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2026-2027

SC TBF-SAF TOURNAMENT TRAIL RULE BOOK

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****Information in this package is subject to Change and/or Review****

(REVISED 9/22/26)

ALL NATIONAL & STATE TRAIL TOURNAMENT RULES APPLY:

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT • These rules will remain unchanged during the 2025-2026 High School Fishing season. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant, coach and boat captain agree to report any suspected rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery. Failure to report a violation may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, disqualification from the event, weight loss (in whole or in part, for part of a day or for one or more days, for a heaviest bag, single fish or largest fish, or any combination thereof) or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments. Protests and/or alleged rule violations are to be documented in writing by a witness or boat captain within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day. Tournament officials, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered at any time for any reason, by any persons, before or after a tournament has ended and assess penalties for any past or future event including denying entry to compete. (REF: TRAIL RULE 1A BELOW)

2. PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY • Participation is open to all 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade high school students. Participation by one (1) seventh or eighth grade student per team is permitted. Each team will consist of two contestants and one coach. (REF: TRAIL RULE 2A BELOW)

Pursuant to federal law guidelines under the Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, there MUST be three people to a boat at all times. No exceptions. **No angler may register or plan to fish alone.** In the case of a verifiable, unplanned emergency, where one partner is unable to attend and no time is left to find another partner, only then may a tournament official, at their sole discretion, allow an observer in the boat in place of a fishing partner. The observer may not fish. If this benefit is approved, however, it can only be used once per season, including any championships and regardless of reason. For state championships, each team must compete in the state in which their school is located. Teams from all states can participate in open tournaments and challenge events. If a contestant fishes multiple qualifying events, only the first paired team that qualifies will advance to the National Championship. A contestant cannot qualify for the National Championship as a member of two different teams. With prior approval from the tournament director and mutual consent by both members of a team, a team may forfeit their entry into the National Championship and try to requalify. Contestants must be Student Angler Federation members. There is no entry fee to participate for SAF members in the World/National Tournaments.

(REF: TRAIL RULE 3A BELOW)

Contestants registering onsite, however, will be charged a \$20 late fee. Contestants must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. Contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the waters they fish if required by law and a current student identification card from the school they represent or other proof of grade level. 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 will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license was required for the tournament. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification.

Entries for state championships and challenge events should be made at highschoolfishing.org or by calling TBF at 580.765.9031. Entries for opens should be made at majorleaguefishing.com or by calling MLF at 270.252.1000. Please do not make entry by more than one method. TBF and MLF reserve the right to review team names and reject any names that are deemed inappropriate for any reason. There is no limit to the number of teams accepted into a tournament from each school or club. Accepted teams will be confirmed and notified via e-mail prior to each tournament. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to compete for any reason whatsoever. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 4A BELOW)**

3. 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 sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted by contestants, coaches, boat captains or anyone working on a team's behalf within 10 days of the start of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. A team may not pay a boat captain for their services. A team may reimburse a boat captain for actual fuel and travel expenses related to the tournament. However, a team or anyone acting on a team's behalf, may NOT pay or "hire" a Boat Captain for their time or knowledge. Contestants, coaches, boat captains, parents (anyone acting on a team's behalf) may not buy or barter a fishing location from anyone.

4. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE & COMPETITION (REF: TRAIL RULE 5A BELOW)

• There is no practice period or off-limits period prior to the start of onsite registration. There are, however, specific rules defined below that govern practice within 10 days of each tournament. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may be on tournament waters until the start of onsite registration. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not enter tournament waters to locate bass or potential fishing waters or sightsee after the start of onsite registration except during tournament hours. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of onsite registration is permitted only with prior approval from the tournament director. Within 10 days of the tournament no contestant, coach or boat captain may practice with, hire, barter for, or engage in services with, for the purposes of locating or catching bass on the tournament waters, any person who has been a bass guide for hire on the tournament waters within the last 12 months unless such person is the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of a contestant on a team in the event. Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of tournament officials may be required. Within 10 days of the tournament contestants may only practice with another SAF member that is confirmed in the tournament, their coach, their boat captain or an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) who also meets the above criteria concerning guides or be a registered active participant in a another TBF or MLF sanctioned event during this time frame. Nobody else, except a media representative or official approved by the tournament director, is allowed in the boat. Within 10 days of the tournament and extending through competition, contestants, coaches and boat captains may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants, coaches and boat captains confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources. Unsolicited information received at MLF and/or TBF weigh-ins is considered a publicly available source. Quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and Periscope, set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources. Within 10 days of the tournament and extending through competition, contestants, coaches and boat captains may not follow a

noncontestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers, brush or other physical fish attractors by noncontestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. During competition days, contestants, coaches and boat captains may not place brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum of any kind, in tournament waters. Flights over tournament waters, including drones, for the express purpose of locating fish or fishing locations are not permitted on competition days. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

