

NEBRASKA B.A.S.S. NATION

2026 STATE & TOURNAMENT RULES

- I. **RULES:** The following rules for the tournament will be used. The Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee will interpret the rules, and all DECISIONS are FINAL.
- II. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in this tournament is by invitation only and open to members of clubs affiliated with the Nebraska B.A.S.S. State Nation who are 16 years of age or older. A properly completed and signed application form and the entry fee shall be received no later than **(DATE ON ENTRY)** by regular mail or hand delivered by the deadline to the Tournament Director.
- III. **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE:** The tournament committee shall consist of at least one State B.A.S.S. Nation Officer and the Tournament Director. The Tournament Committee or the Tournament Director shall not be prohibited from boarding any contestant's boat during the competition days. The Tournament Committee or Tournament Director shall have the right to appoint partners in specific circumstances and shall be responsible for resolving any disputes.
- IV. **SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation is expected from each participant. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Unsportsmanlike conduct in this tournament can be cause for refusing contestant's entry in future tournaments. Intoxication on the part of any contestant, consumption of any alcoholic beverage or controlled substances while fishing during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification. All participants must observe safe boating and fishing practices at all times. **Life Jackets must be worn and securely fastened when combustion engine is in operation. ALL INFLATABLE LIFE VESTS MUST BE WORN ALL DAY, EXCEPT IF YOU HAVE A LIFE JACKET ON BOARD FOR EACH PERSON WEARING A LIFE VEST.** All boats must have the appropriate Coast Guard safety devices. **A KILL SWITCH is mandatory and shall be securely fastened when the combustion engine is in operation.**
- V. **BOATS AND EQUIPMENT:** Each boat will be given a number. This will indicate the order of start and shall be provided to officials upon request. A back seat of some kind, must be provided for co angler. Fishing boats may be used that are fourteen (14) feet or more in length. Boats with stick and or tiller steering will not be allowed. **All boats must be a bass type boat with a minimum fifty (50) H.P. motor.** No boats shall be allowed in the tournament that has an internal combustion engine that is larger than the recommendation on the manufactures B.I.A. rating plate. In the event the plate is not present or has been altered, the Tournament Committee or the Tournament Director using similar craft as a guideline shall determine the maximum H.P. **Only 1 electric trolling motor**, conventional fish locators, Landing nets are allowed in state events, Aerated live wells sufficient to handle two (2) limits of fish shall be required on each tournament boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. A competitor may rent a boat and motor at the tournament site. Such possible rental is the sole responsibility of the competitor. A competitor answering affirmatively to the question, "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be considered a boater and be expected to make the boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so, requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be considered a non-boater and be paired with a boater. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on a basis for sharing operational expenses, with a suggested minimum of **\$30.00** for the non-boater contestant.
- VI. **SHARING THE FRONT OF THE BOAT:** During competition, in pro-am type events, pros will fish from the **FRONT DECK**, co-anglers from the **REAR DECK**, NO EXCEPTIONS. During both practice and competition, Co-anglers are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the pro's boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. During official practice, co-angler's not practicing with a pro competitor, may practice, drive. and fish from the front deck of the boat. **Any pro that, in the judgement of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their co-angler partner, shall be disqualified for that day. At no time may a pro competitor request that the co-angler competitor not fish.**

