



GEORGIA B.A.S.S.NATION

GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT TRAIL

(Additional Tournament specific rules will be provided before each event)

1. **Rules:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The rules of this tournament are not subject to protest or change. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee and Board of Directors of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation [GBN] and their decision shall be final in all matters.
2. **Participants and Eligibility:** Participation in this Tournament trail is open only to members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society [B.A.S.S.] and members of a high school 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.

Requirement to qualify for the state classic: currently enrolled in the 8th thru 12th grade.

High school seniors are eligible to compete in additional events up to three months after graduation.

3. **Registration:** Registration is to be accomplished by teams. Registration locations and times will be provided to the teams prior to the tournament; the main source for tournament information is Georgia BASS Nation High School Facebook page. Registration locations and times may change to accommodate specific tournament requirements.
Guide line for registration:
Registration starts 2 hours before safe light
Safety meeting starts 1/2 hour before safe light
4. **Sportsmanship:**

Competitors in all Georgia 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. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or a "drunken" condition exhibited by any competitor due to previous consumption of drugs or alcoholic beverages during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future GBN tournaments, Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who are on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the GBN effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and sportsmanship shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S. sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers, 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 B.A.S.S. or the GBN , its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. 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 B.A.S.S.* Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors 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. Competitors, 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 B.A.S.S. or GBN policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S. and GBN ,B.A.S.S. and GBN officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming and will result in disciplinary action.

To this end, anglers, 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, 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 B.A.S.S or GBN. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S or the GBN.

5. Safety: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament captains. Each competitor and captain is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver (PFD). This Personal Floatation Device must be worn **any** time the combustion engine is operating. The PFD must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches her/his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. The boat operator must have the "kill" switch attached to her/his person when the combustion engine is running. Boats shall be operated in safe and sane manner. The team has the right to demand safe and sane boat operation by the captains. Violations of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

6. 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 casting, spin casting or spinning rods, not in excess of 8 feet in length, with appropriate reels may be used. All other types are prohibited. Only one rod and reel is permitted in use at any given time, however, other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready for use. Nets may be used to land fish but **NOT** gaffs or "grippers". Underwater TV cameras may not be used during competition.

7. Boat and Motor: All boats offered for use in a GBN Tournament must meet the standards of the US Coast Guard and the state of Georgia. All boats must be equipped with some type of Ignition "kill" switch. All tournament boats must be 16 feet or more in length. Horsepower of the principal power source shall be within the USCG rating as designated on the manufacturer's rating plate. Gas must be stored only in factory-installed tanks. A small electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited

8. Basic Boat Equipment: Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether the aeration and capacity are “proper and adequate”.

9. Boat Identification: Each boat shall have a numbered float (provided at tournament registration) located in the boat during the tournament. This float is to be returned to a tournament official at the designated check in location (end of day check in location to be determined by tournament director)

10. Boat Inspection: The team and boat captain will assure her/himself that the boat meets USCG and Georgia safety requirements, knows the location of the fire extinguisher and the bilge pump switch. The tournament committee shall inspect each boat for functional navigation lights, aeration/live well system and an ignition “kill” switch. All must be wearing USCG chest type PFD’s that fits and are properly fastened.

11. Boat Operation: The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the 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 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. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited. No high school/junior angler shall operate the boat at anytime during the tournament. Boat captains must be 18 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.

12. Permitted Fishing Locations: Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except in designated off-limits areas or within 50 yards of a marina (gas pump) or within 50 yards of another competitor’s boat which was first anchored. No anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within a 50 yard radius claimed by her/him to the exclusion of any other competitor. Maneuvering boats shall be followed no closer than 50 yards. All angling must be done from 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. Contestants must not leave the boat to land a fish. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.

NOTE: Off limits within “no wake buoys” at launch site or weigh in site will be determined by tournament director

13. Official Checkpoints: Morning – Each team must be in the water with his/her partner 30 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time for their flight. Evening – The boater pair must check in with the tournament committee check-in boat or point no later than the check-in time announced for their flight. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will proceed to the weigh-in-site at a slow idle. Remain in your boat with the aerators running until you are handed a weight bag by a tournament official; then place your fish in the bag and proceed to the weigh-in station. Trailering of boats before weigh in option will be designated by tournament director.

