

## **Article I: Rules and Regulations**

**1.01** **These Rules and Regulations** are the Official Rules (“Rules”) of the SOUTHERN BASS ANGLERS of ALABAMA CLUB (TEAM TRAIL).

**1.02** **Participant(s)** acknowledge and agree that they have reviewed, understand, and will abide by the Rules WITH HERE IN. Participants willingly agree to comply with the Rules for participation in the Events.

**1.03** **All local, state & federal** laws shall apply at all times including, without limitation, the penal code.

**1.04** **All local, state, U.S. Coast Guard, and Federal** boating and fishing regulations shall apply at all times.

## **Article II: Event Participation and Eligibility**

**2.01 THE EVENT** is a “**CLOSED AMATEUR**” event for members of the **SOUTHERN BASS ANGLERS of ALABAMA CLUB** only.

**2.02 THE CLUB** and **TOURNAMENT TRAIL** is for amateur anglers only. Professional anglers are not eligible to compete. If you are unsure of your professional status, it is your responsibility to request a decision in writing from the CLUB COMMITTEE prior to entering an Event. Any Participant who enters this CLUB or TOURNAMENT TRAIL of CLUB, and is determined to be a professional, will be removed from competition immediately and will forfeit the Entry Fee (or entry fees) (as defined below).

**2.03 ANY** angler meeting one (1) or more of the following criteria is considered a “professional” and is not

## eligible to compete in this CLUB or TOURNAMENT TRAIL:

**A.** Anglers who have guided professionally for a fee (of any kind) on any of the tournament trail lakes within the last 2 years. (UPDATED DEC 2023)

**B.** Anglers who have competed as a professional in any tournaments with an entry fee greater than 500\$. This includes, but is not limited to, anglers competing as a professional in the B.A.S.S. Opens, FLW Costa Series, or Toyota Series, The National Professional Fishing League ect... (2 years)(UPDATED DEC 2023)

**C.** Anglers who have competed professionally in the Bassmaster Classic, B.A.S.S. Elite Series, Forrest Wood Cup, and/or the FLW Tour ect... (2 years) (UPDATED DEC 2023)

**D.** A co angler in these events are not deemed has professionals.

**2.04 PARTICIPANTS less than 18 years** of age must be accompanied by a parent or adult with written parental permission. (Written parental permission must be provided to CLUB COMMITTEE prior to the start of the event) Participants under the age of 18 years may not fish alone in the Event.

**2.05 TEAM TRAIL FORMAT** of 2 anglers per boat.

**A.** EACH TEAM MEMBER must fish with original team partner

**B** Said member may bring an immediate family member or high school student as a guest upon absence of original team member.

LIMITED TO 2 SUBS PER YEAR – COST OF 50\$ PER SUB PER TOURNAMENT -50\$ GOING TO CLASSIC FUND

(UPDATE DEC 2023)

(immediate family: spouse, son, daughter, brother or sister, son in law, daughter in law, father, father in law, mother, mother in law, grandfather, grandfather in law, grandmother, grandmother in law, grand children)

**C.** OR said member may fish solo

A-3. CLASSIC SUB - SCHOOL STUDENT AGE ONLY. (NO COLLEGE AGE) UPDATED DEC 2023)

**D.** If a team member quits, the remaining team member may get a new fishing partner for the remanding tournaments per preapproval from the committee. The new partner must meet eligibility criteria. This is a (1) time change per year.

**E.** If a team changes partners during the schedule year, the points for TEAM OF THE YEAR will start over for the new established team. 50\$ CHARGE FOR ANY NEW QUALIFING MEMBER PLUS 50\$ CHARGE FOR CREATING NEW TEAM. FUNDS TRANSFER TO CLASSIC

**2.06 GUEST BOAT.** The last REGULAR SEASON (NOT THE CLASSIC) tournament of the year, each team can invite one boat

as a guest, but each member of the guest boat must meet eligibility criteria and interested in joining the club and preapproved at least 48 hours prior to the tournament.

