



Official Tournament Rules

Eligibility

- Participants must be a current member of B.A.S.S. and have paid their annual National and States dues to fish and receive tournament points.
- Anglers will be competing in a Team Format.
- Anglers in the High School Bass program must be enrolled in High School, with passing grades, in order to participate.
- Anglers wishing to compete in a tournament are requested to notify the Director their intent one week prior to the tournament.
- Entry fee per tournament: \$25.00 per angler.
- Each angler must participate in two community service projects. One of these service projects must be helping out with an AZ Bass Nation adult tournament weigh in.
- Boat captains must be registered with Arizona High School Bass Nation and have minimum \$300,000 boat insurance coverage. All boat captains must be 25 years of age or older.

Tournament Rules

- Anglers are requested to arrive 90 minutes prior to the scheduled launch time (Launch Time - Safe Light).
- High school anglers are required to wear their life vests while the big motor is running. If the boat captain feels the conditions dictate the need for life vests to be worn, anglers must abide.
- Anglers are encouraged to run the trolling motor under the Boat Captain's supervision, but it is the Boat Captain's decision to allow this, based on the conditions and ability of the anglers.
- Each team may weigh-in 5 largemouth or smallmouth bass (12" minimum), unless the fishery has a specified minimum or slot limit; the participants will abide by lake rules and regulations.
- A dead fish penalty of ¼ pound will be subtracted from the team's total weight for every dead fish brought to the scales.
- Teams competing in the High School Division may receive instructions from the Boat Captains but must cast, catch, net and reel in all their own fish.
- All anglers and their boat captains are required to have a valid Arizona fishing license. Any angler receiving a citation during tournament hours will be disqualified from the event and receive last place points.
- All boats must be back to the weigh-in area by the end of the tournament hours. Late boats will receive a deduction of ½ pound per minute for being late. Any boat that does not make it back to the weigh-in area due to mechanical breakdown will be excused from the penalty for being late, based on the tournament committee's decision (all anglers must stop fishing after check in).



Official Tournament Rules

Tournament Rules - Continued

- There will be no communication with any outside people during tournament hours.
- Use of cell phones during tournament hours will be limited to emergency services only or to find out what the current time or temperature is.
- All boat docks and boat slips will be off limits during tournaments hours for all tournaments.
- OFF limits will be at sundown the day prior to the tournament.
- No angler will be permitted to use a licensed guide to pre-fish or be a boat captain unless it is the angler's father.
 - Licensed guides will be allowed as boat captains as long as they are a current Arizona Bass Nation member in good standing with state dues paid.
- Big fish must be marked prior to weigh-in.
- Two wire rigs are allowed, A-rigs are not allowed.

Point System

- Points are awarded to teams by a three-part system: placement in tournament, number of fish caught and total weight.
- Points for placement in tournaments are awarded as follows: teams will receive 25 points for 1st place, 24 for 2nd, 23 for 3rd and so on.
- Fish caught points are as follows: each team will be awarded one point for every legal bass brought to the scales.
- Total weight points are as follows: each team receives their total weight from the official scales.
- In the event of a tie for tournaments the tie will be broken by the heaviest weight fish.
- Season ending point ties will go as follows, until the tie is broken:
 - The team who caught the most fish during the year.
 - The team who had the most weight during the year.
 - Biggest fish caught during the year.
- Each team will be allowed to throw out one qualifier per school year.
- An angler can fish by them self if teammate is unable to attend (no substitutions allowed).

Protest Procedures

- Protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within 30 minutes after weigh-in to be valid.
- Tournament director will take information and make a decision within 5 days after protest. All decisions will be final.



Official Tournament Rules

Angler Code of Conduct

- Anglers/Boat Captains participating in any B.A.S.S. sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers, parents and family members of anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S. , its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.
- Anglers, parents, boat captains, faculty members, friends and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, parents and family members of anglers who violate any of the provision of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.
- Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.
- The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined above:
 - Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors, fans and volunteers during an event.
 - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
 - Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S, B.A.S.S officials or is sponsors.
 - Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
 - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.
 - Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.
 - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.



Official Tournament Rules

Angler Code of Conduct - Continued

- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament of fishing organization may result in disqualification.

Practice and Competition

- Competitors may only fish with other competitors during official practice and competition.
- The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition. During the official practice competitors are not allowed to keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.
- No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- During the official competition days of the tournament the competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations.
- The B.A.S.S. Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test.
- Random truth verification tests may be administered on site during the course of a High School Series Event.

Safety

- Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. Each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.
- When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.



Official Tournament Rules

Safety - Continued

- It is suggested the boater have a safety check with their partner each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.
- It is recommended each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.
- Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
- In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and once safe then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.
- Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

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 the use of 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. No alcoholic beverages, other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- 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 fishery conservation, clean water and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- 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/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament, and/or disqualification from a B.A.S.S. tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.



Official Tournament Rules

Sportsmanship - Continued

- Tackle and Equipment:
 - Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition.
 - No “live 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.
 - No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in his daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have his catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by the assigned partner or other observer before being unhooked. With this fish’s mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish for it to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

Boat and Motor

- Maximum horsepower for all outboard motor boats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 HP.
- These restrictions apply during official practice and competition: for the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only the manufacturer’s lanyard may be used and must be attached to the driver’s body any time a combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a driver in the driver’s seat in full control of the boat.
- During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat.
- Competitors must remain in the boat: during the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.