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TOURNAMENT RULES & INFO BOOK

TONY GRAY – DIRECTOR

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

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Table of Contents

- Page 3---[Eligibility](#)
- Page 4---[Requirements/Tournament Entry Fees/Safety](#)
- Page 5---[SCDNR Rule/Competitors/Boat Breakdown & Accidents](#)
- Page 6---[Inclement Weather/Communication/Conservation](#)
- Page 7---[Boat Hp Rule/Insurance Requirements](#)
- Page 8---[Cell Phones/Bathroom Breaks/Captain Rules](#)
- Page 9---[Jr Division Boat Captain/HS Division Boat Captain](#)
- Page 10---[Sportsmanship](#)
- Page 11---[Sportsmanship cont./Alcohol use/Protest/Team Participation](#)
- Page 12---[Partner Change/Purchasing of Information/Drones/Practice Day/Off Limits/Tournament Hours](#)
- Page 13---[Registration/Blast-off Assignment/Morning Check-in/Live Well Check](#)
- Page 14---[Dock Parking/Safety Meeting/Blast-off Procedure/Creel limit/Short Fish/Bed fishing/Dead Fish](#)
- Page 15---[Cull Tags/Afternoon Check-in/Weigh-in rules](#)
- Page 16---[Afternoon Check-in Times/Holding Tank/Photo/Emergency Contact](#)
- Page 17---[Tournament Fees/Tournament Awards/Points System/BASS National Championship/Classic Tournament/Tournament Results](#)
- Page 18---[Tie Breakers/Div. Points/Lady Angler/School of Year/Rules Violation](#)
- Page 19---[Tournament Schedule](#)
- Page 20---[Covid Policy](#)
- Page 21---[School Entry Form](#)
- Page 22---[Student Liability Waiver](#)
- Page 23---[Captain Liability Waiver](#)
- Page 24---[Student Angler Membership Application](#)
- Page 25---[Fish Care](#)
- Page 26---[Fizz Fish \(How to\)](#)
- Page 27---[Conservation Tips](#)
- Page 28---[Flotation Device Requirements](#)
- Page 29---[Navigation Light Requirements](#)
- Page 30---[Protest Levels & Protest Fees](#)

TOURNAMENT RULES & INFO

PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY

TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DECLINE ANY REGISTRATION TO COMPETE AT THEIR SOLE DISCRETION & FOR ANY REASON.

THE RULES CONTAINED IN THIS RULE BOOK ARE THE GOVERNING RULES FOR SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES TOURNAMENT TRAIL, SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAIL, AND ALSO THE SOUTH CAROLINA BASSMASTER YOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT, FROM AUGUST 1 THROUGH JULY 31 ANNUALLY.

Tournament Director and/or Tournament Organization shall have the sole authority to investigate any alleged or suspected violation of these rules at any time during the tournament season, including after the completion of any tournament event and the posting of results. Upon completion of such investigation, the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Organization may assess penalties, including disqualification, forfeiture of points, suspension, or any other disciplinary action permitted under these rules, if a violation is determined to have occurred.

ELIGIBILITY

JR. BASSMASTER Division 2ND – 8TH Grade (NO Exceptions) HIGH SCHOOL Division 8TH – 12TH Grade (NO Exceptions)

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

TEAM PARTICIPATION

SC Bass Nation Youth Series Tournament Trail is Team Format ONLY consisting of (2) Student Anglers & (1) Boat Captain. Under extenuating circumstances, Teams will be allowed to fish solo a MAXIMUM of 2 times during the scheduled tournament season. . Written approval REQUIRED. Ride along rules apply.

2027 BASSMASTER RULE UPDATE

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

- A.** Certain schools allow eight-grade students to compete. If your institution allows eight-grade students to compete, a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. Seventh-grade students are not allowed to compete in Bassmaster High School Series Tournament Events. 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. This is a team event. This tournament is open only to current members of official high school clubs, recognized by said high school or an official community club. Students must be long to the same official high school club or official community club to compete as a team in this tournament. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to B.A.S.S. and your State Youth Director in writing for approval. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to accept or deny such request.
- B.** Multiple clubs from the same institution, or community clubs are not allowed. Anglers must fish in their community club nearest their residence. Community clubs can incorporate multiple institutions. Students from those institutions must all be a member of the same community club.

Visiting Schools/Teams from neighboring states are allowed to participate in the SC BASS NATION, SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE, & South Carolina State Championship. Non-resident SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership Fee is \$50 per Student; Resident SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership is \$30 per Student. To participate in any events covered by the content of this rulebook, anglers are REQUIRED to have a SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership, either Resident or Non-Resident. Out of State Teams can NOT participate in BOTH the SC Bass Nation YOUTH Annual State Championship & their home State Championship per BASSMASTER Rules.

Note to Team Coaches & Parents: If using Credit or Debit Card to purchase a New and/or Re-New 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.

ALL School / Teams REQUIRED to have an ACTIVE & UPDATED Junior and High School Bass Nation Team Roster on file with BASSMASTER Roster management system showing Student Names & their B.A.S.S. & Bass Nation Membership Validation. ALL B.A.S.S. & Bass Nation Memberships REQUIRED to be updated within 60 days of expiration date or by the annual State Championship, whichever comes first. Failure to comply with renewing memberships within 60 days will result in NO future tournament registrations accepted until membership has been renewed.

Team rosters REQUIRED to be submitted to Tournament Trail Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director by the close of registration of the first event, annually. Failure to complete this task will result in ALL teams associated with that school/team not be allowed to participate in future events.

