

**GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION
HANDBOOK**

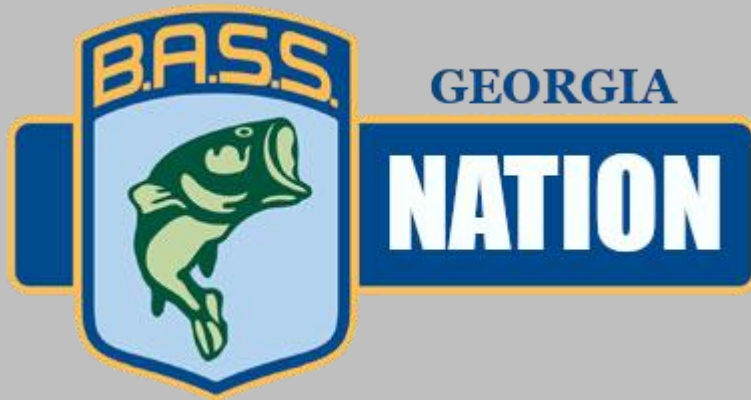




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MEMO: CHAPTER PRESIDENT, GEORGIA BASS NATION
SUBJECT: GBN CHAPTER HANDBOOK

This GBN Handbook is provided and intended to be a single source reference for chapter officers, and considerable time and thought have gone into its preparation.

One of the purposes for compiling this handbook is to reduce postage expenses. Master copies of forms and other information are provided. These master copies require only photocopying, eliminating the need for repeated mailings for GBN. Master copies will be available on web site at (georgiabassnation.com)

This handbook contains copies of the GBN Constitution and By Laws. These should be carefully read by all chapter officers both elected and appointed. There are also thoughts offered on chapter organization and officer function. These are a collection of “lessons learned” which we believe to be a valuable compilation of ideas.

The section on required reports provides a useful list of who, what, where and why, in this same section is a master copy of the report format that can be photocopied or downloaded when needed.

This handbook provides each chapter with the basic information needed to operate a bass club. This information will be supplemented at times by information posted on the Georgia Bass Nation Web Site (georgiabassnation.com), and by occasional meetings or information memos.

The Board of Directors, GBN, feels that this handbook is very important to the successful operation of your club. We suggest that the change of leadership of your club be symbolized by having the outgoing president hand the new president the Chapter Handbook.

Tony Beck
President, Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation



GBN BOD Contact Table

<p><u>President</u> Tony Beck 2131 US HWY 278 SE Social Circle, GA 30025 706-614-1281 tbeck14@att.net</p>	<p><u>Vice-President</u> Craig Monnin 8205 Aulden Place Cumming, GA 30041 678-772-4590 craigmonnin@hotmail.com</p>
<p><u>Secretary/Treasurer</u></p>	<p><u>Conservation Director</u> Tony Beck 2131 US HWY 278 SE Social Circle, GA 30025 Cell 706-614-1281 tbeck14@att.net</p>
<p><u>Youth Director</u> Brandon Stooksbury 131 Spring Creek Drive Rutledge GA 30663 770-349-9734 blsttooksbury@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>IT Director</u> Dan Jones 503 Mount Vernon LN Woodstock, GA 30189 danj@bellsouth.net</p>
<p><u>Region 1 Director</u> Donnie Hendrickson donnie.hendrickson@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Region 2 Director</u> Mark Hicks 770-262-5476 markhicks70@icloud.com</p>
<p><u>GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION WEB ADDRESS</u> georgiabassnation.com</p>	<p><u>GBN MAILING ADDRESS</u> Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation c/o Tony Beck 2131 Hwy 278 SE Social Circle, GA 30025 706-614-1281</p>



GEORGIA BASS NATION CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I – Name, Purpose and Composition

Section 1: Name

This Nation shall be called the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc. [GBN]

Section 2: Purpose

The primary purpose of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation shall be to preserve and further the sport of bass angling.

Section 3: Composition

The Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation shall be composed of affiliated chapters of the GBN.

ARTICLE II – Membership

Section 1: Number of Chapters

The Georgia BASS Nation shall consist of chapters who qualify for membership. Total membership shall not be limited.

Section 2: Membership Requirements

Chapters shall comply with the following to attain and maintain active membership.

A. **Association:** Affiliate with BASS NATION.

B. **General:** All Chapter members

- Be a minimum of 16 years old and members of B.A.S.S., BASS NATION, and Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation no later than July 1 of the calendar year.
- BASS Nation roster, primary members of the chapter are defined as individuals belonging to a primary club or chapter in which dues (BASS Nation and GBN State) are paid.
- BASS Nation roster, secondary members of a chapter are defined as individuals belonging to club or chapter as a member in which NO (BASS Nation and GBN State) dues are paid. Secondary members are REQUIRED to be an active member of a primary club or chapter in which dues (BASS Nation and GBN State) are paid. GBN reserves the right of determination for ALL secondary chapter membership regarding allowance and financial structure.
- No Pros allowed. The following shall disqualify membership. Any angler who has participated in but not



limited to the following professional organizations within the last 24 months: Bassmaster Elite Series (exception Bassmasters Classic), FLW Tour, Major League Fishing Bass Pro Tour, National Professional Fishing League (NPFL).

