

New York B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Tournament Rules

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 that you meet all of the membership requirements for 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 re-registration.

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.

The Tournament Director has the right to refuse entry to any competitor. A properly completed and signed official entry form must be received by the end of the re-registration period. Any entry form postmarked after midnight on the Saturday two weeks prior to the scheduled tournament date will be assessed a \$25 late fee that must be paid at or before the re-registration. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of entry forms prior to the deadline date and also the right to extend the acceptance period. The Tournament Director also reserves the right to limit the number of entry applications. Entries will be non-refundable and non-transferable as of the close of the re-registration process and prior to the draw unless approved by the Tournament Director due to emergency circumstances.

3. PRE- TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: The tournament waters shall be off-limits to all competitors from midnight on the Sunday preceding the tournament until the Thursday prior to the tournament. In the event that the Monday of the off-limits period falls on a holiday, either the 4th of July or Labor Day, then the off-limits period will be from midnight on the holiday Monday preceding the tournament until the Thursday prior to the 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 **4 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 off limits, official practice and during the official tournament a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the waters during the off-limits period, or 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 and during the official tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE", "SCUBA DIVE", or use underwater cameras on the tournament waters.

4. RE-REGISTRATION: It is every competitor's responsibility to know when and where re-registration is being held. If for any reason a competitor is unable to attend the official re-registration 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 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 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 non-boater 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. Chapter Federation'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. 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. 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. Chapter Federation 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 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 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. 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 non-boaters 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. Non-boaters may drive the boat to assist with the loading or unloading process, or in the event of an emergency. In the event of excess boaters during the partner draw, boaters will be paired together and will share time allowing each other equal time to fish from the front and select the waters fished.

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 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. **PARTNERS MUST STAY TOGETHER AND CHECK IN WITH TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, EVEN IF NEITHER OF THEM 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 limits 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-in officials, and the weight of their catch must be certified by their signature. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Specifically designed bags, which increase survival rates will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and **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 livewell. For each dead bass presented to the weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized .25 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 .25 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. Over all 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. Whenever possible, no contestants from the same club will be paired, nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day in the same tournament. 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 allowing enough time to be at the official send off area. It is suggested that a MINIMUM OF 30 MINUTES be allowed prior to the first send off 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. 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. 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 it's 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, 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: Though we encourage all anglers to be present at the awards presentations you are not required to be present to accept your award. You must be present in order to receive any participation packages or goody bags you may be awarded.

27. CLUB TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: All of the above rules shall be followed for the CTC with the exception of the ones stated below, or any additional rules that may become necessary which will be listed on the CTC packets distributed to all clubs; (a) Effective as of the 2004 Club Team Championship to qualify for the CTC all anglers on the team and the club must be members in good standing and meet all of the guidelines of the NYS B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation in the qualifying year as well as the CTC Tournament year. (b) 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. POLICY: Any angler intending to participate in the CTC must have their membership application to the state and national federation submitted by September 1st of the CTC qualifying year in order to have ample time to be processed.