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

ALL Student & Boat Captain Waivers & Boaters Education Certificate REQUIRED to be submitted via Electronically or Mail to SC Bass Nation Youth Director by the close of registration of the first event, annually. ALL documents need to be submitted at the same time. NO EXCEPTIONS!

ALL Team Coaches REQUIRED to keep hard copies for team records.

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

All teams will be issued a Team number 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 @ RED TENT TANK COMPOUND by electronic timing. ALL anglers are required to check in at their designated afternoon time. Blast off number card and FISH are required to check in. 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 (6 mph maximum speed). Failure to abide by the No Wake Zone Rules will result in DISQUALIFICATION from event.

For SAFETY reasons, ALL Boat Ramps will close when Blast Off begins.

Friday practice BEFORE scheduled Tournament Day is VOLUNTARY from Official SUNRISE to 6PM.

TEAM format ONLY. NO NIGHT FISHING!

Splitting teams up to fish several trails in a single day PROHIBITED unless both tournaments are a make-up event.

**** ALL TEAMS/ENTITIES WILL BE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN HOSTING AN EVENT!**

REQUIREMENTS

ALL Student Anglers & Boat Captains born after July 1, 2007, must complete a boating course approved by SCDNR to operate a boat or personal watercraft with a 10HP motor or greater.

ALL Student Anglers & Boat Captains REQUIRED to have a signed Liability Waiver on file with School/Club and Tournament Trail.

ALL 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. "C" Minimum GPA

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

Visiting Schools/Teams from neighboring states are allowed to participate in the SC BASS NATION, SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE, & South Carolina State Championship. Non-resident SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership Fee is \$50 per Student. Resident SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership is \$30 per Student. To participate in any events covered by the content of this rulebook, anglers are REQUIRED to have a SC BASS Nation Student Angler Membership, either Resident or Non-Resident. Out of State Teams can NOT participate in BOTH the SC Bass Federation YOUTH Annual State Championship & their home State Championship per BASSMASTER Rules.

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+, REQUIRED to have a valid SCDNR Fishing License. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to show a VALID Fishing license will result in DQ.

TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEE

TRAIL TOURNAMENT'S \$25 PER BOAT

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP \$30 PER BOAT

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

NOTE: ALL TEAMS THAT ARE REQUIRED TO PAY ENTRY FEE THE MORNING OF THE EVENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO CHECK IN AND/OR GET THEIR BOAT # FLOAT/CARD IF PAYMENT IS NOT MADE AT THE TOURNAMENT TRAILER AS REQUIRED OR PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS ARE MADE BEFORE SATURDAY MORNING OF THE EVENT. 2

PER BASSMASTER Insurance-Tournament/Youth Director and/or staff are prohibited from administering any form of medication or removing hooks. In the event EMS has to be called, any financial obligation of EMS assistant is the sole responsibility of the person needing EMS and/or their family.

ALL Bridges, Railways, or similar structures, in service or abandoned, marked, or unmarked with signs, are NO WAKE (6 mph maximum speed). 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 scheduled event.

PER SCDNR RULES, ALL STUDENT ANGLERS & Boat Captains born on or after July 1, 2007, ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE A BOATER'S EDUCATION COURSE TO OPERATE A BOAT OR PERSONAL WATERCRAFT.

PER BASSMASTER ALL JR. BASS & HS ANGLERS INCLUDING BOAT CAPTAINS WHO PLAN TO COMPETE IN ANY BASSMASTER NATIONAL, "OPEN" AND/OR SC STATE YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS WILL BE REQUIRED TO SHOW PROOF OF COMPLETION OF BOATERS EDUCATION COURSE BEFORE THEY COMPETE AND/OR QUALIFY FOR BASSMASTER NATIONAL, 'OPEN, AND/OR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS.

ALL EVENTS GOVERNED BY THIS RULEBOOK- ALL PARTICIPANTS, BOAT CAPTAIN, ANGLERS, AND/OR RIDE ALONGS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE BOATER'S EDUCATION CERTIFICATION.

FOR MORE INFO CONCERNING BOATERS' EDUCATION, <https://www.boatus.org/southcarolina>

FOR SAFETY REASONS, ALL BOATS WILL REQUIRE 3 OCCUPANTS IN BOAT DURING ALL TOURNAMENTS. OBSERVER REQUIRED TO BE 18+, OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL & HAVE BOATERS' EDUCATION CERTIFICATION. (RIDE ALONGS/OBSERVERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED BOAT CAPTAINS)

COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT AT ALL TIMES

During Tournament hours, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish, retrieve lures, 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 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 **DO 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 designated representative. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

BOAT BREAKDOWNS/ACCIDENTS

ALL breakdowns/accidents and/or repairs are REQUIRED to be reported to Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director, FIRST. Only registered tournament participants can assist with breakdowns during tournament hours. Per BASSMASTER Rules, once contact has been made with Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Director, Team Coaches/ Boat Captains can plan 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

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.

In the event of potential inclement weather, every effort will be made to evaluate conditions and announce a decision regarding the status of the tournament by **6:00 PM on the Thursday** preceding the scheduled event. However, if additional time is required to ensure the safety of all participants, the Tournament Director reserves the right to make a final decision as late as **12:00 PM (noon) on Friday**.

All final decisions will be made public no later than **Friday at 12:00 PM**, and when possible, updates will be provided at or before **6:00 PM on Thursday**. Any changes to the tournament schedule due to weather will be communicated to all participants and made publicly available either **Thursday evening** or **the morning of the scheduled event**.

ALL Team Coaches will be notified via email and will be posted on the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE 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 schedule based on timing.

COMMUNICATION IS THE KEY TO SUCCESS!

