2026-2027 Kentucky B.A.S.S. Nation High School Division Rules

Effective August 21, 2026

The following rules shall apply to all B. A. S. S. Nation High School tournaments, with the following exceptions:

(I) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and

(ii) These rules may be changed by KBN immediately upon notice by KBN to its members, which notice may be published on the KBN internet site at www.kybassnation.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 21 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
a) reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
b) loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked verified by either your partner or boat captain. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
c) loss of catch for the day of the violation
d) disqualification from the tournament in question
e) disqualification from future KBN events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
f) any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

(I) Participation in this tournament series is by invitation only. You must be a student currently enrolled in high school, of good academic standard, and a member of your institution's fishing team. Certain schools allow 8th grade students to compete. If your institution allows 8th grade students to compete a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. 7th grade students are not allowed to compete in Bassmaster High School tournaments, (KBN will allow 7th graders to compete in the HS team with the understanding they cannot advance beyond the KBN level). Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria have been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. This is a team event. You must have a partner and coach to compete. This tournament is open only to current members of official High School Clubs, recognized by said High School or an official Community Club.

Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). At each tournament contestants will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed. Failure to follow these rules

may result in penalties as laid out in this document.

However, employees, officers and directors of KBN or its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children and siblings, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. Proof of grade or graduation date, to the satisfaction of tournament officials, is the responsibility of potential competitors. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the
Tournament Director is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner or themselves shall not be eligibl**e.**

(ii) DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY KBN TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF $300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS
LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN- FORCE INSURANCE WITH $300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet KBN, LLC requirements.

(iii) A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE KBN NATION DEPARTMENT ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date. As a participant in KBN tournaments, you agree, if you qualify and are invited to be a competitor in the Bassmaster Classic High School Exhibition conducted by KBN, to use during the Bassmaster Classic High School Exhibition, any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by KBN

2. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers/Coaches participating in any KBN sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers, parents and family members of Anglers shall, always, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on KBN, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

To this end, anglers, parents, coaches, faculty members, friends and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, parents and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual KBN sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by KBN.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in KBN. events that will because for penalties as outlined in this document.

A. Heated public disagreements with KBN officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
B. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of KBN rules or officials.
C. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of KBN, KBN officials or its sponsors
D. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers,
E. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
F. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a KBN event.
G. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.

H. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from.

I. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS. The favorable public reputation of KBN as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets *and tangible benefits for KBN.* Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the KBN organization. Competitors, parents and/or family members are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with KBN policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of KBN, KBN officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

(I) There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. Special off limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster High School Championship will be announced.

(ii) There will be an official practice period beginning on the Monday prior to the first day of competition, unless directed differently by the tournament director. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to the local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates. During official practice and competition, a competitor can only have the assistance or advice of another competitor for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters. Competitors may only fish with other competitors or their registered coach during official practice and only competitors during competition. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director.

(iii) Anglers renting boat slips may launch and proceed immediately to the slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.

(iv) No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from anyone for use during any competition day.

(v) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

(vi) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these Rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY. Protests from anyone other than official competitors will not be accepted. By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor or boat captain agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The KBN Tournament Director, rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The KBN Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The KBN Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest KBN headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for all costs incurred. Random truth verification tests may be administered on site during a KBN High School Event.

(vii) Boat Captains for teams should be consistent all season long. Switching to a new boat captain who is local to the event host site will be considered a possible violation. If you need to switch a captain out for a team then it must be approved by the tournament director.

Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these Rules or false verification of

weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. **OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.** Protests from anyone other than official competitors will not be accepted.

4. REGISTRATION

Each competitor must Register/Check in person with official KBN High School Nation staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Failure to Register/Check In person during the prescribed hours may result in a 1 Lb. penalty to be deducted from your total score. Any competitor who has not contacted the KBN High School Nation Tournament Staff 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration period, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to either check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times from the KBN High School Nation Tournament Department. Registration this year will be all online. You will pay at the time you register. Refunds will not be given. For those who want to pay at the ramp the day of the tournament will pay and additional late fee.

