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**2023-2024**

**TOURNAMENT TRAIL RULES BOOK**

**TONY GRAY – DIRECTOR**

**JAMIE GRAY – TOURNAMENT COORDNATOR**

**\*\*Information in this package is subject to Change and/or Review\*\* (REVISION 1/8/2024)**

## TOURNAMENT TRIAL RULES

### ELIGIBILITY

JR. BASSMASTER Division 2<sup>ND</sup> – 8<sup>TH</sup> Grade HIGH SCHOOL Division 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

NOTE: ALL Team Coaches / Schools have the right to set their own starting age for their perspective programs.

Visiting Schools/Teams from neighboring states are allowed to participate in the SC Bass Nation. Paid SC Bass Nation Membership (\$20 per Student) REQUIRED. Out of State Teams can NOT participate in the SC Bass Nation Annual State Championship per BASSMASTER Rules.

**Note to Team Coaches & Parents: If using a Credit or Debit Card to purchase a New and/or Re-New a student anglers Bass Membership via on-line or phone, remember that card info will be retained by B.A.S.S. for all future renewals UNLESS you call B.A.S.S (1-877-227-7872) and request the card info be removed from file.**

**\*\*DO NOT use the SC Bass Nation ADULT Website or Facebook page to pay Student Angler memberships\*\***

**ALL School / Teams REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE & UPDATED Bass Nation Team Roster showing Student Names & their B.A.S.S. & Bass Nation Membership Validation.**

**Team rosters REQUIRED to be submitted to Tournament Trail Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director by October 31, 2023.**

**Student Anglers NOT ACTIVE will NOT be allowed to register & participate in ANY SC Bass Nation Youth events until corrected.**

**NOTE: Team Coaches should contact B.A.S.S. for assistance with Team Roster management System related issues. Best form of communication with B.A.S.S. is via email: [highschool@Bassmaster.com](mailto:highschool@Bassmaster.com)**

**All teams will be issued a Team numbe which will remain the same for the entire season.**

Teams will be REQUIRED to remember their Team # throughout the entire season.

**\*\* (This team number helps with scoring throughout the season, and has NOTHING to do with determining the Blast-off order)**

**Afternoon check-ins will be at the Scoring table @ RED TENT TANK COMPOUND. Do Not Be LATE. Plan your time accordingly.**

**ALL Bridges, Railways or similar structures, in service or abandoned, marked or unmarked with signs, are NO WAKE ZONES. Failure to abide by the No Wake Zone Rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION for the tournament.**

### REQUIRMENTS

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

Underage Student Anglers REQUIRED to have parent signature on Liability Waiver.

**ALL Student Anglers REQUIRED to be enrolled in school in good academic standing for the entire school year. 2.0 GPA MINIMUM**

ALL Student Anglers REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE SC Bass Federation Membership to compete in the ANNUAL SC Bass Nation State Championship Tournament or advance to the BASSMASTER Youth National Championship Tournament.

SC Bass Nation Student Angler Membership is \$20 payable by May 1, 2024, valid from January 1-December 31 ANNUALLY.

JR. BASSMASTER Student Anglers REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE BASS Nation Membership (B.A.S.S. Membership optional).

HIGH SCHOOL Division Student Anglers REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE B.A.S.S. & Bass Nation Membership.

ALL Student Anglers aged 16 and over, REQUIRED to have a valid SC Fishing License.

### TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

TRAIL TOURNAMENT'S & BATTLE OF THE CAROLINA'S \$20 PER Boat (Solo or Team)

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP \$25

Payable to: SC High School Bass Challenge

Mail to: SC High School Bass Challenge, PO Box 361, Orangeburg, SC 29116

NOTE: \$50 Return Check Fee

## SAFETY

IS TOP PRIORITY – NO EXCEPTIONS- ZERO TOLERANCE

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

NOTE: INFLATABLE WAIST BELT PFD'S ARE NOT ALLOWED.

**Boat Captain & Student Anglers are REQUIRED to be seated in the boat cockpit always seats ONLY with FULLY secured PFD on while the combustion engine is running which includes Idle, Forward and Reverse operation. NO EXCEPTIONS! ZERO TOLERANCE! This includes BEFORE & AFTER tournament hours.**

The Boat Captain is REQUIRED to have Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device properly secured to his/her PFD or body while combustion engine is in use. Student Anglers CAN assist with launching & loading of boats using combustion motor.

ALL PFD & Emergency Ignition Shut-Off Device rules apply.

ALL Bridges, Railways or similar structures, in service or abandoned, marked or unmarked with signs, are NO WAKE ZONES.

