

Nations Capitol Bass Federation Tournament Rules 2026

1. **Rules:** Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively up to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director's decisions will be final and are not subject to appeal.
2. **Eligibility:** Only members of the **Nations Capitol Bass Federation (NCBF)** are permitted to participate in the tournament trail. All members will have to be in good standing with the **NCBF**, **The Bass Federation (TBF)**, to be eligible to fish. All members are required to be a minimum of 16 years of age. Anglers will be taken first come, first served, and this will be done by date and time of registry. No transfer of money and no refunds will be given after the tournament pairings draw.
3. **Off Limits Period/Areas:** There will be no off-limits period prior to NCBF tournaments. Off Limit areas will be announced at the Safety Meeting and will include areas of the take-off as follows: If take-off is from Smallwood- to include the area inside the closest point west of the boat ramps in a straight line over to the point of the Marina floating docks. If take-off is from Leesylvania- to include all areas of the Marina/Rock gettys inside and outside. For any other Take Off locations Off limit areas will be announced.
4. **Pre-Tournament Safety Meeting:** There will be a pre-tournament meeting on the morning of each tournament to be held no later than 15 minutes prior to take off. All competitors must be present at this meeting. A Two (2) pound penalty will be enforced at the weigh in for any competitor absent. Safety, Off Limits, and any special rulings will be discussed.
5. **Take Off:** Boat take off will be in order of the boat number/pairings draw. The last numbered boat shall call all boat numbers in order until the last boat in line has been called. Sufficient space shall be provided for each boat to leave prior to the calling of the next number.
6. **Tournament Format, Fees and Pairings:** All tournaments will be Boater/Co Angler format with separate prize money pots. For One Day Tx's, Boaters cost is \$140 including \$10 for Big Fish. Co Anglers cost is \$90 including \$10 for Big Fish. For Two Day Tx's, Boaters cost is \$200 including \$10 for Big Fish and Co Anglers cost is \$150 including \$10 for Big Fish. Co Anglers see #13. Payment can be made through Paypal or by check sent to the Tournament Director. Applications can be found at NCBFfish.org. In the case of an unpaid payment either by check or Paypal, the angler will be notified by the Tournament Director and given One (1) week to complete payment in cash to the Tournament Director. If this payment is not completed, the angler will lose all points for the event and will not participate in any events until the matter has been cleared. Co Anglers will compete against Co Anglers and Boaters will compete against Boaters. Pairings will be done in advance of the tournament and will be done by drawing or by a computer tournament program. Anglers will be listed by date of receipt of payment. Boaters will be pulled and then a Co-Angler pulled, and a Boat number assigned. A pairings list shall be posted on the NCBF website and an email sent to each competitor with the information to contact their partner. If the number of anglers in each division are not even the Tournament Director will look for an avenue to remedy the situation. In the case of more Boaters than Co anglers, the boater will be allowed to fish alone. In the case of less Boaters than Co Anglers, the Co Angler will be entitled to a refund or have the fees posted to the next tournament event. All entries must be in to the Tournament Director prior to the dated deadline for each tournament. The Tournament Director shall post all deadline dates for tournament entries along with the posted tournament dates.
7. **Safety:** Safe boating is a must. Reckless boating will cause disqualification. All boats must have a kill switch that is working and is always attached to the boat operator when the outboard

engine is being operated during the tournament. All competitors must have a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device Type III on and always fastened when the outboard engine is running during the competition hours of the tournament.

8. **Boat Regulations:** Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer if required. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Horsepower for any vessel shall not exceed 250. All boats must carry all required safety equipment required by the U.S. Coast Guard for the tournament body of water. At no time will any vessel that is deemed unsafe or unsuitable by the Tournament Director be allowed to be used in the tournament. All vessels must have a live well system that operates and can keep full limits of fish alive for both anglers. Fuel may only be carried in factory installed or built in tanks. All boats must be at least 18 feet in length, have a steering wheel, be propeller driven, and have a rear deck area. Boaters must make a back seat available if requested.
9. **Fishing Methods:** Only fish caught on a Rod and Reel and on artificial bait (including pork trailers) in a sporting manner are considered legal catch. Only one (1) rod and reel can be in use at any time. Trolling is not permitted at any time. All angling must be conducted from a boat on tournament water, and a competitor cannot leave the boat to gain access to fish or land any fish. The boat cannot leave tournament waters at any time.
11. **Tournament Water:** Tournament water is all accessible by boat for the given tournament location, except for waters deemed off limits by the Tournament director or local, state and federal governments. No fishing within 50 feet of another competitor that is anchored. An anchored boat is a boat attached by rope or anchor devise in order not to move with the trolling motor in a stowed position.
12. **Check Out and Check In:** All boats will have to be checked out for safety and live well operation during a boat check before the tournament meeting and take off. The tournament Director will establish an official check in point for the return to weigh in. Anglers checking in late will lose One (1) pound per minute late up to fifteen (15) minutes late, at which time their catches will be disqualified. Failure to check out or check in will disqualify both anglers.
13. **Partners:** Partners must stay together the entire tournament day with the only exception being when a restroom stop is necessary. Any other separation of partners will result in disqualification of both catches. Co-Anglers are responsible for completing all financial requirements before participating in the event (currently a minimum of \$50 for each day of the tournament). Failure of this rule will result in disqualification. The boat captain is always in control of the boat. Boaters will fish from the front of the boat and Co-Anglers shall always fish from the rear deck of the boat. Both anglers will be allowed to make full use of the boat to land a fish. A boater shall not treat his Co-Angler unfairly or handle the boat in such a manner to unfairly handicap his partner. If protested by the Co-Angler, the Tournament Director may disqualify the boaters catch.
14. **Scoring:** Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each contestant's catch. Only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted or red eye bass will be weighed in. The daily creel will be five (5) bass (unless state regulations permit less) per angler with culling allowed. At no time will culling of dead fish be allowed. The fish presented to the weigh in staff will be the only fish weighed in. At no time will an angler possess more than five (5) fish except during culling. After possessing the daily limit, contestants must cull immediately upon their next catch. Bass are

