

Idaho B.A.S.S. Nation High School and Youth Tournament Rules

Participant Eligibility

1. Students must have a current BASS (Bassmaster) Membership and BASS Nation membership.
2. Students must be a member of a BASS high school club or BASS youth community club. Junior members can join their high school or community club; a separate junior club is not required.
3. Students entering their 8th grade year are allowed to compete in the high school division.
4. Any graduated seniors (students that graduated in May prior to the event) are no longer eligible for the Idaho BASS Nation high school event.
5. This is a team event. You must have a partner and coach (boat captain) to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to the Idaho BASS Nation Youth Director in writing for approval. The Idaho BASS Nation Youth Director reserves the right to accept or deny such request.
6. Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). Boat captains must be 18 or older and out of high school.
7. A properly completed entry form must be received by the Idaho BASS Nation Youth Director on or before the application deadline date. The Youth Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of application prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

Boater Regulations

1. Boat captains must be in control of their boat whenever the internal combustion engine (outboard motor) is running.
2. Boat captain must meet all state and coast guard regulations.
3. Boat captain is not allowed to fish during tournament hours.
4. Boat captain is not allowed to assist students with casting, tying lures, or reeling in fish. Boat captain is allowed to operate trolling motor in case of emergency or to prevent boat damage. Boat captain is also allowed to net fish, weigh fish, and assist with cull process.
5. During official competition, no boat captain may operate a boat without documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boat owners liability insurance covering the boat being used and must cover all passengers in that boat.

Angler Code of Conduct

1. Anglers and coaches participating in any B.A.S.S. 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. , 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 B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S
2. 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.
3. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
 - Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
 - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
 - Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors.

- 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.
 - Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
 - 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.
 - Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
 - Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.
4. 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.

Sportsmanship

1. Competitors in B.A.S.S. 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.
2. Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor or boat captain, during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during competition, or when in the weigh-in area.
3. 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.

Safety

1. During competition, Coast Guard approved chest-type life jackets must be worn by all competitors and boat captains when internal combustion engine (outboard motor) is running.
2. Per Idaho state law, all juniors 16 and older may wear an auto inflate PDF and may remove life jacket when boat internal combustion motor is not running.
3. All juniors the age of 15 must wear full standard life jackets when under way and may remove the life jacket when internal combustion motor is not running.
4. **All juniors age 14 & under MUST wear their approved life jacket at all times.** The only exception would be to remove coats, sweatshirts, etc. and then they must be put back on immediately.
5. 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.
6. B.A.S.S. 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 Youth Director.
7. Teams MUST check in at weigh in even if no fish were caught. Teams leaving the tournament site MUST notify tournament officials, or at a minimum, a fellow competitor.
8. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**
9. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament 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.
10. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. The lanyard must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear.

11. 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.
12. Participants must stop and check on any participant who has his orange distress banner in place.

General Tournament Rules

1. There will be no off limits period for the tournament unless specified by the Youth Director.
2. Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director and any off limits or no fishing boundaries shall be announced at the check in meeting. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters.
3. The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited during tournament hours.
4. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
5. During 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, weather updates, and mapping.
6. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.
7. 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. Other rods as specified above may be on the deck and ready to use, but only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.
8. 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.
9. Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.
10. Competitors cannot depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
11. 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 Youth Director. In breakdown situations and with a tournament official's permission, a team is allowed to transfer their fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in, and they may leave their boat captain with the disabled boat. Any team whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. 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 Youth Director or his/her designee.
12. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.
13. 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.
14. There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon. That check point shall be designated at the tournament check in briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning, or failure to checkin at the check-in point in the afternoon, may result in disqualification.
15. Cull rings and cull beams are allowed, but must be non-penetrating type in order to promote increased fish survival rate.

16. Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed.
17. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the official competition day. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
18. Each competitor agrees to report to the Youth Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules.
19. Complaints must be submitted within 30 minutes of weigh in. ALL decisions made by the tournament officials will be final.

Scoring

1. Winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each team's catch during the competition day(s).
2. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 bass over 12", of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns).
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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 to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. Culling of dead bass is prohibited.
9. 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 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 if available.
10. Competitors who are not at the official check-in point at the appointed time in the afternoon, 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."
11. Any tie will be resolved in the following order: (1) team with largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition; (2) largest live fish weighed. 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.

I acknowledge receipt of the official rules for the Idaho BASS Nation High School and Youth tournaments and agree to the terms set forth therein.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____