

Tennessee Bass Federation

Jr. Bass Tournament Rules & Regulations

Revised March 5, 2013

1. Rule Changes

The following rules of this tournament unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by Tennessee Bass Federation, Inc. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament rules committee consisting of Tournament Director and State Officers. The decision of the tournament director shall be final in all matters. Junior bass state qualifying season shall be from July 1 to June 30 each year.

2. Participants and Eligibility

This Tournament is open to members in good standing of Tennessee State Bass Federation Jr Bass Clubs that is in good standing. Contestants must meet age and eligibility requirements set forth as follows: State tournament is open to all Jr bass members. Contestants must be 11 and not yet 19 before August 31 or tournament year. Proof of age must be submitted with tournament registration in form of birth certificate of government issued id. Each member must be on the state roster prior to May 1 of the tournament year. Each team will consist of a boat captain who is at least 19 years of age and 2 anglers with one 11 or 14 years of age and one 15 to 18 years of age. No angler will fish alone. The entered team will fish together as entered. All teams must register prior to May 1 of the tournament year. The entry fee will be \$25 per team entered and must be paid with tournament registration. Any team registering after the May 1 deadline will be charged a \$25 late fee. All teams from the same club must register together. The Boat captain must maintain on board at all times proof of \$300,000 liability insurance and provide the tournament director a copy of the insurance at registration showing liability limit and policy dates to cover all tournament event days. No boat/team may participate without release papers and boat insurance.

3. Registration

All competitors are required to pre register (completed entry form, proof of age, complete team info, etc). Completed entries must be post marked by May 1 of the tournament year. Entries with inaccurate information or incomplete may be rejected by tournament officials. Registration information at tournament will be posted on tnbass.com as soon as available.

4. Pre-Tournament Practice

During official practice and tournament hour only the boat captain may operate the combustion engine except in dire emergency and loading of the boat. No Skin Diving or Scuba Diving on Tournament Waters for 7 calendar days prior to tournament day. No using cell phones (including texting), CB radios, marine radios, or any other type of communications during the tournament. There will be no off limit days.

5. Purchasing of information

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available services) and the hiring of fishing guide services or a coach is not permitted by contestants or coaches within 15 days of the tournament. Violation may result in disqualification.

6. Safety

Safe Boat conduct will be observed at all times by competitors and boat captains. All State laws will apply. All competitors must wear an approved life preserver at all times while in the boat. You must be at least 16 years of age to wear an inflatable life preserver. The tournament director has the right to delay or cancel the tournament due to weather or other factors that might endanger the competitors. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a recommended on plane seating location with feet resting on main floor when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting or leaning on pedestal seats with combustion engine running will be immediate disqualification.

7. Sportsmanship

Competitors and coaches are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Conduct not complying with these standards include but is not limited to the following:

- Violation of or failure to comply with any of the rules for this tournament
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, pre tournament meeting, tournament or weigh-in
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind altering substances
- Conviction of a felony within 36 months prior to tournament events
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization
- Any act of a competitor or coach which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote conservation, clean waters, courtesy, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules
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8. Boat Operation

Coaches must drive boat for their team. To qualify as a coach the person accompanying the team must be at least 19 years of age. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches can provide information including location or methods to catch fish but are not permitted to fish. Each contestant must be allowed equal time fishing from the front of the boat and picking where to fish.

9. Tackle and Equipment

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait other than pork rinds may be used. Only one rod and reel with 8 foot max length may be used at one time. All bass must be caught in a conventional and sporting manor. Any bass caught while site fishing must be presented to coach before removing the hook for verification on hook being on inside of mouth. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish will be disqualified. Each competitor will be allowed 6 rod and reel combinations in the boat. Nets are allowed. Coach may net fish for competitors.

10. Horsepower and boat regulations

Maximum hp is 250 hp. Hp cannot exceed maximum rating on boat rating plate. Boat must have an operable kill switch that must be attached to driver at all times combustion motor is in operation. Legal boats will be 16 feet or longer and propeller driven. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than gunnels of boat. Electric trolling motors may be used but trolling as a means of fishing is not permitted. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed dual tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. All boats must have a functioning bilge pump.

11. Permitted fishing locations and boundaries

Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters that is available to the public and accessible by boat except areas designated by “off limits,” “restricted,” “no fishing,” or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access. It is not permitted to fish within 50 yards of a competitors boat that is anchored (anchor down or power pole down and trolling motor stowed). All contestants and the coach must remain in the boat at all times during the tournament. Exact tournament times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

12. Official checkpoint

There will be an official check out and check in point to be designated at the pre tournament meeting. Everyone must check out and check in, no exceptions.

13. Scoring

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by each competitors catch during the tournament. Only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, red eye or shoal bass will be counted. The 5 largest bass of the day will be the total weight for the tournament. All bass will be measured by the coach and immediately released. The measuring board will be supplied by the tournament director along with the record sheet for each angler. The weights will be calculated by tournament staff after check in using the official length/weight conversion sheet. These items must be returned at check in.

14. Penalties

A one pound per minute late penalty will be deducted from total weight and big fish weight. If a team fails to check in after 15 minutes they will be disqualified.

15. Ties

In case of a tie the following tiebreakers will be used in the following order:

- The individual with the largest number of legal fish caught during the tournament
- The individual with the heaviest single fish during the competition
- Flip of the coin to determine the winner

16. Rules enforcement

A proper tournament official may enter a competitor’s boat at any time for rules enforcement.