



2023
COLLEGE
QUALIFIER

Information Package

**Tournament Rules &
Regulations**

Lake Hartwell
Dec 3, 2023



2023 GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION COLLEGE QUALIFIER
Lake Hartwell || Tugaloo State Park
December 3, 2023

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Rev: 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.8-8/2012



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December 3, 2023

Welcome Letter

To: GBN College membership

Subject: 2023 GBN College Qualifier | Lake Hartwell

Date: Dec. 3, 2023

Welcome!!

On behalf of the GBN BOD, we would like to extend a thank you for your participation in the 2023 GBN College Qualifier.

GBN BOD is excited to bring the GBN College Qualifier back to Lake Hartwell and the surrounding area for your enjoyment. The 2023 GBN College Qualifier brings about some positive changes which we hope will make your club's process for entering and participating easier for all.

GBN has an updated web site and forms including new GBN App. We also have new tournament trailer additions, sound system and great additions to our sponsor portfolio. The GBN BOD has worked thoroughly behind the scenes to ensure that membership is afforded all that is available and deserves.

Key highlights 2023 GBN College Qualifier

- On-line registration process and all forms.
- **PWA (Participation & Waiver Agreement) required for ALL anglers**
- All contact with GBN is via the gbn_admin@georgiabassnation.com
- Accepting on-line payments ONLY; NO mail-in of checks or payments
- Updated tournament rules
- Facebook Live streaming of competition day weigh-in.
- NO change in GBN College Qualifier fee

Updates for GBN and/or the GBN College Qualifier will be via web site, email, and Facebook. You can follow us on Facebook at @Georgiabassnation.

From all of us at the GBN BOD, we look forward to seeing all you at the GBN College Qualifier!

Regards,

Tony Beck – President / Georgia BASS Nation



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Information Table

Tournament Waters

- **Lake Hartwell**

Official Practice

- **Begins Saturday December 2, 2023, at safe light and ends Saturday December 2, 2023, at 5:00 pm. ALL GBN tournament rules apply. DO NOT use Tugaloo St Pk/Gumlog ramp.**

Official Launch

Tugaloo St Pk / Gumlog Boat Ramp:
396 Greenleaf Dr, Lavonia, GA 30553

Entry

- **On-line ONLY: No mail in forms accepted.**
- *See: College Qualifier: ON-LINE ONLY Registration Process, page 9.*
- **Starting on Monday October 2, 2023, at 8:00 AM and ends on Monday November 13, 2023, at 1200 midnight.**

Entry Fee

- **\$75.00 PER TEAM + \$3 processing fee if paid online (big fish pot of \$5.00 per team is included). FAQ - General**
- **Online Entry fee must be received on or before Monday November 13, 2023.**
- **AFTER this period payment (\$78) will ONLY be accepted at angler document check, Saturday December 2, 2023 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm via cash or check**

Documents Check & Angler Meeting

- **Angler Document Check and Meeting, Saturday December 2, 2023, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm at Tugaloo St Pk at the GBN Tournament Trailer**



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Hotel || Motel Information

HAMPTON INN

<https://tinyurl.com/fishingtourney-hamptoninn>

HOLIDAY INN

<https://tinyurl.com/fishingtourney-holidayinn>

Arrival Date: November 28, 2023

Check Out Date: December 1, 2023

Approximate Rooms Needed: 30 two queen rooms.

Holiday Inn Express Rate: \$134 plus tax

Hampton Inn & Suites Rate: \$139 plus tax

- Holiday Inn Express and Hampton Inn will divide the group equally.
- A cutoff date of November 14, 2023, will apply to the group all reservations would need to book by this date to be eligible for the discount.
- Guests can call and make reservations or book via the booking links that will be provided by the hotel.
- A full hot breakfast will be available at both hotels starting at 6am. We ask that guests eat breakfast at the hotel their reservation is booked at.

Electric outlets are available around the exterior of the hotels. Electric outlets are first come first served and the hotel staff does not monitor the use of these outlets. To allow ample parking for all hotel guests we ask that all boats and trucks be unhitched from each other and parked in single parking spaces.

Note: mention Georgia BASS Nation when you call for reservation.