Failure to abide by the No Wake Zone Rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION for the tournament.

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\*\***

## COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

During Tournament hours, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. You are NOT allowed to use a winch, pulley, come along, cable, rope or similar device/tools to gain access to tournament waters. Competitors may not shift their weight outside of the boat and onto a dock or other object outside of the boat for the purpose of landing fish or accessing a fishing spot. Boat Captains & Student Anglers are allowed, for boat protection, to push or shove off objects while landing a fish and still be counted as legal. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must always remain in the boat, except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director for rest room breaks. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat either to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must always remain together, 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 breakdown situations, afternoon check in times does NOT change. With tournament official's permission, boat captains may transfer their boat's student anglers & fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check-in, and they may leave their boat captain with the disabled boat. In such cases, student anglers are REQUIRED to always stay with their catches, and the assisting boat's partners should verify the catch. Any high school team whose boat is disabled that rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh-in is NOT allowed to fish. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave 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, 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.

## BOAT BREAKDOWNS/ACCIDENTS

ALL breakdowns/accidents are to be reported to Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director.

Per BASSMASTER Rules, once contact has been made with Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director, Team Coaches/ Boat Captains can make arrangements to get their student anglers and catch of the day back to weigh in with another teammate and/or competitor team. **CHECK IN TIME DOES NOT CHANGE DUE TO BREAKDOWNS/ACCIDENTS**

**\*\*ALL boat breakdowns and/or repairs during tournament hours must be reported and approved by Tournament Director. 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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Tournament 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.

NOTE: Postponed/Rescheduled Tournaments does NOT re-open that tournaments registration. Teams registered prior to online registration closing are the ONLY teams eligible to participate.

## **COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!**

Team Coaches are RESPONSIBLE for providing their teams including Boat Captain's and Parents the latest info available. Team meetings are HIGHLY encouraged throughout the tournament season.

## **CONSERVATION IS A REQUIREMENT!**

EVERYONE is RESPONSIBLE for following the B.A.S.S. Conservation Policy to the fullest. Our goal is to always leave fishery and surroundings just as we have found it as we strive to keep conservation at the forefront of our mission. The BASS Conservation agenda focuses on 6 main pillars: scientific fish management, habitat, aquatic invasive species management, aquatic vegetation management, angler access and Tournament Fish Care. Included in this Info Package are several pages relating to proper fish care that EVERYONE needs to adopt and practice while fishing as what we release today, we catch again tomorrow.

**Team Coaches REQUIRED to make Fish Care a PRIORITY with their teams and Boat Captains.**

## **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! NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!!!

JON BOATS that meet the above criteria are ALLOWED.

(TILLER HANDLE ENGINES & STICK STEERING IS 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. \*\*RANDOM PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE CONDUCTED\*\*\*

FAILURE TO SHOW PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION FROM SCHEDULED EVENT.

## **RULES/REGULATIONS**

While competing in ANY SC Bass Nation Youth Series Tournament Trail event, ALL BASSMASTER High School Rules apply. ALL SCDNR Fishing Rules/ Regulations apply. ANY SCDNR citation given during tournament hours will result in DISQUALIFICATION. ALL SC Bass Nation Youth Series Rules apply. ALL rule infractions & penalties, upon full review are at the discretion of Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director Tony Gray.

## **CELL PHONE POLICY:**

Contestants, Coaches & Boat Captains may NOT use ANY mobile communication devices on ANY kind, including but not limited to cell phones, radios, tablets, etc., to communicate with ANYONE for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters during official practice & tournament hours.

Mobile Communication devices may be used by boat captains to communicate with tournament officials, team coach & lockmasters during official tournament hours.

Contestants, Coaches & Boat Captains CAN use mobile communication devices during official tournament hours for GPS mapping, weather updates, tidal chart and to report safety issues.

Failure to abide by the rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION.

## RESTROOM BREAKS

ALL Student Anglers & Boat Captains are ALLOWED to exit the boat to take a private restroom break if needed. ONLY one person can be out of the boat at any given time. NO fishing is allowed if an angler or Boat Captain is out of the boat for restroom breaks. Boat Captain can seek private restroom location for any male or female angler. (Example: Marina or Public Rest Room Area.) Tournament Director should be contacted via phone call or text message when someone needs to exit the boat during Rest Room Breaks. Phone service is NOT always the best, however, the attempt to call or text will be recorded.

## BOAT CAPTAIN RULES

REQUIRED age 18 or older, CAN NOT be a Full Time High School Student! College Anglers APPROVED Boat Captains per B.A.S.S.

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

Immediate Family Member described as Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, or Grandparent.

