

2009 PENNSYLVANIA BASS FEDERATION OFFICIAL RULES OF COMPETITION

The following rules shall apply to all events, except that these rules may be changed by the Tournament Committee immediately upon an affirmative vote by the membership, and notice of such changes will be published on the PA. Bass internet site at www.pabass.com, Tournament Section.

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in **Rule S** below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. Pennsylvania Bass Federation members are required to police themselves each competition day and must sign a weigh-in slip verifying their catch. Anglers who are found guilty of a rules violation CAN BE DISQUALIFIED from the tournament.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- (a) loss of one or more fish in question.
- (b) disqualification from the tournament in question
- (c) disqualification from future Pennsylvania Bass Federation events which may be from a specific number of events or for a specific period of time or may be a lifetime disqualification
- (d) any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director and or the Tournament Committee including but not limited to monetary loss and/or loss of any points earned

A. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is open only to current members of the Pennsylvania Bass Federation who are 16 years of age or older and listed on the most current roster. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor.

Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and wellbeing of their partner or themselves shall not be eligible.

DURING COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY PENNSYLVANIA BASS FEDERATION TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT.

RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

The tournament application will contain questions pertaining to the applicant having the required insurance (if applying as a boat owner) and up to date membership in the Pennsylvania Bass Federation, the TBF and the FLW. By answering "YES" to these questions and by signing both pages of the application, the applicant has confirmed and agreed that they have met all requirements for entering a Pennsylvania Bass Federation tournament and they agree to abide by these Rules and conditions set forth within

Any falsification of information will be grounds for disqualification.

Only a completed and legible official application printed off the website may be submitted. A tournament confirmation maybe requested by the competitor if a self-addressed and stamped envelope is included with the application. An up to date Tournament Roster shall be maintained by the Tournament Director on the website.

Sponsors may pay entry fees.

A **NO REFUND POLICY** is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Refunds must be for a valid reason, in writing and mailed to the tournament director, postmarked prior to the cut-off date. The Tournament director whom is running the event must approve it. If turned down, you may appeal to the Executive board or the District board of directors. A \$5.00 handling fee will be retained for all refunds issued.

Tournament ineligibility : Any member shall become ineligible to participate in District or State tournaments if a check that is issued by them would "bounce". Said member will not be permitted to fish until all checks and related fees are paid to the treasurer, State or District, whichever applies

B. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION: There will be no designated practice or off-limits times preceding the tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are specific to local host community.

During the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.

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, 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. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, competitors may listen to the marine-band weather information. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Personal phone calls, while not encouraged, are permitted and shall not be a cause for disqualification unless a protest has been filed and is upheld.

A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. By signature on the official entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph examination and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The Tournament Director or rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a polygraph examination. The 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 polygraph examination. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall attempt to have the location of such polygraph examination as close in proximity to the angler's permanent address or such other mutually convenient location as possible. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination. Anglers taking a polygraph examination may be responsible for any and all cost incurred.

C. REGISTRATION: Each competitor must check-in and register in person with the official staff at the time and place designated. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours shall result in disqualification, **NO EXCEPTIONS**.

For two-day tournaments, registration is at the pre-tournament meeting the night before. Tournaments end at the close of the scales. For two-day tournaments, the tournament will end at the close of the scales of the second day.

IT SHALL BE EACH COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO EITHER CHECK FOR REGISTRATION TIME AND LOCATION OR OBTAIN TIMES FROM THE TOURNAMENT STAFF .

Registration or Check-in is to be open 1 ½ hours before blastoff. If the tournament is to start 5:30 AM, the period will be 3:30 AM to 5:00 AM. This will allow a 30-minute buffer for the blast off. This buffer period shall be used to readjust the field for boat failure or no show contestants. Person's eligibility registering or checking in during the buffer period is at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Any contestant showing up after scheduled blastoff time shall be considered late and disqualified from the tournament. If it is a two-day tournament, the disqualification shall be for the day the contestant is late. Both guaranteed partners shall be removed and replaced for the day the contestant is late, if there is a guaranteed partner involved.

Tournament starting and weigh-in times are decided by the District Tournament Director and or State Tournament Director, (Mr. Bass and the State Classic Tournaments)

All Pa. Bass. Federation tournaments will be conducted with a trickle start. The trickle start will begin with boats being called by order of release and going through a drive by boat inspection when possible. The inspection shall consist of:

- 1) Live wells open and running.
- 2) Life jackets on both contestants zippered and or snapped
- 3) Running lights up and on as necessary
- 4) Testing of kill switch as the boat pulls away.