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FAQ - General

- 1) What is the definition of a college team?
 - a. A “college team” is defined as two (2) anglers attending the same college.
- 2) What is the entry fee for the College Qualifier?
 - a. The entry fee for each team is \$75 + \$3 processing fee if paid online.
 - b. AFTER online entry period ends, payment (\$75) will ONLY be accepted at angler document check, Saturday December 2, 2023 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm via cash or check
- 3) **What are the club team members requirements for participation?**
 - a. ALL entrants must be a member of the same college or university and in good standing with B.A.S.S. (membership active) and B.A.S.S. Nation (dues paid and active on your school club’s roster) prior to the angler meeting on **December 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm**.
 - b. ALL entrants are REQUIRED to sign the *Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA)* via on-line form. See [College Qualifier: ON-LINE ONLY Registration Process](#) for all team members. The e-signature of the *Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement* form validates your participation, waiver and compliance with ALL sections contained within the [Participation and Waiver Agreement Information](#) (PWA) and that you have read and understand the [Tournament Rules](#).
 - c. Required documents for all anglers (also outlined in the [Participation and Waiver Agreement \(PWA\) Information](#), specifically under Item 4: Insurance and Item 5:1 and Item 5:2.
 - i. Boater
 1. Valid and active fishing license
 2. Valid and active GDNR Certificate of Boat Registration
 3. WLI or complete *Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use* on-line form
 - ii. Co-angler
 1. Valid and active fishing license
- 4) What is the requirement for Boater Education Course?
 - a. EACH angler is REQUIRED to show proof of completion of a Boater Education Course as per Georgia law:
 - i. As of July 1, 2014, all persons born on or after January 1, 1998, that operate any motorized vessel on the waters of the state must have completed a boat education course approved by the department prior to such operation. A person is exempt if he or she is:
 - i. a person licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard as a master of a vessel
 - ii. a person operating on a private lake or pond.
 - iii. a non-resident who has in his or her possession proof that he or she has completed a NASBLA approved boater education course or equivalency examination from another state.



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- iv. Boater Education information can be found here: [Georgia boating-education](#)
- 5) What is the requirement for boat insurance?
 - a. Watercraft Liability Insurance (WLI) is required and minimum of \$300,000.00.
 - b. See Section: [Watercraft Liability](#).
 - c. Also stated requirement in the [Participation and Waiver Agreement \(PWA\) Information](#), under Item 4: Insurance
- 6) Can I use a borrowed boat for the tournament?
 - a. YES, you must complete the “**Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use**” on-line form, see [Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use process](#).
- 7) What are these required documents for College Qualifier?
 - a. Boater Education Course (if applicable)
 - b. Co-angler > Active fishing license
 - c. Boater > Active Fishing License, Active GDNR Boat Registration and WLI or *Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use* on-line form.
 - d. BASS / BASS Nation cards are NOT required.



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FAQ - Tournament

- 1) Are the Tournament rules included in this document?
 - a. See GBN [Tournament Rules](#).
- 2) Are there boat and motor restrictions?
 - a. YES, boat length and motor size. See GBN [Tournament Rules](#) || Section # 9 & 10.
- 3) What are the requirements if using “inflatable” type PFD’s?
 - a. 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. See GBN [Tournament Rules](#) || Section #4.
 - b. It shall be the responsibility of each angler to ensure if he/she is going to participate in the GBN College Qualifier AND wear an inflatable type of PFD, to bring or have a vest type lifejacket in addition.
- 4) Can boater and co-angler actively fish from the front of the boat?
 - a. Yes, the boater and co angler who are considered a team can fish from the front deck of the boat.
- 5) Are nets allowed?
 - a. YES, nets are allowed for retrieval of caught fish. See GBN [Tournament Rules](#) || Section #17:c
- 6) What is consider the “legal limit of bass” for the GBN College Qualifier tournament?
 - a. Team limit per boat is 5 fish of legally allowed species of bass. See [GBN Tournament Rules](#) || Section #16.
- 7) Are there “off-limits” areas?
 - a. Yes., designated off-limits areas will be announced at tournament briefing.
- 8) Are “A-Rigs” or Umbrella rigs allowed?
 - a. YES, multiple lure rigs (UMBRELLA RIGS) are allowed if it follows state fishing regulations. See [GBN Tournament Rules](#) || Section #6
- 9) Is “strolling” or “long line” as a method of fishing allowed in GBN College Qualifier?
 - a. NO., these methods of fishing are NOT allowed. See [GBN Tournament Rules](#) || Section #8
- 10) Is “trolling” with outboard motor as a method of fishing allowed in GBN College Qualifier?
 - a. NO., this method of fishing is NOT allowed. See [GBN Tournament Rules](#) || Section #8.



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College Qualifier: ON-LINE ONLY Registration Process

On-line registration instructions for team members and club/team entry, (Entry Form will become active starting on Monday October 2, 2023 at 8:00 am ET and end (disabled) on Monday November 13, 2023 at 1200 midnight ET.) Entry form is accessible via GBN web site georgiabassnation.com under the Adult/College > ST Classic | College Qual Registration menu selection or with GBN App ([See Appendix: GBN App](#))

Step #1: Complete the Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA)