5. SAFETY

(I) Safe boat conduct must always be observed by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor and boat captain *must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type 3 life preserver any time the combustion engine is operating,* as well as observe and abide by all state (s) life preserver regulations that apply to his/her age, while in tournament waters. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition always. Connect Kill Switch once the jacket is secure and then you may start your engine.

(II) All youth anglers and boat captains must wear a regular non-inflatable (coast guard type 3 vest) lifejacket when the outboard engine is in gear (at least in idle speed). When the outboard engine is not in gear, youth anglers are permitted to wear an inflatable jacket, if at least 16 years of age and older, and at least 80 pounds. New for the 26-27 season is that Adult boat captains must wear *the regular* non-inflatable (coast guard type 3 vest) lifejacket when the outboard engine is in gear. The following are penalties if the aforementioned lifejacket rule is violated:

First offense = fifteen (15) minute penalty assessed at blast-off
Second offense = one (1) hour penalty assessed at blast-off
Third offense = possible disqualification for the event (up to discretion of tournament director); and, up for review by KBN Youth Board for decision on the remainder of the season
****** Please note that it is the responsibility of the anglers and the boat captain to follow these rules. This rule will be checked and enforced at the blast off line up. Once your number is called, if the director sees a boat team out of compliance, the penalties will be assessed immediately.***

(vi) The front and back navigation lights must be in sound working order before you leave at blast-off (it is sufficient to tape a flashlight to the back nav light as well in cases where the back navigation light can be repaired).

(vii) Boat Captains must have the kill switch either attached to your PFD or your wrist as you come by for boat check.

(viii) Anglers must be sitting below the gunnel before takeoff.

****** Please note that it is the responsibility of the anglers and the boat captain to follow these rules. This rule will be checked and enforced at the blast off line up. Once your number is called, if the director sees a boat team out of compliance, the penalties will be assessed immediately.***

(ix) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(x) COMPETITORS CAN LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

(xi) BOAT CAPTAINS – As of January 1, 2025, B.A.S.S. enacted a rule change stating, "*any angler who*

***wishes to compete as a boater in any B.A.S.S. event (except High School and Junior events where competitors do not operate a boat) must submit proof of completion of an approved Boater Safety course*." Although for National B.A.S.S. High School and Junior events Boater Safety certificates are not required for boat captains -- these are required for KBN events.**

In efforts to ensure the highest standard of boating safety during our KBN Youth tournaments, all Boat Captains (although not competing) are required to verify their active boater safety certification prior to participating in any KBN event. Please note, this is not currently required for student anglers, although we highly encourage student anglers to fill this form out as well.

6. **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Competitors in KBN tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

(I) Use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor or boat captain during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future KBN tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, tobacco or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.

(ii) Maximum courtesy must be practiced always, especially about boating and angling near non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor or boat captain, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

(iii) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

(iv) Chemical-substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a KBN tournament and/or for disqualification from a KBN tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

The use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, except for pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he can try with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or another device. If a competitor loses his rod and reel while landing a bass, he MAY use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If that rod and reel is verified to be the lost outfit that bass may be landed and counted as a legal fish. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. Competitors can share baits and tackle always including competitors who have been cut from competition.

8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTOR BOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PRACTICE

AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE 250 HP (unless otherwise permitted by the tournament director). Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat MUST have a U.S.Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this plate or the horsepower maximum set by KBN Each competitor and boat captain agrees to submit, by his/her signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is more than the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from KBN tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by KBN must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.

9. **BOAT AND MOTOR**

For the safety of all competitors, during official practice and competition, all boats must be equipped with an approved type operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The strolling or long line technique is only allowed with the trolling motor. No exceptions. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used by any competitor."Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.

10. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass. KBN recommends live-wells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

11. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

Prior to each day's start, each boat must be inspected by a tournament official. Each day, each boat may be given a number, which must remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and at each check-in**.**

12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE

In KBN events where observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the KBN High School Nation Department. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies as well as the live- KBN release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be

considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

14. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat always except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5, 14 and 17. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat to either a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together always, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break, a refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants can leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions, (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed, the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.Competitors can leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

15. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS**

There shall be only one official check point for check- out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 11 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass is bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

16. SCORING

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. (example – hot weather/fish care concerns. At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in.

Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases, it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they MUST

present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted, and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringer at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

17. CATCH AND RELEASE

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants can purchase ice on the water; however, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. Upon mutual consent between both competitors paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check-in time of the first flight. SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.

18. LATE PENALTY

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 15, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins,fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. It is each angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings**.**

19. TIES

At any KBN High School Nation tournament, in case of a tie for first place at the end of the tournament that is not resolved by the following five (5) tie breakers there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials.All other team ties, the following tie breakers will be used in the following order: (1) the heaviest single day catch during competition (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the second heaviest single day catch during competition. (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (5) If the tie is not broken, the next tie breaker will be the biggest bass weighed. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and monetary prizes will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied teams. In the instance where merchandise is involved, prizes will be awarded as determined by tournament officials.

20. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS

Two competitors from the same High School club will be assigned to each boat. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check-out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check - out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in; except in case of dire emergency (see Rule 14,15 and 17). A team must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another team. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by KBN

21. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

An appeals committee will be established by KBN which shall be comprised of one KBN employee not affiliated with the Tournament Department, and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed under PENALTIES (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to

the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at the prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rule's violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be Final.

Competitors can compete under appeal however penalties assessed under PENALTIES (e) and (f) will remain until final ruling by the Appeals Committee. Appeals of non-competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament. Director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review

22. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. KBN may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in KBN' sole judgment, in poor taste. KBN will provide as much notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each competitor agrees to wear The KBN Shield on the front of your club jersey or hat. School name and colors must be prominently displayed on your jersey. For every competing tournament trail logo(s) that is present on your jersey, there must be one (1) KBN shield or KBN logo of equal size or larger. In addition, if KBN provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests) bearing the logos of KBN or the official sponsors of KBN each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by KBN.

23. TAXES

Some state or federal laws require income taxes be paid on awards, such as scholarships. Anglers/Observers are responsible for all applicable taxes on all awards. Various States require tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates and teams or individuals awarded merchandise certificates in these States are responsible for remitting their tax to KBN Failure to meet that obligation may result in fines or disqualification from all future KBN events.

24. WAIVER AND RELEASE

As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability and a name and likeness release. Copyrighted by KBN 2013. All rights reserved. Reproduction or use of any material in these rules is prohibited except by written permission of KBN.

25. Kentucky B.A.S.S. Nation Trail Format

Beginning in 2026-27, there will be one State Trail. There will be 6 stops this year on the State Trail. AOY Points will be calculated on your Top 4 Tournaments. There will be 1 Berth from the KBN High School Classic Championship and given an automatic berth to the Bassmaster National Championship. The following describes the qualification process for each tournament.

KBN High School Classic:

A. Qualification for the KBN High School Classic inclusive of up to sixty (60) teams will be from the State Trail AOY.

   a. Each youth angler MUST be a 'current' and active member of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Nation, and Kentucky B.A.S.S. Nation.
   b. The Champion will automatically qualify for the Bassmaster HS National Championship

Bassmaster High School National Championship:

A. Qualification for the Bassmaster High School National Championship will be based on the following:
   a. One (1) berths for the 1st team of the Bradley Roy Open. Please note, the winner of the Bradley Roy must compete in at least 4 State Trail Events to qualify and maintain qualifications for for Bassmaster

HS National Championship

i. Note, if the 1st and/or 2nd place teams are double qualified from BASS Opens, we will drop down the State Championship list to the next place team.

b. The remainder of the National Championship berths will be determined based on the total number of teams and members who registered to participate in each KBN State Trail final Team of the Year standings.

i. B.A.S.S. enables each trail to present one (1) berth for every twenty-five (25) teams / fifty (50) members. For example:

1. (50) teams / (100) members = two (2) berths
2. (150) teams / (300) members = three (3) berths
3. (250) teams / (500) members = four (4) berths
4. (350) teams / (700) members = six (6) berths

26. The points system is as follows:

Based on a one-point system starting with 300 points: Example is 1st place 300, 2nd place 299 3rd 298 etc. Teams who compete in a tournament event, but do not weigh a legal bass will still be awarded 25 points towards the respective division's Team of the Year standings.