5. REGISTRATION & PRETOURNAMENT MEETING • Unless prior approval is received from tournament officials, both contestants comprising a team and their coach or boat captain must register and check-in at the designated registration site at the times listed in the tournament confirmation. Contestants and/or coaches or boat captains who fail to notify the tournament director and are more than 15 minutes late for registration check-in may not be entered in the tournament. It is mandatory that all contestants and their coaches or boat captains attend the pretournament meeting at the time and place set forth in the tournament confirmation unless prior approval is received from the tournament director. Contestants and/or coaches or boat captains not present for the pretournament meeting may not be entered in the tournament. Virtual pretournament meetings may be held in place of in-person meetings when such meetings are not possible.

6. BOAT ASSIGNMENTS • Takeoff order (boat number) is determined by tournament officials. Most events, including all opens, are random draw. Some events may be based on date and time of entry. Onsite entries may receive the last available boat numbers. Each team must be accompanied on the water by a coach or boat captain who will supply a boat but is not permitted to fish. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 6A BELOW)**

7. SAFETY • Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant, coach and boat captain on the water is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved chest-type personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location with a driver behind the steering wheel or at the tiller in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation and in gear is not permitted. Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is running. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants, coaches and boat captains. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is imminent. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

(REF: TRAIL RULE 7A BELOW)

8. SPORTSMANSHIP • All contestants, coaches and boat captains are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, TBF, SAF, MLF, tournaments sponsors, the school the team is representing, the sport of fishing, and our combined efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following: • Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the 2023-2024 High School Fishing season. • Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or cannabis products

or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pretournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure. • Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances. • Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months. • Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization. • Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner. • Violation of a posted no-wake area. • Publicly criticizing or questioning the integrity of TBF/SAF or MLF or their officials, including but not limited to any rules, policies and procedures. • Dissemination of disparaging content or content that one should reasonably know would harm the reputation of TBF/SAF and/or MLF companies, officials and sponsors. • Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 8. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete, to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined herein.

9. BOAT OPERATION • Coaches will supply and drive boats for their teams or arrange boat captains to supply and drive boats for their teams. To qualify as a coach or boat captain, the person or persons accompanying a team must be at least 19 years old and reside in the same state as the students comprising the team or be an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 19 years old regardless of residence. For students living near state borders, coaches or boat captains may reside in a neighboring state so long as they reside within 60 miles of one of the students comprising the team. In the event of boat or engine failure after a team is onsite for a tournament, the tournament director may, at his sole discretion, arrange for a volunteer boat captain to assist a team. Bass guides who operate or have operated for hire at any time during the previous 12 months from the tournament date on the designated tournament waters are not permitted as coaches or boat captains unless they are the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of one of the contestants on a team in the event. A guide is defined as anyone who is paid for their time and knowledge to take someone fishing. Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of the tournament director may be required. The use of a guide as defined above will result in disqualification. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches and boat captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish on competition days. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not use mobile communication devices of any kind, including but not limited to, phones, tablets, radios, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lockmasters about locking, or to communicate with designated tournament officials. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may use smart phones and/or tablets during tournament hours for GPS, mapping, weather, power generation, barge traffic updates, tidal charts, personal fishing notes and related data. At no time during tournament hours may contestants, coaches and boat captains read or discuss social media posts from other contestants. If a special circumstance arises that inhibits a contestant's ability to compete, the tournament director may allow the contestant to withdraw from competition and maintain the weight caught to that point. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 13A BELOW)**

10. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION • All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Pontoon and tritoon boats that meet all

other requirements under this rule are permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition shall not exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard. By signing the entry form, contestants, coaches and boat captains agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future High School Fishing tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment or commercially available aftermarket equipment that is permanently installed in the boat. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the 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. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 8A BELOW)**

11. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS • Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a 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, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five spinners, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating any combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve or using any mechanical propulsion device to move the boat as the sole means of imparting action to the lure. All bass caught while visibly-fishing for bass must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your coach or boat captain for verification.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS & BOUNDARIES • Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat except areas designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by tournament officials, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 50 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 a Power-Pole, Talon or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. 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 onsite registration and/or the 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 from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Teams 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 a trailer before the team using the boat presents their catch for weigh-in, except with the permission of 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 then three permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both contestants remaining in their boat and being towed by water, (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one contestant entering the boat of another team or (3) both contestants entering a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director. Under these three conditions the team's catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided each team's fish are adequately marked or separated so as to provide clear distinction of each catch to the tournament director. Teams that elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day's weight. Any team returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of teams to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Teams must remain together at all times and within sight of their coach or boat captain until check-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

13. CHECKPOINTS • There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through 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.

14. LATE PENALTY • Teams that are not at the designated afternoon checkpoint at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight. Teams more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 9A BELOW)**

15. LIVE FISH • Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

16. SCORING • Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each team's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye, shoal or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit will be five bass per team unless conditions dictate a reduced limit or the state or lake limit is less than five, in which case those limits will prevail. After possessing the daily limit, teams must cull immediately upon their next catch. Teams possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce their catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Teams possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. The minimum length limit for bass will be 12 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 12 inches or tournament officials set a longer limit for a specific tournament, in which case, the state or lake limit or longer limit set by tournament officials for the tournament will prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Bass presented for weigh-in with weight clips attached will be penalized at the rate of 4 ounces for each clip. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all fish in possession that meet the tournament size

limit to tournament officials to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a team's catch has been presented to tournament officials, that day's catch is final. No one may return to a boat to retrieve a bass mistakenly left behind. After being weighed, each team's catch must be turned over to tournament officials unless otherwise instructed. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. The winning team is determined by the day's heaviest catch. The top 10 percent of teams in each state championship and open tournament advance to the High School Fishing National Championship. Tournaments held June 12, 2023, through June 9, 2024, will advance teams to the 2024 National Championship. Tournaments held June 10, 2024, through June 9, 2025, will advance teams to the 2025 National Championship. All participating SAF teams automatically qualify to compete in the High School Fishing World Finals that runs concurrently with the National Championship and has a separate prize pool. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 10A BELOW)**

17. TIES • Total number of fish for the tournament will break ties followed by the total number of live fish. If a tie remains, it will be broken first by earliest entry for the tournament and then by lottery.

(REF: TRAIL RULE 11A BELOW)

18. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE • Contestants, coaches and boat captains may wear their own apparel. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant, coach or boat captain's apparel that is determined to be offensive.

19. ALCOHOL & TOBACCO • During all days of competition any and all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in, at any event.

20. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST • Each contestant and coach agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

21. INSURANCE • Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all boats used in High School Fishing tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification. **(REF: TRAIL RULE 12A BELOW)**

22. CAPTIONS • The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

26-27 SC TBF/SAF TOURNAMENT TRAIL ONLY REFERENCE RULES

1A PROTEST

Registered Tournament participants described as Student Anglers and/or Boat Captain can ONLY submit an Official Rules Infraction Protest.

2A

ELIGIBILITY

JR. Division 2ND – 8TH Grade HIGH SCHOOL Division 8th – 12th Grade

3A

ENTRY FEE

\$60 PER BOAT (SOLO OR TEAM)

Payable to: SC High School Bass Challenge

PAY OUT 80%, 1 for 6 including BIG FISH for BOTH divisions @ each event.

4A

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

ALL teams will register at the boat ramp the morning of the tournament.

5A

OFFLIMITS

Tournament waters shall be off limits to Student Anglers & Boat Captains from official SUNSET Sunday preceding the tournament until official SUNRISE the Friday before tournament.

NO launching of boats during the official Off Limits.

TEAMS MAY NOT SOLICIT INFORMATION FROM ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITHIN 10 DAYS OF OFFICIAL PRACTICE & TOURNAMENT HOURS.

OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY

Friday BEFORE the scheduled Tournament Day is VOLUNTARY from Official SUNRISE to 6:00 PM.

NO NIGHT FISHING!

Only officially registered anglers and their registered, approved Boat Captains are permitted on the water during Official Practice and Tournament Days. No additional individuals may accompany or assist on the water at any time during these periods.

