day of fishing with new partners. For both days, a partner drawing will not have two anglers fishing together from the same club.

Club designation of each angler will be based on the club that angler registered with for the event.

The scores will then be tallied with the combined two day weight of all six anglers of a team to determine order of finish by team. At the end of the two days of fishing, the individual scores by weight of the anglers in each division will be also tallied as a total weight.

1. The highest finishing boater on the team with most weight(the first place team) will receive an invitation as a boater to the New York Regional Team
2. The highest finishing non-boater on the second place team will receive an invitation as a non- boater to the New York Regional Team.
3. The top boater and top non-boater not from the first and second place team in total individual weight overall will receive an invitation as a boater and nonboater respectively to the New York Regional Team.

Two clubs from the third place final standings on down to last place will be entered in a random drawing. Two finishing spots will be picked randomly in this drawing.

The club teams that finish in the drawn spots will receive 1 boater and 1 non-boater tournament entry for each of the three points tournaments in the following year. It will be up to the club to determine who receives the free point tournament entries. The club must notify the tournament director of the anglers who will be receiving the entries prior to the start of the points tournament season.

In the event of a team tie with the top two CTC teams in total weight the following tie breakers will be used in this order 1.The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition; 2.The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition; 3.The team with the heaviest single day catch during the competition. All monetary prizes for first and second place will be equally shared.

28. The Last Chance Tournament: Highest finishing Boater and Nonboater not already qualified to the New York regional team based on the three previous point tournament results will receive an invitation to the New York regional team.

To be eligible to fish the last chance tournament you must have fished at least two of the three point tournaments that year.

(revised 3/12/16)

Tournament Policies:

Rule 1. The Tournament Director can consult with the Tournament Advisory Board for rule interpretations and for applying any conditions which are the result of those interpretations.

Rule 2. Notice of changes to late fees or receiving tournament applications will be made by the Tournament Director on the NYBCF Website Forum, on the NYBCF Facebook page and by email notification to club contacts.

Registration forms must be completely filled out. This includes proper address, home and cell phone numbers, email account, emergency contact information and social security number and all other information requested. It is the responsibility of the angler to have filled out the form completely. A form missing this information will not be considered entered until completed and may affect tournament draw positions. The Tournament Director has NO RESPONSIBILITY to inform and angler of incomplete form until re-registration at which time, the angler must provide missing information before the end of the re-registration period. If information is not filled out completely at the end of re-registration, the angler will be disqualified from the event without refund of entry.

Payment is by check which must be included with the form. A credit card payment option will

be available with separate instructions on how to use it and the application requirements.

Rule 3.

Rule 4. Notice of absence from re-registration must be made to the Tournament Director at least 24 hours prior to the official start of the re-registration. All competitors who have not made such arrangements must appear during the posted re-registration times. Any competitor not in line at the posted re-registration times is considered late and will be assessed the penalty described. The Tournament Director will give a ten minute and a five minute announcement of the close of re-registration. Once closed, any angler who did not make prior arrangements or who failed to attend the re-registration will be disqualified per rule 4.

Rule 5.

Rule 6. The Tournament Director will consult with members of the Tournament Advisory Board with regards to on the water conditions to include having TAB members make on water inspections of conditions and to report their findings to the Tournament Director. Once a tournament has commenced, the decisions of safety are the combined responsibility of both the boater and non-boater. This is to include such concerns as speed for conditions and cover from extreme weather such as storms, lightning and wind.

Tournament Director has exclusive responsibility to delay and or cancel an event due to weather conditions. Guidelines for visibility are that the Tournament Director can safely and clearly see objects at least one mile distant.

Rule 7. It is the responsibility of each contestant to know and understand all of the Fishing Rules and Regulations for the bodies of water that are open for fishing. This includes not only New York State Fishing Regulations but also any adjoining state regulations, Canadian provincial regulations and all Coast Guard and Border Patrol rules and regulations. It is strongly urged that all competitors take an approved Coast Guard safe boating course and possess a completion card.

Rule 8.

Rule 9.

Rule 10.

Rule 11.

Rule 12.

Rule 13. A listing of off-limits or out of bounds areas will be posted on the NYCF Website along with any other pertinent information. All tournament information will be repeated just prior to the tournament draw announcement.

Rule 14.

Rule 15. Scales will be available for weigh in two hours prior to the first flight arrival time. No fish will be weighed prior to that point in time unless there is a severe weather related safety concern. Once a boat is checked in, it cannot return to the body of water and all fishing for the two contestants is completed. The agreement to return to check-in before the appointed time for that boat must be a jointly agreed upon decision between boater and non-boater. Any pressure or collusion to check in prior to the appointed time will be considered unsportsmanlike conduct.

