



**2023**

**TOURNAMENT TRAIL INFO / RULES PACKAGE**

**CHRIS JONES**

**SC BASS NATION PRESIDENT**

**TONY GRAY**

**SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR**

**(REVISED 8/15/2023)**

## TRAIL INFO TOURNAMENT RULES:

### ENTRY FEES:

\$20 per Angler Annual Trail Membership Fee

\$40 per Angler SC Bass Nation Membership

\$60 Tournament Entry fee(includes BF) PER Team

(Tournament payouts will be by check (W9 REQUIRED) & based 80% on 1 for every 10 boats)

\*\*\*ALL fee's payable to SC Bass Nation via SC Bass Nation Youth Director\*\*\*

NOTE: ALL ANGLERS WITH A VALID SC BASS NATION MEMBERSHIP ARE ELIGIBLE TO COMPETE FOR THE 2023 SC BASS NATION CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

### REQUIRMENTS

ACTIVE B.A.S.S. MEMBESHIP REQUIRED

ALL College Clubs REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE Bass Nation Team Roster. Team rosters REQUIRED to be submitted to Tournament Trail Director for verification by October 1, 2023

ALL College Clubs RESPONSIBLE for maintaining signed College Angler Liability Waivers and for verifying REQUIRED boat insurance coverage.

ALL College Anglers REQUIRED to be enrolled in school in good academic standing for the entire school year

ALL College Anglers REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE SC Bass Federation Membership to compete for the SC Bass Nation College Series Tournament Trail Championship Title and advance to the BASSMASTER College National Championship Tournament.

ALL College Anglers REQUIRED to have a valid SC Fishing License.

### ACA ELIGIBILITY RULES

*Participation is open to college students who are enrolled full-time in an accredited college or university and are members in good standing of that college or university's institutionally recognized fishing club that has been cleared to compete and represent their college or university. Participants must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher.*

*Students who graduated within five (5) months of the tournament date are eligible to compete. All participants will be required to show a current student ID and a state issued photo ID at registration.*

*Anglers who have participated in five years of collegiate bass fishing tournaments (any organization at any level) are not eligible to compete.*

## **SAFETY**

**SAFETY IS TOP PRIORITY:** College Anglers are RESPONSIBLE for operating boat at a safe speed during tournament hours and inspect ALL US Coast Guard APPROVED PFD's for overall condition, fit & proper use. IF inflatable PFD's are in use, make sure that the vest is armed and/or charged. NOTE: INFLATABLE STYLE PFD WAIST BELTS ARE NOT ALLOWED. College Anglers are REQUIRED to be always seated in the cockpit area of a boat with FULLY secured PFD on while the combustion engine is in operation. The Boat Driver is REQUIRED to have Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device properly secured to his/her PFD or body while combustion engine is in use. College anglers are RESPONSIBLE for ensuring ALL navigation lights & live wells are in proper working condition.

ALL NO

WAKE ZONES MUST BE OBSERVED.

FAILURE to comply with safety rules may penalize or possibly DISQUALIFY a team from competition.

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

## **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 boats 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!  
(JON BOATS, TILLER HANDLE ENGINES & STICK STEERING BOATS ARE NOT ALLOWED)

## **INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS**

MINIMUM \$300,000 LIMITED LIABILITY INSURANCE REQUIRED PER B.A.S.S., LLC. . A copy of insurance REQUIRED to be on file with School/Club or Tournament Trail.

## **RULES/REGULATIONS**

ALL 2023 BASSMASTER College Series Rules, SCDNR Fishing Rules/ Regulations & SC Bass Nation College Series Rules apply while competing in any of the SC Bass Nation College Series Tournament.

**\*\*\*ALL COLLEGE ANGLERS ARE SUBJECT TO POLYGRAPH TEST\*\*\***

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

ALL Tournament Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, conversation & boater ethics. ALL school rules apply during tournaments.

NO team shall fish within 50 yards in ALL directions of ANY Competitor which is anchored with deployed Power Poles, Talons, Rope & Anchor or with Trolling Motor in use.

Hole Sitting by a competitor or non-competitor for the sole purpose of holding the location is NOT allowed and will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION!

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

College Anglers, Coaches, Faculty Members, Family & Friends of Student Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism & integrity while attending tournament events

(Ref: 2023 BASSMASTER College Series Rule book for complete rule definition)

## **ALCOHOL USE**

CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL BY ANYONE IS PROHIBITED. THIS INCLUDES IN THE PARKING LOT AFTER THE TOURNAMENT.