1. EACH member will need to have a copy this College Qualifier Information Packet.
2. Ensure the all the [Tournament Rules](#) of this document are read and understood. You can also download the *Tournament Rules* from GBN website under forms.
3. Ensure the [Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement Information](#) in the College Qualifier Information Packet (this document) are fully read and understood. You can also download the document [Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement Information](#) from GBN website under forms.
4. Ensure you have ALL required documents as outlined in the [Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement Information](#), specifically Section 4: Insurance and 5:1 & 5:2
5. EACH angler must complete and sign the form **Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA)** on the GBN website georgiabassnation.com, under Adult/College> ST Classic | College Qual Registration OR GBN App. **(NO mail-in of forms)**. Once on this page select the link entitled *Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement*. **You CANNOT participate in the College Qualifier without signing this on-line form.**
6. **THE FORM REQUIRES** the following:
 - a. Name, address, mobile(cell) number and college name.
 - b. Email Validator: After entering your email address on the form:
 - i. Select “Verify Email”
 - ii. Verification code will be sent to email address, check your email inbox, and paste the code to complete verification. Successful verification reads “Your email has been successfully verified”
 - iii. **OPTION:** on the form an entry is allowed for email copy to be sent to your team partner that will be registering your team. This will ensure he/she gets a copy including your SUBMISSION ID.
7. After submission the angler will get an email confirmation of the form along with **a SUBMISSION ID. DO NOT delete this email. You will need this SUBMISSION ID in Step 2.**
8. **If using a borrowed boat;** complete the on-line form **Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use** from GBN website under forms (NO mail-in of forms). See Section: [Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use – process](#) of this document. After submission the angler will get an email confirmation of the form along with **a SUBMISSION ID. DO NOT DELETE, need in Step 2.**

Step 2: College Qualifier entry

1. Entries are submitted for a college team (2), ONLY one (1) of the team members needs to enter the team for the College Qualifier preferably the boater or member that is providing the boat.
2. Ensure that you have your **SUBMISSION IDs** from the above PWA process for BOTH team members. Remember that each angler is required to sign the on-line form **Participation and Waiver**



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Agreement (PWA) and in addition, if using a borrowed boat, complete the form **Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use**. See Step #1: #5.

3. You CANNOT complete the registration WITHOUT these PWA SUBMISSION IDs.
4. Ensure you have the required documents available for the College Qualifier as outlined in the [Participation and Waiver Agreement \(PWA\) Information](#) of this document; specifically, Section 4: Insurance and 5:1 & 5:2
5. On GBN website georgiabassnation.com, use the menu item Adult/College > ST Classic | College Qual Registration.
6. On ST Classic|College Qual Registration page, Under the block labeled “Tournament Registration Forms & Docs”, select the dropdown “GBN Adult-College FORMS”, then the icon below the label: “College Qualifier Tournament Entry”, this will direct you to the entry form.
 - a. GBN app
 - i. See the section [GBN App](#) in the Appendix.
7. Follow the instructions on the form. Note: there is REQUIRED information related to the form including the following:
 - a. Each angler requires the following information:
 - i. Name, address, email, cell number, college name & SUBMISSION ID(s) (See Step #1: #5), Boat make/model and Motor Make/Model (If applicable).
8. After completion of the form:
 - a. Submit the form with the button at bottom of last page, at which time a confirmation email will be sent to the submitter. The confirmation email will contain all entry information as completed on the form including anglers registered for team(s) and total amount due GBN.
 - b. Also attached to the confirmation email will be a PDF file of the completed on-line entry form. Confirmation will also contain an id number and date/time stamp of the completed form should any questions arise regarding the form submission.
 - c. GBN will also receive a confirmation email of the same information.
9. Payment processing is included with form submission as an option with CC/Debit/Digital Wallet + (processing fee) OR Check (**plus \$5.00 ACH fee**)
 - a. If on-line payment option is **NOT** selected, pay at registration with cash or check. **NO MAIL IN.**

Online Entry fee must be received on or before Monday November 13, 2023.

AFTER this period payment (\$78) will ONLY be accepted at angler document check, Saturday December 2, 2023 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm via cash or check



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Watercraft Liability

- All competitors participating as boaters, are REQUIRED to have WLI (Watercraft Liability Insurance) at a minimum of \$300,000 or \$100,000 WLI policy coverage with an existing one million dollar minimum “UMBRELLA” Liability Policy
- WLI coverage is REQUIRED if the competitor is a) the registered owner of the boat OR b) is using a borrowed boat in any GBN tournament(s).
- Proof of WLI coverage is a requirement for on-line entry.
 - a. WLI copy MUST show an active beginning and ending date (dates cannot be in the past)
 - b. WLI MUST show the coverage amount (a minimum of \$300,000 or \$100,000 WLI policy coverage with an existing one million dollar minimum “UMBRELLA” Liability Policy.
- You can normally get a copy of your WLI by downloading your Declarations Page from your insurance company OR scanning a paper copy (save the file to your local device)

WLI policies must clearly state “Watercraft Liability Insurance” and/or “WLI” and show a start and ending date for the coverage, not an undefined code. A problem exists when the WLI coverage is part of a Homeowner Policy. If the boat owner is in doubt have the insurance agent prepare a memo to the Tournament Committee stating the Policy Number, Amount of Watercraft Liability coverage, and the start and ending date of the coverage.