Rule 16. In the event of scale breakdown, the backup scales will be used. The Tournament Director will oversee the changeover and will verify with the weighmaster that the replacement scales are performing correctly. If both digital scales are not useable, the manual dial scales will be used. Every attempt will be made to use the digital printout for weight slips. If there is an issue with the printer, manual weight slips will be issued. No catches will be re-weighed if a scale is replaced. If an angler thinks that the weight is not correct, they must request an

immediate re-weigh before leaving the scales. Scales will be re-calibrated and fish re-weighed. Once an angler has left the immediate area of the scales, their weight is locked and will not be changed.

Rule 17. All competitors are expected to possess and know how to use a “fizz kit” to relieve barometric bloating of a fish’s air bladder. Each angler is responsible for fizzing their own fish. If fish are presented to the scales that have obvious barometric issues such as bloated belly, internal organs protruding from the mouth, or gill or eye discoloration, the angler will be directed to a secondary tank where a tournament official will observe the angler properly fizzing those fish. The fizzed fish for weigh in will be held in the observation tank for five minutes before weighing. If in the determination of the Tournament Director, the fish do not appear alive, the appropriate penalty will be assessed.

Rule 18. The Tournament Director will make a public announcement five (5) minutes prior to closing the scales and again at the two (2) minute point. The Tournament Director will at the announced closing of the scales ask one more time for any presentation of fish to the scales and will then close the scales.

Rule 19.

Rule 20. Linked entries will be given priority listing for partner draw. Non-linked entries will be included in the partner draw **in the order in which the entries were received.**

If there are excess non-boaters, every attempt will be made to allow a non-boater to use their boat in order to balance the field. The tournament director will ask for volunteer “boaters” from the entire non-boater field. The tournament director will randomly select from the available nonboater volunteer “boaters”, the necessary number of anglers needed to level the field. For this event those anglers will be allowed the use of their boats and will fish from the front deck. Both non-boater pairings will remain in the non-boater scoring and awards. When all attempts to balance the field have left un-paired non-boaters, the determining factor on refund of entry will be based on latest date of entry received.

If there are excess boaters, boater-boater pairings will be drawn based on the latest date of entry received. Decision on which boat is used will be either by mutual consent or Tournament Director coin flip. Boater-Boater pairings will share time allowing each other equal time to fish from the front of the boat in their selected waters. Both boater-boater pairings will remain in the boater scoring and awards. If there are an odd number of excess boaters, the first in line by date of entry will be paired with a non-tournament observer if possible. The observer will be allowed to fish, keep and weigh their catch at weigh in. Observer weight is not score able. If no observer is available, the last entered boater by date received will receive a refund of entry.

In the pro-am style events, the draw will be completely random with no regard for club affiliation and no adjustments will be made to the draw based on club affiliation.

Draw position adjustments will be made in order for Fish care, Weighmaster and Tournament Director to be in the first flight. This is so that they can return, weigh their fish and assume their responsibilities as quickly as possible.

In the event that **after** the tournament draw has been announced and completed, a competitor must withdraw from the event due to personal illness or injury or a serious family issue involving an immediate family member defined as a parent, a spouse, or a child, the Tournament Director will follow this protocol:

Non –boater withdrawal:

1. If an observer is available, replace the non-boater with an observer.
2. If no observer is available but there is a non-boater observer in the field, that observer

will be thanked and relieved and a boater-boater pairing will be made using previously listed guidelines for such a pairing.

3. If there is no observer based option available, then the non-boater from the boat of the first boater who registered for the event will be placed in the boat where the nonboater had to withdraw and the first boater who registered for the event will be allowed to fish alone. This would be a rare exception but could happen. In the event a boater fishes alone, they will be required to:

1. Wear an approved life vest all day.
2. Call the tournament director and speak directly to that individual at 11 am to confirm that they are safe.

Boater withdrawal: Equipment failure is not grounds for withdrawal.

1. Based on the above guidelines if a boater withdraws and an observer was placed in the field, the non-boater left without pairing will replace the observer.

2. If there is no observer in the field and the field is full, the Tournament Director will make every good faith effort to implement a satisfactory solution that allows the displaced nonboater to fish in the event.

3. If there is no option and no available boat to use the non-boater will be offered a full refund of entry fees only.

Rule 21.

Rule 22.

Rule 23. Communications devices including smart phones and advanced sonar units can be used to obtain weather data. No co-angler may use GPS capabilities of their communications device to record waypoints. Cell phone numbers including area code must be filled out on the tournament application in case Tournament Officials need to contact an individual during tournament hours.

Rule 24. Separate pool for Over 50 anglers will be collected and paid to the angler with the highest weight, boater or non-boater in the event. A 50-50 raffle will also be offered and the drawing for that will be done before the pairing announcement. Ten percent (10%) of these pools will be withheld and donated to the high school fishing program.

Rule 25.

Rule 26. You are not required to be present to accept your award however, if an angler is not present to receive their check, a \$10 surcharge will be assessed and deducted from the payout amount to cover the costs to mail the check to the competitor. If an angler receives a plaque in addition to a check and is not present to receive their awards, an additional \$20 surcharge will be assessed and deducted from the payout amount to cover the costs to mail the check and plaque to the competitor. Tournament Director can waive these fees if notified at reregistration

of conditions such as employment that require an angler to leave before the awards presentation. A list of anglers leaving will be provided to the Treasurer after the reregistration.

