

# PIKES PEAK BASS MASTERS TOURNAMENT RULES

**Official Club Tournament Rules  
For Pikes Peak Bass Masters (PPBM)  
Effective 03/2020 to Present**

## **1. RULES AND PENALTIES**

These rules have been adapted to follow the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) Pro-Am and Colorado Bass Nation (CBN) state team qualifier tournament formats, with some exceptions.

The following rules shall apply to all PPBM club tournament events except that

- Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein
- These rules may be changed by PPBM Board of Directors (BOD), or subcommittee immediately upon notice by PPBM to its members, which notice may be published on the PPBM website and or in writing.

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director and the Rules Committee.

In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in rule 22, below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

**Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by PPBM and/or B.A.S.S., and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in PPBM/B.A.S.S. tournaments or other B.A.S.S. circuits, rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 24 hours of the final check-in on the day of the alleged violation.**

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- (a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
- (b) Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations. All bass under question must be marked and verified by your boat competitor or observer. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
- (c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- (d) Disqualification from the tournament in question
- (e) Disqualification from future PPBM events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- (f) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year points.

## **2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

- (i) The PPBM club tournament circuit is open only too current members of PPBM who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members.

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(ii) **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY PPBM TOURNAMENT, NO BOATER OR NON-BOATER 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 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 and PPBM requirements.

**(iii) A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL PPBM TOURNAMENT ENTRY FORM AND FEES MUST BE PROVIDED TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR BEFORE THE TOURNAMENT STARTS!**

### **3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:**

(i) There will be no off limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director.

(ii) There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Official practice day will begin at 12:01 am day prior to the start of competition.

All official times are time zone specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these zones.

**With the exception of a sanctioned night tournament, there shall be no practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.**

(iii) 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 use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc., however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or social media is not permitted.**

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(iv) 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.

(v) **Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they may have violated these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification.**

**OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.**

**By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation.** The PPBM Tournament Director, rules committee, or such person designated by the Tournament Director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a hearing.

## **4. REGISTRATION**

**It shall be each competitor's responsibility to either check the "Info Sheet" sent out for meeting time and location or obtain times from Tournament Director.**

## **5. SAFETY:**

(i) **Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running and in gear.**

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. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. **Inflatable PFD's are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met.**

**It is suggested the Boater competitor have a safety check with the Non-Boater each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.**

**It is recommended each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course.**

(ii) 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.

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(iii) Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by B.A.S.S. and/or PPBM TD, may be approved for competition.

(iv) Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part 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.

(v) PPBM 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.

**(vi) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**(vii) COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

## **6. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Competitors in PPBM 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.

(i) Use of alcohol, marijuana or the use of any drug that inhibits the motor functions of an individual to include prescription drugs (other than those drugs 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 PPBM tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, marijuana or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days.

(ii) 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.

(iii) 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.

## **7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:**

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Anglers participating in any PPBM-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating.

Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on PPBM, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; 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.

(i.) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in PPBM events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with PPBM officials, other competitors, fans and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of PPBM rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of PPBM, 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 PPBM event.
- 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.

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 PPBM tournament.

(ii.) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for participation. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings and suspension from competing in individual PPBM sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by PPBM.

## **8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

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

The use of landing nets is acceptable.

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During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (17). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires. PPBM officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

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 their line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, they are allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with their hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal.

The angler may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device.

**No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch.** Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing 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. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

## 9. 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

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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 PPBM tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by PPBM 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.

## 10. BOAT AND MOTOR:

**These restrictions apply during official practice and competition.** For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it 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. 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 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 both official practice and 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, 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 to be used by any competitor. Stick Steering is a system of using a remotely mounted joy stick to steer the boat. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. "Stick Steering" should not be confused with Tiller Handles. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.

## 11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

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

## 12. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

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Prior to each day's start, each boat must be given an inspection check by a designated tournament official. Each day, each boat must 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.

## 13. PRETOURNAMENT CHECKS:

Prior to start of each tournament, a tournament official will inspect the boats live-wells, navigation lights, as well as a kill switch check to ensure motor cut-off switch is operational.

## 14. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

**During official practice and competition**, in Pro-Am type events, Boaters (Pro) will **"fish"** from the front deck, Non-Boaters (Am) **"fish"** from the rear deck. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Either angler may fight and/or land a hooked fish from anywhere in the boat!

**During both official practice and competition**, the Non-Boater is allowed to drive (outboard engine), and/or the trolling motor with the Boater's permission or in emergency situations, but is not permitted to fish while doing so.

