

IOWA B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT RULES

1. RULES CHANGES

Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation in this tournament is open only to members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society who are 16 years of

age or older and who are active members of B.A.S.S. Nation chapters in Iowa. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. **During the official practice and competition days of any bass anglers sportsman society tournament no contestant may operate a boat unless that**

contestant has submitted documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 boating liability insurance to the Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation department. This documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date and must

be in boat and accessible to tournament officials . Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible. **A properly completed and signed official entry form must**

be received by Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation officials on or before the application date. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. **Entry deadline date for each tournament shall be 19 days prior to the first competition day of each tournament unless a waiver is granted by tournament director.**

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

There will be one practice day immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. The exact dates and times of the

practice period and the off-limits period are contained on the portion of this brochure to be returned by each competitor. The competitor must know and observe these dates. All competitors must be off the water by **3pm** on the

Official practice day for check-in. All competitors must check-in in person at the designated check-in location by the

appointed time. **During the official practice, and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance**

or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife

agency employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not **"skin dive"** or **"scuba dive"** on the tournament waters. During competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or

telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine-band weather information. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. **Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on this document, to a polygraph test.** The administration and interpretation of

the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or

not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director, shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

4. REGISTRATION

Each competitor must register in person with officials of the Iowa B.A.S.S Nation at the time and place prescribed.

5. SAFETY

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right 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. Iowa B.A.S.S. Nation officials reserve the right to impose boat speed limits on 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. **Boats must utilize locks to transit between waterways or pools separated by a lock and dam system. Failure to utilize the lock and dam system will result in disqualification of the boats participants for the day of the violation.**

6. SPORTSMANSHIP

Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause 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 or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various state within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, 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. No Umbrella rigs. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use. However, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and **must be verified** by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited. Nets are allowed

8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE 250 HP, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972. When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this rating plate or the horsepower maximum set by B.A.S.S. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification.

9. BOAT AND MOTOR

All Boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length and have a rear deck (with a seat if requested). All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted.

For the safety of all contestants, **all boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch.**

This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.

. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the

gunwale of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering, however, trolling as a method

of fishing is prohibited. All **bladder** tanks and any other type of **auxiliary** gas tanks that are not installed by the boat

manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and are installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons

of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat.

During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline

can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or

similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. A competitor answering affirmatively the question, "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with one who does when possible

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION (OPTIONAL AT TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS DISCRETION)

Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official, also a numbered button, which MUST remain with your boat until turned in each day at the check-in. This button must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and turned in to the officials at each check-in.

11. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE

Boaters will fish from front deck only. Co-anglers will fish from the back deck or seating area of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For his/her boater may be concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, co-anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard but may not fish anytime from the front deck. Boaters may not request that the co-angler not fish. Any boater that in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her co-angler and any co-angler who unfairly handicaps his/her boater may be disqualified for that day. Co-angler are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day.

The non boater shall pay the Boater \$25 dollars for expense after the draw meeting.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Tournament Director. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 25 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water . All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such

boat believes the competitor is close to being within this 50-yard radius. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish with the 50 yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within

these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **off-limits** and will be announced

at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to **all** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if

such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions

cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is

left for the competitors to resume fishing, a **restart** will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited.

. Boat Break Down Procedures Contact Tournament Official First

- 1. May contact another competitor, cull tag your fish, put your fish in their boat and make it back to official check in on time.**
- 2. Be towed in by water to official check in on time**
- 3. If you have a replacement boat available to you. It must be checked in by a IBN tournament official at the official take off location. Then must travel by water from tournament take off location, and return to check in by official check in time.**
- 4. No trailering of fish allowed, but a competitor may dump fish and trailer back to official take off site. And have boat checked by IBN tournament official and be granted a restart from original take off site.**
- 5. Any of these must first be approved by tournament director.**

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT

There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together at check-in.

15. SCORING

Boaters and Non-Boaters Points are Separate

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound (accurate to the hundredth of a pound) weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted, bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit.

At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the **longest** state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass and fish will not be weighed in. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor check-in at the official checkpoint he **must** present all **legal** fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. His catch must be certified by the signature of his partner of that day. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

Big bass competition, your Bass must be alive when presented for big Bass at weigh in, money, and awards shall be governed by the existing tournament rules.

16. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH

Each competitor is expected to keep his bass alive by use of a properly aerated live well. The few bass which do not survive will be used for scientific study and for charity.

17. PENALTY POINTS

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces (.25 pounds) of weight, to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

18. LATE PENALTY

Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in at the appointed time shall lose all credit for that day's catch. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in time will be announced at the tournament briefing.

19. TIES

In case of a tie for first-place team or for team champion, the following tie-breakers will be used in order: 1.) The team or individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The team or individual with the largest number of legal **LIVE** fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The team or individual with the heaviest single-day catch during competition; 4.) The team or individual with the second-heaviest single-day catch during competition. In the unlikely event that teams or team champions remain tied after these four tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the money, if any, will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

20. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS

Two contestants will be assigned to each boat whenever possible. Whenever possible, no contestants from the same team or club will be paired, nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day. Announcement of your first-day partner shall be made at the tournament briefing, which **must be attended** by each competitor. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two contestants check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is completed; except in case of dire emergency (see Rule 14). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society.

21. Inspection

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the official practice period or the official competition days.

22. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE

B.A.S.S. encourages the use of patches, logos and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media field that **may** sometimes restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, B.A.S.S. reserves the right to **restrict the use of such signage** in such tournaments with as much advance notice as possible to the contestants. Each competitor agrees by his signature on this document to wear an official embroidered B.A.S.S. patch on his shirt during each of the competition days of the B.A.S.S. Nation National Championship and the BASS Masters Classic.

May 5 — must be off the water by 3:00 p.m. and individuals must be checked in between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The draw meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. at a location to be announced at check-in.