**2.07 CLUB OFFICERS** reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone in their sole discretion.

**2.08 Anyone** who has failed a polygraph examination and/or been disqualified for fraudulent actions in connection with any fishing tournament is not eligible to compete.

**2.09 Any Participant** desiring to inquire regarding the professional status of another Participant, must do so in accordance with the Protests and Dispute Article of these Rules.

## **Article III: Registration and Entry Fee**

**3.01 MEMBERSHIP FEES** will be **\$50.00 yearly**. Membership fees will be forwarded to “CLASSIC” fund.

THERE IS NO MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR STUDENTS **LESS THAN 18** YEARS OF AGE OR **12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE** AND YOUNGER

**3.02 MEMBERSHIP FEES** must be paid PRIOR to fishing your first tournament.

**3.03 TOURNAMENT FEE** Each team shall pay an **ENTRY FEE of \$50.00** (hereinafter “Entry Fee”) to participate in the Event.

**3.04 BIG FISH** will be **\$10 per boat**

**3.05 ENTRY FEE** and **BIG FISH** shall be paid (in full) no later than the registration deadline set prior to blast off to participate in the Event.

**3.06** EACH TEAM MAY BUY IN 2 TOURNAMENTS A YEAR AT THE COST OF 80\$ PER TOURNAMENT. FEE MUST BE PAID BY FRIDAY AT 1:00PM THE DAY BEFORE THE TOURNAMANT. (CASH ONLY) TEAM WILL BE RESPONSIBLE TO GET MONEY TO TONY OR CLYDE. 60\$ WILL GO TO TORNAMENT / 20\$ TO CLASSIC

(UPDATED DEC 2023)

### **3.07 LATE ARRIVALS FOR TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

- A.** 1<sup>ST</sup> TIME - 1LB PENALTY AT WEIGH IN
- B.** 2<sup>ND</sup> TIME – 2LB PENALTY AT WEIGH IN
- C.** 3<sup>RD</sup> TIME – 3 LB PENALTY AT WEIGH IN
- D.** FOR LATE ARRIVALS ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BEFORE WEIGHING IN
- E.** IN CASE OF UNSEEN CIRCUMSTANCE, FLAT TIRE OR BRAKE DOWN ECT... TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR WILL TAKE CONSIDERATION OF SITUATION AND MAKE DECISION.

### **3.08 CLASSIC QUALIFICATIONS**

**A.** EACH TEAM must fish six (6) tournaments to qualify for a free entry to CLASSIC

**B.** EACH TEAM that fishes (5) tournaments will pay full entry to CLASSIC (\$100)

AMENDMENT TO 3.07, CREATED MEDICAL WAIVER FOR MEMBERS WHO DEVELOPE SERIOUS ILLNESSES OR INJURY DURNING SAID YEAR FOR CLASSIC

**C.** Lakes that will be in the draw for the CLASSIC will be all lakes on the schedule for that said year minus the lakes that were drawn for the classic the previous two years.

(UPDATES DEC 2023)

**3.09 BIG FISH.** There will be a \$20.00 big fish fee for the CLASSIC

**3.10 REFUNDS.** There will be no refunds of the Entry Fee unless an event is cancelled.

**3.11 Payment of the Entry Fee** constitutes a representation by each Participant that he/she has read and understands the Rules and the Participant will abide by such Rules and the decisions of the CLUB COMMITTEE.

## **Article IV: Interpretation and Discipline**

**4.01 Participants** agree to abide by the Rules and any decisions of the CLUB COMMITTEE

**4.02 Interpretation** and enforcement of the Rules shall be left to the sole and exclusive discretion of the CLUB COMMITTEE. In the event a Participant(s) violates any rule set forth in the Rules or, at the discretion of the CLUB COMMITTEE,



other rule not specifically codified herein, the CLUB COMMITTEE may impose a penalty and/or sanction on the Participant (including but not limited to any other participant competing from the same boat). Such penalties and sanctions may include disqualification from the Event and future events. Penalties and sanctions for violation of any rule set forth in the Rules or, at the discretion of the CLUB COMMITTEE, other rule not specifically codified herein may include, but are not limited to, 1) loss of catch of the day; 2) disqualification from the Event; 3) disqualification from future events which may include a specific number of events, a specific time period, or a lifetime disqualification; 4) loss of Entry Fee; 5) forfeiture of Event winnings and/or prizes; and 6) any other penalty determined by the CLUB COMMITTEE.