- GBN reserves the right to review, revoke or deny any membership.
- C. **Chapter Officers & Admin:** Provide the GBN Chapter Administrative Data upon affiliation and within 30 days of any chapter election or changes for other reasons.
- D. **Dues:** Pay GBN State Chapter dues upon affiliation and annually no later than 31 January for the following year to qualify for chapter participation in GBN functions. Chapter affiliation requirements are defined as:
- Members must have a current B.A.S.S. membership and current B.A.S.S. NATION membership.
 - Chapters less than 2 years old are required to submit and pay GBN dues for a minimum of 6 primary members, as defined by BASS Nation roster and chapters older than 2 years are required to submit and pay GBN dues for a minimum of 8 primary members, as defined by BASS Nation roster no later than 31 January to avoid penalty.
 - Chapters not meeting the above requirements by 31 January will incur a 10% penalty added to each member's state chapter dues up until 31 March at which time the State Chapter will not be eligible to participate in GBN functions. The only exception will be if a new chapter joins between 31 January and 1 July at which time no penalty will be incurred.
 - **Note:** once the chapter has met the affiliation requirements described above, the chapter may add members to their roster up until 1 July. Members must be on a chapter's roster prior to 1 July and be current with B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. NATION, and GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION to be eligible to participate in GBN functions.
- E. **Creel Census Reports:** Submit via web link, for all tournaments conducted by the chapter no later than thirty [30] days after the completion of a tournament. A minimum of 6 club tournaments must be conducted by each chapter annually.
- F. **Youth Project OR Conservation Project:**
- **Youth Project:** Complete a program involving six [6] or more youth with emphasis on learning fishing and/or boating skills and the preservation of the sport through conservation practices during the calendar year. Any chapter/club that volunteers for assistance and participates with process & logistics with any GBN HS|Jr tournament for the year,



provided a minimum of six (6) chapter/club members participate on site at tournament location, will be allowed to satisfy the Youth Project requirement.

- **Conservation project:** Complete a project that focuses on the preservation of the sport of fishing i.e., Fisheries Management, Aquatic Nuisance Species, Aquatic Vegetation, Angler Access, Fish Care, and Environmental Cleanup. All local, state, and federal laws must be followed i.e., Installing habitat may require a permit. Contact the Conservation Director for guidance.
- Submit project to the GBN Youth Director OR Conservation Director via on-line form at GBN web site no later than thirty [30] days after the activity. Must be submitted by September 1 of the current year.

ARTICLE III - Finance

Funds for the support and maintenance of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation shall be derived from the annual dues, tournament functions, and from special projects to be sponsored by the GBN. Under no circumstances shall the GBN accept monetary assistance from individuals, business, corporations, or governmental agencies if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goal/purpose of the Georgia B.A.S.S Nation, Inc.

ARTICLE IV – Organization

Section 1: Geographical Division

The GBN will be divided into two (2) Regions.

1. **Region 1** being West of a division line running North to South of the boundaries of Towns, White, Banks, Jackson, Barrow, Walton, Morgan, Jasper, Jones, Bibb, Twiggs, Bleckley, Dodge, Telfair, Ben Hill, Irwin, Tift, Berrien, and Lowndes Counties.
2. **Region 2** being east of a division line running North to South of the boundaries of Union, Union, Lumpkin, Hall, Gwinnett, Rockdale, Newton, Butts, Monroe, Crawford, Peach, Houston, Pulaski, Wilcox, Turner, Worth, Colquitt, Cook, and Brooks Counties.

Section 2: Governing Body

- A. **Board of Directors:** The Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation shall be governed by an eight (8) member Board of Directors. The eight (8) members shall consist of the President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Region 1 Director, Region 2 Director, Youth Director, IT Director and Conservation Director.



- B. The GBN Board of Directors will be the final authority in the interpretation and enforcement of all GBN rules, guidelines, statutes, Constitution, and Bylaws and in any matters not covered by such.
- C. A GBN Board member can hold more than one position as determined by the GBN BOD.

Section 3: Officers and Duties

NOTE: Each BOD member may be assigned additional duties as determined or needed by the BOD for organizational needs.

