**Women’s Bass Tour/Tri-State Federation**

**Tournament Rules**

**Interpretation & Enforcement:** In the event of a rule violation, WBT may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and or entry fee, probation and prohibition from participating in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the WBT shall be final in ALL matters. These rules will remain unchanged for the season, or until further changes are deemed necessary. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the WBT staff. Each competitor agrees to report to the tournament director any violations or infraction of any kind in writing, along with any pictures if applicable within 15 minutes after the competitor has checked in. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violated these rules will be cause for disqualification. Failure to report violations (boater or co-angler) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but not limited to, weight loss, the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament may cause ineligibility to participate in future WBT tournaments. WBT reserves the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered after a tournament has ended and assess.

**Boater & Co-Angler Entry:** Registration will begin on January 1st of the current year. Late entries will be accepted through registration the day of the tournament morning. Co-anglers entering by the priority deadline for each tournament will be given top priority. All boaters and co-anglers, regardless of priority, will be paired by random draw. Co-anglers on the waiting list and not accepted in the tournament will automatically have their entry fee rolled over to the next tournament. (Unless it is a matter of life or death or an act of God)

**Registration & Pretournament Meeting:** Each lady must be above the age of 17 years old to compete with WBT. Every contestant must attend the pretournament meeting to record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off limit areas, size and limits, and any other relevant tournament rule information. It is mandatory that all contestants attend the pretournament meeting. Depending on the location, the tournament director may or may not adjust the pretournament meeting. (Note: due to work or other schedule restraints, anglers who cannot make the pretournament meeting shall notify the director in advance.)

**Payment Schedule:** Yearly membership dues are $50 per angler, or $25 if you are already a current member of the LBAA. Tournament entry fees for boaters are $200 and Co-Angler is $175, this includes your big bass entry. Entry fees can be paid via PayPal on WBT website, or cash at the pre-tournament meeting. You must be a current member of the WBT to participate in any tournament events. All entry fees must be paid prior to any participation in any tournament.

**Transfers: Entry** fees will be transferred to the next tournament if a competitor is unable to participate in the event.

**Participation:** Participation is only open to female anglers. Boaters will compete against boaters, while co-anglers will compete against co-anglers. Members of the WBT who are 17 and older may participate in federation tournaments. Any lady participating in any tournament is at the sole discretion of WBT officials. Any person who, in the judgement of the tournament director, is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as unfairly hinder her boater or co-angler partner or compromise her safety or the safety of other competitors or the boating public may not be eligible to participate. All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Random checks will be conducted at each tournament. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license within a reasonable amount of time when requested by the tournament director will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license was required.

**Guides:** Individuals who are serving as a licensed guide on tournament waters or are paid for guiding on tournament waters within the previous 30-day period are not eligible to compete in the WBT tournament.

**Insurance:** Boaters may not operate a boat unless that contestant has current documentation. Insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitor operating the boat. Random checks will be conducted.

**Purchasing of Information:** The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available resources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted. The sharing of tournament winnings with non-contestants in exchange for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification. The purchasing of or bartering for fishing locations from another contestant is strictly prohibited and will be cause for both contestants to be disqualified from the tournament.

**Payout:** Payback is derived from 80% of the tournament entry fee. The remaining 20% will be used to cover tournament costs & equipment needed to operate the WBT. First place boater will receive 50%, 2nd place will receive 30%, and 3rd place will receive 20%. Note: Should the tournament have 5 boats or less, the payout will be as follows, 1st place will receive 60%, and 2nd place will receive 40%. 100% will be paid to Big Bass on the boater side of the draw. 100% will be paid to the co-angler with the heaviest bass in their draw.

**Point Standings:** 300 points are awarded to the winner of each tournament, boater & co-angler. 2nd through 10th place will be scored in 5 point decreasing increments. 11th through 20th will be scored in 4 point decreasing increments. There will not be any points given for big bass on either side. At the end of the year, we will give out awards in both divisions for big bass of the year.