**4.03** **Each Participant** agrees to report to the CLUB COMMITTEE immediately any violation or infraction of the Rules.

## **Article V: Safety**

**5.01** **Participants** are aware he/she/they are participating in a physical activity in the sport of fishing that may be dangerous and can cause injury. These activities may involve severe cardiovascular stress and possible violent contact. Participants understand and acknowledge the activities involve certain risks including, but not limited to, death, serious neck and spinal injuries resulting in complete or partial paralysis, brain damage, and/or serious injury to virtually all bones, joints, muscles and internal organs, and property damage. Although particular Rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce the risks associated with participating in the Event, the risk of

serious injury does exist and cannot be completely eliminated.

**5.02 During Event** hours no alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) are to be consumed by Participants or allowed in Participants' boat until the final hourly weigh-in is complete.

**5.03 Chemical substance addiction or abuse**, conviction of a felony or other crimes including those involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety

**5.04 Sportsmanship**, fair competition and compliance with Event Rules, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for registration and/or for disqualification, suspension from the Event, and/or other disciplinary action

**5.05 All boats** must be equipped with some type of emergency ignition cut-off

device (kill switch) on any remote steered outboard while main engine is in use. Ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must operate properly, which means when the kill switch is activated the outboard main engine must stop running immediately. The ignition cut-off device (kill switch) must be attached to the boat operator at all times while the outboard main engine is in use.

**5.06 U.S. Coast Guard approved life jackets are required** for each person on board a boat during official practice and competition. Life jackets must be worn and strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or shut off. Participants shall check inflatable life vest indicators daily during the Event. Any Participant in violation of this rule will receive one (1) warning (Any subsequent violation of this rule will result

in the participant(s) being disqualified for that day of competition)

**5.07 If Participants** observe any significant hazard, condition or activity during his/her presence or participation in the Event, Participants shall remove himself/herself from participation and bring it to the attention of a representative of the CLUB COMMITTEE immediately.

**5.08 Safe boat** conduct must be observed at all times by Participants.

**5.09 No boat** shall have a motor of higher horsepower than approved by the U.S. Coast Guard and/or the lake authority.

## **Article VI: Permitted Fishing Areas**

**6.01 No one** may leave his or her boat to fish.

**6.02 Participants** are limited to use of a primary motorized boat only. No canoes, kayaks, rafts, or flotation apparatuses.

**6.03** **No fishing** is allowed within (100) yards of another boat without the other boat's permission.

**6.04** **No Participant** may buy, barter or hold a fishing location from any other Participant or Non-Participant for use during any Event day.

## **Article VII: Methods, Tackle and Equipment**

**7.01** **All bass** must be caught on artificial bait by casting only, no foul hooking of bedding fish. A foul hooked “bedding” fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released. No trolling with big motor. Participants may use only one rod at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.

## **Article VIII: Sportsmanship**

**8.01 Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and bass conservation** are required from every Participant. Participants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of fishing. This includes any and all social media content that may be shared now or in the future. Any Participant found compromising the integrity of the sport and/or the Event may be subject to disciplinary action and/or disqualification. Depending on the level of:

A. FIRST OFFENSE WARNING

B. SECOND OFFENSE REMOVED  
FROM CLUB / TOURNAMENT TRAIL

**8.02 The favorable public reputation of the CLUB**, the sport of fishing, the CLUB COMMITTEE, CLUB MEMBERS is of paramount importance. Accordingly, Participants shall refrain from making unreasonable attacks, accusations, and comments that disparage the integrity of the CLUB, the sport of fishing, the CLUB

COMMITTEE or CLUB MEMBERS. This includes but is not limited to the Participants social media accounts and digital sites.