Official Practice shall be conducted solely in the designated team format, consisting exclusively of the officially registered Anglers and the officially registered Boat Captain. No substitutions, alternates, or additional personnel are permitted during Official Practice.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, High School anglers who have reached the age of legal majority may engage in Official Practice without a Boat Captain only in the event that the registered Boat Captain is completely and unequivocally unable to attend. This exception shall be narrowly construed and applied only under legitimate and unavoidable circumstances.

Any breach, circumvention, or attempted manipulation of this rule—including, but not limited to, unauthorized participation, dual representation, or misrepresentation of availability—shall constitute a direct violation of the rules and may result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification.

NOTE: All SCDNR & SCTBF Trail Youth Series Safety Rules apply on Official Practice Days.

NOTE: Teams with multiple backup Boat Captains CANNOT split up their teammates on Official Practice Days. Backup/alternate captains should not be on the water practicing without the registered anglers in the boat.

NOTE: Official Tournament Practice Day is a Team Format for all registered Boat Captains and Student Anglers.

STRICT PROHIBITION — BOAT CAPTAIN PRACTICE ON TOURNAMENT WATERS

FOR ALL SCTBF TRAIL EVENTS, ANY PERSON WHO IS REGISTERED, DESIGNATED, OR INTENDS TO SERVE AS THE BOAT CAPTAIN OR BACKUP BOAT CAPTAIN FOR A TEAM IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED FROM FISHING, PRACTICING, OR OTHERWISE CONDUCTING FISHING ACTIVITIES ON THE DESIGNATED TOURNAMENT WATERS FROM ANY OTHER BOAT DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY OR DAYS.

THIS PROHIBITION APPLIES REGARDLESS OF WHO OWNS, OPERATES, OR IS FISHING FROM THE OTHER BOAT AND REGARDLESS OF WHETHER THE BOAT CAPTAIN IS FISHING WITH OR WITHOUT THE REGISTERED STUDENT ANGLERS.

A REGISTERED OR DESIGNATED BOAT CAPTAIN MAY NOT USE ANOTHER BOAT, ANOTHER ANGLER, A FRIEND, A FAMILY MEMBER, A BACKUP CAPTAIN, OR ANY OTHER PERSON AS A MEANS OF CIRCUMVENTING THIS RULE.

IF A PERSON IS GOING TO SERVE AS THE REGISTERED BOAT CAPTAIN OR BACKUP BOAT CAPTAIN FOR AN SCTBF TRAIL EVENT, THAT PERSON SHALL NOT FISH OR PRACTICE ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE PERIOD EXCEPT AS PART OF THE OFFICIALLY REGISTERED TEAM FORMAT.

THIS IS A DIRECT PROHIBITION AND SHALL NOT BE INTERPRETED AS OPTIONAL, A GUIDELINE, OR A MATTER OF PERSONAL DISCRETION.

VIOLATION OF THIS PROVISION SHALL BE CONSIDERED A CIRCUMVENTION OF THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE RULES AND MAY RESULT IN REMOVAL OF THE INDIVIDUAL AS A BOAT CAPTAIN, DISQUALIFICATION OF THE ASSOCIATED TEAM, AND/OR ADDITIONAL DISCIPLINARY ACTION AS DETERMINED BY THE SCTBF TRAIL.

CLAIMING THAT THE INDIVIDUAL WAS FISHING FOR PERSONAL REASONS, FISHING WITH ANOTHER TEAM, FISHING WITH FAMILY OR FRIENDS, OR FISHING FROM A DIFFERENT BOAT SHALL NOT EXCUSE OR OTHERWISE NEGATE THE VIOLATION.

Student Anglers are NOT covered under the Tournament Day Insurance Policy during Official Practice. Safe boating and fishing practices should always be maintained whenever on the water.

High School anglers are ALLOWED to practice on the Official Practice Day as a team WITHOUT a Boat Captain if the Boat Captain is unavailable for the Practice Day.

Both High School Anglers are REQUIRED to have a Boater Education Certificate and be of legal age pursuant to applicable SCDNR Boating Rules.

All Team Coaches are REQUIRED to notify the SCTBF Youth Director/Tournament Director IN WRITING and receive approval before utilizing this option.

NO MINOR-AGE ANGLERS ARE ALLOWED TO BE ON THE BOAT WHEN USING THIS OPTION.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOURS

4AM- 7PM

Tournament Officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament due of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors, equipment & volunteers associated with the scheduled event.

