



# GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION

## GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION JUNIOR TOURNAMENT TRAIL TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The following rules shall apply to all Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High Junior Club tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation immediately upon notice by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation to its members, which notice may be published on the Georgia B.A.S.S. High School internet site at [www.gabassnationhs.com](http://www.gabassnationhs.com). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee, Tournament Committee, and Board of Directors at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 21 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
- b) Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked verified by either your partner or boat captain. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
- c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- d) Disqualification from the tournament in question
- e) Disqualification from future Georgia B.A.S.S. Junior club events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- f) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director.

1. Participation and Eligibility:

- (i) Participation in this Tournament Trail is open only to current members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society [B.A.S.S.] and members of a Junior Club with affiliation in the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation. Captains or teams furnishing a boat must provide her/his boat registration and proof of \$300,000 of Watercraft Liability Insurance [WLI] or \$100,000 of WLI backed by a \$1 million "Umbrella" Liability Policy covering the boat and the designated operator. To enter the tournament, the club/chapter must be a member in good standing of the GBN.

Requirements to qualify for the state classic: Must be a student currently enrolled in the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade (7-13 year old age bracket), in good academic standard, and a member of your institution's fishing team. Proof of age, grade or graduation date, to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential contenders. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner or themselves shall not be eligible.

All junior anglers are required to have an endorsement of having passed a boater safety course and provide proof at the first tournament check in **regardless of age**. Failure to do so will prevent boating on tournament waters. Boating safety courses are available online.



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(i) 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 has been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating 8th graders will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. This is a team event. You must have a partner and coach to compete. This tournament is open only to current members of official Junior Clubs, recognized by said Junior Club.

(ii) DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT, NO CONTENDER OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTENDER OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY CONTENDER WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, Inc. requirements.

(iii) A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION NO LATER THAN 3 DAYS PRIOR TO THE TOURNAMENT. **ENTRY FORM, ENTRY FEE, AND WAIVERS NEED TO BE MAILED TO: GABNHS, 145 LEGACY DRIVE, VILLA RICA, GA. 30180.** The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

Tournament Reminders and event schedules will be posted on the GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION HIGH SCHOOL FISHING Facebook page. The Facebook page can also be viewed at [www.gabassnationhs.com](http://www.gabassnationhs.com).

2. **ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:** Anglers participating in any GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers, boat captains, parents and family members of Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, BASS NATION, AND B.A.S.S. its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

To this end, anglers, boat captains, parents and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, boat captain, parents and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, B.A.S.S., AND BASS NATION sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof



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deemed appropriate by GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, INC.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing.

Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

(i.) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors
- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from

### MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favorable public reputation of Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., and BASS NATION as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., and BASS NATION. Accordingly, it is an obligation of contenders to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the B.A.S.S. organization. Contenders, boat captains, parents and/or family members are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., BASS NATION policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler, boat captain, parents and/or family members knows, or should



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reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

### 3 PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

- (i) There will be no off-limits period prior to any tournament unless specified by the tournament Committee.
- (ii) There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to the local host community. The contender must know and observe these dates. During official practice and competition a contender can only have the assistance or advice of another contender for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters. **Contenders may only fish with other contenders or their registered boat captain during official practice and only contenders during competition.** Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director.
- (iii) Anglers renting boat slips may launch and proceed immediately to slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director (pertains to multiple day events). **NO EXCEPTIONS.** During the official practice and during the tournament, a contender may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.
- (iv) No contender may buy or barter a fishing location from anyone for use during any competition day.
- (v) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the contender's boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- (vi) Each contender agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another contender that they violate these Rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. **OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING** to the tournament committee no later than 15 minutes after the protester has weighed in his/her fish and all parties of interest will be provided a copy.

By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each contender or boat captain agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The GBN Tournament Director, rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The GBN Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The GBN Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest GBN headquarters with respect to all



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concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The contender shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred. Random truth verifications tests may be administered on site during the course of a GBN Junior Club Event.

- 4 REGISTRATION, CHECK IN, SAFETY MEETING: Each team must register in person with official GBN High School Nation staff at the time and place designated. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours may result in a 1 Lb. penalty to be deducted from your total score. Any team, who has not contacted the GBN High School Nation Tournament Staff 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration period, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. It shall be each team's responsibility to either check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times from the GBN High School Nation Tournament Department.
  - (i) **Registration** and **Entry fee** Need to be mailed to: **GABNHS, 145 LEGACY DRIVE, VILLA RICA, GA 30180**, and has got to be completed no later than **3 days** prior to the tournament.
  - (ii) **Check in** will start **1 ½ hours** before daylight. Pick up your boat number when checking in. Check in and then launch your boat.
  - (iii) **Safety meeting** starts ½ hour before safe light in most cases this will be done on the water after checking in and launching boat.
  - (iv) **Tournament Reminders** or event schedules will be posted on the Facebook page, the Facebook page can also be viewed at [www.gabassnationhs.com](http://www.gabassnationhs.com).