The amount of WLI coverage required is \$300,000.00. An alternative to the \$300,000.00 coverage is if the boat owner has a one million dollar minimum “UMBRELLA” Liability Policy then she/he is only required to have \$100,000 WLI policy coverage.

The policy MUST state “Watercraft Liability”. If this is a rider on the Homeowner’s policy it may only list the code, HO-75 and the coverage amount. General Liability coverage is NOT sufficient on a Homeowner’s policy as several companies deny this coverage applies to watercraft. Second, the Specification page must show a beginning and ending date. Comments such as “Continuous Coverage”, “Non-Expiring”, ETC are not legally sufficient!!

If you have an insurance question, contact GBN support before arriving at the tournament site, at the following email address: gbn_admin@georgiabassnation.com or on GBN website under Home -> Support

**** NOTE: During the official practice and competition days of any GBN tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that competitor or angler has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000.00 WLI covering the boat being used in the tournament. Proof of WLI must be with the boat being used at ALL times regardless of if the competitor or angler is owner of the boat OR using a borrowed boat, and must cover the competitor or angler using that boat. Random checks will be conducted and any competitor who does not have proof of in-force insurance with \$300,000.00 coverage will be disqualified.**



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Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use

- REQUIRED to be completed via on-line form if using a borrowed boat
- WLI (Watercraft Liability Insurance) is REQUIRED via one of two methods, see process below.
- Link can be found at GBN website under menu item Forms
- PLEASE make sure you understand the requirements and documents (WLI) that will need to be uploaded at the time you fill out the form. This upload fulfills the requirement for registration ONLY and you are still REQUIRED to have a copy of this WLI on your person available for inspection if requested by GBN. See below for process.
- BOTH the 1) Boat Owner and 2) Borrower will be REQUIRED to provide an e-signature.
- Form will allow for “Save & Continue Later” since there are 2 signatures REQUIRED. See below for process.
- Support question can be directed to: gbn_admin@georgiabassnation.com or GBN website under Home -> Support

Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use – process

The *Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use* on-line form is broken into several parts:

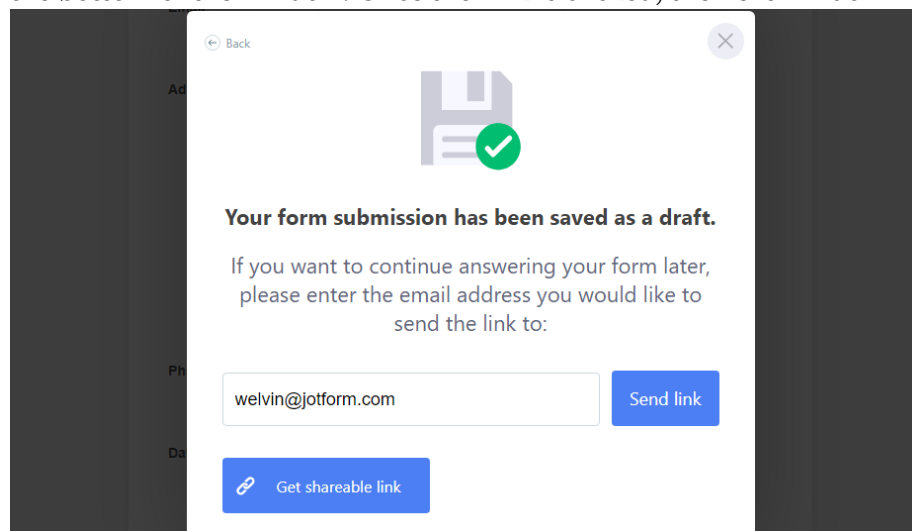
- 1) On GBN website georgiabassnation.com, use the menu item Adult/College > ST Classic | College Qual Registration.
- 2) On ST Classic|College Qual Registration page, Under the block labeled “Tournament Registration Forms & Docs”, select the dropdown “GBN Adult-College FORMS”, then the icon below the label: Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use, this will direct you to the entry form.
 - a. GBN app
 - i. See the section [GBN App](#) in the Appendix.
- 3) MAKE sure BEFORE you attempt to complete the on-line form you have the following for upload:
 - a. Boat make/model, boat engine make/model
 - b. GDNR Boat Registration number (must valid and active) or applicable State
 - c. Boat owner name, complete address, cell phone, and email.
 - d. Borrower complete address, phone, and email
 - i. **OPTION:** on the form an entry is allowed for email copy to be sent to your team captain/rep that will be registering your team. This will ensure he/she gets a copy including your SUBMISSION ID.
 - e. Club Name and Club number (one of your club officers will have your club number)
 - f. You will have to select regarding WLI (Watercraft Liability Insurance)
 - i. **IF borrower of the boat is going to be covered by the boat owner’s WLI**
 1. Boat Owner – will be REQUIRED to provide and upload the following: 1) boat policy declaration page showing WLI of \$300,000 at minimum AND 2) a letter from your insurance agent stating that [borrower's name] will have \$300,000 WLI while using referenced boat. These files can be a pdf or text document or scanned copy of the documents (2 are REQUIRED).
 - ii. OR
 1. **IF the borrower of boat is going to provide his/her own WLI.** Upload 1) a WLI copy (must show coverage availability while using the borrowed boat) OR