**Safety:** Safe boating must always be observed. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running above idle, from boat check until weigh in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with a factory installed emergency ignition-shutoff device (kill switch) that must be securely attached to the driver’s body with a standard-length tether whenever the boat is operated above an idle. Boaters and co-anglers may fish and charge batteries using an onboard charger by letting the combustion engine idle in neutral only and the boat is equipped with a certified and functioning wireless ignition shut off device and everyone in the boat is wearing a fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved floatation device. The U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver must also be strapped, snapped, or zipped securely. “Fanny pack” preservers are not allowed. All people must be seated, and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane, or the combustion engine is running and in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in severe weather or when danger is eminent. No angler is allowed to go on land for any reason, or another boat unless said boat is participating in the tournament. Competitors must call the tournament director immediately in the event of a break down, or any situation that you are involved in. Contestants involved in in boating accidents and/or safety incidents may be required to complete a BoatUS Foundation boating safety course before participating in another WBT tournament. A free course for each state is available at boatus.org. Prior to take off on tournament day the WBT staff directed by the tournament director will check each boat’s lights, kill switches, and live wells. WBT reserves the right to impose speed limits during any or all tournaments. The decision to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the tournament director.

**Boat & Horsepower Regulation:** All boats must be propeller driven, a minimum of 16 feet in length and have a rear deck. All boats must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the “maximum capacities” placard of the vessel. By signing the entry form, contestants agree to submit their boat and or motor to an inspection by WBT personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification. Fishing platforms must be factory installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in any competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed build in fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in contestant boats during tournament hours.

**Boat Operation:** Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-anglers will fish from the back deck or seating area of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and water to be fished. For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, co-anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard. Boaters may never request that the co-angler not fish. Any boater that, in the judgement of the tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps her co-angler and any co-angler who unfairly handicaps her boater may be disqualified for that day. The boater may invite the co-angler to the front deck if they wish. It is the responsibility of the co-angler to not cast in front of the boater. The boater can request the co-angler to return to the back deck at the boater's discretion. WBT will not listen to any disagreements between the boater and co-angler caused by both fishing from the front deck. Boater may ask the co-angler to operate the trolling motor if they have a fish to unhook, changing baits, or an emergency. Contestants may not use mobile devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Mobile devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lockmasters, and the tournament director. Boaters may use smart phones and/or tablets during tournament hours for GPS mapping, weather, and boating apps used for checking power sources on batteries. Co-anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld device during any competition day. If a boater or a co-angler needs to make a phone call during tournament hours, the user must put the phone in speaker mode. If a special circumstance arises that inhibits a competitor’s ability to compete, the tournament director may allow the contestant to withdraw from competition and maintain the weight caught to that point. Any competitor observed committing an unsafe act will be given a verbal warning the first time. The person making the complaint must have pictures of the individual committing the act on the water. WBT will not accept anything otherwise.

**Fishing Methods:** Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Alabama rigs are strictly prohibited in WBT tournaments. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling with a gasoline powered motor as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your partner for verification. Co-anglers are permitted to have up to 6 rods on tournament day, no rods over the length of 8 feet are allowed. The boater must provide the co-angler a space in the boat, preferably the back passenger box directly behind the passenger seat. The use of a landing net is allowed. The use of grippers in landing a bass is prohibited.

**Fishing Locations:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas posted or otherwise determined as “off limits”, “no boats”, “keep out”, “restricted”, “no trespassing”, or “no fishing”, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 100 yards of a contestant’s boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by shallow water anchors. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes, and/or logs after the start of the pretournament meeting and/or removal of official commercial, local, state, or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat or gain access for fishing is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is prohibited. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with permission from the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another contestant. Under these two conditions both contestants’ catches may be counted without penalty (except for late penalties, & dead fish penalties). If an emergency occurs, the competitors must call 911 immediately then contact the tournament director at which time fishing will cease. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means other than cited above will forfeit their day’s catch to that point on tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of the day’s weight. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint can restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or the designated official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Partners must always remain together and within sight of each other until the weigh-in verification is signed. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. In the event of motor failure prior to tournament day, the tournament director may opt to allow boater to fish with trolling motor in tournament depending on weather conditions and may set area restrictions.

