

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 a NY B.A.S.S. Nation Junior Club who meet the requirements to be a member in that club. "In good standing" defined as having shown documentation before the registration deadline that you meet all of the membership requirements as established by BASS. Proof of eligibility to the satisfaction of the Tournament Director shall be the responsibility of the prospective competitor. All competitors must submit with the entry application, written permission from their parent or guardian.

Any boats used during NY B.A.S.S. Junior events **must be properly insured.**

During the official practice and competition days, no competitor may travel in a boat unless that vessel has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance that **covers both the operator/boat captain/coach and the boat being used in the tournament.** Proof of insurance must be submitted with the tournament application and a separate copy 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 can not participate until so produced.** Acceptance of this proof is by the decision of the tournament director.

The Tournament Director has the right to refuse entry to any competitor. 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 non-transferable 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 NY BASS Nation High School Tournament. **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 contestants 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 or boat captain 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 ie google glasses and commercially manufactured sonar/depth finders are allowed.

4. RE-REGISTRATION: It is every team's responsibility to know when and where re-registration is being held. If for any reason a team is unable to attend the official re-registration period they must get authorization in advance from the Tournament Director.

Otherwise, FAILURE OF BOTH CONTESTANTS AND THEIR BOAT CAPTAIN TO RE-REGISTER IN PERSON DURING THE DESIGNATED REREGISTRATION PERIOD SHALL RESULT IN A ONE POUND PENALTY. Any team that fails to re-register prior to the beginning of the tournament draw will be disqualified.

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, re-registration or during the official tournament, which includes the weigh-in and awards presentation area, 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. All competitors and boat captains must possess a completion document for an approved New York State safe boating course. If a Junior Angler has not yet completed this course, they are not allowed to operate trolling motor and must fish entire tournament from back deck. If neither angler has completed the course, the boat captain is responsible for all boat operation including trolling motor. The safe boating card should be carried by the angler at all times along with appropriate fishing licenses during official practice days and the tournament day(s). Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver when the main motor is turned on. Manual blow up style life vests are NOT allowed. The preserver must be snapped, strapped or zipped securely and maintained in that condition any time the combustion engine is running. 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 if you are 16 years of age on the date of the first official practice day and any other license/permit required. If another state or country license is required you must produce the proper license at re-registration. 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.

ONLY artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. All bass must be brought to the boat in a conventional and sporting manner.

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. Student anglers are NOT allowed to operate the boat other than by trolling motor except in extreme emergency circumstances where there is injury or illness of the boat captain/coach. This includes loading and unloading the boat at the launch.

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 50 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 boat captain 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.

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 team to agree on boat operational expenses with the boat captain prior to the send-off, which should also include any additional expenses such as dock fees and launch fees. Additional fees are the responsibility of the anglers unless otherwise noted.

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 required to leave the boat and use a public restroom. All fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. Under no circumstances is a restroom break to be taken on the vessel by either the student anglers or the boat captain. Authorized restroom locations will be provided by the tournament director at the re-registration.**

16. TIME OUTS AND HALFTIME: At the Junior level, boat captains are encouraged to teach as well as provide transportation. Such things as reading depth finders, trolling motor operation and general fishing or equipment knowledge are all encouraged for instruction. **Lure selection, knot tying or other basic fish catching knowledge must be undertaken only by the angler.** At no time is an adult allowed to cast for a Junior angler.

In addition, the Tournament Director will establish the official half time. Half time is a 15minute period where NO FISHING CAN OCCUR AND THE BOAT MUST REMAIN IN PLACE (no outboard or trolling motor operation other than to maintain a safe position) Halftime is specifically for the student anglers to have something to eat and drink to maintain a safe, healthy day. It is the responsibility of the boat captain to monitor the time and to declare both start and end.

15. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official checkpoint for the send off in the morning and weigh-in in the afternoon. This checkpoint shall be designated at the re-registration tournament briefing. At the time of the send off, 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.

TEAMS 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 smallmouth bass will be weighed. Limit shall be a total of 5 of the above species per day per angler. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of New York State. 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, from closed mouth to tail open (no tail fan), will be weighed in. Each bass will be weighed

on scale system provided by NYBCF and immediately released after being weighed. The weight and length will be certified by the boat captain. Weights will be recorded on the official weight sheet by the boat captain on the angler's recording sheet and will be signed at the weigh in by both the competitor and boat captain. Each individual angler will have their own weight sheet.

17. not applicable

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 NY BASS Nation Junior Championship tournaments split any awards or points with the exception of first place. First place will be determined by the team with the largest single fish by weight. If still tied, the second largest fish by weight, until the tie is broken. If after five fish used in the tie breaker, a one-hour fish off to break the tie will be required.

Overall ties for determining placement on the state team for attending the National Championship only, will be determined by the same tie breaker rules as listed above.

20. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS: Junior anglers/clubs are responsible for providing their own boat captain. Pairing of anglers is the responsibility of the club, anglers, parents and boat captains. Anglers may fish alone but two anglers per boat is encouraged. Tournament briefing will occur prior to takeoff. All anglers/boat captains must attend.

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. Chapter Federation.

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 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 weight forms 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.

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.

24. SEPARATE POOLS: Not applicable.

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

(revised 4/1/2014)

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. Entries will be accepted on the morning of the event paid in cash only. Same day registrations are responsible for boat and boat captain.

Rule 3.

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.

Rule 8.

Rule 9.

Rule 10.

Rule 11.

Rule 12.

Rule 13. A listing of off-limits or out of bounds areas will be announced the morning of the event.

Rule 14.

Rule 15.

Rule 16

Rule 17.

Rule 18.

Rule 19.

Rule 20. Adult Coach/Boat Captain is not allowed to fish during the Championship Tournament day.

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.

Rule 25.

Rule 26. You must be present in order to receive any participation packages or goody bags you may be awarded.

Rule 27. Payment and Entry policies:

All entries must be made using the approved NYBCF current year Junior Championship entry form. This form along with a check or money order made payable to NYBCF must be mailed to the address listed on the form. A parent **MUST** sign the form.

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 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.

Policies in effect 05/12/2017