6A

BLAST OFF ASSIGNMENTS

Based on Tournament morning registration @ Boat Ramp

7A

SAFETY

SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY: Boat Captain is RESPONSIBLE for operating boat at a safe speed during tournament hours. Boat Captain should inspect ALL US Coast Guard APPROVED PFD for overall condition, fit & proper use. IF inflatable Vest PFD are in use, Boat Captain should make sure that the vest is armed and/or charged.

NOTE: INFLATABLE WAIST BELT PFD ARE NOT ALLOWED.

Boat Captain & Student Anglers are REQUIRED to be seated in the boat cockpit area ONLY with FULLY secured PFD on @ ALL times the combustion engine is running. This includes, Idling, Forward & Reverse operation. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!! This includes BEFORE & AFTER tournament hours.

Boat Captain is REQUIRED to have Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device properly secured to his/her PFD or body @ALL times combustion engine is in use. This includes, Idling, Forward & Reverse operation. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!! Student Anglers CAN assist with launching & loading of boat using combustion motor. ALL PFD & Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device rules apply.

ALL NO WAKE ZONES MUST BE OBSERVED.

**** FAILURE to comply with safety rules, will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION from competition. ****

****ALL boat breakdowns and/or repairs during tournament hours must be reported and approved by Tournament Director IMMEDIATELY. All circumstances are unique and will be handled accordingly****

INCLEMENT WEATHER SAFETY POLICY

Tournament Officials have the right to delay, shorten, postpone, or cancel the start of an official tournament due to inclement weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors, equipment & volunteers associated with the scheduled event. ALL decisions will be made public knowledge on Thursday @ 6PM BEFORE the scheduled Tournament. ALL Team Coaches will be notified via email and will be posted on the SC TBF/SAF Youth Bass Fishing Trail social media Page. If a scheduled tournament MUST be POSTPONED or CANCELLED due to inclement weather, the tournament will be rescheduled or scratched from the scheduled based on timing.

8A

BOAT/HP REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM 16' with steering wheel. Outboard Motor HP can NOT exceed rating as listed on US Coast Guard Maximum Capacity tag inside boat. ALL boat's MUST be seaworthy, have working Navigation Lights, Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device & Live Well. Boats that do NOT meet these REQUIREMENTS will NOT be launched until issues are corrected! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!! (TILLER HANDLE ENGINES & STICK STEERING BOATS ARE ALLOWED)

9A

TOURNAMENT AFTERNOON CHECK IN

AFTERNOON TOURNAMENT CHECK IN WILL BE @ THE REN TENT TANK COMPOUND. ALL Teams REQUIRED to bring fish for afternoon check in. Late check-In time penalties apply.

ALL boat floats MUST be turned in to staff member at the RED HOLDING TANK TENT regardless if team has fish or no fish. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

ALL BOATS REQUIRED TO HAVE FISH BAG ONBOARD!

Student Anglers are REQUIRED to have adequate water level in their bags to completely cover the fish while transporting fish to the check in area. Transporting fish WITHOUT water bag is UNACCEPATBLE and will be addressed with Student Anglers, Boat Captains & Team Coaches.

Student Anglers are encouraged to check their fish for legal length WITHOUT PENALTY at the courtesy tank BEFORE submitting fish to be weigh master.

NOTE: BUMPMaster is an official Staff Member and has FINAL ruling on legal fish length and/or dead fish rule. ALL fished become property of the tournament trail once they pass the bump masters inspection.

ALL UNDERSIZE FISH SUBMITTED FOR WEIGH IN WILL BE DISQUALIFIED AND THE TEAM WILL BE GIVEN A 1 POUND PENALTY PER FISH.

Once Student Anglers have checked in, they are REQUIRED to get in line to have fish officially measured, placed into a mesh bag, and get mesh bag into the holding tanks. NO Student Angler will be allowed to leave the holding tank area once they have checked in until they have been called to the stage for official Weigh In.

Once Weigh master has weighed fish and total weight is recorded WITHOUT dispute, fish creel will not be reweighed.

NO TRAILERING OF BOATS ALLOWED BEFORE WEIGH IN UNLESS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR MAKES ACCOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE START OF TOURNAMENT.