**Checkpoints:** There will only be one checkpoint for boat checks in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon as determined by the tournament director. Failure to go through the boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

**Late Penalty:** Contestants who are not at the check-in area as directed by WBT staff at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from total weight, including any weight to be counted towards big bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day’s weight and will be disqualified, unless otherwise directed by the tournament director.

**Fish Penalty:** Every effort must be made to keep bass alive using a properly aerated live well. 8 ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. 1 pound will be deducted from the total weight for a short fish. You can ask for a courtesy bump before submitting a fish for weigh-in. CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.

**Scoring:** Scoring is determined by pounds and ounces of each contestant’s catch during the tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye, or smallmouth bass are the accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed into a bass. The daily bag limit will be (5) for the boater and (3) for the co-angler unless conditions dictate otherwise for conservation purposes. After possessing the daily limit, contestants must cull immediately upon their next catch. Boaters/co-anglers possessing more than the daily limit must immediately upon discovery of infraction, reduce her catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 1 pound for each bass over the limit. Bass are considered in possession once placed in the live well. The minimum length is14 inches for largemouth, and 12 inches for spotted bass. The tournament director may adjust the limits by lake based on lake regulations at their discretion. Bass presented at weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length will be penalized at the rate of 8 oz for each short bass presented. Each contestant’s catch must be weighed in an official weigh-in bag. Mechanical failures do not extend established weigh-in times, unless otherwise directed by the tournament director. The official length for bass shall be established by the tournament director.

**Sportsmanship/Code of Conduct:** Anglers participating in WBT sanctioned events shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall always conduct themselves in a manner becoming WBT anglers and their actions will not reflect negatively on WBT, its members, officers, or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors. To this end, anglers shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of bass fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the code of conduct will be subject to fines, forfeiture of tournament winnings, probation, suspension from competing in future sanctioned tournaments, permanently banned from competition, or any combination deemed appropriate by the WBT. The use of profanity towards other WBT members, the general public is strictly prohibited. Competitors will not make disparaging, derogatory, or threatening comments/remarks to any other competitor or to the staff of the Tri State Federation. Bragging, boasting, gloating while the tournament/weigh-in is being conducted will not be tolerated, this could result in disqualification from the tournament. WBT reserves the right to issue the competitor an infractions/warning letter. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours and weigh in, is forbidden. Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner will not be tolerated. Publicly criticizing or questioning the integrity of WBT or its officials, or WBT sponsors using social media, news outlets or other forms; decimation of disparaging content or content that one should know would harm the reputation of WBT, its officials, or sponsors. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, WBT shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee, to disqualify a contestant or impose a penalty/ban. WBT will not discriminate based on race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status, in any of its activities or operations. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.

**Tiebreakers:** Ties will be broken using the following criteria: Longest fish weighed. The largest number of legal live fish weighed. Most accumulative weight for the year. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, place monies will be split evenly, and place points awarded accordingly.

**Membership:** Membership is MANDATORY for all competitors. Membership must be completed prior to fishing any WBT tournament. Membership dues are $50 and good for one year from January 1st of that year.

**Championship Qualifiers:** Top 8 boaters/top 8 co-anglers will fish the Tri-State Federation Championship tournament. Boaters and co-anglers with the highest points after the regular season will become AOY and will be automatically granted an entry into the LBAA Classic. Pro/Co qualifiers for LBAA Classic are responsible for their entry fees. If the winners of the WBT AOY have already qualified for the LBAA Classic through the LBAA, then the 2nd place boater/co-angler will be sent in place of.

2025 Women’s Bass Tour Board:

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By signing this document, I adhere to the above rules and regulations put forth by the Women’s Bass Tour/Tri-State Federation staff.

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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