NOTE: BFL AND/OR BASS OPEN ANGLERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS. A BOAT CAPTAIN WHO IS THE CHILD OF A PRO ANGLER CAN BE A BOAT CAPTAIN UNLESS THAT CHILD IS LISTED AS A PROFESSIONAL ANGLER.

**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!**

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.

## JR & HS Division

Per B.A.S.S. Boat Captains MUST always remain in boat during tournament hours. CAN coach, make location & technique suggestions during tournament hours, CAN assist in keeping equipment organized on the deck of the boat to eliminate any safety related hazards during scheduled tournament hours, CAN retrieve ANY equipment from the possibility of going overboard, CAN assist student anglers in the culling process providing BOTH student anglers are NOT fishing & assist in hook removal from fish once fish is landed inside boat as a safety measure.

**\*\*BOAT CAPTAINS CAN NOT FISH OR STAND WITH ROD/REEL IN HAND DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS. \*\***

### JR. Division Boat Captain

MAY net fish.

MAY assist with hook removal from fish, trees, docks & underwater snags for safety concerns.

MAY assist with back lash removal. Reel MUST be removed from rod to remove back lash.

MAY run a trolling motor.

### HS Division Boat Captain

Can NOT net fish, UNLESS, student angler is fishing solo, then Boat Captain can assist in netting of fish for safety concerns.

Can NOT run a trolling motor, UNLESS, neither student angler is trained to run a trolling motor safely or in an emergency where safety would be compromised causing personal or property damage.

Can NOT remove back lashes, hook snags in trees, docks, or underwater snags.

NOTE: HIGH SCHOOL DIVISION BOAT CAPTAINS ARE ENCOURAGED TO TEACH STUDENT ANGLERS PROPER RUNNING OF THE TROLLING MOTOR & NETTING OF FISH AS THIS TASK WILL BE REQUIRED IN ALL STATE & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS.

SUBSTITUTE BOAT CAPTAINS ARE ALLOWED PROVIDING A LIABILITY WAIVER IS SIGNED AND ON FILE. School Coaches or Team Advisors are RESPONSIBLE for advising Tournament Officials when a Substitute Boat Captain is participating in a tournament. Failure to comply and a Boat Captain Launches without notice will result in DISQUALIFICATION!

ALL Boat Captains should model cooperation, honor, integrity, perseverance, and honesty. Any boat captain who fails to promote these ideals may be removed from the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES by the Executive Director and/or Advisory Staff.

**\*\*\*ALL BOAT CAPTAIN'S ARE SUBJECT TO POLYGRAPH TEST\*\*\***

## **SPORTSMANSHIP**

ALL Tournament Competitors described as Boat Captain & Student Anglers 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 boat, Competitor OR Non-Competitor which is in float mode, anchored with deployed Power Poles, Talons, Rope & Anchor or with Trolling Motor in use.

Hole Sitting by a competitor and/or non-competitor for the sole purpose of holding the location is NOT allowed and will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION! Rule Infractions & Penalties, based on confirmed evidence (Video/Photo) is at the desecration of Tournament Director, Advisory Staff and/or SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Youth Director.

## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Student Anglers, Boat Captains, Coaches, Faculty Members, Family & Friends of Student Anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism & integrity while attending SC Bass Nation Youth Series Tournament Trail events

(Ref: 2023-2024 BASSMASTER High School Rule book for complete rule definition)

## **ALCOHOL USE**

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

## **PROTEST**

Registered Tournament participates described as Student Anglers and/or Boat Captain can ONLY submit an Official Rules Infraction Protest. ALL Protest MUST be submitted in writing within 15 minutes of the scale closing to Tournament Director, Advisory Staff and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director. Protest Forms are available in Tournament Trailer. Detailed info to support the protest CAN include video and/or photos.

ALL Protest will be fully reviewed by the Tournament Director, Advisory Staff including SC BASS NATION Youth Director.

ALL Protest decisions/resolutions are FINAL!

## **TEAM PARTICIPATION**

Team consists of (2) Student Anglers & (1) Boat Captain.

2023 B.A.S.S. High School Rules REQUIRE Student Anglers MUST have a partner to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit a student angler from having a partner throughout the season, then a written request must be submitted to Tournament Director for approval from BOTH State & National Youth Directors.

Substitute team partners is NOT allowed. ALL unapproved partner substitutions found will result is DISQUALIFICATION for the tournament and ALL future tournament registrations for the scheduled tournament season will NOT be accepted.

**TEAM PARTICIPTION RULE AMMENEDMNET 2022:** Changing Team Partners is Highly discouraged HOWEVER there are circumstances that support the rule to be reviewed by the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Tournament Trail & SC Bass Nation Youth Director to eliminate penalizing a team for uncontrolled circumstances surrounding a team partner change request.