- VII. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** During official 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. No live, dead, 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. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or 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 spinnerbaits or, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure. The head and hook portion of the lure must trail behind the blade or blades. Tournament officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. Only one rod of 8' maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip may be used at any one time. All bass must be caught on rod and reel. A landing net may be used. All fish must be caught and landed from the boat.
- VIII. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except; within the area designated as off limits by the Tournament Officials; within (50) yards of another competitor's boat that was first anchored. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the (50) yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. All angling must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land fish. All boats must remain in Tournament Waters during the Tournament Day. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency as approved by Tournament Officials. In such emergency, contestants may be removed from the boat to a boat operated by other contestants or rescue boat designated by Tournament Officials. If a contestant violates any of the above conditions, due to an emergency for any other reason, his catch for that day will not counted in the Tournament. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited.
- IX. FISH: Only Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass will be counted.** Total stringer weight will determine places. **Lake length limit will be longest length size of fish.** Each contestant is expected to take the utmost care of his fish. All living bass will be returned to grow into larger lunkers. **No, "cold", iced, mutilated, or fish which have obviously been kept on a stringer, will be weighed.** The penalty for weighing or attempting to weigh a short fish will be **one (1) pound for each short fish.** The penalty for weighing a dead fish is **one quarter pound (.25) per dead fish.** All fish will be determined "dead" or "alive" at the time of weigh in. **It is prohibited to cull a dead fish from the livewell and all dead fish must be brought to the scale. In the event a Trophy fish is caught the Tournament Director may allow the contestant to keep the fish, however the one (1) pound penalty shall be assessed to total weight.**
- X. TIES:** The Tournament Officials will resolve all ties. **HEAVY STRINGER TIES WILL BE BROKEN USING THE FOLLOWING FORMULA. A: The heaviest single day catch, B: Most number of fish, C: Most number of live fish, D: Largest single fish, E: a flip of a coin.** Money for tied positions will be added together and equally split between the tied positions. **Heavy stringer ties will break Big Bass ties.**
- XI. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors, who are not checked in at the official checkpoint area as described at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of **(1 lb.) per minute and after 15 min. he or she will be DQ for that day.** This amount will be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted towards a "lunker award", for each **one (1) minute he is late.** After the proper recognition at the check in point, contestants will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site, however all fishing must cease upon check in. After tournament begins, fishing is prohibited except during the Tournament Hours. **(1999 amendment: Failure for any team member to check in shall result in a five (5) pound penalty to be assessed to that members' team weight for that day.** The tournament committee reserves the right to retract the penalty in case of emergency).
- XII. DESIGNATED BOATERS:** Each club will be allowed to designate up to **100%** of their contestants as designated boaters.

- XIII. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:** Designated boaters will be paired with non-boaters, until all non-boaters are paired. **In the event the contestants do not want to fish together they will both get a zero weight for that day.**
- A: MORE DESIGNATED BOATERS THAN NON-BOATERS:** Boaters will be paired with non-boaters, then boaters will be drawn.
- B: IF A BOATER WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A PARTNER FOR THE 3 DAYS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED ON THE ENTRY FORM.**
- C: BROKEN DOWN BOATS:** In the event a boat breaks down, the replacement boat will be picked from the club who has the boat break down. **If a boat breaks down the Tournament Director need to know by 4:30 pm. IF A BOATER BREAKS DOWN AND CAN NOT GET BOAT FIXED, HE WILL REMAIN IN THE BOATER SIDE OF TOURNAMENT AND HAVE TO FISH AS A CO-ANGLER.**
- D:** No contestants from the same club will be paired together. Two contestants will not fish together two days in a row, excluding the officer's team. Tournament Officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants will be disqualified from the tournament.
- XIV. COMPLAINTS AND PROTEST:** **All complaints and protest must be filed in writing with the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR no later than 30 MINUTES after weigh in is completed for that day.** Decision of the Tournament Committee regarding protest will be final. Each contestant waives his right to refuse to take a polygraph test if asked to do so by the Tournament Director when he/she signs the Tournament Entry Form.
- XV. INSURANCE:** All boats used in the tournament must have current general liability policy with coverage of at least **\$300,000.00 dollars.** To be eligible for use in the tournament the boat owner or operator must **keep a current copy in the boat.**
- XVI. OFF LIMITS:** Tournament Lake will be closed to fishing and or boating from the **SUNDAY NIGHT prior, to the first practice morning. (Exception Monday Prior is a Holiday).** Boating from a nearby ramp to the Tournament Ramp is allowed the morning or mornings of the tournament.
- XVII. All State Fish and Game Laws of the tournament waters shall be strictly adhered to.**
- XVIII RULES OF THE B.A.S.S. NATION WILL GOVERN THE TOURNAMENT.**
- XIX During the official competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, aVHF Marine-band radio or a CELL PHONE for the purpose of locating fish. Competitor may use above mentioned for emergency only. Call 911 first, and then call tournament committee.**
- XX Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather where danger may be Imminent.**
- XXI In the event of a Restroom break, competitors are allowed to leave the boat but ALL fishing by both Partners must cease until all partners are back together in the boat.**

POLYGRAPH TEST OR TESTS WILL BE GIVEN, IF TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE THINKS IT NEEDS TO BE GIVEN.

PRIZES WILL NOT BE HANDED OUT UNTIL RESULT OF POLYGRAPH OR POLYGRAPH'S ARE FINALE.