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- 2) a statement from your insurance agent stating you are covered with \$300,000 WLI while using the borrowed boat.
- g. **BOTH boat owner and borrower MUST sign the on-line form at the end.**
- i. Form allows for “Save & Continue Later”
 - ii. If at any point (normally needed due to both borrower and owner signature requirement), you wish to SAVE the form and CONTINUE completion later, click the button “Save & Continue Later”.
 - iii. This will bring up “Save your progress” dialog box.



- iv. Users can connect with their Google or Facebook accounts. When they do, it creates a JotForm account for them, and they'll get the Session Email.
- v. Users can also skip creating an account by clicking the “Skip Create an Account” link at the bottom of the window. Once the link is clicked, the next window will appear:

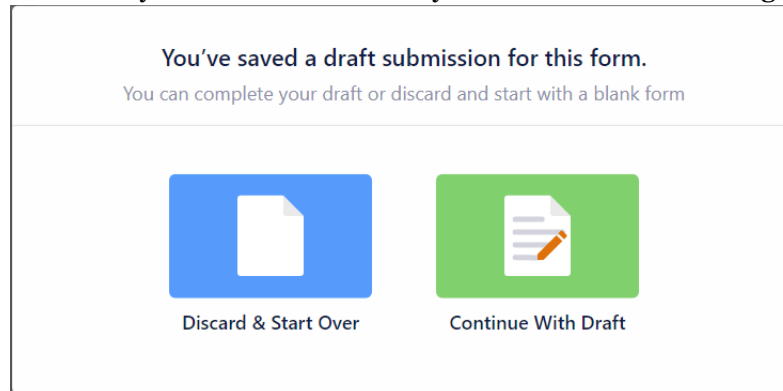


- vi.
- vii. The email address is automatically filled if there's an email field in the form and the user fills it first. Otherwise, the user will be asked to enter it.



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1. ****NOTE:** the first email in the form will be used; **PLEASE ensure** the correct email is listed, you can edit the email if needed.
- viii. Click the “Send Link” button once, this sends an Email in the following format
- ix. The email will have the subject: **GBN | Continue filling out this form: Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use. DO NOT DELETE** the email.
 1. Email will contain a link to return to the form. “Click on “CONTINUE FORM” or paste the direct address link into your browser.
- x. After this you will be directed in your browser with a dialog:



- xi. If “Continue with Draft” option is clicked, user’s previous session is automatically loaded to continue.
- xii. If “Discard & Start Over” option is selected, this will open a blank form.
- h. After completion of the on-line form, the member will get a confirmation email of the completed *Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use* form which will also contain a **SUBMISSION ID**.
- i. **DO NOT delete this email.** Member will need to note the **SUBMISSION ID** or forward this email to the team captain or team representative (if the COPY OPTION was not used - see step 1d). that will be registering the club/team for the College Qualifier.



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GBN 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 internet site at 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



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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 PWA (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. See section: [College Qualifier 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. [Information Table](#) or *Appendix: [College Qualifier Schedule](#)*. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates.



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- c. After the completion of the Angler meeting, see [Information Table](#) or [Appendix: College Qualifier Schedule](#). 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.



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- 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 *Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA)*, 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 College Qualifier: 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 College Qualifier 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.



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- 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



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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



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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



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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.

12. 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.

13. 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



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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.

- b. 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.

14. 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. Team limit per boat is 5 fish 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



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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.
 - i. 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



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tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.

- c. Exact starting and check-in times, see [Appendix: Tournament Schedule](#), 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) team with heaviest single day catch during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with the second heaviest single day catch during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition; (5) Team with the largest bass. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will be determined solely by coin flip for position #1 ONLY, coin flip will be performed by GBN BOD representative. Ties will remain a tie for any positions starting at 2 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, see [Appendix: College Qualifier Schedule](#), 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



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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.

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



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Appendix

Following pages are documents related to College Qualifier package

- 1) GBN App
- 2) College Qualifier Schedule
- 3) Tournament Schedule
- 4) Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA) Information
- 5) Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use - (Example ONLY)
- 6) Angler Participation and Waiver (PWA) - (Example ONLY)



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GBN App

The GBN app is available for download at the **GBN website**. App is **NOT** available in Google Play Store or Mac App Store.