Effective August 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023, changing team partners WITHOUT team points being effective will be APPROVED based on the following guidelines: Medical concerns, family moving out of district/state for personal and/or military reasons, original partner leaves the team. IF a team partner change request is submitted within the time frame listed above based on personal / personality reasons, the request will need to be reviewed in depth which could affect season team points such as points being divided equally if both student anglers continue to fish the trail representing the same school with a NEW partner and /or solo.

NOTE: Team name changes do NOT set season points back to ZERO.

Changing Team Partners AFTER the December 31, 2023, Deadline will NOT be APPROVED.

## **PURCHASING OF INFORMATION:**

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS way points and the hiring of licensed guides is PROHIBITED by contestants, coaches, boat captains or anyone working on a team's behalf within 30 days of the start of scheduled tournament

Teams can NOT hire a specific boat captain for his / her services. A team CAN reimburse a boat captain for actual fuel & travel expenses related to the tournament.

Failure to abide by the rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION.

## **USE OF DRONES/ MAGNIFYING DEVICES:**

The use of Personal Aircraft including Drones. is PROHIBITED by Contestants, Coaches & Boat Captains during OFFICIAL Practice & Tournament Hours. Contestants, Coaches & Boat Captains can NOT receive outside information from ANYONE using such devices for the purpose of locating and catching fish during OFFICIAL Practice & Tournament hours.

The use of magnifying devices listed as binoculars and/or spotting scopes by boat captains & contestants is ALLOWED for the purpose of locating schooling fish.

Failure to abide by the rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION.

## **OFF LIMITS**

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 30 DAYS OF OFFICIAL PRACTICE & TOURNAMENT HOURS.

## **OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY**

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

NOTE: Tournament Practice is voluntary by ALL registered Teams. Student Anglers are NOT covered under the Tournament Day Insurance Policy on Official Practice. Safe boating & fishing practices should always be maintained when on the water.

## **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, equipment & volunteers associated with the scheduled event.

## **TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

Team Coaches will be responsible for registering their teams using the ONLINE REGISTRATION APP which will be emailed 14 DAYS prior to the scheduled tournament. A CONFIRMATION message will be displayed at the end of the online registration process to verify tournament registration was successful for each team registered.

**NOTE: TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON SUNDAY @ 12PM BEFORE ALL TOURNAMENTS.**

NOTE: Postponed/Rescheduled Tournaments does NOT re-open that tournaments registration. Teams registered prior to online registration closing are the ONLY teams eligible to participate.

## **BLAST OFF ASSIGNMENTS**

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

Blast off / Flight Positions & Tournament Info will be emailed to team coaches and uploaded on the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Tournament Trail Facebook page.

In fairness to ALL Student Anglers, the following rotating format will be used in setting ALL Tournament Blast Off positions,

1<sup>st</sup> Tournament High School/Jr. Bassmaster Division

2<sup>nd</sup> Tournament Jr. Bassmaster/High School

## TOURNAMENT MORNING CHECK IN

Begins @ 5AM on Tournament morning,

ALL teams will be issued a Numbered Boat Float OR Numbered Staging card.

BOAT FLOAT AND/OR STAGING CARD MUST BE TURNED IN AFTER TOURNAMENT, FAILURE TO TURN WILL RESULT IN LAST STARTING POSITION AT NEXT TOURNAMENT. Lost or damaged staging cards will assess a \$20 replacement fee by team and /or school.

NUMBERED Boat Staging cards 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 line.**

BOAT CAPTAINS, PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP MAKE BLAST OFF SMOOTH AS POSSIBLE!

## LIVE WELL CHECK

Properly working Live wells will be checked during blast off procedures. Any boat coming to tournament site by water, boat captain is responsible for checking their team in and advising a staff member that live well needs to be checked.

## DOCK PARKING

DO NOT TIE UP TO ANY DOCK!!! Docks are used for loading & unloading of Student Anglers & Boat Captains 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!

## SAFETY MEETING

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

## BLAST OFF PROCEDURE

**SINGLE FILE BLAST OFF IN NUMERICAL ORDER.** ALL boats MUST be staged in the flight area based on blast off positions. ALL Flights will consist of 30 boats. Teams breaking in Blast Off line out of numerical sequence will be sent to rear of the field.

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 listed as Emergency Engine Cut Off Switch, Navigation Lights & 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

JR. BASSMASTER Division - 3 Fish per Boat

JR. BASSMASTER Division should not possess more than 3 fish at any given time during tournament hours.

