

HEAVY ACTION BASS ANGLERS TOURNAMENT RULES

7/23/2024 Rev A

1. INTERPRETATION OF RULES:

These rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director/President. In the event of a rule violation, Heavy Action Bass Anglers (HABA) Tournament Director and/or President may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including but not limited to, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, forfeiture of entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director/President shall be final in all matters. Protests for any rule infraction must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official announcement, "the scales are now closed."

a. Each contestant agrees to report any tournament rule infraction to the Tournament Director/President.

b. Failure to report to the Tournament Director/President any tournament rules infractions or false reporting of tournament rules infractions will be cause for being disqualified.

c. Rules infractions will result in penalties that may include but not limited to:

- (1) Loss of weight for the day of the rules infraction.
- (2) Disqualification from the event.
- (3) Disqualification from future HABA events for a period up to a lifetime disqualification.

2. COMPETITOR'S CONDUCT CODE:

a. Members that participate in Heavy Action Bass Anglers (HABA) events will always observe the Competitor's Conduct Code and all applicable tournament/conduct rules for the event in which they are participating. All Contestants shall always conduct themselves professionally. Their actions may not reflect unfavorably on the sport of bass fishing, HABA, its members or affiliates, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

b. All competitors will display a high degree of professionalism, integrity and conservation in the sport of professional angling. Any Competitor who violates any of the Competitor's Conduct Code may be penalized which may include but not limited to disqualification from events, forfeiture of winnings, and/or suspension and non-acceptance of entries from HABA events. HABA may use these actions singularly or in combination as deemed appropriate.

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3. ADULT PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- a.** Participation is open to current members of Heavy Action Bass Anglers (HABA) who are 16 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of Tournament Director/President is the responsibility of the competitor.
- b.** Competitors must have a valid fishing license for the body of water in which the event is being held.
- c.** DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF AN HABA TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$100,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW A MINIMUM OF \$100,000 LIABILITY AND VALID EXPIRATION DATE.
- d.** Anglers must sign the Release of Liability form at the event. If the angler is not pre-registered with Tournament Director, he must present his entry fee to the Tournament Director/President prior to the tournament. The Tournament Director reserves the right to refund any membership and/or entry fee, if he shall choose for any reason not to accept the application for entrance.
- e.** Any person entering a tournament that is under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.
- f.** Member shall give one-week advance notice for guess angler they invite to participate in a tournament.

4. YOUTH PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- a.** Participation is open to current members (youth) of Heavy Action Bass Anglers (HABA) who are 8 to 15 years of age. Youth shall fish in the boat with his/her parent or legal guardian. Youth shall compete with other youth, instances when there's no youth to compete with, youth may still fish. Youth must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.

5. ENTRY FEE:

Entry fee for monthly HABA tournaments will be \$60.00 for Boater, \$60.00 for Co-Anglers, \$30.00 for Youth and \$60.00 for Guest which includes big bass. The Big Bass Pot will be managed by the Tournament Director.

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6. SAFETY:

- a.** Contestants understand that participating in fishing tournaments in an open boat requires using boating safety rules. Safe boating conduct will be observed at all times.
- b.** During the official practice and competition, each competitor is required to wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver (PFD). Life preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is no longer in gear.
- c.** The boat operator must have a safety-stop switch attached to his/her person when the combustion engine is in gear.
- d.** Weather and water turbulence can be extremely hazardous and extreme caution should be exercised at all times. During practice and tournament hours extreme caution must be exercised by boat operator during bad weather. Boat operators must be aware that there could be large cruisers and/or barges operating on tournament waters that displace extremely large volumes of water, which create unusually large wakes and turbulence.
- e.** Violations of either the PFD or safety-stop switch portion of this rule will result in disqualification.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP:

- a.** All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.
- b.** All contestants must adhere to all State, Federal and local laws governing water activities. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- c.** No alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- d.** Each contestant must keep the waters clean and bring trash back to the dock for disposal.
- e.** Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving immoral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorable upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting applications for membership, participation and for disqualification.
- f.** Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding

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any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for membership, participation and for disqualification.

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod and reel combination may be used at one time. No fly rods or rods over 8 1/2 feet are allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. All angling must be done from the boat, and anglers must stay on tournament waters during tournament hours. No competitor shall be allowed to fish within 35 yards of another competitor's boat. Competitors are not permitted to leave the boat to land a fish or leave the boat to gain access to secluded waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament day/days. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS, A RESCUE BOAT DESIGNATED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR TO DISLODGE THEIR BOAT FROM A HAZARD. 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. Citizen band radios, marine radios and cellular phones are allowed in the boat for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communicative device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during tournament hours.

9. HORSEPOWER REGULATION:

Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. It is required that all boats have a U.S. Coast Guard or Manufacturer's 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. BOAT AND MOTOR:

ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF IGNITION STOP SWITCH. This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's life vest or clothing any time the combustion engine is in gear. Also, 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 14 feet or

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more in length may be used. No barges, cumbersome craft or boats without steering wheel will be permitted. Contestants may not use boats equipped with "stick steering" during official practice or during tournament hours. Each boat must also have a properly aerated or re-circulating live-well to maintain a live limit catch of bass by both contestants. Boaters are required to provide a back fishing seat for Co-Anglers.

11. BOAT OPERATION:

Any competitor answering yes to the question: "Will you enter as a boater?" will be expected to make that boat available for the tournament. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Co-Angler shall be disqualified. It is the responsibility of the Co-Angler to reimburse the boater in an amount mutually agreed. It is suggested that reimbursement be $\frac{1}{2}$ of strictly boat operation cost (do not exceed \$40.00). Co-Anglers not paying their share as prescribed here and at the time of the event shall be cause for being disqualified. This penalty is not limited to the same event but may also result in entries not being accepted into future HABA's events.