## **PROTEST**

Competitors can **ONLY** submit an Official Rules Infraction Protest. Protest **MUST** be submitted within 15 minutes of the scale closing. Written detail info which **CAN** include video and/or photos concerning the protest is accepted.

**ALL** protests will be fully reviewed by the Tournament Trail Director and/or his/her Advisory Staff.

**ALL** Protest decisions/resolutions are **FINAL!**

## **TEAM PARTICIPATION**

Team consists of (2) College Student Anglers

College Anglers encouraged to wear Team Jerseys, if available, during tournament hours.

Substitute partners is **NOT** allowed, **HOWEVER**, to maintain team points and to meet **BASSMASTER COLLEGE Series National Championship Qualification REQUIREMENTS**, College Anglers **MUST** fish together at least one (1) tournament throughout the 2020-2021 scheduled tournament season.

## **OFF LIMITS**

Tournament waters shall be off limits to **ALL** Registered College Anglers from official **SUNSET** Sunday preceding the tournament until official **SUNRISE** the Friday before tournament. **TEAMS MAY NOT SOLICIT INFORMATION FROM ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS DURING THE OFF-LIMITS PERIOD.**

Any competitor found guilty of violating the off-limits period will have their catch disqualified.

## **OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY**

Friday **BEFORE** scheduled Tournament Day, Official **SUNRISE** to Official **SUNSET**. **NO NIGHT FISHING!**

## **OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOURS**

7AM or Safe Light – 3PM

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.

## **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

**ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED PER TOURNAMENT.** Tournament Registration begins 14 **DAYS** prior to the date of the event.

**\*\*\*TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION CLOSSES @ 12 MIDNIGHT ON SUNDAY BEFORE ALL TOURNAMENT.**

**\*\*\***

## **BLAST OFF ASSIGNMENTS**

Set by using the Random Number Generator (RNG) app based on completed online registration.

Blast off / Flight Positions & Tournament Info will be posted on Thursday afternoon **BEFORE** each tournament on Facebook **SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES PAGE**

## **TOURNAMENT MORNING CHECK IN**

Begins @ 5AM on Tournament morning,

**ALL** teams will be issued a **BOAT STAGING NUMBER CARD**

**BOAT STAGING**

**CARD MUST BE TURNED IN AFTER TOURNAMENT, FAILURE TO TURN WILL RESULT IN LAST STARTING POSITION AT NEXT TOURNAMENT.**

**NUMBERED Boat Staging papers** are for the purpose of boats lining up in numerical order in their perspective flights. Boats not following directions will be sent to the tail end of the blast-off.

## **DOCK PARKING**

DO NOT TIE UP TO ANY DOCK!!! Docks are used for loading & unloading Anglers ONLY. In the mornings, once everyone is onboard, boats must move away from the dock to allow ample use of the dock by other teams for the same purposes.

THIS RULE APPLIES TO THE AFTERNOON USE OF DOCK AS WELL!

## **OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOURS**

7AM or Safe Light – 3PM

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.

## **SAFETY MEETING**

MANDATORY Rules / Safety Meeting followed by Prayer & National Anthem @ ALL SC BASS NATION YOUTH/COLLEGE Tournaments.

## **BLAST OFF PROCEDURE**

ALL boats MUST be staged in flight area based on blast off positions. ALL Flights will consist of 30 boats.

Tournament Coordinator will conduct blast off procedures at which time ALL boats MUST drive by at NO WAKE speed either by the dock or Blast Off Boat to verify ALL Safety Requirements & Live Well is working properly. Boats that do NOT meet these REQUIREMENTS will NOT be launched until ALL issues are corrected!

## **BLAST OFF MINIMUM 50 YARDS FROM DOCK, BLAST OFF BOAT OR NO WAKE BOUYS THAT MAY BE IN PLACE**

## **TOURNAMENT CREEL**

College Series Division - 5 Fish Limit per Boat

College Series Division should not possess more than 5 fish at any given time during tournament hours.

Extra fish MUST be culled immediately.

ALL fish must be largemouth, spotted, redeye or small mouth bass that are a MINIMUM of 12 inches in length, UNLESS the lake length is longer per SCDNR, i.e., 14" on Murray, Greenwood, Marion or Lake Moultrie. Fish will be measured with mouth closed and tail fanned, not pinched on a golden rule.

College Anglers are encouraged to check their fish for legal length BEFORE placing it in Live Well.

All fish must be caught on artificial lures, and anglers may only use one rod at a time. ALL fishing is REQUIRED to be performed inside the boat. Student Anglers are not permitted to exit the boat to advance in position to cast or land a fish, Bedding fish MUST be hooked in mouth.

