



Southeast Region Official Tournament Rules

1. Tournament Rules: Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. These rules shall remain unchanged throughout all events. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including and without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fees and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Decisions of the Tournament Director and Tournament Officials are final in all matters, and are not subject to appeal, and are not reviewable by any court of law. The Texas B.A.S.S. Nation reserves the right to make needed changes to these rules in order to ensure the safety, welfare of the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation anglers, and/or the public and preserve the integrity of the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation. Any rule changes will immediately supersede all previously published copies of rules. **It is your**

responsibility to read and understand the rules and how you, any points, and qualification for the Championship are affected by not complying with the following rules. Every angler, by submission of a signed entry form, acknowledges and agrees that he/she has read, understands, and accepts all rules.

2. Participation & Eligibility: All anglers must be a minimum of 16 years of age or older and possess a valid Texas fishing license. Anglers under the age of 18 must be accompanied to the event by a parent or legal guardian and have a release of liability form signed prior to fishing. Each participant must be a member in good standing of B.A.S.S., the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation, and a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation affiliated club. Members in good standing from any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation region may fish any region's tournament events and accumulate points for the region in which the event is held. Individuals who are not members of B.A.S.S., the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation, and a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation affiliated club are not eligible to participate. Only members and immediate family (parent, spouse, or child), or persons under the age of 16 are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of contestant. **All contestants must have a valid fishing license.** Contestants must fill out a complete personal

information form before fishing the first tournament for the computer standings program.

3. Registrations: Contestants may register by online registration or by mail addressed to the tournament director if postmarked no later than Friday of the week prior to the tournament date, or at the host marina or other designated place from 4 PM to 6 PM on the Friday prior to the tournament. Online registration will end at midnight on Wednesday prior to the tournament. A copy of proof of insurance is required to be given to the Region Director prior before the beginning of the season or prior to first tournament. A contestant who has registered, but is unable to attend the tournament, may cancel his registration by notifying the Tournament Director or other Region Officer by the close of registration on Friday. The entry fee of any such contestant shall be applied to the next tournament on the schedule. If cancellation is for last event of season the contestant entry will be refunded. If an angler registers for an event but is unable to participate, you must notify a board member by 6:00 PM the Friday before the event for refund of fee or move your entry to another event. Failure of notification will forfeit your entry fee and any points for the event. You must fish the event to be awarded any points. Exception(s): A mechanical breakdown of the tow vehicle or boat or verifiable family emergency after 6pm on the day of registration and prior to the start of the tournament will not cause forfeiture of

the entry fee but will result in no points being awarded for the tournament. Entry fees for Region Officers are waived. A boater who chooses to register with a non-boater shall specify such on the entry form and will be allowed to fish together.

4. Pre-Tournament Practice/Off

Limits/Guides: There will be no “off limits” period for any regional qualifying tournament events. All contestants must be off the water by 6:00 pm on the day prior to the scheduled tournament event. Tournament Director will establish safe light. Contestants may not utilize the services of guides within 30 days prior to the official tournament event. Paid guides may not register or participate in a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation tournament if they have guided on the tournament lake within the previous 30 days. Fishing guide definition: A person who, for compensation, accompanies, assists, or transports a person or persons engaged in fishing for bass in the waters of this state. During the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone other than another contestant for the purpose of catching or locating fish. No skin diving or scuba diving on the tournament waters during official practice or tournament days. No use of CB radios, VHF marine band radios, or cell phones for the purpose of locating or catching fish. The above equipment may be used in case of emergency. Each contestant agrees to report any violation of these rules to the Tournament Director or tournament officials. Failure to do so may

result in forfeiture of days catch and/or disqualification.

5. Permitted Fishing Locations: The Tournament Director will establish tournament waters. Any posted off limits or no fishing areas established by state or federal officials will be off limits. The live release area established by the Tournament Director will be off limits. This will be announced at the tournament briefing on Friday night. Anglers are not allowed to leave the boat to land fish or make the boat more accessible to fishable waters.

6. Alcoholic Beverages & Drugs: No alcoholic beverages or drugs (unless prescribed) are allowed in the boat or to be consumed during tournament hours. Tournament hours are concluded for a contestant when their weigh-in slip is signed.

7. Sportsmanship: Any contestant(s) who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the rules of any federal state or local laws or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified and shall forfeit all entry fees and/or prize money. The use of communications devices for the purpose of locating fish is prohibited. Contestants must remain 50 ft. from another contestant with the trolling motor down and 100 ft. from contestants that are anchored with the trolling motor up.

8. Boats & Motors: All boats and motors must meet U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations. No motor shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat. The maximum horsepower allowed for any contestant’s boat will be 250 hp. Minimum boat length for any contestant’s boat is 16 ft. All boats must have a working kill switch and an adequate aerated live well. All boats will be inspected by a tournament official prior to the start of the tournament. It is required that all contestants carry a minimum \$300,000 of liability insurance coverage for a boat used in a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation tournament. A copy of the certificate of insurance must be presented on request by tournament officials or the contestant will not be allowed to fish in that tournament.

9. Tackle & Equipment: All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner on artificial lures. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish is permitted. No live or prepared bait is permitted, with the exception of pork rind. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one rod may be used at any time. Only bait casting, spinning, or spin cast rods 10 ft. or less in length may be used. All fish must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snagging visible fish will forfeit their days catch.