THIS CHECK IN PROCEDURE IS BEING IMPLEMENTED TO PROTECT THE WELL BEING OF THE FISH TO MAKE SURE EVERY EFFORT TO GET THEM SAFELY BACK INTO THE WATER TO BE CAUGHT ANOTHER DAY.

ALL JR. DIVISION TEAMS CHECK IN @ 2PM.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION TEAMS CHECK IN @ 3PM.

EARLY WEIGH IN

As part of our ongoing efforts to take care of the fish, the scales will open @ 12 noon for any team that has live well troubles or for anyone that needs to leave the tournament early.

10A

POINTS SYSTEM

JR. & HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS will use a 250-point system for each tournament. First place will be awarded 250 points, second place 249, and so on. Teams participating but not weighing any fish will be awarded last place points minus 10.

TRAIL DIVISION POINTS CHAMPIONS

Awarded to the highest season ending points team in JR. & High School Divisions

11A

TIE BREAKER

Total Tournament Season weight breaks Championship Points tie.

Total Tournament weight breaks BIG FISH tie

BIG FISH breaks tournament weight tie

IN case of TOTAL tournament weight & BIG Fish weight tie, then LOWEST blast off position breaks the tie.

12A

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM \$300,000 LIMITED LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED.

A copy of insurance REQUIRED to be on file with School/Club or Tournament Trail.

****RANDOM PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE CONDUCTED.**

*****FAILURE TO PROVIDE PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION*****

13A

BOAT CAPTAIN RULES

REQUIRED: Age 18 or older and graduated from High School.

Boater's Education Certification is REQUIRED

REQUIRED to pass a SLED Background Check IF REQUIRED by School/Club.

REQUIRED to have a signed Liability Waiver on file with School/Club or Tournament Trail.

CANNOT be a Professional Fisherman or Licensed Guide UNLESS they are an immediate family member or Legal Guardian of the student angler.

Immediate Family Member is defined as Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, or Grandparent

SUBSTITUTE BOAT CAPTAINS

First-time Substitute Boat Captains are NOT permitted for SCTBF Trail State Championship and/or SCTBF Trail Championship Tournaments. All substitute boat captains for these events must have substituted for a school/club/team at least once during the current season to be eligible to substitute.

NOTE: BASS OPEN, MLF BFL, TOYOTA, and/or INVITATIONAL ANGLERS are not considered professional anglers.

A Boat Captain who is the child of a professional angler may serve as a Boat Captain unless that individual is listed as a professional angler.

ADDITIONAL OCCUPANTS

NOTE: Extra occupants onboard during tournament hours are NOT allowed unless there is a legitimate written need, which must be reviewed and pre-approved BEFORE Tournament Day.

RIDE-ALONGS/OBSERVERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED BOAT CAPTAINS.

BOAT CAPTAIN CONDUCT

NOTE: Any Boat Captain caught deliberately cheating during competition will be suspended from his/her Boat Captain duties for the remainder of the scheduled tournament season. No appeals will be granted.

REGISTERED BOAT CAPTAIN REQUIREMENT

NOTE: To remain in compliance with the rules, teams with multiple backup Boat Captains may ONLY register one (1) Boat Captain for each scheduled event.

OFFICIAL PRACTICE IS TEAM FORMAT, MEANING REGISTERED ANGLERS & REGISTERED BOAT CAPTAIN.

High School anglers of legal age are allowed to practice as a team without a Boat Captain IF the Boat Captain is unable to participate in Official Practice.

In order to maintain full compliance with the established rules and regulations, each team possessing multiple backup Boat Captains shall be permitted to register only one (1) Boat Captain for any scheduled tournament event. Under no circumstances shall more than one Boat Captain be registered or participate in Official Practice or competition activities for the same team.



2026-2027

Student Angler Tournament Trail Liability Waiver Release Form

SCHOOL: _____

All Student Anglers & Parents must sign this Release of Liability

Participant Release of Liability – Read Before Signing

In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, events, programs & related activities conducted by **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** we acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist, and,
2. I have been advised and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and,
3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOW AND UNKOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** , THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, BOAT CAPTAINS, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT (“RELEASEES”) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND,
4. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official, and,
5. I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH RESPET TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH. OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AGREEMENT AND THE ATTACHED RULES. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

PUBLICITY: In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in the tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by the , **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** I (“Participant”) hereby grant to **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** their assignee's and/or licenses (collectively “Sponsors” including television production companies contracted by the **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, biographical information, fishing tips and/or instructions in any medium whatsoever, including but not limited to video/audio productions, merchandising, promotions, articles, and/or press releases, in connection with **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by **SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL** without restriction as to changes or alterations from time to time. I understand that I will not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. If Participant wins any event, the Participant’s name, likeness, and biographical information may be used in connection with advertising and promotion. The Participant’s specifically consents and agrees to such use without restriction as to changes or alterations from time to time, and further understands and agrees that any use will be without payment of any royalties or any additional compensation to Participant.