**8.03 Participants** shall act in a courteous manner at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-participants who may be on Event waters.

**8.04 Any Participants** attempting to manipulate the outcome of the Event or defraud the SOUTHERN BASS ANGLERS of ALABAMA CLUB will be disqualified.

## **Article IX: BLAST OFF**

### **9:01 Boat blast off**

- A. WEIGHN IN MASTERS will launch prior to flight 1.
- B. Blast off will be in flights of 10 in accordance to the previous years points standings.



C. A drawing will be held prior to the first tournament to determine rotation of blast off for each flight for the year.

**9:02** In case of smaller boats, team may opt to rear.

## Article X: Weigh-in and Penalties

**10.01** For reasons of conservation, all bass brought to the official weigh-in station must be in a weigh bag with adequate water

**10.02** No TEAM may weigh more than FIVE (5) bass per event. TEAM may way one (1) big fish for BIG FISH of the TOURNAMENT

**10.03** All bass weighed-in will be released back into the lake alive, if possible.

**10.04 DEAD FISH** penalty will be a 1lb. deduction per dead fish - only 1 dead fish allowed)

**10.05 BIG FISH** MUST BE ALIVE TO QUALIFY FOR BIG FISH PRIZE MONEY.

**10.06 ALL DEAD FISH** will be preserved on ice after weigh in for consumption.

**10.07 EVERY** effort must be made to keep bass alive including proper live well aeration, treatment and temperature management

**10.08 BASS** must be weighed-in by at least one (1) member of the team that originally caught the bass. In case of emergency a COMMITTEE MEMBER may weigh in your fish but must have a witness.

**10.09 ANY** artificially weighted bass will be disqualified and the Participants shall be disqualified from all future SOUTHERN BASS ANGLERS of ALABAMA CLUB

**10.10 ONLY** largemouth, smallmouth and spotted bass will be weighed-in. Specific

lake minimums and /or slot requirements must followed and it is the responsibility of the Participant to abide by all local, state, and federal Rules for the Event lake(s).

**10.11** **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE** FOR A PAYOUT PLACE, PRIZE MONEY WILL BE ADDED TOGETHER AND SPLIT EQUALLY.

**10.12** **IN THE EVENT OF A TIE** for the overall big bass, the money will be divided equally.

**10.13** **ANY** alteration of length or weight of bass is prohibited and the Participant will be banned from any future events.

**Late Penalty:** Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, which will be deducted from the total weight including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any contestant more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

## **Article XI: Boat Inspection**

**11.01** **ALL** Participants, by entering this CLUB, hereby agree to allow their boat to be inspected by CLUB COMMITTEE Officers at any time prior to, during, or following the Event for LIVE WELL INSPECTION

**11.02** **SBAA** cooperates with local law enforcement, park rangers and fish/wildlife officers during the Event. If any Participant is found to be in violation of local, state or federal law during Event hours, he/she/they will immediately be disqualified and unable to compete in future tournaments.

## **Article XII: Protests and Disputes**

**12.01** **ALL** protests or disputes relating to any matter involving the Rules and/or the Event must be registered in writing with the CLUB COMMITTEE at weigh-in and prior to delivery of any prizes or winnings.

**12.02** **ANY** protest filed by a Participant shall be heard by the CLUB COMMITTEE. After reviewing the protest submitted, the CLUB COMMITTEE shall inform the protesting Participant of the COMMITTEES decision. The COMMITTEES decision is final and not subject to further appeal.

**12.03 THE INTERPUTATION AND ENFORCEMENT** of the Rules will be the sole responsibility of the CLUB COMMITTEE. The Rules shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of ALABAMA in all respects, including matters of construction, interpretation, validity, and enforcement