You must download the link from your mobile or other (pc or tablet) device from the GBN home page. Use your mobile device/web browser to navigate to **GBN website**; click text “GBN App”. App is designed to perform as a shortcut to various forms, docs & info reports within the GBN family. You can also use the app on your tablet or pc. Navigate with the desired device via web browser and download the link.

The screenshot shows a navigation menu with the following items: **Facebook**, **Facebook News Link**, **GBN App**, **GBN App**, **GBN App Info Doc**, **Tournament News | Results**, **Adult | College**, **State Classic | College Qual**, **HS | Jr**, and **HS|Jr Results**. A blue callout box with a line pointing to the second 'GBN App' link contains the text: "Click the text 'GBN App' for download."

- Once you have downloaded, you will receive the prompt below, click “Add to Home Screen”.

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- **GBN Support**
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 - you can use the “MENU” in the upper left as well.
- **All apps are public by default. They can be used without any login or signup.**
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- **Follow the icons links on each page for forms, docs & information display.**
- ****NOTE: pdf information files will show pdf in a browser window. All functions for pdf will be available.**



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- **NOTE: use the landscape mode on your mobile device for a better view of all options for information display (SEARCH BAR), for example Tournament Registration submissions.**

Submission ...	HS or Jr team?	School Name	Angler #1	Angler #2	Team Boat Ca...	2022 - 2023 G...
2022-08-25 22:19:32	HS	GBN	f_test I_test	f_test I_test	f_test I_test	
2022-04-06 18:08:43	Jr	JEFFERSON MIDDLE SCHOOL	DANIEL COKER	TRIPP PORTER	TOD LITT	• T#5 - Lanier (A USD) Total: \$60.00 Transaction ID: pi_3KlhxGzsysg
2022-04-06 17:33:21	HS	North Paulding High School	Caden O'Neal	Matthew Wright	Jim O'Neal	• T#5 - Lanier (A USD) Total: \$60.00 Transaction ID: pi_3KlhnGzsysg
2022-04-06 17:22:17	HS	Haralson County High School	Matthew Poss	Grayson Fant	Chris Fant	• T#5 - Lanier (A USD)

Page 1 of 1 Search In Submissions Submission 1 - 6 of 6



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College Qualifier Schedule

Week of October 2, 2023	College Qualifier memo available on website to members qualified to participate in the College Qualifier.
Monday October 2, 2023 8:00 AM TO Monday November 13, 2023 12:00 midnight	On-line ENTRY period
Monday November 13, 2023	Online Entry fee must be received on or before Monday November 13, 2023. AFTER this period payment will ONLY be accepted at Angler meeting, Saturday December 2, 2023 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm via cash or check
Saturday December 2, 2023 Safe Light To 5:00 pm	Official practice DO NOT USE TUGALOO STATE PARK FOR LAUNCH Lake goes off limits at 5:00pm.
Saturday December 2, 2023	Angler Document Check and Meeting, Saturday December 2, 2023 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm Tugaloo State Park at the GBN trailer



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Tournament Schedule

Lake Hartwell|| Gumlog Boat Ramp- launch | Tugaloo State Park|| 369 Greenleaf Drive, Lavonia, GA 30553 || All times are ET.

NOTE: NUMBER OF BOATS IN FLIGHT, BOAT CHECK TIME AND/OR LAUNCH TIMES MAY BE CHANGED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE GBN TOURNAMENT STAFF.

<p align="center">SUNDAY December 3, 2023</p>	<p>7:00 am or (Safe Light) First Flight Starts -</p> <p>+++++</p> <p>*Flight times and boats subject to change</p> <p>3:00 pm Teams Return -----(Boats #1 thru 20)</p> <p>3:15 pm Teams Return -----(Boats #21 thru 40)</p> <p>Conclusion of weigh in: College Awards Ceremony</p>
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Participation and Waiver Agreement (PWA) Information

1. COMPLIANCE

This Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement and the GEORGIA B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION, INC., DBA GEORGIA BASS NATION Tournament Rules, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, (the Participation and Waiver Agreement and Official Rules collectively referred to herein as the “Agreement”) sets forth the terms and conditions upon which I will be permitted to participate in any or all GEORGIA BASS NATION Tournament Events (the “Tournament Series”) during the present calendar year. By signing this Agreement, the undersigned (referred to as “I” or “Angler”), hereby agree to be bound by and comply with the provisions thereof. I also agree to abide by and comply with the GEORGIA BASS NATION Angler Code of Conduct, and all other guidelines, regulations, payment schedules and instructions communicated to me in writing by GEORGIA BASS NATION. I affirm that I am a member in good standing with B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Nation and GEORGIA BASS NATION. I am physically fit and that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in the Tournament Series.