Current event related Info can be found on the website, schighschoolbasschallenge.com

Team Coaches are RESPONSIBLE for providing their teams including Boat Captain's and Parents with the latest info available or where to locate it on website. 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.

Everyone is REQUIRED to make Fish Care a PRIORITY with their teams and boat captains. The health and survival of the fish we catch must be taken seriously by every coach, student angler, and boat captain.

- **Fizz fish whenever possible and when necessary** to help alleviate signs of barotrauma and improve the fish's ability to survive.
- **Monitor LiveWell water temperature** and add ice when necessary to keep the water at an appropriate temperature, particularly during periods of warm weather.
- **Keep LiveWell's properly aerated and circulating** throughout the day.
- **Check the condition of your fish frequently—at least every 30 minutes.** Do not wait until the end of the tournament to determine whether a fish is struggling.
- Take immediate action if a fish shows signs of stress, including poor equilibrium, inability to remain upright, excessive lethargy, or other indications that it is not healthy.

BOAT/HP REQUIREMENTS

MINIMUM 16' with steering wheel. Maximum 250HP Outboard Motor & 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, and JET DRIVE IS NOT ALLOWED)

- **250 HP** is the upper B.A.S.S. limit — no one can go over that.
- **Even below 250 HP**, a motor that has been modified in a way that makes it unsafe for the boat it's on (e.g., overpowering a small boat) is also prohibited.

Prohibited Engine Modifications and Horsepower Compliance (Safety Rule):

For the safety of all participants and in strict adherence to B.A.S.S. regulations, any boat motor that has been modified, tuned, or altered in any manner to exceed either (1) the manufacturer's original horsepower rating or (2) the maximum horsepower rating for the vessel on which it is mounted is strictly prohibited.

This includes, without limitation, any modification that results in engine output exceeding the 250 HP maximum allowed under B.A.S.S. rules, as well as any modification—regardless of the engine's stated horsepower—that causes the vessel to operate beyond the manufacturer's rated safety specifications. For example, installing or modifying a 225 HP motor to produce excessive performance on a boat rated for significantly less constitutes a violation of this rule, even though the engine remains under the 250 HP cap.

Prohibited modifications include, but are not limited to: ECM (Engine Control Module) flashing or reprogramming, aftermarket tuning, high-performance upgrades, or any unauthorized alteration designed to increase the engine's power output or speed capabilities beyond factory specifications.

All vessels must comply with U.S. Coast Guard regulations and must not exceed the horsepower limit listed on the vessel's capacity plate. Any team found in violation of these safety standards will be immediately disqualified and may be subject to further disciplinary action, including suspension or permanent ban from competition.

On-Site Inspection Authority: Tournament officials reserve the right to inspect any vessel at any time, including but not limited to: verifying capacity plates, confirming horsepower ratings, and checking for signs of engine modifications. Refusal to comply with an inspection request will be treated as a violation and result in disqualification.

These standards exist not only to ensure fair competition, but to protect the safety and well-being of all participants on the water.

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 the School/Club or Tournament Trail. **RANDOM PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE CONDUCTED***

****BOAT CAPTAIN NAME REQUIRED TO BE LISTED ON INSURANCE POLICY****

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

RULES/REGULATIONS

While competing in ANY SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE event or STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, ALL SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES, SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE, BASSMASTER High School Rules & SCDNR Fishing Rules/Regulations apply.

ANY SCDNR citation given during tournament hours will result in DISQUALIFICATION.

ALL rule infractions & penalties, upon full review are at the discretion of Tournament Director and/or SC Bass Nation Youth Tournament officials, in their sole discretion, reserve the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered at any time for any reason, by any persons, before or after a tournament has ended and assess penalties for any past or future event including denying entry to compete.

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.) The 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 and graduated from High School. ONLY Collegiate Anglers who are immediate family members of a register participant and are captaining that angler are APPROVED Boat Captains and Boater's Education Certification RREQUIRED. 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.

First time Substitute Boat Captains are **NOT permitted for SC BASS YOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP, SC BASS NATION and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE Championship Tournaments. ALL substitute boat captain for these events must have substituted for a school/club/team at least once in the current season to be eligible to substitute.

NOTE: PER BASSMASTER RULES, BASS OPEN, MLF BFL, TOYOTA AND/OR INVITATIONAL ANGLERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED PROFESSIONAL ANLGRS. 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! (RIDE ALONGS/OBSERVERS ARE NOT CONSIDERED BOAT CAPTAINS)

NOTE: ANY boat captain caught deliberately cheating during competition will be suspended from his / her boat captain's duties for the remainder of the scheduled tournament season. No appeals will be granted.

NOTE: To stay in compliance with the rules, Teams with multiple backup Boat Captains can ONLY register one (1) Boat Captain for scheduled event. OFFICIAL PRACTICE IS TEAM FORMAT, MEANING REGISTERED ANGLERS & BOAT CAPTAIN. High School anglers of legal age are allowed to practice as a team without boat captain, IF Boat captain is unable to participate in official practice day.

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

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

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

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

JR & HS Division

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**, student anglers are 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 PARTICIPANTS/BOAT CAPTAIN'S 18+ YEARS OF AGE ARE SUBJECT TO POLYGRAPH TEST*****

SPORTSMANSHIP

NO ONE IS ALLOWED INSIDE THE TOURNAMENT TRAILER EXCEPT VOLUNTEERS/STAFF DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS.

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 discretion of Tournament Director, Advisory Staff and/or SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES Youth Director.