**Any Boater** that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Non-Boater partner shall be disqualified. At no time may a Boater competitor request that the Non-Boater competitor not fish.

In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the Non-Boater partner share the cost of gas and oil for the competition day. The minimum per-day cost for a co-angler will be decided at the beginning of the tournament season by club vote.

PPBM events where observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses. The definition of a tournament observer will be defined and determined by the tournament director.

## 15. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS 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

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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. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. 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. **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.** A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting his weight outside the boat must be released immediately. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both anglers must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5, 15, and 18. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director.

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

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Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

## **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 Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 12.

Only original cards may be turned into tournament director. No duplicates may be used, made, turned in, or scored as a replacement. If a card is lost that competitor's days weight will be disqualified.

## **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 Boater limit shall be 5, Non-Boater limit shall be 5, of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials.

The official minimum length for bass shall be established by the tournament director for each tournament.

Using only PPBM approved scales, bags and or clips the weight will be recorded on the official score card immediately. Competitors will immediately initial their partners score card at that time. This is for card tournaments only.

In the event a Boater fishes alone, the angler must secure all legal length bass in the live well and have the weight verified by another competitor prior to official check in time. If the fish are under the legal limit, the competitor must take a picture of the fish on the scale with the weight showing on the scale.

This is for card tournaments only.

Tournaments with official end of day weigh-ins will have special rules to be posted by the Weigh Master before the tournament.

Ties see rule 20.

Upon Completion of each tournament the total weight will determine the tournament standings and will be used to determine the year end standings. Points per tournament will be awarded as follows:

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There will be 2 divisions a Boater (Pro) and Non-Boater (Co), in both divisions the points will be awarded as shown below -

1<sup>st</sup> place = 100 points

2<sup>nd</sup> place = 95 points

3<sup>rd</sup> place = 92 points

4<sup>th</sup> place = 90 points

5<sup>th</sup> and remaining places shall be one less point than below the preceding placement (5<sup>th</sup> = 89, 6<sup>th</sup> = 88, etc.)

In order to qualify for the Boater angler of the year you must fish all 5 club tournaments as a boater. For the Non-Boater angler of the year you must fish all 5 tournaments as a Non-Boater.

## **19. CATCH AND RELEASE:**

**CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED, if the tournament is a weigh in type. No penalties for a dead fish will be assessed in a card tournament.**

When fishing a card tournament a competitor cannot catch and count a bass that has been caught by sight fishing more than once.

## **20. LATE PENALTY:**

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 16, 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. If a competitor in a PPBM club tournament has a mechanical breakdown and can not get to the official day end destination by the designated time they can have another competitor take the card for them. If there are 2 on the boat, one should accompany the cards to the weigh in spot. 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 at check-in time. 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 Briefing. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

## **21. Ties**

Ties will be broken by (1) big bass, (2) total number of fish or (3) weight for day.

## **22. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:**

If two competitors are assigned to a boat there will be a designated Boater and Non-Boater for tournament division standings and payouts.

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All PPBM members signing up for a PPBM tournament, “by a regular scheduled pairing draw,” are guaranteed to fish, even if the pairings are uneven, Boater to Non-boater (Co-Angler). Being “Signed up/Signing up” consist of “an application being received by a PPBM BOD member and payment has been collected.” Any member who signs up for a tournament, “after the regular scheduled pairing draw,” will be paired accordingly into available spots and by way of the order that they have officially sign up.

Once the pairings are even, any additional members signing up after the pairing draw (app and payment received), will be held in an “alternate” position for that division, until there is either another member signing up in the opposite division that will again even the pairings, or a person from the same division drops out, creating the opening for the alternate to fill the position. This is for both Boater and Non-boater divisions.

The only exception to this policy will be that if a Boater and Non-boater sign up for a tournament after the drawing “together,” the pair will be guaranteed to fish, regardless of there being any person, or persons, in alternate spots, in either division.

This policy will apply to both Boaters and Non-boaters.

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. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions (see Rule 15, 16 &18). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them 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 PPBM.

## **23. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:**

An appeals committee will be established by PPBM BOD. Appeals for penalties assessed under Rule 1 (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules 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 of the appeals committee shall be final. Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon.

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However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

The three-member ruling committee should remain confidential within the immediate appeals process.

## **24. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:**

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing, which may bear patches, logos, and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. PPBM and/or BASS may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in PPBM's and/or B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official PPBM and/or BASS sponsors, or which are, in PPBM's and/or B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in poor taste.