- A. **President** - Shall preside at all Board and/or membership meetings and direct all official business. Appoint, Direct, and provide guidance to all committees. Supervise all [GBN] functions.
- B. **Vice President** - Shall act as the “**Chief of Staff**” for the President and shall assume the duties of the President in his absence. He shall also be the coordinator of fund raising and sponsors
- C. **Secretary/Treasurer** – Shall maintain accurate minutes of the GBN meetings, conduct the general correspondence of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, and maintain the “Office of Record” for all GBN correspondence, contracts, and other communications for all GBN activities. Be the Official Liaison between the GBN and BASS NATION and coordinate the activities of the Conservation, Director, Tournament Director, Youth Director, Region Directors, and the Communications Director. Prepare an annual budget, collect, and deposit all monies associated with the GBN activities, maintain a checking account in the name of Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc. at an appropriate banking facility, sign checks for approved expenditures, render financial reports and account and provide for the security of all property which shall come into possession of the GBN. Provide monthly update on checking account.
- D. **Youth Director** - Manage all GBN Youth Clubs and events. Prepare and distribute all Youth news and documentations. Maintain all State Youth project reports. Be the Official Liaison between the GBN and the BASS NATION Youth Chairman.
- E. **Conservation Director** - Prepare and distribute all conservation news and documentations. Be the Official Liaison between the GBN and the BASS NATION Conservation Chairman. Maintain all Conservation project reports.
- F. **Region Directors** - Will be responsible for the supervision of specific chapters assigned by the GBN (President, Vice President, and Secretary). In this supervisory capacity they shall provide guidance/assistance to their assigned chapters. Act as official liaison between the assigned chapters and the GBN (President, Vice President, and Secretary). Perform special duties assigned by the



GBN President or Vice President.

- G. **IT Director** - Oversee all technology operations, devise, and establish IT policies and systems to support the GBN, recommend efficient and cost-effective technological equipment and software and review budgets and report on expenditures within IT for GBN.

ARTICLE V – Elections

Section 1: General

Beginning on January 1, 2009, and continuing every two years, affiliated chapters shall be asked to nominate prospective officers and directors for GBFN Board of Directors. **NOMINATIONS** will be accepted until February 15th. Those nominated shall be placed on a ballot and returned to the chapters for a “VOTE” by March 15th, each chapter voting on a ballot and returned to the chapters for a “VOTE” by March 15th, each chapter voting only once. All ballots received by April 15th will be counted by the Board of Directors and those receiving the majority of the votes shall be installed as officers on May 1st of the same year. In the event that an insufficient number of nominations are received for a vote on an officer or directors position the officer or director holding that position shall remain in office.

Section 2: Eligibility

Officer – must be a member of an affiliated GBN Chapter for two years and that chapter must have been a member of GBN for two years. The nominee for officer must have held an office as an elected officer of an affiliated chapter of the GBN prior to the nomination for a term of **1 year**.

Directors – must be a member of an affiliated GBN Chapter for two years and that chapter must have been a member of GBN for two years. The nominee for Director must have held an office as an elected officer of an affiliated chapter of the GBN prior to the nomination for a term of **1 year**.

Section 3: Terms of Office

All Officers shall serve a two-year term beginning in May of the first year. Any member of the Board of Directors may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 4: Vacancies

Any office, other than the President, which is vacant or vacated before the expiration of their term may be filled by Presidential appointment contingent upon the approval of the Board of Directors. The appointee shall serve the unexpired term of the individual vacating the office. Should the office of the President be vacated, the Board of Directors shall conduct a special election, chaired by the vice President to fill that office.



Section 5: Voting

In general elections each chapter is entitled to one vote. In other elections conducted by the Board of Directors, each board member is entitled to one vote. The President shall vote only in case of a tied ballot. Election of Officers shall be by secret ballot via web site form. All decisions by the Board of Directors shall be by majority of those Board members present at any regular scheduled or emergency meeting. When board members have previous notification or discussion of specific issues, written proxies shall be honored.

ARTICLE VI – Meeting

Section 1: Board of Directors Meetings

The Board of Director shall meet during the month of January and thereafter in the late spring/summer and fall/early winter, unless otherwise stipulated by a majority of the board. The President may, at his discretion, call a special meeting at any time.

Locations of the meetings shall be determined by the President.

Section 2: Conduct of Meeting

Election of the Officers and Directors shall be the first order of business at the first regular board meeting of the **election year** which in no case is to be later than 31 January. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the orderly conduct of all business of the GBN including but not limited to: The appointment of standing committees and their chairpersons: Special Committees and their chairperson; establishment of procedures and qualifications for the affiliation of Chapters within the GBN procedures and standards for severance of Chapters from the GBN adherence to such goals as may be established by GBN and BASS NATION.

Section 3: Procedural

The rules set forth in Robert’s Rules of Order shall govern the Nation in all meetings in which they are applicable and not in conflict with the provisions of The Constitution and By Laws.

ARTICLE VII – Appointments

Section 1: Offices

The President of the GBN has the authority to appoint any office with majority approval by the Board of Directors.

Section 2: Standing Committees

The Board, by simple plurality vote, can appoint as needed the three following committees. Terms of appointment to standing committees shall be two (2) years or



fewer, expiring on the 2nd of May after appointment. To be eligible for appointment to a Committee Candidate must be a member of B.A.S.S., BASS NATION, and a member of a GBN affiliated Chapter.