Extra fish MUST be culled immediately.

HIGH SCHOOL Division - 5 Fish Limit per Boat

High School 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, Small Mouth, Spotted or Redeye Bass MUST be a MINIMUM 12 Inch Length, UNLESS the State Lake Length Rule is longer (14" Greenwood, Marion, Moultrie, Murray, Wateree, or Wylie). Fish will be measured with mouth closed & tail fanned using the Golden Rule. NOTE: PINCHING OF TAIL IS PROHIBITED. Students Anglers are encouraged to check their fish for legal length BEFORE placing it in live well.

**BUMP MASTERS RULING ON FISH LENGTH IS FINAL ONCE SUBMITTED!!**

**\*\*BEDDING FISH MUST BE HOOKED IN THE MOUTH. NO EXCEPTIONS! \*\***

## 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 (4oz. = .25) for each dead fish will be assessed. This penalty WILL also apply to big fish, in the event the big fish is deceased.

**BUMP MASTERS RULING ON DEAD FISH IS FINAL ONCE SUBMITTED!!**



## PIERCING CULL TAGS

PROHIBITED per BASSMASTER High School Rules. The penalty for use of piercing type cull tags is loss of that fish from daily creel.

## TOURNAMENT AFTERNOON CHECK IN

**ALL TEAMS (WITH OR WITHOUT FISH) ARE REQUIRED TO CHECK IN DURING AFTERNOON CHECK IN ONLY STUDENT ANGLERS CAN OFFICIALLY CHECK IN THEIR TEAM.**

**AFTERNOON TOURNAMENT CHECK IN WILL BE @ RED TENT TANK COMPOUND.**

ALL Boat Captains will be REQUIRED to bring their team back to the point of Blast Off so that one of the Team Anglers can officially check that team in at the designated check in area known as the RED TENT TANK COMPOUND.

A Staff member will be set up to record afternoon check in time, fish count and collect Boat Number Card.

ALL Teams REQUIRED to check in REGARDLESS OF if team has fish or no fish. NO EXCEPTIONS!!!!

Once a team has OFFICALLY checked in, at the Tournament Directors discretion which will be made public knowledge during morning announcements, the Team can proceed to beach or trailer their Boat and bring fish to the Red Tent Tent Compound where their catch will be OFFICALLY checked by the Bump Master. Once the Team has been checked in by Bump Master, NO Student Angler will be allowed to leave the holding tank area until they have been called to the stage for official Weigh In.

**BUMP MASTERS RULING ON FISH LENGTH & DEAD FISH IS FINAL ONCE SUBMITTED!!**

***NOTE: ALL teams have 30 minutes from the time they check in to return to the Red Tent Tank Compound with their fish. This 30-minute rule is being implemented to eliminate teams from prolonging bringing their fish to the scales and to speed up the weigh-in process. Example: A High School team in Flight #1 due in @ 3PM should be checked in at the Red Tent Tank Compound by 3PM and in line at the tanks by 330PM. A HS team in Flight #2 due in @315PM should be checked in at the Red Tent Tent Compound by 345PM and in line at the tanks by 345PM. Absolutely unacceptable for a team in Flight #1 in EITHER division to wait till the last flight of the day to decide to come to the scales. For the record, scales close 30 minutes AFTER the last flight has checked in.***

**ALL BOATS REQUIRED TO HAVE FISH BAG ON BOARD!**

Student 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 a water bag is UNACCEPTABLE and will be addressed to the Student Anglers, Boat Captains & Team Coaches.

Student 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. **BUMP MASTERS RULING ON FISH LENGTH & DEAD FISH IS FINAL ONCE SUBMITTED!!**

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 TEAMS, JR & HIGH SCHOOL ARE REQUIRED TO BE AT THE TANK COMPOUND WITHIN 30 MINUTES AFTER OFFICIALLY CHECKING IN.**

**SCALES WILL CLOSE 30 MINUTES AFTER LAST FLIGHT DUE**

**IN**

# ALL JR. BASSMASTER TEAMS CHECK IN @ 2PM.

Note: JR. BASSMASTER CHECK IN TIME MAY CHANGE BASED ON # OF JR TEAMS REGISTERED AT A PARTICULAR TOURNAMENT BASED ON TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS' DISCRETION.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL Student 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. This tank will be managed by an adult, and it is requested that student anglers, visitors/guest stay clear of this tank trailer.

IF tank trailer is NOT available, student anglers will be assisted with proper fish release efforts.

## PHOTOS

AFTER each team has weighed in their fish, a designated photo area will be set up for photo purposes. Student Anglers are PROHIBITED of setting bags of fish on the ground to retrieve fish for photos. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS RULE WILL RESULT IS DISQUALIFICATION. Volunteers are greatly appreciated to assist the student anglers with this task.

