

# The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Rules

**1. RULES / CHANGES:** The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for any special rules and/or changes for a specific tournament as decided by the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee. Such special rules and/or changes will be announced at the Tournament Briefing and at the Captains meeting the morning of the tournament. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director/Committee. All rule infractions must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee prior to weigh in. At such time such infraction will be submitted in writing, reviewed and a decision made. If such accusations require further review competitors will be allowed to weigh but no awards, prizes or money will be awarded until a final ruling has been reached. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, fine of prizes. All rulings will be voiced by the Tournament Director and shall be final in all matters. Any violations which lead to further disqualifications shall be decided by the Tournament Director / Tournament committee.

**2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** This tournament is open to members of the general public who are 16 years of age or older to operate a vessel. Proof of age to the satisfaction of Tournament Director/Tournament Committee is the responsibility of potential competitor. Eligible participant must be 10 years of age or older and fish from the same vessel as a PARENT OR GUARDIAN. This competitor may be a substitute or full time partner. All Open Team Tournaments and the DBN Classic may be fished as a team or as individuals. Teams participating in the Open Buddy Tournaments and B.A.S.S. Team Trail will be allowed one angler substitution. However there are no substitutions allowed for the Classic. DURING THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY DELAWARE B.A.S.S. NATION OPEN TEAM TOURNAMENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS CONTESTANT HAS PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE AVAILABLE IN BOAT. THIS DOCUMENTED PROOF MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE AND MUST BE AVAILABLE ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE. CONTESTANTS WILL BE CHECKED AT RANDOM AND ANY CONTESTANT WITHOUT PROOF OF INSURANCE WILL BE DISQUALIFIED. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director/ Tournament committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible.

**3. TOURNAMENT/PRACTICE:** There is no designated practice period prior for all DBN sanctioned tournaments. If such period is deemed necessary it will be approved Tournament Director/ Tournament committee. During the

tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-brand radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine-band weather information. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee all violations or infractions of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the President/Board of Directors and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the President/Board of Directors. Without limiting the foregoing, the President/ Board of Directors shall have sole discretion to select the place, at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the President/Board of Directors and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

**4. REGISTRATION:** Each competitor must submit entry and money to the Tournament Director by 7:00 PM Wednesday prior to the tournament to be included in the boat draw. The Draw Meeting is to be listed on the DBN's Website. Competitors not registered by this date will be registered on a first come first served basis via late mail in registrations or registrations accepted by the Tournament Director/Tournament Committee the day of the tournament. Competitors that have registered and paid but later discover they are unable to compete in the event due to hardship, family emergency, mechanical breakdown, etc. will be eligible for a refund only if they contact the Tournament Director/Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. Special circumstance cases outside of this time period will be decided on by the Tournament Director/Tournament Committee. \*\* Boats are to be in the water or in line to launch at the time defined on the entry form during the day of the scheduled event. Any team that has already registered and arrives past the designated Check-in time will be handed a written copy of the drivers meeting, get their live wells checked prior to unloading their boat, pay an additional \$20.00 donation and start the event at the back of the field. If the team does not want to comply with these stipulations then they will forfeit their entry and not be allowed to participate in the event. Their entry will not be forwarded to the next event. If the Tournament Director has boarded their boat any team arriving late will be not be allowed to participate and the entry will not be forwarded to the next event.

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State Qualifying Tournaments will be governed by an amended set of rules due to the changes imposed by B.A.S.S. for the 2019 State Team. After the draw meeting for that tournament has been concluded 2 state team members will be selected if state team members doesn't volunteer to check live wells and light at that tournament and 1 state team member will be selected to run rod raffle / 50/50 that morning of tournament if state team member doesn't volunteer.

5. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is not running. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Bow and stern lights are required to be on and working prior to launch. If lights on boat aren't working the competitors will go to end of the launch order. The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation reserves the right to impose boat speed limits and the area covered by the speed limit on any or all tournaments. Such decisions are exclusively at the discretion of the Tournament Director/ Tournament Committee.

6. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament or weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from this and all future Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries, conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish bind all competitors. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for

disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before removing hook to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs or grippers may be used to boat bass or permitted in boat at any time. **NON PUNCTURE Cull tag must be used puncture cull tags are prohibited.**

8. **HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed 250hp or the rating specified on this rating plate. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

9. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH BILGE PUMP, AERATED LIVE WELL SPACE FOR TWO CONTESTANTS, AND SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE CO-ANGLER PARTNER TO CHECK THE EQUIPMENT. The ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunwale of the boat. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All BLADDER tanks and any other type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are

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factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

**10. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:** A full discussion MUST be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his or her selected waters an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, they shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their partner shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-boater share part of the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

**11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** The Tournament Director/ Tournament committee shall establish Tournament waters for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: 1.) Within 25 yards of another competitor's boat with the trolling motor in the water and actively fishing, or 2.) Within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such boat believes the competitor is close to being within this 25 or 50-yard radius. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 25 or 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director/Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by

placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

## 12. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate 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 a tournament official must verify their catch in order to be counted in the tournament. If the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials competitors can continue and their catch will be counted.

**13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** Partners must stay together at all times until check-in is complete with or without any fish. There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules as set forth by the Tournament Director/ Tournament committee; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the check in person and proceed immediately to the weigh in area. No angler's boat is to be pulled out of the water until the competitor's has weighed in their caught of fish unless otherwise discussed at check-in after tournament by Tournament Director/ Tournament committee. Competitors not at check-in at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "BIG FISH award." Competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose that day's catch.

**14. SCORING:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners will be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitor catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will

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conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director/Committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks-in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. For legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces of weight for the first fish. This penalty shall increase by 4 ounces for each fish after the first (example: 1 dead fish 4 ounce penalty, 2 dead fish, 4 ounces for the first, 8 ounces for the second and so on). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation. When a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation will furnish specially designed bags, and these bags must be used for the weigh-ins. The signature of the competitor must certify his catch.

15. **TIES:** In case of a tie for a "place" standing, the tie-breaker will be decided 1st by total # of fish weighed and 2nd by biggest fish. In case of a tie for Lunker, the money will be equally split between each competitor.

16. **To all Delaware B.A.S.S. State Team members and those that could become a Delaware B.A.S.S. State Team member:** To remain an active member of the Delaware B.A.S.S. State Team all members (anglers and co anglers) must "participate" in at least three (3) of the six (6) Open Team Tournaments, hosted by Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation. The term "participate" is defined as either fish the B.A.S.S. Nation Open Team Tournament from start to finish OR provide the B.A.S.S. Nation a monetary payment of \$60.00 per Tournament. In the event a State Team member fails to comply with the participation ruling, they will be dropped from the Delaware B.A.S.S. State Team. The 12th person on the list will move up and become a new State Team member (providing they have participated in three of the four Open Team Tournaments).

This is not limited to just the 12th person, It is possible that 13th, 14th...etc can move into the position of State Team member.