- A. Environmental Committee** - The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of this committee shall be: to protect our natural environment from harmful changes, to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state, and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; to suggest political actions to improve our environment; and suggest legal action where necessary; to undertake informational and educational programs to bring to the public an awareness of threats to our environment; and above all, to take a leadership role in repairing the harm that has already been done to the life-giving waters of America.
- B. Tournament Committee** - The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of the committee shall be to plan, organize and operate an annual State Classic Tournament which shall determine eligibility to enter the Eastern Region Tournament; to select tournament site, determine eligibility of contestants, collect fees, set an award list, rule with final authority, on the proper conduct, procedures and qualifications and other matters properly relating to the orderly conduct of an annual GBN State Classic Tournament. All such GBN tournaments shall be conducted within the spirit of the current National Tournament Rules of BASS. It shall be the primary duty of the Tournament Committee to so conduct its affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue to it, and thus to each and every member for the GBN and BASS.
- C. Youth Activities Committee** - The number of members to serve on this committee shall be determined by the Board of Directors. The purpose of this committee shall be to plan, organize and implement an annual statewide youth activities program; to introduce young fishermen to the goals of BASS and the GBN; to give them a better basis for respect to our natural heritage, an appreciation of the basic rules of honesty, integrity, fair play and good sportsmanship; and to give them an introduction to the sheer joy of bass fishing.

Section 3: Special Committees

Special Committees may be formed by the Board of Directors but only for closely defined purposes, and in no case may the tenure of a special committee exceed two (2) years from the date of appointment. Special committees may not supersede or otherwise infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of standing committees. Special committees may be dissolved at any time by the President.



ARTICLE VIII – Method of Amending the Constitution and By-Laws

Any Chapter, Officer, or member of the Board of Directors of the GBN may recommend an amendment to the Constitution and By Laws. All amendments shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing at least one regular/special Board Meeting prior to the vote. To enact an amendment, two thirds of the Board of Directors present at the regular/special meeting must vote for the proposal.

ARTICLE IX – Adoption

This Constitution and By Laws shall become effective upon adoption by two thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X – Dissolution

In the event of the dissolution of the GBN all liabilities of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc. shall be satisfied. The remaining assets if any shall be disposed of in accordance with the decisions made by the Board of Directors of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, Inc.



BY LAWS

SECTION 1: Behavior

All members/chapters of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation shall exercise rational and acceptable behavior at all GBN functions. Firearms shall not be allowed at any function/activity of the GBN. Alcoholic beverages shall not be allowed at Board or Chapter meeting unless alcohol is served with a meal and a formal meeting conducted alcoholic beverages during all GBN functions/activities. No alcoholic beverages shall be allowed in boats during the conduct of GBN Tournaments.

SECTION 2: Water Safety, Conservation and Pollution

All members shall abide by the established rules of the GBN, always comply with all applicable state fishing conservation practices and laws, abiding by all GBN and site regulations concerning creel and possession limits. Members should practice "Don't Kill Your Catch". All members shall refrain from littering or polluting the waterways and contiguous areas. It is the responsibility of all members to report any members found deliberately not practicing good habits regarding pollution.

SECTION 3: Punishment

Punishment (other than suspension or expulsion) of members for violation of the provisions of the Constitution and By Laws and other rules and regulations of the GBN shall be determined and imposed by the Board of Directors.

SECTION 4: Suspension and Expulsions

In the event of any infraction or violation by a member/chapter of the provisions of the Constitution and By Laws or other rules and regulations of the GBN, or any other conduct on the part of a member/chapter which may tend to jeopardize and endanger the good order of the BASS NATION, such member/chapter may be expelled or suspended by majority vote of the Board of Directors. In the event of suspension, the period thereof shall be specifically defined, and the suspended member/chapter shall be notified in writing. In the event of a charge which warrants expulsion the member/chapter will be notified by written notice at least three (3) days prior to the vote thereon.



SECTION 5: Charges

In the event any member/chapter shall present to the Board of Directors a charge against any member/chapter of a violation or infraction as set forth in these By Laws, the following procedure shall govern:

- a. All charges shall be presented to the Board of Directors in writing. A reasonable investigation concerning the charges shall be conducted by the Board of Directors prior to consideration.
- b. Prior to consideration of such charges against a member/chapter by the Board, an opportunity shall be given to the charged party in question to be present/represented at the meeting of the Board at which such charges against the party are considered. The charged party may submit written consideration in lieu of appearing.
- c. Prior to vote on the charges by the Board the charged party may make such defense against the charges as he desires provided it is lawful and reasonable.

SECTION 6: Expenditures

All GBN expenditures must have Board of Directors approval except normal operating cost which will be incurred and paid by the President, Youth Director or Treasurer. The minutes of the regular/special Board Meetings will reflect approval of anticipated expenditures. All check(s) over \$50.00 shall be approved by the Board of Directors of GBN.