considered in possession once placed in the boat and fishing or travel has resumed. Any angler over the legal limit is automatically disqualified once fishing or travel has resumed. The length limit will be twelve (12) inches (unless state regulations are larger). A competitor presenting a fish to the weigh in staff shorter than the established length will receive a One (1) pound penalty per fish that is short and they lose the weight of the short fish. For every deceased fish presented to the weigh in staff there will be a penalty of Eight (8) ounces. Only "Puncture Free" culling systems may be used.

- 15. Cancellation Policy and Delayed Starts:** If the Tournament Director cancels a tournament for any reason such as Weather, Winds, lack of participation etc. Tournaments shall be rescheduled based on a vote of the Executive Board. In the event of a delayed start, weigh in time will remain the same unless changed by the tournament Director.
- 16. Ties:** In case of a tie in either division the following will be the order in which the tie is broken: (1) Number of fish (2) Largest fish. In the event of a tie in the Angler of The Year or standings for the State Team, the same order will be used.
- 17. Insurance:** All boats must have current liability insurance with a minimum of \$300,000.00. It is the responsibility of the Boater to make sure that the NCBF has a current copy of their policy. If your insurance lapses you will not be permitted to use the boat. In the event a boater borrows a boat from another person, they must present a letter from the owner giving them permission to use the boat and show a copy of the owner's insurance policy stating that borrower is covered under the policy.
- 18. Sportsmanship:** All competitors are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship. Failure to follow these standards or standards that the Tournament Director sets will lead to cause for disqualification.
- 19. Disqualification and Protests:** All disqualifications will be handled at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director's interpretation of these rules. He may discuss the situation with other Executive members but is not required to do so. The Tournament Director's decision is final and is not subject to appeal. Any competitor that receives a ticket during tournament hours is automatically disqualified. Any competitor that knows of a violation of a rules during tournament hours and does not inform the Tournament Director of the incident will likewise be disqualified.
- 20. Protest Procedures:** The person making a protest shall notify the Tournament Director immediately upon arrival at weigh in. The Tournament Director will then decide if the protest will need to be in writing. If so, the written protest must be submitted within 30 minutes. A determination of the protest shall be made prior to any payouts being made for that event. If a determination cannot be made at that time, the Tournament Director shall hold all monies and awards until the determination can be made but not more than 1 week from the end of the event.
- 21. Weigh In Procedure:** All weigh ins shall be conducted as close as possible to the water's edge. There will be no trailered weigh ins unless specifically announced by the tournament Director in the pre-tournament meeting. Weigh in shall begin as soon as possible once weigh scales and back up scales have been tested; Bump Station is in place and NCBF weigh bags/liners are ready. All fish will be bumped by someone other than the person at the scales. All fish will be checked

for # of fish, length and condition (live or dead), prior to being weighed. Bags will be handed out at the bump sink where a line will be formed. Only one person from each boat will need to stand in line and they may get Two (2) bags if needed. Fish will be brought to the scales in NCBF provided bags **ONLY**. Any fish placed in non NCBF weigh in bags at any time will not be weighed. All fish are to remain in working live wells until an NCBF bag is available. Once fish are weighed and returned to the bags, fish shall be returned to the water by tournament assistants not the individual anglers. Anglers should stop at Banners for pictures.

22. Tournament winners will be determined by the highest weight for a total of Five (5) fish.

Each competitor will be allowed to weigh One (1) fish for Big Fish. Payouts will be for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places plus Big Fish for both Boaters and Co Anglers. For State Team Qualification, a series of points will be awarded to each competitor with the winner of each division receiving 200 points for One Day TX and Double Points for Two Day TXs. Each consecutive competitor receives 1 less point per place of finish such as 2nd PI 199, 3rd PI 198 until all weights are complete. 50 points shall be awarded for each tournament day to any competitor who does not weigh a fish. See "State Team"

23. Semi National State Team Qualification and Format:

A. All members must attend a minimum of One (1) meeting per year. The regular Membership meeting in December will be counted as credit for next year.

B. All members must have fished a minimum of 3 tournament events during the present year. State Team points will be totaled by the "Best Three (3) out of Four (4) tournaments attended. The Top Six (6) Boaters and the Top Six (6) Co Anglers will be the State Team Members for that year's TBF Semi National Tournament. Should any of the top Six members not wish to attend, the next member in line shall be placed as a team member. If for any reason a member must be removed from the team during the tournament, the "Last In First Out" rule shall apply. Specific rules for the Tournaments will be at the discretion of the TBF. State Team members competing in the Semi Nationals shall be provided expenses to be determined by the Executive Board to be used toward registration, lodging, fuel, ramp fees etc. All information pertaining to the Semi Nationals will be distributed as soon as it is available. Members must register for the tournament and obtain their own lodging.

C. Per TBF Rules, the highest finisher in each NCBF Chapter, both Boater and Co Angler qualify to compete in the Semi National Tournament. Should the highest finisher be on the State Team then the next member in line will be able to compete. By TBF Rules, they are not part of the NCBF State Team but are allowed to compete on their own for a chance to go to the Nationals. No expense reimbursements are provided in this category.

24. State Champions for Nationals:

State Champions shall be the Anglers of the Year according to the NCBF point system. Both the Boater and Co Angler earn a direct place in the Nationals Tournament. No expense reimbursements are provided in this category.