You must be present in order to receive any participation packages or goody bags you may be awarded.

Rule 27. Any angler intending to participate in the CTC must have their membership application to BASS Nation and NYBCF submitted and paid by September 1st of the CTC qualifying year and must be a current year member of BASS Nation and NYBCF by July 1st of the tournament year.

Payment and Entry policies:

All entries must be made using the approved NYBCF current year entry form. This form along with a check or money order made payable to NYBCF must be mailed to the Tournament Director at the address listed on the form. Date of receipt by the Tournament Director NOT post date is the date used in determining order placement. Postmark is used to determine if late fees should be applied. Any late fees must be paid at re-registration if not included in payment. If a late fee needs to be assessed, the Tournament Director will send one notification by email.

Entry fees paid by credit card: Angler must fill out the entry form and indicate payment by credit card. There is a surcharge handling fee that the angler must pay when using a credit card. The angler must fill out the approved NYBCF current year entry form. Once completed, the angler goes to the NYBCF webpage and logs onto the M&T bank logo. Follow the instructions to make the payment. Once the payment is made, the angler can either mail the entry to the Tournament Director or make a PDF copy of the entry form and email it to the Tournament Director at tournaments@nybassfed.com. Time and date of payment will be used to determine any late fee assessment. Any late fees must be paid at reregistration if not included in payment. For Tournament draw purposes, date of the receipt of the Tournament Application AND completed payment will be the receipt date of all entries. Credit Card Payment Cutoff: No entries will be accepted by credit card payment after 5 pm on the Tuesday prior to the event. All entries will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director as of two weeks prior to the event (beginning of late entry fee penalty). Any special considerations or waiving of penalties will be announced publicly by the tournament director.

Refunds: A refund of a tournament entry will be made only if withdrawal is made prior to the start of official practice. Refunds will be paid by check within one week after the conclusion of the event. Once the tournament practice and tournament have begun, it will be the decision of the Tournament Director with advice from the Tournament Advisory Board if a refund should be made. **Equipment failure, impending weather or partner draw during this time is not cause for a refund.**

Equipment Failure: If a boater cannot present their registered vessel for use in the tournament, they must immediately inform the Tournament Director. An alternate boat can be used by that boating angler provided that the proper insurance is in effect. A boat can be used with only trolling motor capability.

License Requirements and Off Limits/Out of Bounds: The Tournament Director will determine off-limits areas and any license requirements when the tournament schedule is established. If a body of water not within the boundaries of New York state which requires purchase of an additional license(s), ALL contestants both boater and non-boater will be required to purchase and possess the required documents. Out of bounds areas will be clearly described and will be reviewed at the re-registration. Out of bounds areas will be determined based on legal requirements, safety concerns or public postings such as marinas. In all cases, the launch area of the event will be out of bounds.

Regional Championship Tournament Qualification.

1. Effective with the 2016 season(2015 qualifying), B.A.S.S. will initiate a Regional Championship to qualify for the BASS Nation Championship and the three Bassmaster Classic positions available to the BASS Nation. There will be a total of 21 positions. Ten Boater and Ten Non-Boater positions plus one alternate will be qualified as follows:

a. Positions 1 through 7 for boaters and 1 through 7 for non-boaters will be filled in order

from the Angler of the Year final standings for each division. Boaters will qualify as boaters, non-boaters will qualify as non-boaters. There will be no crossover. An angler who enters in both categories during the year will be positioned in the Division they finished highest in. Non-boaters who use their boat as a special need to balance the field will be considered non-boaters. Anglers will be offered an opportunity to enter the Regional Tournament by binding contract. Once declined, an angler may not change their mind at a later date. Angler decisions to participate or not participate are final. Once a position is declined, that position will be offered to the next angler in line by Angler of the Year position. Position 8 boater and 8 non-boaters will be the first place finishers in an end of season second chance tournament to be run after the conclusion of the three points tournaments or if no Last Chance event is run in the year then the next AOY position will fill position 8 for both non-boater and boater.

b. Position 9 and 10 for the boater and 9 and 10 for the non-boater divisions will be filled from the Club Team Championship based on team and individual order of finish.

c. The alternate positions will come either from the boater order of finish for Angler of the Year unless no angler chooses to participate as an alternate in which case, alternate positions will be appointed by the President.

End of year Awards:

Angler of the Year by standings in each division from the points tournaments alternating total points and total weight.

Lunker of the Year, largest bass weighed in each division from points tournaments.

Most Improved Angler. In each division, the angler who has the largest change in position higher than the previous year. In both years, the angler must have participated in at least one points event and weighed at least one fish in total in both years.

Rookie of the Year. In each division, the highest finishing angler by angler of the year position who in the previous seven years had never participated in a points event in either division. Switching between divisions counts as participation within the seven years.

Revised 3/12/17