When “sight fishing” for visible fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your co-angler (if present). No gaffs may be used to boat fish or be present in the boat at any time. The use of grippers in landing fish is prohibited. The use of electronic tracking equipment is not allowed at any time. Landing nets are allowed however, they must not exceed 6.5 ft in length. During practice and competition, no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line one time. One lure is defined as a single 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 manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules. No “live bait” “dead bait”, or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one. lure at a time-with or without hooks-is not allowed. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described below. Twin-arm spinnerbaits, twin-arm underspins, and twin-arm buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers on twin-arm baits must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head of the main stem may be

hinged. On those twin-arm baits, no more than two wires with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the head or line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even with or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires. Tournament officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. Only non-penetrating cull rings will be allowed for culling.

10. Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director, within 15 minutes of the close of the weigh-in.

11. Polygraph: All contestants are subject to a polygraph examination at the request of the tournament director. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph examination will result in immediate disqualification and forfeiture of entry fees and claims to any prizes.

12. Officials: All contestants are required to cooperate with all requests from all tournament officials, on and off the water. 1st Place boater and 4 random boaters who finish in the money will comply to a boat check for safety items(throw cushion, fire extinguisher, non-mechanical items) and also puncture style cull tags not present. Any violation will result in a disqualification.

13. Take-Off & Check-In: There will be only one official checkpoint for take-off and

check-in. All anglers will use the designated tournament launch site. Trailering will be allowed at the discretion of the Tournament Director for safety reasons. Take-off will be in numbered order assigned by the Tournament Director and/or Regional Director. Each contestant is required to leave and return to the designated checkpoint. Any contestant returning late to the checkpoint will be penalized at a rate of one (1) pound per minute up to fifteen (15) minutes. After fifteen (15) minutes, no weigh-in will be allowed. If sharing the boat with a non-boater, both anglers must stay within sight of one another until both anglers catches have been presented for weigh-in. The only exceptions to this rule are when one angler is launching or loading the boat and restroom breaks.

14. Points: Points will be awarded based on finish. Points will be used to determine “Angler of the Year” standings and for qualification into each Regional Championship tournament. Points will be based on points plus pounds (Example: 250 points plus total weight for 1st place, 249 points plus total weight for 2nd, 248 points plus total weight for 3rd and so on through the placements). Contestants with no weight will receive the point equivalent to ten points less than last point placement.

15. Bag Limits and Culling:

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The statewide minimum length limit is fourteen (14) inches. Tournaments held on bodies of water that have exceptions to statewide freshwater harvest regulations, (i.e., Sabine River 12" and Lake Conroe 16"), will follow the Largemouth Bass regulations set forth by TPWD for that particular body of water. The Tournament Director at the registration meeting the day prior to the tournament will announce daily bag limit and length limits for the tournament waters. It is each competitor's responsibility to know the daily bag and length limit for the tournament waters that they are fishing. At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify

officials at check in. Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. If a competitor has his or her fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he or she then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check in to receive a 2 – pound penalty for each bass discovered. **Anglers who do not remove fin clips prior to verification will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. No manmade or foreign object connected to a bass will be weighed and shall be removed by tournament officials.** 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. Fish will be measured on a flat board with the mouth closed and tail swept (not pinched). Any bass presented for weigh-in, which fails to

measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. If an angler chooses to weigh a single fish for big bass, that fish must be alive. No dead fish will be weighed for big bass.

A dead fish penalty of ½ (0.5) pound per dead fish will be deducted from the total.

weight of the angler's catch. 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 competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they **MUST** present all **LEGAL** fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted, and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and must be used for the weigh-in.

16. Ties: In the case of a tie in weight, the following tiebreaker will be used: The competitor with the largest number of legal fish weighed in. If a tie remains, a flip of a coin will determine the winner.

17. Conservation: Fish care and conservation are the primary concerns of all regions of the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation. Contestants will bring their fish to the scales in weigh-in bags with a sufficient amount of fresh water to keep the fish alive and healthy throughout the weigh-in process. The Tournament Director will establish the allowable number of anglers to be in the weigh-in line at any one time. Anglers not in the weigh-in line should keep their fish in the live well with aerators and recirculators running. All fish caught during a regional tournament become the property of the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation and will be released alive if possible.

18. Starting Position: Contestants, who register online, by mail, or at the registration meeting, will be assigned starting positions by the Tournament Director and/or Regional Director. Any contestant who starts prior to his number being called by the starter will be disqualified from that tournament.

19. Regional Championship: “Angler of the Year” will be decided by the total points of the angler’s best (4) tournaments. \$2.50 from each Regional Circuit entry will go into a special jackpot fund for the “Angler of the Year”. In the event of a tie, the angler with the highest place finishes during the year will be named “Angler of the Year.” \$5.00 from each Regional Circuit entry will go into the Top 40 Championship jackpot.

The Southeast Region Super Regional Representative(s) (anglers who go to the Super Regional B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament) will be determined at a boater/non-boater format tournament after the Regional circuit is concluded. The top 2 boaters and the top 2 non-boaters will receive invitations to the Super Regionals. Each region will hold a Regional Championship in a boater/non-boater format tournament after the regional circuits are concluded. It is suggested that this tournament be held at a location outside of each region’s home circuit. To qualify for a Regional Championship each contestant must fish the required number of regional circuit events for that specific region. Each region will determine the number of contestants that will be eligible to compete in their Regional Championship field. Contestants for this tournament must fish 4 of the 6 Regional tournaments. The top 40 points leaders will comprise the field. (See Official Region Championship rules for a full description of rules pertaining to this event.)

20. Safety: U.S. Coast Guard approved life preservers must be worn and fully fastened by all boat members at all times that the combustion engine is in operation and the kill switch must be attached to the operator.