## EMERGENCY CONTACT

If an emergency occurs, the Boat Captain or Student Angler should call 911 first, and then notify the Executive Director, Tony Gray @ 803-534-1720, OR Tournament Coordinator Jamie Gray @ 803-928-9088.

## Tournament/Trail Fee's

**\$20.00** Tournament Fee per Boat

NOTE: Fees are used for the operation of the trail throughout the scheduled tournament season. Expenses such as Trophies, Incentive Programs, Cell Phone (Director), travel including food & lodging for all Trail related business, Insurance, Taxes & Maintenance of the Tournament Vehicles & Tournament Trailer Insurance. Purchase of tournament-related equipment is funded through these fees as well.

## TOURNAMENT AWARDS

1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup>, 3<sup>RD</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5th & BIG FISH AWARDS WILL BE AWARDED @ ALL SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENTS FOR ALL DIVISIONS

## POINTS SYSTEM

JR. BASSMASTER & 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.

## BASSMASTER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

Per BASSMASTER, National Championship spots will be awarded by season ending points for High School Division ONLY and is based on one (1) National Championship berth per 100 ACTIVE memberships (8<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade Students ONLY)

## **The “CLASSIC” TOURNAMENT**

ALL Teams, Jr. & High School Divisions, that participate in a minimum of 6 regular season points tournaments QUALIFY for the season ending “CLASSIC” Tournament which is a NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT for the High School Division ONLY.

## **“BATTLE of the CAROLINA” TOURNAMENT**

Based on season ENDING “CLASSIC” Tournament results, TOP 30 High School & TOP 10 JR. BASSMASTER Teams qualify for the annual “BATTLE of the CAROLINAS” tournament.

## **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.

## **DIVISION POINTS CHAMPIONS**

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

## **LADY ANGLER OF THE YEAR**

Awarded to the highest season ending points female angler in JR. BASSMASTER & High School Division

## **SCHOOL OF THE YEAR**

Awarded to the highest season ending team in School of the Year Points, based on Top 3 finishing team weights per tournament by each school for both JR. BASSMASTER & High School Divisions. NOTE: Teams Season Big Fish will be tie breaker if needed

for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 248 for 3<sup>rd</sup>, etc.)

(Points example, 250 points 1<sup>st</sup> place, 249

## **RULES VIOLATION**

Violations of a tournament rule by Boat Captain OR Student Anglers 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 SERIES Tournament Trail Executive Director, Tournament Coordinator, and /or Advisory Staff.

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 YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL and I hereby release SC BASS NATION YOUTH 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.

**NOTE**

No one is allowed to set up to sell food or any type of merchandise including Raffle Tickets WITHOUT written APPROVAL from the Executive Director of the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES. This applies to ALL SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Tournament locations.

Pets are ALLOWED at tournaments but not in the IMMEDIATE tournament activity areas. Pet owners are RESPONSIBLE for cleaning up after their pets.

EVERYONE is RESPONSIBLE for cleaning up their tail gating which includes trash removal from tournament site if trash receptacles are Full or not provided.

**CONTACT INFO:**

**TONY GRAY – SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR**

**(803) 534-1720**

**[SCYOUTHDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SCYOUTHDIRECTOR@GMAIL.COM)**

**JAMIE GRAY – TOURNAMENT COORDINATOR**

**(803) 928-9088**



**(PUBLISHED 4/17/2023)**

## **2023-2024 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

<b>SEPTEMBER 23, 2023</b>	<b>LAKE HARTWELL @ GREENPOND LANDING</b>
<b>OCTOBER 28, 2023</b>	<b>LAKE KEOWEE @ SOUTH COVE COUNTY PARK</b>
<b>NOVEMBER 18, 2023</b>	<b>LAKE GREENWOOD @ GREENWOOD STATE PARK</b>
<b>DECEMBER 9, 2023</b>	<b>LAKE RUSSELL @ RICHARD B. RUSSELL STATE PARK</b>
<b>DECEMBER 16, 2022</b>	<b>(FALL MAKE UP DATE IF NEEDED)</b>
<b>JANUARY 20, 2024</b>	<b>LAKE HARTWELL @ GUM BRANCH</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 17, 2024</b>	<b>CLARKS HILL @ DORN FACILITY BOAT RAMP</b>
<b>MARCH 9, 2024</b>	<b>SC BASS NATION YOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LAKE MURRAY - DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK ***JR. BASSMASTER ONLY***</b>
<b>MARCH 16, 2024</b>	<b>LAKE MURRAY @ DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK</b>
<b>MARCH 23, 2024</b>	<b>SC BASS NATION YOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP LAKE MURRAY - DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK ***HIGH SCHOOL ONLY***</b>
<b>APRIL 13, 2024</b>	<b>(SPRING MAKE UP DATE IF NEEDED)</b>
<b>APRIL 19 &amp; 20, 2024</b>	<b>LAKE MURRAY "CLASSIC" @ DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK (BASSMASTER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIER) ( FISH 6 REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS &amp; QUALIFY FOR CLASSIC)</b>
<b>MAY 18, 2024</b>	<b>"BATTLE of the CAROLINAS" - LAKE GREENWOOD STATE PARK</b>