SECTION 7: Records

1. Historical files of the following records shall be maintained by the Secretary of the GBN.
 - a) Constitution and By Laws of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.
 - b) Records of approval of the Constitution and By Laws of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.
 - c) Records of all proceedings of all meetings of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation Board of Directors.
 - d) Results of all GBN State Classic Tournaments. This requirement may be delegated to the Tournament Committee Chairman during his tenure.
2. Historical files of all financial transactions and reports shall be maintained by the Treasurer of the GBN. If property is owned by the Federation, an historical file of records which provide for property accountability shall be maintained excluding that property classified as “expendable”.



SECTION 8: State Classic Tournament

The GBN shall conduct a State Classic Tournament each year which shall be open to all active chapters of the GBN. Each chapter may enter a six (6) person team, plus two (2) alternates in this tournament provided the chapter meets the requirements of Article II, Section 2, of the GBN Constitution.

Each chapter may enter one (1) additional a six (6) person team, plus two (2) alternates provided the chapter membership is 21 or greater. The maximum number of allowed State Classic six (6) person teams from a single chapter will be two (2). GBN reserves the right to accept or deny any State Classic entry.

Revision History

Rev. 1 - Sept. 21, 2013

Rev. 2 - March 2015

Rev 3 - January-2020

Rev 4 - 12/2020

Rev. 5 - 1/2022



Bass Club Organization and Functions

Is it a genuine pleasure to attend and participate in your bass club's meetings, tournaments, and other functions? If your answer to this question is "no" or "not as enjoyable as it could be", your club may have some organizational problems. Such problems are common in too many clubs, but they can be easily prevented---read on.

From experience a simple. Common sense approach to the organization of a bass club has been developed. The approach is not unique but combines some tried and proven techniques which should result in a more effective and more harmonious operation of your club.

First let's look at the organization. This should be specified by the club's constitution and by-laws. The club should only have three or four elected officers – President, Vice-President, and Secretary/Treasurer or both a Secretary and Treasurer. Basically, their responsibilities are the same as like officers in any club. However, two important points need to be stressed. One, elect responsible, dedicated officers (the best fishermen don't necessarily make the best officers) and two; ensure that the Secretary is the strongest of the strong. He is the key to the successful operation and administration of the bass club. He is the chief operating officer of the club and without his time, talent, and dedication the club will founder. The other key officials of the club such as tournament chairman, the social chairman, the ecology chairman, the program chairman, etc., and their committees should be appointed by the president with consent of the Board of Directors. Appointments allow more flexibility than elected officials with respect to changes required when an official isn't doing his job, quits, etc.

The last, but most important fact in the organization should be the Board of Directors. This board should be comprised of the elected officers and no more than two (three if the club has both a Secretary and Treasurer) members appointed or elected from the membership at large. This will provide a board of five or seven members. The odd number is necessary because the President will only vote if there is a tie on an issue. This completes the organization.

Now let's look at the function of the officers and appointed officials and discuss a few time-proven techniques which they can use in the operation and administration of the club. As previously mentioned, the elected officer's function generally as in any other club, e.g., the President presides over the general membership meetings and other official functions and most importantly over the meetings of the Board of Directors; the Vice-President functions similarly in the absence of the President by performing special functions as directed. The Secretary (Secretary/Treasurer) accounts for the membership, formulates the agenda for meetings, prepares correspondence, handles mail, and is the club recorder/minutes keeper. In addition, he is the official keeper of the constitution and by-laws and is responsible for the fiscal



bookkeeping and is the general manager of the club's monetary assets and liabilities. If property is owned, he is also normally responsible for that accounting and security.

The Board of Directors functions as the directive body which guides the membership. The Board discusses and decides the club's courses of action on all business and other items which require decisions and do not require a vote of the general membership by the constitution and by-laws.

Decisions of the Board are presented to the membership and are final unless challenged by a member. If challenged, a vote of the membership decides the issue. Use of the Board avoids long, heated membership arguments during regular meetings, thus allowing more time for pleasurable things like movies, guest speakers, etc. A word of caution for members of the Board - --considerable time and effort are required to do the job of the Board properly.

If the Board doesn't conscientiously guide the club, then you're back to attempting to run the club during general membership meetings where frustration reigns.

Some other techniques to be considered by the officers of the club are as follows:

1. Provide a solid, all-encompassing Constitution and By-Laws for your club; it will save a lot of argument and confusion. Provide each member a copy.
2. Provide a full program for your club; don't just meet to draw for partners for the next tournament. Involve all members in your activities, including member's families when possible. Include an ecology program and stress good public relations.
3. Prepare an agenda for each meeting and follow it. Check in advance to see that those on the agenda are knowledgeable and prepared to provide their portion of the program.
4. Plan your club's activities on a calendar year basis and provide a fiscal plan to accommodate the planned activities. Block certain monies for specific purpose, e.g., set aside a specific percentage of the monthly tournament fees to support the "Top Six" entry fees and costs.
5. Provide a good orientation program for all new members; take time to officially welcome them in meetings, provide them with copies of the club's constitution and by-laws, tournament rules, etc. and explain to them the current and planned activities of the club.
6. Prepare a standard, detailed and common-sense set of rules for all club tournaments. Provide each member a copy. Stress ooze offs (no blast off) starts, wearing of PFD, use of kill switches and aerated live wells. Don't kill your catch. Limits of fish less than that authorized by the state, etc. Remember that your tournaments play an important role in your public relations. Suggestion ---model your rules after the GBN rules.
7. Don't price yourself out of business. Take a close look at your costs---membership dues, tournament fees, club uniforms (hats and jackets), etc. The price of joining and maintaining membership can easily become unreasonable and out of the reach of many desiring membership. Again, stress the importance of providing a sound fiscal plan mentioned in (4) above.