## 5 SAFETY:

- (i) Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contenders and captains. During official practice and competition Boat Captains and Contenders will abide by and obey all State and Local Boating Laws. During the official practice and competition, each contender and captain must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is operating, as well as observe and abide by any and all state (s) life preserver regulations that apply to his/her age, while in tournament waters. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition at all times. Inflatable life vests may only be worn if you are 16 years of age or older AND weigh more than 80 pounds. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.
- (ii) When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, contenders must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
- (iii) Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by GBN, may be approved for competition.



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It is suggested boat captain have a safety check with the anglers each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.

(iv) Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the contenders. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, of multi day events, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take off and check in) shall result in cancellation.

(v) GBN reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

(vi) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, CONTENDERS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE, THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(vii) CONTENDERS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

- 6 **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contenders in GBN 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.

(i) Use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any contender or boat captain during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future GBN tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, tobacco or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.

(ii) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contenders who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contender or boat captain, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.

(iii) All contenders are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Contenders are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

(iv) 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



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rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a GBN tournament and/or for disqualification from a GBN tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

- 7 TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** The use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Multiple lure rigs (Umbrella Rigs) are allowed as long as it follows state fishing regulations. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. If a contender breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a contender loses his rod and reel while landing a bass he MAY use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If that rod and reel is verified to be the lost outfit that bass may be landed and counted as a legal fish. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. Contenders are allowed to share baits and tackle at all times including contenders who have been cut from competition.
- 8 HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE 250 HP. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. 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 the rating specified on this plate or the horsepower maximum set by GBN. Each contender and boat captain agrees to submit, by his/her 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. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a contender’s engine 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 engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from GBN tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by GBN must be observed and all



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boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.

- 9 **BOAT AND MOTOR:** For the safety of all contenders, during official practice and competition, all boats must be equipped with an approved type operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. 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 that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing is not allowed. 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 factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. 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. 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 contender. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used by any contender. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.
- 10 **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass. GBN recommends live-wells to be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.
- 11 **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each day, each boat shall have a numbered float or chip (provided at tournament check in) located in the boat and must remain with the boat during the tournament. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and returned to a tournament official at the designated check in location (end of day check in location to be determined by tournament director).
- 12 **BOAT OPERATION:** The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contenders must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both contenders must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency contenders may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other contenders or to a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. 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 the day to be scored in the tournament. Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited unless you have checked in and have ended your tournament day. No high school angle shall operate





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the boat at any time during the tournament. Boat captains must be 18 years old or older to operate boat for team. Boat captains are the only one allowed to operate the boat using the gas engine during the event. During official practice and competition Boat Captains and Contenders will abide by and obey all State and Local Boating Laws.

- 13 **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water within these boundaries posted “**Off-Limits**” or “**No Fishing**” by state or federal agencies as well as the **live-GBN release area** established by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing, within 50 yards of a marina (gas pump), or within 50 yards of another contender which was first anchored. No anchored boat shall permit selected contenders to fish within a 50 yards claimed by her/him to the exclusion of any other contender. Maneuvering boats shall be followed no closer than 50 yards. All angling must be done from the boat. Contenders must not leave the boat to land a fish. Contenders 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.
- 14 **CONTENDERS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** During the competition day, contenders 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 day. Contenders must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both contenders must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5, 14 and 17. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, contenders may be removed from their boat to either a boat operated by other contenders or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. 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. In the event of a needed restroom break a refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contenders are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a contender violates any of the above conditions, (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), both contenders must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the contenders to resume fishing, a **RESTART** will be allowed, the contenders will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials. Contenders are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that contender must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.
- 15 **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in



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the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all contenders and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. In the morning each team must be in water with his/her partner 30 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time for their flight. At check-in, the team pair must check in with the tournament committee check-in boat or point no later than the check-in time announced for their flight. All boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 11 and proceed immediately at a slow idle to the designated weigh-in area. Trailering of boats before weigh in will be designated by tournament director. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if weighing bass.

- 16 **SCORING:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each teams catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Redeye, Shoal, or Smallmouth, bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns). At no time shall a contender have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a team determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce their catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. **Culling of dead fish is NOT allowed.** Once a contender checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If teams at the verification table have more than their five fish limit in possession, the tournament officials will cull the largest bass first down to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest 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. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the contender. 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 contenders check in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a contender's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that contender may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. **Culling tags and/or culling beams designed to penetrate a fish's mouth are not allowed. Culling tags and/or culling beams are allowed as long as they are clip on and do not penetrate the fish's mouth or are placed up through the gills (fins and tails can't be clipped or punched).**
- 17 **Don't Kill Your Catch: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the contender shall be penalized ¼ lb. Each contender is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly aerated live well. Do not clip fins or otherwise physically mark the fish for identification. The Tournament



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Director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contenders are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contenders. Upon mutual consent between both contenders paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check-in time of the first flight. SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.