Trolling is not permitted.

## **DEAD FISH RULE**

Dead fish CANNOT be culled. Dead fish MUST be kept and weighed in as part of the tournament fish limit. A 4-ounce penalty (4 oz. = .25) for each dead fish will be assessed. This penalty WILL also apply to big fish, in the event the big fish is deceased.

## **PIERCING CULL TAGS**

NOT allowed per BASSMASTER College Series Rules. The penalty for use of piercing type cull tags is loss of that fish from daily creel.

## **TOURNAMENT AFTERNOON CHECK IN**

AFTERNOON TOURNAMENT CHECK IN WILL ALWAYS BE AT THE RED HOLDING TANK TENT. A Staff member will be set up at a table for college anglers to turn in their boat floats at which time they be notified of their OFFICAL check in time that is recorded.

College Anglers are REQUIRED to have an 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 Anglers & Team Coaches.

College Anglers are encouraged to check their fish for legal length BEFORE submitting fish to be weighed. Student Anglers CAN request a courtesy measurement check on a fish WITHOUT penalty.

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

Once College 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 College Angler will be allowed to leave the holding tank area once they have checked in until they have been called to the stage for the official Weigh In.

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.

NO TRAILERING OF BOATS ALLOWED BEFORE WEIGH IN UNLESS TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR/ COORDINATOR MAKES ANNOUNCEMENT BEFORE THE START OF ANY SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT!

**ALL College Anglers REQUIRED to Check In as outlined below.**

FLIGHT #1 Boat 1-30    REQUIRED CHECK TIME 3PM            (301PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 315PM DQ)

FLIGHT #2 Boat 31-60    REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 315PM    (316PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 330PM DQ)

FLIGHT #3 Boat 61-90    REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 330PM    (331PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 345PM DQ)

FLIGHT #4 Boat 91-120    REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 345PM    (346PM LATE PANALTY BEGINS / 4PM DQ)

### **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.

### **HOLDING TANK**

WHEN AVAILABLE, ALL fish once checked in, weighed in & photos are taken, ALL fish become property of the tournament trail and will be placed into a holding tank for later release after the tournament.

IF tank trailer is NOT available, College anglers will release fish back into water.

### **PHOTOS**

AFTER each team has weighed in their fish, a designated photo area will be set up for photo purposes.

### **EMERGENCY CONTACT**

If an emergency occurs, College Angler should call 911 first, and then notify SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR Tony Gray @ 803-534-1720.

### **POINTS SYSTEM**

SC Bass Nation College Series Division 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.

### **SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE**

ALL anglers can compete for the 2023 SC Bass Nation College Trail Championship Award which is based on season ending points. (SC Bass Nation College SEASONAL Membership REQUIRED)

### **BASSMASTER COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT QUALIFYING**

Based Season ending points by ALL participating College Anglers and awarded based on 1 spot for every 100 PAID trail members.

### **BASS PRO SHOP ACA SCHOOL OF THE YEAR POINTS**

Will be awarded as outlined in the program.

## **TOURNAMENT RESULTS**

**TOURNAMENT RESULTS ARE CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL UNTIL ALL PENALTIES (DEAD FISH & CHECK IN TIME) IS REVIEWED AND DOCUMENTED.**

**FINAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON MONDAY AFTERNOON AFTER EACH TOURNAMENT.**

## **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.**

## **RULES VIOLATION**

**Violation of a tournament rule by any College Angler may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day (eligible for a restart), loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification for the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future events. If a team is disqualified from a tournament their weight will be recorded as 0 lb. However, they will still receive tournament points as if they had just caught no fish. If the director feels that their violation was a willful attempt to gain an unfair advantage or to intentionally cheat, the Tournament Director has the right to refuse entry from that team or team members in the future and will inform all members of the situation.**

## **NOTICE**

**Any interpretation, questions, or concerns regarding these rules should be brought to the attention of the SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR, Tony Gray.**

**All decisions by the Director & Staff are FINAL!**

**By signing the Official LIABILITY Form, I acknowledge ,I have willingly read, understand and will abide by the rules associated with competing in the SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES RULES and I hereby release SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL, its officers, sponsors, hosts, employees and anyone working in association with them from any damages, injuries, or death that may occur as a result of competing in these events, whether by negligence of the said parties or otherwise to the fullest extent of the law.**