12. TOURNAMENT LOCATIONS:

Tournament Schedule shall be posted on HABA's website. Schedule shall not change except for high winds, other bad weather, and/or bad lake condition. The tournament shall be moved to the Backup Lake and fished when decided by majority members' vote. Backup Lake shall be picked by members' vote during lake selection process.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament Director shall establish Tournament waters at the tournament briefing and define any known OFF-LIMITS areas including locking from established tournament waters. Fishing on tournament waters is not permitted within 50 yards of a marina gas pump. Any water within tournament boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

Any Competitor late for send-off must locate a member, pay entry fee and have live wells check prior to fishing the tournament. There will be only one official point for check-out in the morning, and check-in the afternoon, as designated by the Tournament Director. Each member will have a 15-minute grace-period to be eligible to compete in the tournament (check-

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out). Competitors not at the check-in point (afternoon) at the designated time will be penalized at the rate of 8 ounces or .50 pound per minute, deducted from their total weight for the day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late for check-in (afternoon) will be disqualified for the day. In the event of boat problem, competitor may get help another member to bring fish to weigh-in. Official start and weigh-in times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting; however, send-off shall not be prior to safe day light. Order of send-off for first tournament of the year shall be determined based on each angler's age, youngest boater goes first, next youngest and so on. Send-off for all other tournaments shall be determined based on angler's point standings i.e., last place points holder send-off first ascending to first place. In the event of a tie, coin flip, the winner goes first. Our best effort will be given to allow at least 8 hours fishing time.

15. SCORING:

The total weight of each competitors catch will determine tournament standings and placement. Only largemouth, spotted, red eye or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The creel limit shall be five (5) unless the prevailing state/lake limit is less. (The Tournament Director may impose a creel limit of less than five fish if they deem weather and/or local conditions warrant the reduction.) At no time shall a competitor have in his/her possession more than the tournament limit. Culling must be done immediately upon catching a sixth fish. **CULLING OF DEAD FISH IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.** Minimum length will be 12 inches (measured on a flat board) unless the prevailing state/lake rule is larger. In most cases the state's longest length limit will be used. A penalty of one pound will be deducted from the total weight for each short fish and a penalty of eight 8 ounces or .50 pounds will be deducted from the total weight for each dead fish. In the event the anglers' big fish is dead a penalty of eight (8) ounces or (.50) pounds will be deducted from the big fish total weight. A contestant that presents more fish than the tournament limit will be disqualified immediately. Mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered fish will be weighed only at the discretion of the Tournament Director. No regurgitated baitfish will be weighed. Fish will not be put on a stringer at any time. All fish presented at the weigh-ins become the property of Heavy Action Bass Anglers (HABA). All live fish will be returned to the tournament waters and the Tournament Director will dispose of any dead fish. Trophy bass will be managed by the Tournament Director.

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16. PAIRING:

Assignments of partners will be by open draw and pairing. To guarantee all non-boater members are paired, open draw has priority over pairing. Once non-boater members are paired, boater members may pair or fish solo. All angling must be accomplished from the boat. Competitors must stay on tournament waters and in sight of each other throughout the tournament day from send-off until weigh-in (Exception: Nature call). Any contestant refusing to take or go with another contestant in his/her boat will be subject to immediate disqualification. Tournament Director has no responsibility for finding lost partners. Each contestant is to meet his/her partner at least 30 minutes prior to take-off. The Tournament Director may reassign pairings prior to morning ooze-off to accommodate problems or emergencies. With prior approval from HABAs' Tournament Director, unpaired boaters may fish alone.

NOTE: When feasible, an inexperienced boat operator shall be paired with an experienced Co-Angler.

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17. TIE:

In case of a tie, ties will be broken using the following criteria:

- Largest number of legal fish weighed
- Largest legal fish weighed

If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, place monies will be combined and split evenly, and place points will be awarded accordingly.

18. TRANSFERS:

Entry fees may be transferred or refunded only if proper notification is made to HABAs' Tournament Director/President prior to start of the tournament.

19. POINT SYSTEM:

HABAs' tournament points shall be based on a scale of 25 points for 1st Place descending to 1 point for 25th Place and so on. The tournament Director shall score each angler's six highest point tournaments to determine first, second, third, and so forth place for the year.

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20. Angler of the Year (AOY):

Heavy Action Bass Anglers' first-place points holder shall be Angler of the Year, except when there is a tie in points. When there is a tie in points, the angler with heaviest combined weight (best six tournaments) shall be AOY.

21. Classic Tournament:

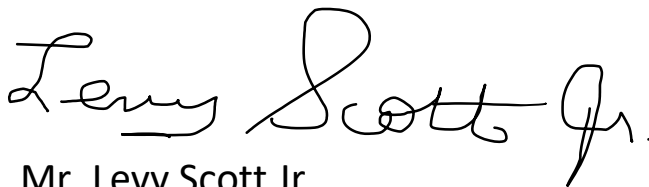
Heavy Action Bass Anglers Two-day Classic Tournament shall be held during the month of June. Member must fish a minimum of two regular tournament to qualify for the Classic. Entry fee for the Classic shall be \$70.00 which includes \$10.00 big bass. The Classic Tournament does not count as a points tournament and shall not apply to Angler of The Year (AOY).

22. Prizes:

Cash prize will be awarded to the top three places in each regular tournaments that have six participants or more, when there's less than six participants, the Tournament Director and President will determine cash prize. **Not later than December**, HABAs' membership shall decide **prize for Angler of The Year**.

23. Guest Angler:

Guest participation is limited to fishing one HABA tournament per year. To fish more than one, a guest must become a member. HABA's Co-Anglers has priority over guess non-boater.



Mr. Levy Scott Jr.

President