Sportsmanship Conduct Rule – Language and Behavior

All participants, including anglers, coaches, captains, and anyone affiliated with a team, are expected to uphold the highest standards of sportsmanship and respect at all times. **Under no circumstances will the use of (profanity, disrespectful behavior, derogatory comments, or any other forms of harassment or intimidation, whether directed at individuals, teams, officials, volunteers, or spectators)—be tolerated.** This applies both on and off the water, including during competition, at meetings, weigh-ins, and through any form of communication, including verbal, written, and digital.

Any violation of this rule may result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification, suspension from future events, or removal from the organization, at the sole discretion of the tournament director or governing body. Repeated or severe offenses may be subject to review by the disciplinary committee for further sanctions.

Sportsmanship & On-Water Access Policy

As part of the SC Youth BASS NATION commitment to integrity and fair play, all participants must strictly adhere to the following on-water access and information-sharing restrictions:

1. Off-Limits Period

No person affiliated with a team—including family members, alternate or additional boat captains, guides, college anglers, or anyone who has accessed the tournament waters within 30 days prior to the event—may be on the water during any designated off-limits period.

2. Authorized Practice & Competition Access

Only officially registered anglers and their registered, approved boat captains are permitted on the water during official practice and tournament days. No additional individuals may accompany or assist on the water at any time during these periods.

3. Outside Assistance & Scrutiny

Any individual affiliated with a team found on the water during restricted times may subject the team to investigation for receiving prohibited information. This includes communication or influence that may provide an unfair advantage. Tournament officials reserve the right to question and review any such activity.

4. Third-Party Communication Prohibition

Any attempt to obtain, receive, or transmit information related to tournament waters, fish locations, conditions, or strategy through a third party—regardless of whether that third party is explicitly covered by the rules above—is strictly prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, information passed through friends, local anglers, collegiate anglers, social media messages, or indirect contact via unlisted individuals. Use of any intermediary to circumvent these rules will be treated as a direct violation and may result in disqualification or further disciplinary action.

5. Electronic Device Review

If a violation is suspected, tournament officials may request access to a boat captain's or angler's communication devices, including cell phones, to verify compliance. Refusal to cooperate may result in penalties, including disqualification.

6. Enforcement Authority

The SC Youth Director reserves the right to enforce these rules at its sole discretion. All decisions made by tournament officials are final.

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

ALCOHOL USE

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

PROTEST

Registered Tournament participants 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 the Tournament Trailer. Detailed info to support the protest CAN include video and/or photo. **Level 1 Protest is a \$25 fee. Level 2 Protest is a \$250 fee. Level 3 Protest is a \$650 fee. "CASH" Payment due at time of the protest.**

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 Format ONLY consisting of (2) Student Anglers & (1) Boat Captain.

A team will be allowed to fish solo a MAXIMUM of 2 times during the scheduled tournament season. Under extenuating circumstances, Teams will be allowed to fish solo a MAXIMUM of 2 times during the scheduled tournament season. . Written approval REQUIRED. Ride along rules apply.

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

ALL BOATS WILL REQUIRE 3 OCCUPANTS IN BOAT DURING ALL TOURNAMENTS. IN CASE OF APPROVED SOLO FISHING, EXTRA OCCUPANT REQUIRED TO BE 18 OR OLDER. 3rd OCCUPANT REQUIRED TO HAVE BOATER'S EDUCATION CERTIFICATION PER B.A.S.S

TEAM PARTICIPATION RULE AMMENDED 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.

Team Partner Change Policy (Effective August 1 – December 31):

From August 1 through December 31 of each season, team partner changes that **do not affect team points** may be approved under the following circumstances:

- Medical concerns
- Family relocation out of district or state (including military transfers)
- Original partner voluntarily leaves the team

Requests for partner changes due to personal or personality conflicts during this time frame will be subject to a detailed review. Approval of such changes may result in season team points being affected, including the possibility of points being divided equally if both student anglers continue to compete on the trail representing the same school, whether with a new partner or as a solo angler.

NOTE: Team name changes do NOT set season points back to ZERO. Changing Team Partners AFTER the December 31 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 taking guided trips are PROHIBITED by contestants, coaches, boat captains or anyone working on a team's behalf within 30 days of the start of scheduled tournament. This includes but not limited to, teams that hold events on tournament waters within 30 days prior to the scheduled event. [Example: Having a college angler take a dad, captain, or a participant on tournament waters within 30 days (especially the weekend before) the event] Only regulator boat captains or immediate family members should accompany anglers within the 30 day off limit periods. Electronic classes on tournament waters 30 days prior to the event, are prohibited .

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.

Tournament Director and/or Tournament Organization shall have the sole authority to investigate any alleged or suspected violation of these rules at any time during the tournament season, including after the completion of any tournament event and the posting of results. Upon completion of such investigation, the Tournament Director and/or Tournament Organization may assess penalties, including disqualification, forfeiture of points, suspension, or any other disciplinary action permitted under these rules, if a violation is determined to have occurred.

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 Registered 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 is **VOLUNTARY** from Official SUNRISE to 6PM. NO NIGHT FISHING!

NOTE: ALL SCDNR & SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES SAFETY RULES APPLY ON OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAYS.

NOTE: Teams with multiple backup Boat Captains can NOT split up their teammates on OFFICIAL practice days. Back-up/alternate captains should not be on the water practicing during day 1 of a 2 day event.

NOTE: Official Tournament Practice Day is Team format for ALL registered Boat Captains & Student Anglers. 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. High School anglers are ALLOWED to practice on "OFFICIAL" practice day as a team WITHOUT Boat Captain if Boat Captain is unavailable for practice day. BOTH High School Anglers REQUIRED to have Boater Education Certificate and be of legal age per SCDNR Boating Rules. ALL Team Coaches are REQUIRED to notify SC Youth

Director/Tournament Director in writing for approval of this option. NO MINOR AGE ANGLERS ALLOWED TO BE ON BOAT WHEN USING THIS OPTION.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT HOURS

4AM – 7PM

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

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. Tournament Registration will close Sunday night at midnight before the event. LATE Entries will NOT be accepted once online registration has closed.