**(23-24 SCHEDULE INCLUDES 1 DROP TOURNAMENT)**

**\*Schedule subject to change based on other in state BASSMASTER events once scheduled\***

## COVID -19 RECOMMENDED GUIDELINES

Coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization and other various medical authorities. The SC BASS NATION YOUTH 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 YOUTH 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 YOUTH SERIES events, therefore, in accordance with Federal, State, and/or county municipal health guidelines, the SC BASS NATION YOUTH 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 will be marked off allowing ONLY essential participants known as Student Anglers, Boat Captains & 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 to 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. Anglers, Boat Captains, and Tournament Staff are responsible for their own nose and mouth coverings (buffs are acceptable nose and mouth coverings).*
- *Holding tanks should be 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 REQUIRED 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.*



**2023-2024 School Entry Form  
(NO Fee Required)**

**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 S BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL and agree to the objectives, purpose & rules as outlined in the 2023-24 SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL 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**



2023-2024

Student Angler Tournament Trail Liability Waiver Release Form

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS WAIVER, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE PROGRAM.

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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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... 2. I have been advised and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel... 3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS... 4. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions... 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...

PUBLICITY: In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in the tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by the, SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL I ("Participant") hereby grant to SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL their assignees and/or licenses (collectively "Sponsors" including television production companies contracted by the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 a 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 understands the foregoing provisions.

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.

BASS 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 INDEMNIFY 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 RELEASEES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE DATE

PRINT PARENT/GUARDIAN'S NAME HERE PHONE

HOME ADDRESS

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_





2023-2024

## Boat Captain Tournament Trail Liability Waiver Release Form

SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: BEFORE YOU SIGN THIS WAIVER, MAKE SURE YOU HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE PROGRAM.**

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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 PBC TOURNAMENT TRAILS, 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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 all student anglers participating as outlined by the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL rules and guidelines. I agree to have the watercraft inspected at any time by a designated SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL Tournament Director for all tournaments. I further agree to provide a minimum of \$300,000 of liability insurance on this same watercraft as determined by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL and or any other high school fishing governing authority.

**PUBLICITY:** In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in the tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by , I ("Participant") hereby grant to SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL , their assignees and/or licensees (collectively "Sponsors" including television production companies contracted by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT 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 a 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.

**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.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
BOAT CAPTAIN SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
AGE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINT BOAT CAPTAIN NAME HERE

\_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMERGENCY PHONE#

\_\_\_\_\_  
EMAIL ADDRESS



# 2023-2024 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

## \$65 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP (REQUIRED)

(Covers \$15 B.A.S.S., \$30 Bass Nation & \$20 SC Bass Nation Student Angler Memberships)

**PAYABLE TO: SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE**

**MAIL 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 B.A.S.S. Membership# \_\_\_\_\_

(Leave blank if unknown)



## Fish Care must be a HIGH priority

B.A.S.S. is a leader in conservation but we need help to maintain that reputation. Every catch is now recorded for television, printed in magazines or live-streamed on the Internet. What you do and say influences other anglers - and how they perceive you and B.A.S.S. It is critical that you **"Do it right."**

### 1. Landing & Handling...

- **The #1 complaint from fans watching our tournaments is boat-flipping fish onto the carpet.** We discourage this 1) to protect the bass' slime coat, and 2) because it looks to our viewers like we don't care about the wellbeing of the fish.
- **Make every effort to grasp the fish by lower jaw or lift them by the line** - catching them before they hit the deck. **DO NOT** lay fish on hot, dry carpet when culling.