2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION

- 2.1. I expressly assume all risks associated with my participation in the Tournament Series and for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns, I hereby waive, release and discharge GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, its affiliates and subsidiaries, the hosts, sponsors and Tournament Series officials (“Released Parties”) from any and all losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses (including without limitation, attorney’s fees and related costs), of any kind (hereinafter “Claims”) arising out of or in connection with my participation in the Tournament Series, including but not limited to Claims involving, death, disability, personal injury and/or property damage. I hereby INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the Released Parties for all Claims arising as a result of my participation in this Tournament. I acknowledge that this Tournament may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, illness and/or possible exposure to COVID-19 or other communicable diseases and personal loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by water conditions, temperature, weather, equipment, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, and spectators. This release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law. I shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Released Parties against all Claims, whether or not a lawsuit or other proceeding is filed, to the extent that they arise out of: (1) my breach of the terms of this Agreement, (2) gross negligence, or willful misconduct by me, my agents or those acting on my behalf; (3) my violation of any applicable law, ordinance, rule, or regulation, including but not limited to all rules and guidelines applicable to Tournament Series events; (4) breach of any warranty provided by me to Released Parties hereunder. I shall provide GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION with prompt notice of any claim and give complete control of its defense and settlement to GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION. I shall also cooperate in all reasonable respects with GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION its insurance company, the Released Parties (as applicable) and their legal counsel in the defense of such claim. If I fail to promptly indemnify and defend a covered claim, the Released Parties shall have the right to defend themselves, and in such case, I shall promptly reimburse the Released Parties, for all their associated costs and expenses.

3. GRANT OF RIGHTS

- 3.1. I hereby irrevocably grant permission to GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION and B.A.S.S. and its affiliates and subsidiaries, the successors of each of the foregoing, and each of their respective agents, licensees, and assigns and those acting under their permission or upon their authority (collectively, the “Licensees”), in perpetuity, a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, fully paid up license to reproduce, display, exhibit, publish, broadcast, distribute, and otherwise use, and permit others to use, my name, image, nickname, initials, symbols, likeness, signature, photograph, voice, statements, biographical material, and any and all attributes of my personality and appearance (collectively, my “Identity”) in materials created in connection with my participation in the Tournament Series (collectively, the “Materials”), alone or with other materials, in connection with the promotion of GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION and B.A.S.S., the Tournament Series and any other events staged by GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION and B.A.S.S., in any and all manner and media now known or hereafter devised,



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including without limitation, in print, on television programs, websites owned by or affiliated with the Licensees, on third-party websites, in social media channels, in public relations materials and for any lawful purpose in its sole discretion. During Tournament Series I agree to comply with all filming promptly and fully, camera location and other rules, guidelines, and instructions of B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION.

- 3.2. I hereby warrant that I have the right to make this release and that my granting this release and the rights conveyed thereby will not infringe the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain any rights and permissions from all third parties sponsoring or affiliated with me needed by B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION (the "Third Party Rights") to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in paragraph 3.1. These Third-Party Rights from sponsors and affiliates shall grant B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignia, trade dress or other intellectual property (collectively "Third Party IP") shown in any Materials featuring me, or otherwise in connection with B.A.S.S.'s or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION's use of my Identity as set forth in paragraph 3.1. Provided that such Third-Party IP is only shown in conjunction with my Identity, (for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION shall not be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties.
- 3.3. I acknowledge that the Licensees have no obligation to use the Materials or my Identity. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve any finished product or the use to which it is applied, and I agree no further approval is required for the Licensees to use any Materials or my Identity and that the Licensees will not be liable to me for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the exhibition, publication or broadcast of the Materials or my identity. I acknowledge and agree that no further payment or consideration will be due to me for B.A.S.S.'s or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION's use of the Materials or my Identity as authorized herein.
- 3.4. I acknowledge that all right, title, and interest in and to the Materials, including without limitation all copyrights and trademark rights, shall be the sole and exclusive property of B.A.S.S. and GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION and that B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION has the unlimited right throughout the universe to edit, modify, and otherwise use such Materials. With regard to the Licensees' exploitation of the rights granted hereunder, I, on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby irrevocably (a) release, discharge and waive all claims, demands, losses and liabilities of any nature against the Licensees that I, my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns had, now have, or hereafter may have, including, but not limited to, claims in the nature of copyright infringement, defamation, disparagement, slander, false light, violation of the right of privacy or publicity, or the like, and (b) covenant not to make any claims against any of the Licensees.
- 3.5. During the Tournament Series, and subject to compliance with B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION guidelines, B.A.S.S. or GEORGIA B.A.S.S NATION hereby grants to the undersigned Angler, the right to create, use and publish Angler created materials ("Angler Materials") such as still photos and video shot by Angler, on Angler's website and social media channels.