NOTE: ALL TEAMS THAT ARE REGISTERED AT THE CLOSING OF ONLINE REGISTRATION WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY ENTRY FEE, REGARDLESS IF THEY PARTICIPATE OR NOT. FAILURE TO PAY WILL RESULT IN NOT BEING ALLOWED TO REGISTER FOR FUTURE EVENTS. (Too much time and effort is used to prepare tournament documents before each event, then re-done when a team does not show up)

**TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION WILL CLOSE ON SUNDAY @ Midnight BEFORE ALL TOURNAMENTS. :
LATE ENTRIES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

BLAST OFF ASSIGNMENTS

First tournament of the scheduled season will be set by using the Random Number Generator (RNG) app based on completed online registration or tournament entry forms for ALL Tournaments, INCLUDING 2 Day Classic.

ALL TOURNAMENTS TO FOLLOW WILL BE SET BY WHERE THE TEAM FINISHES THE PREVIOUS TOURNAMENT

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,

1st Tournament High School/Jr. Bassmaster Division

2nd Tournament Jr. Bassmaster/High School

For SAFETY reasons, ALL Boat Ramps will close when Blast Off begins.

TOURNAMENT MORNING CHECK IN

Tournament Morning Check-In & Boat Staging Policy

Tournament check-in will **begin promptly at 4:30 AM** on the morning of the event. The **Tournament Trailer will close** once morning activities begin. Any team arriving **after the trailer closes** will be checked in **only after Blast Off has concluded**.

Only officially registered participants — including Anglers, Boat Captains, or Team Coaches — are permitted to check in their team at the Tournament Trailer. A **Team Coach** may check in **all teams under their supervision**, if they choose.

Each team will be issued a **Numbered Boat Float or Staging Card** at check-in. This card serves **two critical purposes**:

1. **Blast Off Order Control** – Ensures boats launch in numerical order within their assigned flight.
2. **Safety Accountability** – Confirms that all registered teams have returned safely from the water.

It is mandatory that this card be turned in at the conclusion of the tournament.

- **Failure to return the Numbered Boat Float or Number Staging Card will result in a recorded score of “0 lbs” for that event and will receive last place points.**
- **Teams who fail to follow blast-off staging instructions will be moved to the end of the launch order.**

Boat Captains are expected to assist in ensuring an orderly and efficient blast-off. Your cooperation is essential for the safety and success of the tournament.

LIVE WELL CHECK

Properly working Live wells will be checked during blast off procedures. Any boat coming to the 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 and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE Tournaments.

BLAST OFF PROCEDURE **Blast-off will not begin before official Sunrise.**

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

Tournament Director 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 are 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.

Once a fish is submitted for weigh in, ALL fish becomes the property of SC BASS Nation Trail and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE. All fish REQUIRED to be released back into tournament waters after team have crossed the weigh in stage. NO EXCEPTIONS!! The rulings by the Bump Master and Tournament Director are final. Appeals can be made to the Tournament Director for further review of length, re-weight, or determination if a fish is dead. All appeals must be made, and reviews completed, before the angler and their catch leave the stage.

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 Official SC BASS NATION Ruler. NOTE: PINCHING OF TAIL IS PROHIBITED. Students Anglers are encouraged to check their fish for legal length BEFORE placing it in live well. A courtesy bump sink is available and encouraged to be used at all events. No Official bumps will be made at the courtesy sink, this is for voluntary courtesy checks only.

BASSMASTER Short Fish Penalty

You lose the short fish and an additional 1 lb penalty is assessed.

BED FISHING

ALL fish are required to be hooked inside the mouth. NO EXCEPTIONS! Anglers are NOT allowed to stand on any raised platforms and/or decks including coolers, stepstools, seats, trolling motors, electronic graphs or outboard motors while bed fishing.

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 also applies to big fish; in the event the big fish is deceased.

PIERCING CULL TAGS/ FIN WEIGHTS

NO Piercing cull tags allowed. The penalty for use of piercing type cull tags is loss of that fish from daily creel. NOTE: ALL fish submitted to Bump Master with cull clips and/or fin clips still attached will result in that fish being eliminated from the daily creel.

Tournament Afternoon Check-In Policy

All Participating teams must complete **afternoon check-in at the Red Tent Tank Compound.**

- **Only student anglers** are allowed to officially check in their team.
- **All teams must check in, whether or not they have fish. No exceptions.**

Early Departure:

- If a team must leave early, they are **required to place their Boat Number Card in the black box** located on the check-in table inside the Red Tent.

Standard Check-In Process:

1. **Boat Captains must return their team to the blast-off location.**
2. **A student angler must check in at the Red Tent Tank Compound with their Boat Number Card and Fish.**
3. **Do not be late — plan accordingly.**
4. **Shirt and Shoes are REQUIRED during weigh-in.**

Late Check-In Penalty:

- Teams arriving late to check-in are subject to the following penalties:
 - **1-pound deduction per minute late**, up to a maximum of 15 minutes.
 - After **15 minutes**, the team will be **disqualified** from the event.
 - Time is determined by the official computerized check-in clock.

Weigh-In Rules:

- Once a team has been checked in by the **Bump Master**, student anglers must remain in the holding tank area until called to the stage for weigh-in.
- Teams are **not permitted to delay weigh-in** until later flights.
 - Scales close 15 minutes after the final flight check-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.

