



Ohio BASS Nation Junior and High School Tournament Rules and Regulations

Effective September 1, 2024

1. RULES AND PENALTIES:

- a. The following rules shall apply to all Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth (Junior and High School) Tournament Events, including the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Tournament Trail (4 tournaments) and the Youth State Championship (2 Day Tournament). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Youth Director and/or Tournament Director, or their designee at the tournament. In the event of a rule violation, The Youth Director and/or Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prize, and prohibition from participating in subsequent tournaments.
- b. **Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by B.A.S.S., such as the no-information and off-limits rules and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail and/or State Championship, rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 24 hours of the final flight check-in on the day of the alleged violation.**
- c. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
 - i. Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked verified by either your partner or boat captain. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
 - ii. Loss of catch for the day of violation.
 - iii. Disqualification from the tournament in question.
 - iv. Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time or may be a lifetime disqualification.
 - v. Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- a. All participants in the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Trail and/or State Championship events must be a student currently enrolled in grades 2 – 8 for the Junior Series, and 9 – 12 in the High School Series.
 - i. **Juniors:** Graduating 8th graders will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their 8th grade year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year.
 - ii. **High School:** Graduating 12th graders will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their 12th grade year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year.
 - iii. **Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Tournament season runs from September 1 of the current year – August 31 of the following year, 2025.** Each angler will be registered into the B.A.S.S. Nation Roster Management system based on the grade they are in at the time of registration.
 1. **Anglers will NOT be permitted to move from Junior to High School until the next registration opens up on or around September 1st of the following year.**

- b. This is a team event. You must have a partner from the same official junior or high school club and coach to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to your Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director in writing for approval. The Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation and B.A.S.S. reserves the right to accept or deny any such requests.
 - c. This tournament is open only to current members of official Junior Clubs. Students must belong to the same official Junior Club to compete as a team in this tournament.
 - d. Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). **Boat Captains must be of the age that would place them out of High School.** Each tournament contestants will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed. Failure to following these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document
 - e. Proof of grade or graduation date, to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of 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 well-being of his/her partner or themselves shall not be eligible.
 - f. **DURING THE COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT 7 COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNER'S 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 MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SOLE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE IF INSURANCE POLICIES MEET B.A.S.S., LLC REQUIREMENTS.**
 - g. **A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE OHIO B.A.S.S. NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE.** The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.
3. **OHIO B.A.S.S. NATION YOUTH TOURNAMENT TRAIL:** The Tournament Trail will consist of 4 individual events to be scheduled by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director. Dates and locations will be announced once all permits are received and information is confirmed.
- a. No Trail Tournament can be scheduled on top of a B.A.S.S. Nation Open Tournament
 - b. The Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Tournament Trail is a TEAM EVENT.
 - i. Anglers are not permitted to change partners without forfeiting all previously earned points in the trail.
 - ii. Teams are permitted to compete in ONE EVENT with a single angler and will be awarded team points for that event. FOR ALL OTHER TOURNAMENTS, BOTH ANGLERS MUST BE PRESENT.
 - c. **Tournament Hours:** Junior and High School Tournaments will be held in conjunction with one another.
 - i. **Each Junior tournament will last 6 hours**
 - ii. **Each High School tournament will last 8 hours**
 - iii. **EACH TEAM IS RESPONSIBLE FOR KNOWING THEIR ASSIGNED CHECK-IN TIMES**
 - d. **BOAT NUMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED BASED ON REGISTRATIONS**

- i. Teams must have their registration form, parent release forms, boat captain form submitted and tournament entry fees in to receive a boat number for that event.
- e. Anglers must compete in a minimum of 2 Trail Events to be considered the Points Winner for the Trail Season
- f. Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director will verify angler memberships prior to the assigned check-in time. **Any team not registered with B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Nation and the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation at the time of verification will not be permitted to participate in that event.**
- g. EACH TRAIL TOURNAMENT WILL HAVE A \$60 PER TEAM ENTRY FEE THAT MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE.
- h. Each Tournament Trail will award the winning team (Juniors and High School) with a scholarship check – amount to be determined – based on the number of boats that participate in each division.
- i. **POINTS:** Points will be awarded for each event. Winning teams (Junior and High School) will receive 200 points, which will then drop by 2 points for each placing after first place. (See section on ties below for information on tie breakers and points)
 - i. All competing teams will receive a minimum of 50 participation points for each event that they participate in.
 - ii. Once points are verified, they will be sent to all anglers and parents that have provided email addresses on their registration forms, and will also be posted on social media.
- j. **POINTS WINNER:** We will total each team’s points from their top 2 scoring tournaments to determine the points winner for each division.
 - i. Whether a team competes in only 2 tournaments or all 4 tournaments, the points winner will only be based on that teams top 2 scores.
 - ii. **Points winners MAY earn a spot to Nationals, but this is not guaranteed.**
 - 1. Additional slots for tournament trails are awarded by B.A.S.S. Nation based on the number of boats that participate in the High School Trail.
- k. **Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Junior AND High School Team of the Year Award:** We will award one Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Team of the Year Award to the top scoring teams in each division (Juniors and High School).
 - i. The Team of the Year Award will be based on their total points earned from **ALL TOURNAMENT TRAIL EVENTS FISHED** (Not just the top 2).
- l. **OHIO B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT TRAIL POINTS WINNER, TEAM OF THE YEAR AWARDS AND NATIONAL SLOTS:** The points winner from each division, and the Team of the Year awards in each division will be announced out at the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth State Championship (date and location to be determined). National slots will also be announced at the State Championship.

4. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

- a. Anglers/Coaches participating in any Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation 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., or the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. To this end, anglers, parents, coaches, 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 provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual Ohio B.A.S.S.

Nation sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.

- b. 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.
- c. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
 - i. Heated public disagreements with Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
 - ii. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation rules or officials.
 - iii. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation, Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation officials or its sponsors
 - iv. 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.
 - v. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - vi. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event including comments on social media.
 - vii. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
 - viii. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.
- d. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.

5. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS: The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for B.A.S.S. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the B.A.S.S. organization, including B.A.S.S. Nation and the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation.

- a. **Competitors, parents and/or family members are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials; however, this should not be done during an active weigh-in.** Should an angler, parent, boat captain or youth advisor have any question or concern regarding any event before, during or after a tournament, they should approach the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director before or immediately following the completion of the weigh-in.
- b. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S. (including B.A.S.S. Nation and the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation), B.A.S.S. officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

6. COMPETITION

- a. During competition, anglers cannot solicit, gather or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS. Competitors may only fish with other competitors during official practice and competition. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the

tournament director. **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.**

- b. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not “SKIN DIVE” OR “SCUBA DIVE” in the tournament waters.
- c. During the official competition days of the tournament a 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. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes, Bassmaster.com updates, etc., however **using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.**
- d. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- e. **Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms may be cause for disqualification.**

7. **REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN:** Each competitor must register/check-in in person with official Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Failure to register/check-in in person during the prescribed hours may result in penalties and/or disqualification. Any competitor who has not contacted the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director or Staff 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration/check-in period, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. **It shall be each competitor’s responsibility to either check the schedule of events for registration time and location.**

8. SAFETY:

- a. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the competition, 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 ARE NOT PERMITTED FOR ANY ANGLERS UNDER THE AGE OF 16, and indicators should be checked daily.** Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.
- b. 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.
- c. Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation, may be approved for competition.
- d. **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.**
- e. **It is recommended each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety certification, or a “grandfathered” exception, may be required in certain states. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.**
- f. 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. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation.

- g. Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation 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 Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.
- h. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE THEN NOTIFIES TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- i. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

9. SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. Competitors in Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation 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.
- b. 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 Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation 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.
- c. 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 fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- d. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations. In both official practice and competition, competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.
- e. 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 Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or 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 an Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation tournament, and/or disqualification from an Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Code of Conduct violations will expire 5 years from the violation date.

10. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- a. Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition.

- b. No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.
- c. 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. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel or other device.
- d. 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 the 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. Any fish hooked in the mouth where the hook did not enter through the mouth, but enter through the mouth, but enter through the gills must be released.
- e. Competitors, including those who have been “cut” from competition in an event, are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

11. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and 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 B.A.S.S. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their 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 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 from Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments. **Posted speed limits and those imposed by Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.**

12. BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all competitors, 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 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, and all competitors must be seated with their feet on the floor of the vessel. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used and must be equipped with wheel steering. No other steering device will be permitted. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Trolling motor brackets and electronics are not considered “raised platforms”. 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. **The “Long-Lining” or “Strolling” technique is NOT allowed in either practice or competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions.** All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed 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. No boat equipped

with “stick steering” shall be permitted. “Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines and tunnel hull boats engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition. Any boat/hull designs other than standard mass-produced units are only allowed at the discretion of tournament officials.

13. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: During 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. B.A.S.S. recommends live-wells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

14. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Prior to each day’s start, each boat **must** be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Each day, each boat may be given a number, which **must** remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and at each check-in.

15. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- a. Tournament waters shall be established by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director for each tournament. Any water within these boundaries that are legally and obviously posted “Off-Limits” or “No Fishing,” as well as the live-bass release area established by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director, will be off-limits to tournament competitors and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off-limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. In states where landowners have the legal authority to claim private property, these areas must be posted or they will be considered tournament waters unless instructed otherwise by tournament officials at any time during the event. If forced to leave, a competitor must report the incident to tournament officials as soon as possible. Any water to which a competitor is barred access becomes off-limits to all competitors.
- b. Prior to 8 am local time the day before the tournament is scheduled to begin, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters. Questionable areas will be off limits until a determination can be made with authorities and may be announced in the briefing or via text for all to know unless determined otherwise by tournament officials.
- c. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities. Competitors are not allowed to cut, remove, displace, or engage in any type structure removal from private property (dry land) during off limits, official practice or competition. Moving structure to include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water is only allowed if laws permit. No competitor may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

16. 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. You are not allowed to use a winch, pulley, come along, cable, rope, or similar device/tools to gain access to tournament waters. Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push off or shove off objects while landing a fish to counted as legal. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.

- a. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.

Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament.

- b. In breakdown situations and with a tournament official's permission, anglers may transfer their boat's fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in, and they may leave their coach/boat captain with the disabled boat. In such cases, the anglers must stay with their catches at all times and assisting boat's partners should verify the catch. **Any junior team whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish.**
- c. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat.
- d. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director or their designee.
- e. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.
- f. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

17. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS: There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers provided at launch. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass.

18. SCORING: Tournament standings, contingency awards and final 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, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5, of the above species and varieties 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. 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 fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check in to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered. Anglers who do not remove fin clips prior to fish check will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. Failure to notify officials after one hour of final flight check-in time will result in loss of day's catch. Anglers who present fish at the verification table with fin clips attached will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. Manmade or foreign objects connected to a bass, outside of natural causes, will not be weighed and shall be removed by tournament

officials. Competitors are not allowed to replace anything attached to a bass or regurgitated by a bass to be included as part of their catch.

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.

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.

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.

Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

- 19. CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. The Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes.

It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water. The verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight. Anglers may be allowed to weigh-in early with the permission from the Tournament Director. **SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.** It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not an advised practice.

Only non-penetrating culling clips and culling beams are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates or is designed to penetrate the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed. Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact B.A.S.S. officials.

- 20. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Paragraph 16 ("Official Checkpoints") 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."

Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, 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 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 prior to the tournament start date. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day.

21. TIES

a. Individual Tournaments – Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Trail

- i. All Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Trail Tournament Ties will be resolved in the following order:
 1. Team with the largest legal bass weighed in during the tournament
 2. Team with the largest number of legal live bass weighed in during the tournament

3. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors. Trail Points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points.
 - a. Example: If 2 teams remain tied for 1st place after a single trail event, both teams will receive 200 points – the 3rd place team will receive 196 points.
- b. **Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Trail Points Leaders AND Team of the Year Awards**
 - i. The Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Trail Points Leader AND Team of the Year Award ties will be resolved in the following order:
 1. The team with the heaviest single day catch during competition
 2. The team with the second heaviest single day catch during competition
 3. The team with the largest legal bass weighed in during the tournament
 4. The team with the largest number of legal live fish weighed in during competition
- c. **2 Day Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship Tournament**
 - i. All Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship Tournament ties will be resolved in the following order:
 1. The team with the heaviest single day catch during competition
 2. The team with the second heaviest single day catch during competition
 3. The team with the largest legal bass weighed in during the tournament
 4. The team with the largest number of legal live fish weighed in during competition

22. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS

- a. Appeals for penalties assessed during any Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Tournament must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.
- b. Appeals will be presented to B.A.S.S. Nation for review within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal.
- c. If competitors admit to a rule violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions made during the appeals process shall be final.

23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. BASS may, however, restrict the use of logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official BASS sponsors, or which are, in B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in poor taste. B.A.S.S. will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. Each angler agrees to wear an official B.A.S.S. shield (2 ¼" X 2 ¾") on either left/right chest, with the top of the shield hitting the left/right collarbone during competition, including the weigh-in. This shield may be embroidered.

In addition, if the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation provides any clothing or products (such as Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Jerseys for National Competition) bearing the logos of B.A.S.S. and the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation or the official sponsors of the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by the Ohio B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director and/or Tournament Director.