8. Appoint special committees to research, report on and offer recommendations on actions which require special attention and are beyond the capability, in a short period of time, of the Board or the membership to reach a valid decision. The keys to a good bass club are proper organization and dedicate performance by officials. If your club has the right keys, membership will be an enjoyable experience for everyone.



Chapter Report Requirements Table

ITEM DUE	PAGE REFERENCE	DUE DATE
CHAPTER OFFICERS	CHAPTER ADMINISTRATIVE FORMS AT www.georgiabassnation.com	UPON AFFILIATION AND 30 DAYS AFTER A CHAPTER ELECTION
GBN STATE DUES [\$30.00 PER CHAPTER MEMBER]	SEE ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP SECTION 2 D. PG. 6	SEE ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP SECTION 2 D FOR DEADLINES PAID ONLINE AT: www.georgiabassnation.com
CREEL CENSUS REPORTS	CREEL REPORTING LINK www.georgiabassnation.com	DUE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER TOURNAMENTS
YOUTH PROJECT REPORT	YOUTH PROJECT FORMS AT www.georgiabassnation.com	DUE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER EVENT
CONSERVATION PROJECT REPORT	CONSERVATION PROJECT FORMS AT www.georgiabassnation.com	DUE NO LATER THAN 30 DAYS AFTER EVENT
BASS NATION DUES	CHAPTER ROSTER UPDATE ON BASS NATION ROSTER MANAGEMENT WEB SITE https://ssl.palmcoastd.com/app/bass/nation/roster/?x-login	SEE ARTICLE II MEMBERSHIP SECTION 2 D. FOLLOWS SAME GUIDELINES AS CHAPTER DUES
GBN ELECTION FORM	FORMS TO BE MADE AVAILBLE ONLINE DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE	INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED DURING AN ELECTION CYCLE



GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT RULES

The following rules shall apply to all Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by GBN immediately upon notice GBN to its members, which may be published on the GBN web site at <https://www.georgiabassnation.com/>. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanction as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitations, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in section 21 (Rule's violation and Appeals Committee) below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, BOD or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

Penalties for rule violations may include the following:

- Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
- Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked and verified by your partner/observer. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
- Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
- Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- Disqualification from future GBN events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines.

Participation and Eligibility

- a) This tournament is open only to current members of B.A.S.S., BASS NATION, and Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation (GBN) who are 16 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of the tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves may not be eligible. It is recommended each contestant have an endorsement of having passed a boating safety course or grandfathered by law. Failure to do so may prevent boating on tournament waters. Boating safety courses are available online.
- b) DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY GBN TOURNAMENT, NO BOATER OR CO-ANGLER COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000, OR \$100,000, OF WLI BACKED BY A \$1MILLION "UMBRELLA" LIABILITY POLICY 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.
- c) RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR 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.
- d) Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION (GBN) requirements.



- e) An official APWA (Angler Participation & Waiver Agreement) and on-line entry form must be provided to GBN on or before the entry deadline. Tournament entry fees must be received by the GBN on or before the due date. State Classic entry is ON-LINE ONLY. NO entries after deadline. The BOD reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date.

1) Angler Code of Conduct

- a. Anglers participating in any GBN sanction event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall, always, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor, and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the public and does not reflect unfavorably on GBN, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.
- b. To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, and suspension from competing in individual GBN sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by GBN.
- c. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS:
 - i. The favorable public reputation of GBN 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 GBN. 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 GBN organization and its' media platforms. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with GBN policies are encouraged; however, attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials will not be tolerated. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of GBN, GBN officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and may result in disciplinary action.

2) Practice and Competition

- a. There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director.
- b. There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Two official practice days will be allotted starting on Wednesday prior to the start of competition. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates.
- c. After the completion of the Angler meeting, ANY club/team, where a boater or co-angler must withdraw from competition, a corresponding boater or co-angler must withdraw from the SAME club as well. {Ex: Boater withdraws then a co-angler withdraws from the same club/team or vice versa} ONLY exception to this rule, if there is a withdrawal from another club/team that corresponds to the correct pairing and GBN is informed of such withdrawal. GBN officials are required to be informed of ANY withdrawals immediately.
- d. During practice, a competitor can only have the assistance or advice of another competitor for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters. Competitors may only fish with other competitors during practice and competition.
- e. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director.



The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition.