MESH BAGS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE COURTESY SINK.

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

JR. BASSMASTER AFTERNOON CHECK IN TIMES

FLIGHT #1 Boat 1-30	REQUIRED CHECK TIME 2PM	(201PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 215PM DQ)
FLIGHT #2 Boat 31-60	REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 215PM	(216PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 230PM DQ)
FLIGHT #3 Boat 61-90	REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 230PM	(231PM LATE PENALTY BEGINS / 245PM DQ)
FLIGHT #4 Boat 91-120	REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 245PM	(246PM LATE PANALTY BEGINS / 301PM DQ)

HIGH SCHOOL AFTERNOON CHECK IN TIMES

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)
FLIGHT #5 Boat 121-150	REQUIRED CHECK IN TIME 4PM	(401PM LATE PANALTY BEGINS / 415PM DQ)

WEIGH IN

Early Weigh-In is available starting @ 12 noon for any team that has live well troubles or for anyone that needs to leave the tournament early.

NOTE: All Student Anglers are REQUIRED to advise Weigh Master once on stage if they plan to weigh a BIG FISH. ALL anglers have the right to request a reweight **BEFORE** they leave the stage. If a re-weigh is conducted, teams are **REQUIRED** to take the re-weigh results as their official weight for the tournament.

Once a team has left the stage, **NO** reweighing of BIG Fish or Total weight will be allowed.

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/guests stay clear of this tank trailer. IF tank trailer is **NOT** available, student anglers will be assisted with proper fish release efforts.

PHOTO Procedures and Opportunities

All photos must be taken prior to weigh in, suggested at the boat or in the bump line, prior to team reaching the bumpmaster. All fish become property of the SC BASS Nation Youth series once it reaches the bump master. Staff/volunteers will return fish to the tournament waters, once fish have been deemed healthy. Conservation of natural resources is paramount. FAILURE TO FOLLOW THIS RULE WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.

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

Tournament/Trail Fee's

\$25.00 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

1ST, 2ND, 3RD, 4th, 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

National Championship spots will be awarded by season ending points for High School Division ONLY (8th-12th Grade Students ONLY) All qualifying teams will be notified via email once BASSMASTER reviews season ending reports.

NOTE: ONLY Teams that QUALIFY for the ANNUAL Bassmaster High School National Championship Tournament through the SC Bass Nation Youth Series, SC High School Bass Challenge Trail, and SC State Championship Tournament will receive a financial stipend towards expenses. (TBD)

****Any team that qualifies for the ANNUAL BASSMASTER HIGH SCHOOL CHAMPIONSHIP through BASSMASTER Opens, a State Championship, or another qualifying tournament trail MUST use that berth before accepting a BASS Nation or BASS Challenge berth.**

ALL NATIONQL QUALIFYING TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE THEIR NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP BIRTH WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM THE DATE OF QUALIFICATION BY EMAIL TO SC BASS NATION YOUTH DIRECTOR.

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. Pending season ending PAID memberships per Bassmaster, the Classic Tournament will be an OPTIONAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT for the High School Division ONLY. The Blast Off will be inverted on Day 2 of Classic. (NOTE: CLASSIC Tournament is **NOT** a points tournament)

NOTE: Tournament Waters are OFF LIMITS to registered Anglers, Boat Captains and the registered Boat AFTER Weigh In on Day 1 of Classic.

Classic Tournament Format

Top 15 boats and ties in weight from each division (High school and Jr's) will advance to the Classic Championship round. 2 day accumulative weight determines the winner of the Classic championship. All others will be in the Second Chance tournament on day 2. Weights will be zeroed, and it will be a 1 day shoot out for the winner of the Second Chance tournament. (Again, each division will have a Second Chance tournament, High School and Junior division.)

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

TOURNAMENT RESULTS ARE CONSIDERED UNOFFICIAL UNTIL ALL PENALTIES (DEAD FISH, LATE CHECK IN & ACTIVE PROTEST) IS REVIEWED AND DOCUMENTED.

FINAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS WILL BE POSTED ON MONDAY AFTERNOON AFTER EACH TOURNAMENT PROVIDING THERE IS NO ACTIVE PROTEST ONGOING.

NOTE: ONCE OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS ARE POSTED PUBLICITY, ALL TEAM COACHES HAVE 48 HOURS TO REVIEW AND ADVISE ANY DISCREPANCIES. AFTER 48 HOURS, ALL RESULTS ARE CONFIRMED AND THERE WILL NO MORE REVIEWING FOR VERIFICATION PURPOSES.

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 Top 5 highest season ending teams 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 (Points example, 250 points 1st place, 249 for 2nd, 248 for 3rd, etc.)

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 distribute any type of event flyers, 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 & SC High School Bass Challenge 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 tailgating 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



(PUBLISHED 5/12/26)

2026-2027 TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 26, 2026	LAKE HARTWELL @ GUM BRANCH
OCTOBER 31, 2026	LAKE GREENWOOD @ GREENWOOD STATE PARK
NOVEMBER 14, 2026	LAKE MURRAY @ DREHER ISLAND STATE PARK
DECEMBER 12, 2026	LAKE RUSSELL @ RICHARD B. RUSSELL STATE PARK
DECEMBER 19, 2026	(FALL MAKE UP DATE IF NEEDED)
JANUARY 30, 2027	LAKE KEOWEE @ SOUTH COVE COUNTY PARK
FEBRUARY 13, 2027	CLARKS HILL @ DORN FACILITY BOAT RAMP
MARCH 13, 2027	COMBO TOURNAMENT EVENT SC BASSMASTER YOUTH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP & 'PHANTOM OPEN' YOUTH POINTS TOURNAMENT SANTEE COOPER LAKES @ JOHN C LAND ***JR. BASS & HIGH SCHOOL DIVISIONS***
APRIL 11, 2027	(TOURNAMENT MAKE UP DATE IF NEEDED)
APRIL 16 & 17, 2027	CLARKS HILL 2 DAY "CLASSIC" @ DORN (FISH 6 REGULAR SEASON TOURNAMENTS & QUALIFY FOR CLASSIC)