- 18 **LATE PENALTY:** Any team who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 15, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “big bass award”. Any team more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a team be allowed to make up “lost time.” After proper recognition at the check-in point, teams will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.
- 19 **TIES:** In the case of a tie for any place, the team with the greatest number of fish wins the place, or if still tied, the greatest number of live fish shall win the place in question. If the tie is yet unbroken, the team with the largest fish, if known will win place. If tie is yet unbroken a cut of the cards will resolve any yet unbroken tie. The next place will go to the team so eliminated.
- 20 **LOCAL GUIDES:** If a Coach/Boat Captain is a local guide on Tournament Waters. Then they will be ineligible for that Tournament. **GBN’s DEFINITION OF LOCAL GUIDE** – A person that gets paid to take others fishing for any species on that particular body of water. **NOTE: GBN reserves the right to deny any Coach/Boat captain.** The **ONLY** exception to this rule is if the guide/boat captain is the father, grandfather, mother or grandmother to the anglers he/she is a boat captain for.
- 21 **CLASSIC RULES-** These rules are for qualifying tournament trail, State Classic rules will be provided prior to that event if any additional rules for that event are required.
- 22 **CONSERVATION EVENT: IS NOT REQUIRED** All teams and clubs that complete a conservation event can submit it to GBN. The GBN will review the submitted event and awards will be provided at the State Classic for the top three best team conservation events and the top club conservation event.  
TOP THREE TEAM EVENTS- these events must be completed by the team as a 2 person event.  
TOP CLUB EVENTS- this event must include all club members.  
Conservation events must be submitted between May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 10<sup>th</sup>.  
Participation in a GBN conservation event cannot be used as an event for these awards. (Conservation events will be judged by the GBN Board of Directors)
- 23 **COMMUNICATION:** There will be no communication, visually, vocally, or electronically between contenders and non-contenders or between other teams during the competition



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hours concerning fishing. Boat Captains can post pictures of catches to the Facebook page. Boat Captains cannot communicate to other boat captains on how fish are being caught.

- 24 **OBSERVER:** GBN cannot provide alternate/observers.
- 25 **BOATER SAFTY COURSE:** All Junior anglers are required to complete a boater safety course and provide proof at first tournament check in regardless of age.
- 26 **TEAM PAIRINGS:** This is a team event tournament and requires a 2 person team at the event to qualify for the State Championship or compete in the classic for nationals. “Solo contenders cannot qualify at any team event and solo contenders cannot compete in state championship”. Teams are required to be from the same High School or Club.
- 27 **LOSS OF TEAM PARTNER:** If a qualified contender loses their team partner after the last qualifier and prior to the state classic and another qualified club member is not available to pair with, the qualified contender can pair with a non-qualified partner from the same club. The qualified partner must present in writing to the GBN board thru the Youth Director the detailed explanation of circumstances of the loss of the partner. The non-qualified partner must have fished a qualifying event in the same tournament year. If a non-qualified partner is not available then submit in writing along with the explanation of loss of partner the name of a potential partner from the same club. The GBN officers will review and accept or deny the non-qualified partner pairing.
- 28 **CONTRACTS:** Championship teams are required to sign a contract before competing in the National tournament.  
Additional Teams making it to the nationals thru the additional qualifying slots are required to sign a contract before competing in the nationals. If you qualify thru the B.A.S.S. opens and what to be eligible for GBN benefits you will be required to sign a contract.  
NOTE: Contract is an agreement your team will follow all requirements of GBN and sponsors during the National Tournament.
- 29 **TIME OUTS and HALF TIME:** Five (5) one minute time outs are allowed to be called by boat captain or contender. There is also 1 mandatory 15 mandatory half time.
- 30 **QUALIFYING FOR CLASSIC:** **Teams must qualify and fish a minimum of three, Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High School and Junior Club Tournament Trail tournaments to be eligible to advance to the State Classic.**
- 31 **None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contender’s boat at any time.**

Rev1: 9/7/2016; Rev2: 7/27/2017; Rev3: 1/15/19



# GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION



## GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE

### BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION

The Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation relies on Boat Captains and High School team partners to insure her/himself that the assigned Tournament Boat is safe for a day's fishing. The team should determine the location and condition as a minimum of the following items:

- Fire Extinguisher, Type B, C, or A, B, C, and is it in the GREEN?
- Bilge Pump(s), is the sump free of litter? Turn pump ON – is it running?
- Sounding Device, is it operational?
- Know the Location of the Master Switch, Bilge Pump Switch, and the Navigation Light Switch.

Now the boat team may proceed to the dock by flight in numerical order for the {GBN} Tournament Committee to inspect the boat for the following:

- Are the Navigational Lights, installed and on?
- Are the PFD's {Life Vests} USCG Approved – Type I, II, III, and in good condition, and can be zipped, hooked and or snapped secure?
- Is Kill Switch {Electrical Interrupt}, Functional and attached to the operator?

PLEASE CHECK THESE ITEMS PRIOR TO ENTERING THE LIVE WELL CHECK AND TAKE OFF AREA.