- f. During the official practice competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.
- g. Competitors renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip locations. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTION. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not snorkel, “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters.
- h. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- i. During the official competition days and tournament hours electronic communication i.e., calls, text, etc., between competitors or use of 3rd party intermediaries on behalf of competitors is NOT allowed for any purpose except for emergency or family related issues or as outline below.
 - i. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only.
 - ii. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, prior notes, and publicly available information. Access to paid subscription-based information is NOT permitted.
 - iii. Using smart phones during competition to log daily tournament blogs is NOT permitted.
- j. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- k. No competitor can hire, solicit, barter, or receive any information other than publicly available information, or have fished with, a local guide on Tournament Waters one month (30 days) prior to GBN tournament (GBN’s DEFINITION OF LOCAL GUIDE – A person that gets paid or barter to take others fishing for any species of fish on the designated tournament waters).
 - i. No competitor can hire, solicit, barter, or receive any fishing information other than publicly available information about fishing on tournament waters two weeks (14 days) prior to start of event (Fishing information may only be shared with other GBN members during the two weeks (14 days) prior to start of event.
- l. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violation, or suggestions to another competitor that they violated these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTEST MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.
- m. By his/her signature on the required on-line form *Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement* (APWA), each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusions 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 concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Angler taking a truth verification test may be responsible for all cost incurred.

- n. Random truth verifications test may be administered on site during a Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation event.

3) Tournament Entry

- a. A designated team representative must complete club/team entry registration with the official GBN State Classic: On-line Entry form located on the GBN website. On-site entry is NOT allowed. Any club/team, that has not completed the on-line entry by the posted entry period deadline, will NOT be accepted for participation in the tournament. It shall be each club/team's responsibility to check the schedule of events or web site information for deadline entry date & time.

4) Safety

- a. Safe boat conduct must be always observed by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation and operator must be attached to kill switch. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable PFDs are allowed if U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that inflatable PFD's must be always worn unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFDs on board. For everyone on the boat wearing an inflatable PFD (one or both); you are REQUIRED to have a corresponding vest type lifejacket for everyone as well. This is a Coast Guard REQUIREMENT.
- b. It shall be the responsibility of the co-angler to ensure if he/she is going to participate in the State Classic AND wear an inflatable type of PFD, to bring a vest type lifejacket in addition. The boater will not have this responsibility due the sizing requirements for a second a vest type lifejacket.
- c. It is suggested the boater competitor have a safety check with the Co-angler each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.
- d. When boating in low visibility situations i.e., fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boat at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
- e. Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by GBN, may be approved for competition.
- f. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
- g. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days.
- h. GBN reserves the right to impose speed limits during 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.
- i. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify Tournament officials as soon as possible.



- j. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

5) Sportsmanship

- a. Competitors in 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.
- b. 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, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.
 - i. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- c. Maximum courtesy must be always practiced, especially about boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- d. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.
- e. 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/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 disqualification from a GBN tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

6) Tackle and equipment

- a. Multiple lure rigs (UMBRELLA RIGS) are allowed if it follows state fishing regulations. Only artificial or biodegradable artificial lures may be attached to the line. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules.
- b. No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, except for pork strips or rinds. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these spinnerbaits or buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure. The “head and hook” portion of the lure must trail behind the blade or blades. GBN officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.
- c. 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. A hung or snagged 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 the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted is use at any given time.

- i. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to try with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified.
- d. When visually fishing 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. Competitors are allowed to always share baits and tackle with one another, including Competitors who have been cut from competition.

7) Horsepower Regulations

- a. 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 nor the horsepower maximum set by GBN. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their 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 reason to suspect the horsepower is more than the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor'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 boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.

8) Boat and Motor:

- a. These restrictions apply during official practice and competition. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of 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 operation and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.
- b. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat.
- c. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing, is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling with outboard motor as a method of fishing is prohibited. "Strolling" or "long line technique" are NOT ALLOWED. No exceptions.
- d. 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, 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 competitor.

- e. No “barges” or similar craft will be permitted. Boat(s) equipped with “stick steering” are NOT permitted. “Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines and tunnel hull boats are NOT permitted during both official practice and competition. Any boat/hull designs other than standard mass-produced units are only allowed at the discretion of tournament officials.

9) Basic Boat Equipment

- a. During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment, i.e., lights bow & stern, life jackets, & kill switch, functional bilge pump and adhere to the Coast Guard regulations, GDNR – Boating Rules and Regulations {<https://gadnrle.org/boating-rules-regulations>} and GDNR - Required Equipment Checklist {<https://gadnrle.org/required-equipment>}. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch(s) of bass by both competitors using the boat. GBN, recommends live wells 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. Designated boater/competitors must make a back seat available for co-anglers each competition day. This is an ADA requirement and the right thing to do. Exceptions may be granted in advance only by the Tournament Director. The boater will provide one large empty compartment for the use of the non-boater.

10) Boat Identification and inspection

- a. Prior to each day’s start of competition, each boat is required to pass an inspection/safety check by a tournament official(s). Requirements include but are not limited to, items in Section 9a: Basic Boat Equipment. Each day, each boat will be given a number (method determined by GBN Tournament staff), which must remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and returned at each day’s official check-in.