"PARTICIPATION IS VOLUNTARY"
(25-26 SCHEDULE INCLUDES 1 DROP TOURNAMENT)

Schedule subject to change based on instate 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 and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE and its 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 and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE 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 and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE events, therefore, in accordance with Federal, State, and/or county municipal health guidelines, the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES and/or SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE 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.*



2026-2027 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 2026-27 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

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



2026-2027

Student Angler Tournament Trail Participation Liability Waiver Release Form**(COPY OF BOATERS EDUCATION CERTIFICATION REQUIRED)**

SCHOOL/ Team Name: _____

NOTE: BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, I ACKNOWLEDGE I HAVE READ AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THE RULES OF THE PROGRAM.**All Student Anglers & Parents must sign this Release of Liability**

In consideration for permission to **VOLUNTARY** participate in tournaments, events, programs & related activities conducted by **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES** and/or **SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS**, we acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while 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 KNOW AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS**, THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, BOAT CAPTAINS, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT ("RELEASEES") OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND,
4. I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official, and,
5. I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH 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.

PUBLICITY: In consideration for permission to **VOLUNTARY** participate in the tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by the, **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS** I ("Participant") hereby grant to, **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS** their assignees and/or licenses (collectively "Sponsors" including television production companies contracted by the, **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS** 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 AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS**. tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by, **SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS** 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. 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: _____



2026-2027

Boat Captain / 3rd Person Ride Along Tournament Trail Liability Waiver Release Form (COPY OF BOATERS EDUCATION CERTIFICATION REQUIRED)

SCHOOL: _____

NOTE: BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, I ACKNOWLEDGE I 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 **VOLUNTARY** participate in tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by the SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I have been advised and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and,
3. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE 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 AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAIL events, 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 AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS rules and guidelines. I agree to have the watercraft inspected at any time by a designated SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS 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 AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS rules and or any other high school fishing governing authority.

PUBLICITY: In consideration for permission to **VOLUNTARY** participate in the tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by , I ("Participant") hereby grant to SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS , their assignees and/or licenses (collectively "Sponsors" including television production companies contracted by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS 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 AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS tournaments, events, programs and related activities conducted by SC BASS NATION YOUTH SERIES AND/OR SC HIGH SCHOOL BASS CHALLENGE TOURNAMENT TRAILS 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.

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BOAT CAPTAIN SIGNATURE _____

AGE _____

DATE _____

PRINT BOAT CAPTAIN NAME HERE _____

ADDRESS _____

EMERGENCY PHONE# _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____



2026-2027 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

USE THIS FORM ONLY IF TRAIL ADMIN IS HANDLING YOUR MEMBERSHIPS

\$90 STUDENT ANGLER MEMBERSHIP (REQUIRED)

(Covers B.A.S.S., Bass Nation & SC Bass Nation Student Angler Memberships + Admin Fees)

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 CO₂ 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.

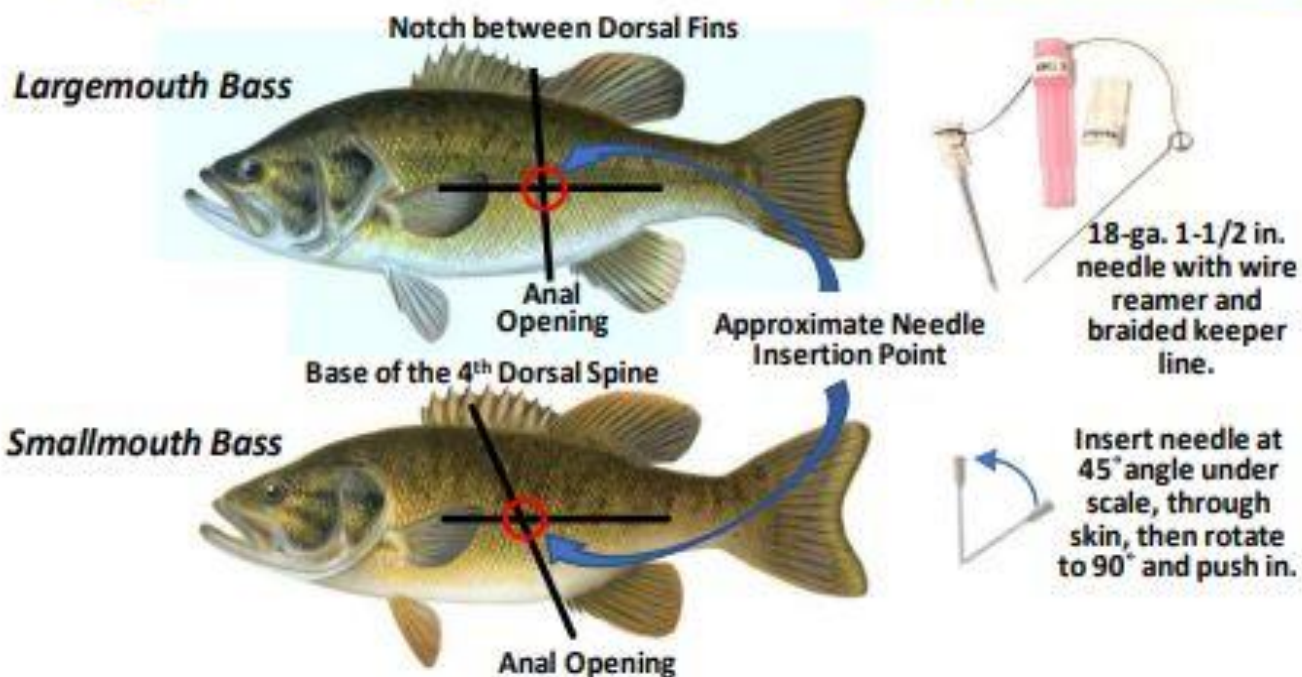
4. Bagging Fish & Weigh-in Lines...