### 2. Livewell Operation is Critical to Survival...

- **Water temps below 65°F** pump in freshwater at regular intervals to refresh the livewell.
- **Water temps from 65-75°F** pump fresh water *continuously* and turn on your recirculating aerator.
- **Water temps over 75°F** fill livewells early, cool with small amounts of ice and turn on the recirculating aerator full time. Don't pump in hot surface water all day. Do not add *excessive* amounts of ice - Cool the water no more than 10°F below lake temps. This is usually no more than 5-8 lbs per side. Too much cooling causes shock when the fish are released after weigh-in. Add additional ice as needed to maintain temps.
- **Keep both livewells full** and divide your catch. Use pool noodles or sponges to reduce sloshing.
- **Install livewell lid ventilation devices** to help cool the water, allow fresh air in and CO<sub>2</sub> out.

### 3. Fizzing Can't Wait...

- **Learn to fizz.** Fish caught in deep water suffer with overinflated air bladders. Leaving this untreated for just a few hours reduces survival. Check fish regularly and fizz them in the boat! Do not wait for the tournament staff to render first-aid on the release boat. How-to videos for smallmouth and largemouth at <https://video.bassmaster.com/detail/videos/conservation>. Contact Gene Gilliland for a needle source.
- **Weighted fin clips do NOT cure over-inflation** – restricted blood flow and damage to internal organs can still occur even though the fish are upright and appear normal. You must fizz struggling fish.

### 4. Bagging Fish & Weigh-in Lines...

- **Keep your fish in your mesh bag while waiting in line.** Please do not pull fish out to show to fans or photographers backstage. They can get photos in your boat while you are bagging, or on stage. Excessive handling and air exposure causes additional delayed mortality that we hear about long after we are gone.



## Barotrauma Relief "Fizzling"

For a video go to  
[www.Bassmaster.com/conservation](http://www.Bassmaster.com/conservation)  
and click on *Conservation Videos*

**Largemouth Bass**



18-ga. 1-1/2 in.  
needle with wire  
reamer and  
braided keeper  
line.

**Smallmouth Bass**



Insert needle at  
45° angle under  
scale, through  
skin, then rotate  
to 90° and push in.

### Steps to treating Barotrauma - over-inflation of the swim bladder

1. Put fish in livewell allowing 5-10 minutes to acclimate before assessing need, re-assess several times throughout the day and treat fish immediately when symptoms are seen.
2. Symptoms – Fish can't remain upright, constantly struggle to submerge, float on side or back, bulge on side near tip of pectoral fin.
3. Hold fish firmly, slightly out of water (or place on smooth, wet surface) to insert needle.
4. Target area is the intersection of a line drawn straight towards the tail from the tip of the pectoral fin laid flat against the fish, with the vertical line for each species as shown in the diagrams: for largemouth, a near vertical line from the notch in the dorsal fin to the anal pore; and for smallmouth a diagonal line from the base of the 4<sup>th</sup> dorsal spine to the anal pore.
5. Insert clean 18-gauge x 1-1/2 inch hypodermic needle under a scale and into skin at a 45° angle towards the fish' head. Penetrate skin then rotate needle vertical to 90° and push straight in.
6. Keeping a wire reamer in the barrel of the needle while inserting will prevent clogging. Reamer can be made from welding tip cleaner wire or 10-ga stainless wire from tackle component suppliers. Attach reamer to needle hub with a length of braided fishing line (see photo on other side).
7. Hold the fish under water. Remove reamer after fish is submerged. Watch for bubbles. **DO NOT** squeeze. Allow gas to escape until the fish becomes neutrally buoyant (neither sinking nor floating).
8. Don't keep fish out of water longer than YOU can hold your breath - that's what the fish is doing!
9. Return fish to livewell and monitor frequently. A fish swimming upright is ready for release. But if the fish is still struggling/floating on its back or side, it could need a second fizzing.



## KEEPING BASS ALIVE

### Top 10 Fish Care Tips

- 1 Land fish quickly; Don't play them to exhaustion.
- 2 Use barbless or circle hooks whenever possible.
- 3 Protect the slime coat. Only touch fish with wet hands. Don't let fish flop on the boat deck. Use a rubber or nylon landing net.
- 4 Hold small bass vertically by the lower jaw. Support large fish horizontally with a hand under the anal fin.
- 5 Minimize air exposure time. Remove hooks quickly with as little tissue damage as possible.
- 6 Determine immediately if you are going to keep or release the fish and plan accordingly.
- 7 Proper livewell operation is a must to maximize survival. Follow guidelines in *Keeping Bass Alive* at [Bassmaster.com/conservation](http://Bassmaster.com/conservation).
- 8 Learn to spot swim bladder overinflation; immediately use side fizzing to relieve the condition.
- 9 Don't release fish into stagnant backwaters and high traffic areas.
- 10 Do not release injured fish or those too weak to swim. Better to harvest these.

Learn more at  
**[Bassmaster.com/conservation](http://Bassmaster.com/conservation)**