11) Boat Operation and Expense

- a. During competition, boaters will fish from the front deck, co-anglers from the rear deck, NO EXCEPTIONS. During both practice and competition, Co-anglers are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the boat in emergency situations except for loading and unloading from trailers. During official practice, co-anglers not practicing with a registered boater/competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of the boat. Any boater/competitor that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their co-angler partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a boater/competitor request that the co-angler/competitor not fish. The cost of gas and oil for the competition days must be settled within your own clubs. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler expense be a minimum \$40.00 per day. In GBN events where observers replace co-anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the boater/competitor in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

11) Permitted Fishing Locations

- a. Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the GBN Tournament Department. Any water within these boundaries posted “Off-Limits” or “No Fishing” by



state or federal agencies as well as the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director 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. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat.

- b. 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. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

12) Competitors must remain in the boat

- a. During the competition days, competitors 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. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must always remain in the boat, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rule 5(i). In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must always remain together, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.
- a. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

13) Official Checkpoints

- a. 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 the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification.
- b. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director.
- c. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 11 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass are bagged



for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

15) Scoring

- a. Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed.
- b. The Boater's limit shall be 5, and the Co-angler's limit shall be 3 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 competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in.
- c. Once a competitor checks in, they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. If a competitor has his fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check in to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered.
- d. 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 competitor.
- e. 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 competitors 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 competitor's catch is measured, counted, and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.
- f. Bass must not be stringed at any time during the tournament.
- g. Culling tags and/or culling beams designed to penetrate a fish's mouth are not allowed. Culling tags and/or culling beams are allowed if they are clip on and do not penetrate the fish's mouth or are placed up through the gills (fins and tails cannot be clipped or punched). Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

16) Catch and Release

- a. Culling of dead bass is prohibited.
- b. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces, to be deducted from the daily score. Competitors are allowed to ice



a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director or his/her designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water from a retail store. However, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants.

- c. Nets are allowed for retrieval of caught fish. Small dip nets for culling purposes are encouraged. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised.
- d. Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed. Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact B.A.S.S. officials.

17) Late Penalty

- a. Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one 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 competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch to include point's credit under rule 19. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time."
- b. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors 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 tournament hours.
- c. Exact starting and check-in times will be confirmed at the Tournament Briefing. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

18) Ties

- a. All ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) individual with heaviest single day catch during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the second heaviest single day catch during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will be determined solely by coin flip for positions 1-10 ONLY, coin flip will be performed by GBN BOD representative. Ties will remain a tie for any positions starting at 11 through the end, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors.

19) Pairing of competitors

- a. Two competitors will be assigned to each boat, boater, and co-angler.
- b. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the Angler Rules and Partner Draw briefing which must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director, by each competitor. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is



suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point.

- c. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions. A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors will be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by GBN.

20) Rule's violation and Appeals Committee

- a. An appeals committee will be established by GBN, which shall be comprised of one GBN officer not affiliated with the Tournament Department, and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed under GBN Tournament Rules must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rule's violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules, or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final. Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed under GBN Tournament Rules until final ruling by Appeals Committee. Appeals of non-competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review.

21) Waiver and Release

- a. As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute the ***Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement***, this on-line form can be found on the GBN website <https://www.georgiabassnation.com/> .

Rev. 1- 9/2013, Rev. 2- 3/2015, Rev. 3- 8/2015, Rev. 4- 8/2016, Rev. 5- 1/2017, Rev. 6- 6/2017, Rev. 7- 7/31/2017, Rev. 8- 01/01/2020, Rev. 9-08/01/2021



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:
 - Are the Navigational **Lights**, installed and operational?
 - Live **Wells**, open, clean and the Aeration System is operational.
 - PFD's [Life Vests]**, USCG Approved – Type I, II or III fit and are zipped, hooked and snapped secured. 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 [GBN] 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. The boater will provide one large empty compartment for the use of the non-boater.**



GEORGIA STATE CLASSIC AWARDS

These awards if any shall be determined by the GBN BOD prior to each classic event. All awards are subject to review and final approval by GBN BOD.

- **TEAM AWARDS**

- FREE entry into the next year's State Classic
 - Chapter/club is registered and all requirements under Article II – Membership || Section 2: Membership Requirements are satisfied for the qualifying year.
- 1st place Team plaques

- **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**

- Cash awards and/or trophies for the top 5 individuals from the Boater and Co-Angler final divisional standings.

- **BIG BASS**

- Cash shall be presented to the individual in the Boater and Co-Angler divisions for each competition day catching the largest bass.

- **STATE TEAM**

- The GBN State Team shall be comprised of the “Top Ten Boaters” and “Top Ten Co-Anglers” from the final divisional standings. These individuals shall represent Georgia in the B.A.S.S. Nation SE Regional Tournament.

GBN Region Map