- **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 "Fizzing"

For a video go to
www.Bassmaster.com/conservation
and click on Conservation Videos



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 4th 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's 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.
- 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

Required Equipment

When preparing to go out on a vessel, the operator must check that the legally required equipment is on board.

Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)

- All vessels must have at least one Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device (life jacket) that is U.S. Coast Guard–approved, wearable, and of the proper size for each person on board or being towed. Sizing for PFDs is based on body weight and chest size.
- *South Carolina law requires all children under 12 years of age to wear a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD while on board a Class A (less than 16 feet long) vessel. The life jacket must be fastened and of the proper size for the child.*
- One U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type IV PFD must be on board vessels 16 feet or longer and readily accessible in addition to the above requirements.
- One Type V personal flotation device may be substituted for any other type if it is specifically approved by the U.S. Coast Guard for the activity at hand. Type V PFDs may not be substituted on children weighing less than 90 pounds.
- Each person riding on a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III, or V personal flotation device.
- Each person being towed behind a vessel must wear a U.S. Coast Guard–approved Type I, II, III, or V PFD.
- All PFDs must be in good and serviceable condition and must be readily accessible.
- In certain situations, paddleboards must carry a U.S. Coast Guard–approved PFD for each person on board.



30 It's the Law!



TYPE I: Wearable Offshore Life Jackets

These vests are geared for rough or remote waters where rescue may take a while. They provide the most buoyancy, are excellent for flotation, and will turn most unconscious persons face up in the water.



TYPE II: Wearable Near-Shore Vests

These vests are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. A Type II may not turn some unconscious wearers face up in the water.



TYPE III: Wearable Flotation Aids

These vests or full-sleeved jackets are good for calm waters when quick rescue is likely. They are not recommended for rough waters since they will not turn most unconscious persons face up.



TYPE IV: Throwable Devices

These cushions and ring buoys are designed to be thrown to someone in trouble. Since a Type IV is not designed to be worn, it is neither for rough waters nor for persons who are unable to hold onto it.



TYPE V: Special-Use Devices

These vests, deck suits, hybrid PFDs, and others are designed for specific activities, such as windsurfing, kayaking, or water-skiing. *To be acceptable, Type V PFDs must be used in accordance with their labels.*

Navigation Lights

The required navigation lights must be displayed between sunset and sunrise and during periods of restricted visibility.

Power-Driven Vessels When Underway

If less than 65.6 feet long, these vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 1. Remember, power-driven vessels include sailboats operating under engine power. The required lights are:

- Red and green sidelights visible from a distance of at least two miles away—or if less than 39.4 feet long, at least one mile away—on a dark, clear night.
- An all-round white light or both a masthead light and a sternlight. These lights must be visible from a distance of at least two miles away on a dark, clear night. The all-round white light (or the masthead light) must be at least 3.3 feet higher than the sidelights.

Unpowered Vessels When Underway

Unpowered vessels are sailboats or vessels that are paddled, poled, or rowed.

- **If less than 65.6 feet long**, these vessels must exhibit the lights as shown in illustration 2. The required lights are:
 - Red and green sidelights visible from at least two miles away—or if less than 39.4 feet long, at least one mile away.
 - A sternlight visible from at least two miles away.
- **If less than 23.0 feet long**, these vessels should:
 - If practical, exhibit the same lights as required for unpowered vessels less than 65.6 feet in length.
 - If not practical, have on hand at least one lantern or flashlight shining a white light, as shown in illustration 3.

All Vessels When Not Underway

All vessels are required to display a white light visible in all directions whenever they are moored or anchored outside a designated mooring area between sunset and sunrise.

1. Power-Driven Vessels Less Than 65.6 Feet



The masthead light and sternlight may be combined as an all-round white light on vessels less than 39.4 feet long.



Less than 39.4 feet only

2. Unpowered Vessels Less Than 65.6 Feet



An alternative to the sidelights and sternlight is a combination red, green, and white light, which must be exhibited near the top of the mast.

3. Unpowered Vessels Less Than 23.0 Feet



Vessel operators should never leave shore without a flashlight. Even if you plan to return before dark, unforeseen developments might delay your return past nightfall.

PROTEST LEVEL

Safety Violations are not considered protests. There is no fee to report safety violations, but must be supported by substantial corroborating evidence (photo/video).

Level 1 Protest is a rules violation accompanied by corroborating evidence, such as a picture or video.

Level 1 Protest Fee- ~~\$25~~ **(CASH) Non-refundable**

Level 2 Protest is a rules violation that must be investigated in depth by the director.

Level 2 Protest Fee- ~~\$250~~ **(CASH) Non-refundable**

Level 3 Protest is a rules violation that a 3rd party lie detector test is required to determine if a violation has occurred.

Level 3 Protest Fee- ~~\$650~~ **(CASH) Non-refundable**