Failure of any of the above items automatically puts the boat to the last position of blastoff and requires that the failed equipment be repaired before boat can re-enter the tournament.

A random drawing for boat position for trickle start will be conducted .

D.. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During competition, each boat passenger must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off.

Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Suspender type life preservers are permitted (**but may not be removed**) as long as an additional life preserver is in the boat as well Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Boaters must carry two Coast Guard approved chest type life preservers per boat, one for himself and one for his Co-Angler.

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 Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during 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.

Posted speed limits must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner.

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 WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

E. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote

fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. 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. 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 Pennsylvania Bass Federation tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants, shall be allowed in the boats during the official competition days, or when in the weigh in area. If any contestant is, in the opinion of the tournament director, (providing situation is made known) is physically unable or not able to safely compete, the contestant will be disqualified. If an angler shows up at a tournament with the smell of alcohol on their breath, or is deemed to be under the influence of any intoxicant shall be immediately disqualified from the tournament, and placed on prohibition for one year of active membership in the Pennsylvania Bass Federation, and no refunds of entry fees will be considered.. If they refuse to cooperate, the tournament director may notify the local law enforcement agency. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or 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 or Tournament Committee. 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 Pennsylvania Bass Federation tournament and/or disqualification from said tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

Any angler, who leaves a multiple day tournament, without informing the tournament director, shall be disqualified from that tournament and be suspended from the Pennsylvania Bass Federation for a period of one year of active membership.

Co-anglers will fish from the back deck of the boat only. Co-Angler may travel anywhere on the boat to land a hooked fish. The Co-Angler, at the request of the Angler, may run the trolling motor. **BUT IN NO CASE WILL THE CO-ANGLER BE ALLOWED TO FISH** from the front of the boat without the express permission of the Tournament Director.

The Angler has complete control of the boat; this includes choice of waters to be fished.

Any Angler who, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in a manner that unfairly handicaps their Co-Angler partner will be disqualified for that day, provided a written protest is filed and upheld.

F. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Use of nets and grippers for landing bass is allowed during tournament competition.

The handle of the net is not to exceed 6.5 feet. Contestants may assist in netting each other's fish.

Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

Use of underwater cameras will be permitted in practice periods only

A treble hook lure is considered one lure.

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. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. Snagged line-lures must be retrieved or broken off immediately

All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked

Baits may be shared by competitors.

G. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

Boat lengths of 15 feet or more with a minimum capacity plate rating of 25 horsepower or less, are not permitted, with the exception of "small boat" tournaments, where horsepower is restricted. **All Pa. Bass Federation tournaments, state sponsored (i.e., Mr. Bass, Classic, and Regionals), will carry a minimum horsepower restriction of 40 horsepower due to safety consideration; All District tournaments will have a minimum horsepower of 25.**

Small boat tournaments: small boat tournaments shall be permitted provided they meet all other tournament rules with the following exceptions, (a) are to be conducted on lakes restricted to a maximum of a 20 HP motor or less, (b) 14 feet minimum length, with rating of at least 20 horsepower, (c) no kill switch required but highly recommended.

"Jet" powered boats will be allowed in all State and District tournaments as long as they conform to the regulations placed on propeller driven craft.

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE 250 HP.

Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. 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 plate nor the horsepower maximum set by the Pennsylvania Bass Federation. 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 of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine 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 engine is also cause for immediate disqualification.

H. BOAT AND MOTOR :

All boats must conform to Pa. Fish and Boat Commission laws and to any additional laws that may be required for waters fished

For the safety of all competitors during official practice and competition, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH AN APPROVED TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH AND LANYARD.** Only one manufacturer's lanyard may be used and must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. 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.

Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used.

Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat.

Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed.

An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

All anchors must be inside the boat or secured by an additional safety-locking device while underway

All **BLADDER** tanks and any other type of **AUXILIARY** gas tanks that are not sold by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted.

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.

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 craft will be permitted.

It has been determined that boats equipped with "stick steering" present greater than normal safety hazards, therefore no boats so equipped will be allowed having greater than 50 HP engines

I. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

During practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump.

During competition every boat must have **LIVE WELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS.**

Every competitor's boat must have a **10-gallon minimum** *separate or divided* live well, properly aerated to adequately maintain (alive) a limit of bass for both anglers using the boat. Flashlight battery operated aerators are not acceptable.

Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

Anglers (Boaters) must make a back seat available for Co-Angler (Rider) each competition day. Every competitor's boat must have a seat readily available for both decks for the non-boater if he/she wishes to use one. The term seat applies to a "pro seat" or standard folding seat.

J. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

At registration / check-in, each competitor will be given colored boat numbers which will remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and at each check-in.

Each boat will be given, prior to each day's start, a boat check by a tournament official. Upon passing, the boat will receive a colored ribbon to designate that the boat has passed boat check and that they are competitors in the tournament; all previous ribbons shall be removed. This ribbon should be displayed in an easy to see location on the boat. (i.e., trolling motor or front pedestal)

K. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

In view of the high expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the Co-Angler partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

Each partner shall be financially responsible for any damage caused by him or her.

Failure to do so by the responsible party, shall result in a one year suspension from fishing Pennsylvania Bass Federation tournaments.

Launch fees on competition days, shall be a shared expense by Angler and Co-Angler

L. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament

Each competitor must obtain this information from the Tournament Staff.

Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except, within 50 yards of the Headquarters marina and all areas deemed off-limits by the Tournament Director and any other waters so posted by sign or buoy. If a buoy or sign indicates **Keep Out, No Fishing, or No Boats**, this also means that you can not cast past the buoy or sign either.

Off limits to boats and anglers means off limits to lures also.

All angling must be from the competition boat. Contestants may not leave boat to land fish.

Both competitors must remain in boat at all times with the exceptions that a competitor may leave the boat in case of imminent danger to seek shelter or for rest room use. All fishing stops until the partners are back together again. In case of such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or to

a rescue boat. Partners must remain together at all times and in sight of each other.

Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object into the tournament waters may do so if such action doesn't violate any State or Federal regulations

M. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

During the competition days, competitors 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.

Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat.

Competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat to either **A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT**. Their catch, under these conditions due to an **emergency**, may be brought to the weigh-in by another boat, as long as the catch is kept separate from the competitors and the partners fish are also kept separated

Competitors must remain together at all times, in sight of the each others catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for the catch of that day to be scored in the tournament.

In the event of a needed restroom break partners are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat.

If a competitor contacts a tournament official by phone or other means to report an emergency or breakdown, competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified ASAP by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved 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 situations determined by the Tournament Director or his designee.

Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

N. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT

There shall be only one official check point for launch in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which shall be designated at the tournament meeting. Failure to go through boat check and launch in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of launch, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in **Rule J** and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must remain together, with the exception of when boats are to be removed from the water prior to weigh-in

Anglers and Co-Anglers must stay together at the weigh in process even if only one has fish. Once bass are placed in dink tank, any competitors who has NO fish is to proceed to the station to sign weigh-in slips

O. SCORING:

Tournament winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce 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 per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials(example – hot weather/fish care concerns).

At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has more than the above-described limits in possession, shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with the largest bass first.

The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Meeting. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more, shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail 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. The "Gator Grip Golden Rule" will be the official measuring board of the Pa. Bass Federation.

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz per dead fish (.50 lb. on digital scales) to be deducted from their daily score.

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 stringered at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed

Each competitor must present their own catch to the weigh-in official and must be certified by his or her own signature and the signature of their partner of that day. False verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.

After the competitor has delivered their catch to the weigh master, they may not touch said catch until weigh-in procedure is completed.

Weigh-in will be conducted with every effort to conserve the resource. Only official specially designed weigh-in bags which increase survival rate designated and furnished by the Tournament Director will be used, as well as the number of bags to be used . No fish will be weighed if not in the official bag

P. CATCH AND RELEASE:

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.

The Tournament Director or his/her designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water from a retail store.

For fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour before first flight check in time.

SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.

Q. LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not at the official check in point, as described in **Rule N** at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “big bass award”, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time” due to circumstances

The only exception to the above rule would be in the event of a contestant rendering assistance to a disabled boat, a boating accident or some other life-threatening emergency, in which case the event must be **verified**. And again no competitor will be allowed to “make up any lost fishing time”.

Any competitor more than 15 minutes late 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 tournament hours.

Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Meeting. It is the angler’s responsibility to confirm check-in times each day

For a **two day STATE** event, ties will be resolved in the following order:

- (1) largest number of legal fished weighed during competition;
- (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition;
- (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with heaviest single day catch during competition;
- (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the second

heaviest single day catch during competition.

If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie.

Monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in equal amounts.

Points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points.

District single day tournament tie breakers:

- 1) Greatest number of legal fish weighed,
- 2) number of live fish weighed

After these options have been exhausted and a tie still remains, Monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in equal amounts.

Points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points.

R. PAIRINGS:

An Angler and a Co-Angler / Observer will be assigned to each boat. One “observer “ may be used to even-out so that there are two persons in every boat.

No contestants from the same club will be allowed to fish together, nor shall two competitors fish together for more than one day.

Partners will be paired by random draw.

Announcement of your first-day and second-day partner shall be made at the Tournament Meeting, which **MUST BE ATTENDED BY ALL COMPETITORS.**

Partner paring will be displayed on a printed list accessible to all contestants.

It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check-in at the official checkpoint and start on time.

Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners.

The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off.

If more boaters than co-anglers are entered in the tournament, excess boaters will be paired together. Boaters paired with other boaters are entitled to equal time in the front of the boat to operate the trolling motor, and an equal number of hours to fish their selected waters (number of hours includes travel time to fishing locations).

If the number of co-anglers exceeds the number of boaters, excess co-anglers may choose to change to boater status or have their entry transferred or refunded. The selection of co-anglers in this situation will be determined by date and time of entry beginning with those co-anglers who entered the tournament individually.

When partners launch at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within

sight of each other and their respective catch throughout the day until the fish are weighed-in except in case of a needed restroom break

A competitor must not allow any bass caught by him/her to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by the Pennsylvania Bass Federation

.S. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

Protests will be ruled on and decided by the Tournament Director at the tournaments.

- 1) Appeals (State or District) must be filed with the State Tournament Director **within seven days** of the protest. Appeals must be in writing and signed. E-mails will be accepted as long as all pertinent information is contained. This includes full name, address and phone number of person filing the appeal. No appeal will be allowed after the admission of a rule infraction.
- 2) The state tournament director will within seven days forward appeal to the state tournament committee. The state tournament committee will consist of the seven district tournament directors.
- 3) After receiving the appeal, the tournament committee will review the appeal and within seven days send their individual ruling to the state tournament director in writing or e-mail. Majority rule will decide the appeal.
- 4) **Ruling of the tournament committee is final.** There is no recourse past the tournament committee.

T. OWNER / RIDER GUARANTEE:

This option will guarantee the owner spot as long as the designated rider shows up for the tournament. If the rider would drop out or not arrive for registration, the owner would be eliminated from the tournament, unless an angler is needed to even the field. The rider will be dropped from the tournament draw pool if their owner doesn't arrive for the registration or drops out for any reason, unless needed to balance the field..

The guarantee doesn't grant a tournament slot nor does it eliminate the partners from the other rules of the tournament, written or stipulated at the registration. **All guaranteed option entries submitted for consideration must be received in the same envelope**

Non-guarantee: All non-guaranteed owners and riders will be assigned an application number when received. The higher application numbers take the chance of being dropped from the tournament if a balanced field can't be achieved. (Full fee refund will be given if you are dropped by the Tournament Director.)

U. LUNKER POTS

Any Pa Bass Federation tournament lunker pool will be run independently, no tournament director will be responsible for the collecting or disbursing of monies.

Pennsylvania Bass Federation shall not be a responsible party in any tournament's, State or District, "Lunker Pot" cash award.

If a Lunker award is given for largest fish caught, it must be a live fish when weighed

V. SIX-MAN TEAM REGIONAL EVENTS

The Regional events shall remain under the Boater/Rider format where the Boater and Rider share operation and control of the boat and fishing locations. The fishing day shall be split evenly allowing for travel time between locations. The Rider shall be given the opportunity to run the trolling motor and fish their choice of water if they choose to do so. This should be discussed between the Boater and Rider in the morning prior to launch.

Process for Districts picking the Regional's.

- 1) Responsible Districts will submit three choices in order of preference to the State Tournament Director by Oct. 31st of the year before the schedule being planned.
- 2) The State Tournament Director will review the selected sites for:
 - a) Adequate parking and access to the proposed launch site.
 - b) Hotels and lodging within reasonable distance of launch site.

and then notify District TD which sites are acceptable

- 3) The District Tournament Director will apply for permits in order of the submitted sites until one is approved.
- 4) If none of the proposed sites are approved, it will be the responsibility of the state tournament director to secure a tournament site.

Mr. Bass and the Classic tournaments and locations are the responsibility of the State Tournament director.