The Participant signifies by his/her signature below that he or she has read and understand the foregoing provisions.

TBF/SAF MEMBERSHIP#

PARTICIPANT’S SIGNATURE

AGE

DATE

PRINT PARTICIPANT’S NAME HERE

PHONE#

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION.

I, AS PARENT/GUARDIAN DO HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PARTICIPANT AND I AGREE AND CONSENT TO HIS/HER RELEASE AS PROVIDED ABOVE OF ALL THE RELEASEES, AND, FOR MYSELF, MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, AND NEXT OF KIN, I RELEASE AND AGREE TO INDENMIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS THE RELEASEES FROM ANY AND ALL LIABILITIES INCIDENT TO MY MINOR CHILD’S OR WARD’S INVOLVEMENT OR PARTICIPATION IN THESE PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED ABOVE, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

PARENT/GUARDIAN’S SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN’S NAME HERE

PHONE

HOME ADDRESS



2026-2027

Boat Captain Tournament Trail Liability Waiver Release Form

SCHOOL: _____

PLEASE ATTACHED A COPY OF CURRENT BOAT INSURANCE POLICY TO THIS FORM

In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by the SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I have been advised and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and,
3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL, THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT ("RELEASEES") OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND,
4. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; and,
5. I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.
6. As the only authorized operator of the boat provided for all SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL tournaments, I have inspected and acknowledge that the watercraft provided is seaworthy and meets all current U.S. Coast Guard safety requirements. Furthermore, I understand that the same watercraft provided must meet the minimum length limits, combustion engine design restrictions, hull design requirements, minimum and or maximum horsepower ratings, and be appropriately equipped to ensure the safety of any and all student anglers participating as outlined by the SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL rules and guidelines. I agree to have the watercraft inspected at any time by a designated SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL Tournament Director for any and all tournaments. I further agree to provide a minimum of \$300,000 of liability insurance on this same watercraft as determined by SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL and or any other high school fishing governing authority.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT AND THE ATTACHED RULES. I FULLY UNDERSTAND THE TERMS AND UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING THIS RELEASE, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY.

PUBLICITY: In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in the tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by , I ("Participant") hereby grant to SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL , their assignee's and/or licenses (collectively "Sponsors" including television production companies contracted by SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL, the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, biographical information, fishing tips and/or instructions in any medium whatsoever, including but not limited to video/audio productions, merchandising, promotions, articles, and/or press releases, in connection with SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by SC TBF/SAF YOUTH BASS FISHING TRAIL without restriction as to changes or alterations from time to time. I understand that I will not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. If Participant wins any event, the Participant's name, likeness, and biographical information may be used in connection with advertising and promotion. The Participant specifically consents and agrees to such use without restriction as to changes or alterations from time to time, and further understands and agrees that any use will be without payment of any royalties or any additional compensation to Participant.

The Participant signifies by his/her signature below that he or she has read and understands the foregoing provisions.

BOAT CAPTAIN SIGNATURE

AGE

DATE

PRINT BOAT CAPTAIN NAME HERE

ADDRESS

EMERGENCY PHONE#

EMAIL ADDRESS



2026-2027 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

****USE THIS FORM ONLY IF TRAIL ADMIN IS HANDLING YOUR ANGLERS MEMBERSHIPS****

\$25 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP (REQUIRED)

PAYABLE TO: SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE, PO Box 361, Orangeburg, SC 29116

SCHOOL / TEAM NAME _____

STUDENT Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Birthday _____ Age NOW _____

Email Address _____

Home Phone _____ PARENT Cell Phone _____

STUDENT Cell Phone _____

Last Grade Completed _____ Grade in NOW _____

Do you have any physical impairment? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain below:

Student Signature _____

Guardian Signature _____

Angler TBF/SAF Membership# _____

(Leave blank if unknown)