14. Scoring: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths of pound (or ounces) of weight of each teams catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye, Shoal, or Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five in total of the above species. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. The Tournament Director will announce the length limits prior to the start of the tournament. At no time shall a team have in her/his possession more than the limit described above. **Culling of dead fish is NOT allowed.** In the event a competitor has more than five fish in his/her

possession at weigh-in the tournament officials shall cull the largest bass first down to the limit described. Fish shall be measured on a flat board on the longest straight line. Fish which fail to measure the minimum length shall accrue a penalty of one pound and all such fish shall be disallowed. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitors. Anyone attempting to alter a fish shall be subject to disqualification.

Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered shall be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the weigh-in officials. The weight of the catch must be certified by the signature of his/her partner of the day. Contestants must not allow bass they catch to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament. After the competitors have delivered his/her catch to the weigh master, he/she may not touch said catch until the weigh-in procedure is completed. The bass caught must not be on a stringer at any time. Individual identification markers are allowed. Competitors will transport their catch from the boat to the weigh-in line in a water filled plastic bag provided by the tournament committee. The fish shall then be placed in a basket for the remainder of the weigh-in process.

15. Don't Kill Your Catch: Deduction for dead fish will be 1/4 lb., Each competitor 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 few bass that do not survive will be donated.

16. Bonus Points: There will be NO BONUS POINTS for live fish. All live fish shall be returned to the fishing waters except for a trophy fish (minimum 8 lbs.) which may be kept for mounting.

17. Late Penalty: Any competitor who is not at the official check-in point as described in rule **13** at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of ¼ lb. per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of her/his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker" award. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for the day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make-up for "lost time". All fishing must cease upon check-in.

18. Ties: In the case of a tie for any place, the contestant with the greatest number of fish, or if still ties, the greatest number of live fish shall win the place in question. If the tie is yet unbroken, the contestant with the largest, if known, fish will win the place. A cut of the cards will resolve any yet unbroken ties. The next place will go to the person so eliminated.

19. Communication: There will be no communications, visually vocally or electronically between contestants and non-contestants or electronically between contestants, during the competition hours concerning the fishing. Boat captains can post pictures and catches to the Facebook page.

20. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time.

21. Protests: Any protest must be submitted to the tournament committee **in writing** no later than 15 minutes after the protester has weighed in his/her fish.

22. Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation cannot guarantee providing an alternate/observer. All anglers/alternates/observers must be members of Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation. High school boat captains will be given a GBN membership with paid BASS and Nation dues.

23. All High School anglers are required to complete a boater safety course and provide proof at each tournament registration **regardless of age.**

24. Team event tournaments require a 2 person team at the event to qualify for the state championship. "Solo competitors cannot qualify at any team event"

25. All qualified teams are required to participate in a GBN sponsored conservation event to remain eligible for the state championship.
26. Championship team is required to sign a contract before competing in the national tournament.
27. 5 - 1 minute time outs allowed to be called by boat captain or contender and 1 -15 minute mandatory half time
28. Southern divisional entry is by invitation only, decided by the GBN board of directors.



Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Committee

BOAT SAFETY INSPECTION

The Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation relies on the Non-Boater Partner to insure her/himself that the assigned Tournament Boat is safe for a day's fishing. The Non-Boater Partner 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?
- The Locations 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 [GBFN] Tournament Committee to inspect the boat for the following:
- The Navigational **Lights**, installed and operational.
- Live **Wells**, open, clean and the Aeration System is operational.
- PDF's [Life Vests]**, **USCG** Approved – Type I, II or III fit and can be zipped, hooked and or snapped secure.
- Kill **Switch** [Electrical Interrupt], Functional and is attached to the operator.

The Inspector will then ask the team for their flights time of return.

The boat then will idle to the designated Release Point to begin the fishing day.

The [GBFN] is attracting many new anglers each year whose only tournament experience is weekend tournaments. We are certainly happy to see these new [GBN] competitors. A few of these anglers seem unaware of our emphasis on safety. Unsafe or risky boat operation is unacceptable. The non-boater has RIGHTS in the safe operation of the boat during the [GBN] tournament. A safety point of emphasis for all competitors is the non-boater has the right and duty to tell the boater to slow down if he/she is concerned about her/his safety. This is absolute! No exceptions, NONE! This will be a point of emphasis in the [GBN]. (See Rule) - All boats offered for use in the competition will have a chair type seat in place on the back deck. This is an ADA requirement and the right thing to do. Exceptions may be granted in advance only by the Tournament Director.

Triton, Mercury, Lowrance, MotorGuide Alliance State www.gabassnation.com