**2023 FALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE (REVISED 8/15/2023)**

**(OPEN COLLEGE TOURNAMENT TRAIL)**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2023**

**\*LAKE HARTWELL @ GUM BRANCH FACILITY\***

**OCTOBER 14, 2023**

**COOPER RIVER @ BUSHY PARK**

**NOVEMBER 4, 2023**

**\*LAKE GREENWOOD STATE PARK\***

**DECEMBER 8 & 9, 2023**

**\*LAKE RUSSELL @ RICHARD B. RUSSELL STATE PARK\***

**(TOP 10 in season points advance to Championship Saturday December 9, 2023)**

**TOURNAMENT RELATED FEE'S**

**\$20 PER ANGLER TRAIL FEE**

**\*\*\$40 SC BASS NATION MEMBERSHIP PER ANGLER\*\***

**\*\* (Membership REQUIRED ONLY if angler is fishing towards 2023 SC State Championship) \*\***

**\$60 Tournament Entry Fee per boat (Solo or Team)**

**\*\*ALL Fee's payable to: SC Bass Nation\*\***

**(Cash, Check or VENMO- @SCBassNation2023)**

**\*ACA Bass Pro Shop School of the Year Sanctioned Event\***

**CONTACT INFO: TONY GRAY – SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR (803) 534-1720 /**

**[scyouthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:scyouthdirector@gmail.com)**

**Website: [schighschoolbasschallenge.com](http://schighschoolbasschallenge.com)**

**Facebook @ SC Bass Nation College Tournament Trail**





## COVID-19 Recommendations for Attendance of Events

Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and other various medical authorities. The SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES, sponsoring agencies, and those conducting tournaments **CANNOT GUARANTEE** that you will not become infected with COVID-19 or any other diseases while attending a scheduled event. Further, you acknowledge that attendance of ANY SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES events is voluntary & could increase your risk of contracting COVID-19 or other diseases.

**SAFETY** is the **ULTIMATE** goal of our Student Anglers, Boat Captains, Staff & guest during ALL SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES events, therefore, in accordance with Federal, State, and/or county municipal health guidelines, the SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES Director has set the following guidelines in an effort to keep everyone safe while attending scheduled events based on CDC, WHO & other medical agencies.

- *The IMMEDIATE Check In & Weigh In area's will be marked off allowing ONLY essential participants known as College Anglers & Staff to be within the boundaries maintaining the REQUIRED 6' social distancing rules. ALL others, known as non-essential will be REQUIRED to stay outside of the immediate Check In & Weigh In areas.*
- *If you have been sick with COVID 19 or experienced symptoms at least 14 days leading up to a scheduled tournament, you are requested stay home.*
- *Anyone that has had COVID 19 or experienced symptoms must be medically cleared to be able to participate in the upcoming tournament.*
- *Nose & Mouth coverings are REQUIRED to be worn during morning check in, afternoon check in & weigh ins. College Anglers and Tournament Staff are responsible for their own nose and mouth coverings (buffs are acceptable nose and mouth coverings).*
- *Holding tanks set up so that there can be two teams per tank and no more than ten teams in the holding tank area at any time.*
- *Holding tanks will be set up on the release side of the trailer will be separated to ensure adequate distance is provided while waiting to take pictures and release fish.*
- *Spectators will be allowed to set up tents. It will be the responsibility of the respective teams, coaches, and staff to hold all anglers and spectators to the MANDATED social distancing guidelines. It is vital that we have no large gatherings during the event.*
- *Wash and/or use hand sanitizer frequently.*
- *Electronic tournament registration will be set up to eliminate paperwork handling*
- *Teams will be FREQUIRED to place ALL tournament paperwork & tournament entry fees in a marked envelope & placed in a predetermined collection receptacle during morning check in.*
  
- *Reduce the number of boats per flight to 20, checking in every 15 mins*
- *Clean key floats before and after use*
- *Call teams to weigh in in groups of 10*
- *Sterilize mesh weigh in bags between uses before, during, and after the tournament*



## 2023 School Entry Form

School/Club Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School Mascot: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Club Advisor's Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Club Advisor's Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Club Advisor's Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Bass Team Coach Name & Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Bass Team Coach Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Bass Team Coach Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

**We the undersigned, submit our School Entry Form with the SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES and agree to the objectives, purpose & rules as outlined in the 2022 SC BASS NATION COLLEGE SERIES Rules/Info Package.**

**For more info, Please Contact, Tony Gray, SC BASS NATION Youth Director @ (803) 534-1720 or via email @ [scyouthdirector@gmail.com](mailto:scyouthdirector@gmail.com)**

**SC Youth Director, PO BOX 361, Orangeburg, SC 29116**