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4. INSURANCE

I represent and warrant that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, boat owners (WLI) Watercraft Liability Insurance (including coverage for third party property damage and bodily injury) with no “tournament exclusion,” having a minimum limit of \$300,000 per occurrence OR an alternative to the \$300,000.00 coverage is if the boat owner has a one million dollar minimum “UMBRELLA” Liability Policy then she/he is only required to have \$100,000 WLI policy coverage.. The insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer rated A or better by A.M. Best and Company. I shall provide Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation with satisfactory evidence of that insurance prior to my participation in any tournament event OR at any time requested by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.

- 4.1 If I am **not** the legally registered owner of the boat being used for the tournament series, I represent and warrant that I have completed or will complete prior to the tournament series, the on-line form titled “Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use” and comply with the stated insurance requirements set forth therein. I shall provide Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation with satisfactory evidence of the completed form and insurance prior to my participation in any tournament event or at any time requested by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.

5. MISCELLANEOUS

- 5.1 I represent and warrant that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, a valid and active GDNR Certificate of Boat Registration OR applicable state of registration.
- 5.2 I represent and warrant that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, a valid and active GDNR Fishing license for the date(s) required for the tournament series.
- 5.3 I represent and warrant that I will have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, as required by law (All operators born after January 1, 1998 must have passed a boater education course approved by the Department of Natural Resources and have card on board to operate any vessel), an endorsement of having passed a boater safety course and provide proof thereof, regardless of age.
- 5.4 Contingency Programs. Contingency programs are sponsor-funded programs developed to reward Anglers based on a predefined set of criteria. Participation in contingency programs is at the Angler’s discretion.

6. LEGAL

- 6.1 Truth Verification Test. By registering and signing the Participation Agreement, Angler agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of a rule violation.
- 6.2 Communication. Angler must provide Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation with a current e-mail address. Angler agrees that delivery of any notice, communication, guideline, or instruction to Angler via email shall constitute notice to Angler and shall comply with any notice requirements set forth herein. Angler must also provide a personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.
- 6.3. Governing Law, Venue, and Jurisdiction. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in all respects in accordance with the substantive laws of the state of ~~Alabama~~ Georgia, without regard to its choice of law and/or conflicts of law principles. Angler irrevocably agrees that any disputes directly or indirectly arising out of or relating to this Agreement shall be resolved exclusively in the state or federal courts located Walton County, Georgia, and consents to such venue and to the exclusive jurisdiction of any such court over any such dispute.
- 6.4. Miscellaneous. If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision herein. This Agreement sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes all prior or contemporaneous oral and/or written representations, discussions, negotiations, understandings, and/or agreements relating to the subject



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matter hereof. This Agreement may not be modified except by an instrument in writing signed by both parties. In signing this document, I am not relying on any promises, representations or other statements that are not contained in this Agreement.

- 6.5. Electronic Signature. The execution of this document by electronic mail or by any other electronic or digital means shall be deemed to constitute effective execution of this document. Any signature transmitted by facsimile, email or other electronic or digital means shall be deemed an original signature for all purposes.
- 6.6. Requirement for Consent of Parent or Guardian. If I am under the age of majority in the state in which I reside, I understand that I must have the consent of my parent or guardian to participate in the tournament series. I agree to provide accurate and complete information to

Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation to facilitate Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation's efforts to secure such consent. I acknowledge that my failure to provide accurate information or secure consent from my parent or guardian may result in my disqualification from the Tournament Series.



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Angler Participation and Waiver Agreement ** EXAMPLE ONLY **

Must be completed on-line NO MAIL-IN.

I UNDERSTAND I MUST SIGN AND DATE THIS AGREEMENT PRIOR TO PARTICIPATING IN THIS EVENT, AND THAT IF I AM UNDER THE AGE OF MAJORITY IN THE STATE IN WHICH I RESIDE, I MUST OBTAIN THE CONSENT OF A PARENT OR GUARDIAN TO ENTER INTO THIS AGREEMENT. MY REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT, RECEIVES THE CONSENT OF MY PARENT OR GUARDIAN (IF APPLICABLE), AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY DOCUMENTS. THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR RESERVES THE RIGHT TO DENY MY PARTICIPATION IN THE TOURNAMENT SERIES OR ANY COMPONENT THEREOF FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH DENIAL, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE.

I ATTEST, I HAVE READ AND HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS THE PROVISIONS OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES and ANGLER PARTICIPATION and WAIVER AGREEMENT INFORMATION DOCUMENT. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, WHICH CONTAINS LIABILITY AND OTHER RELEASE LANGUAGE, I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS. I HAVE VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THIS AGREEMENT.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Date: _____

IF THE PERSON EXECUTING THE FOREGOING RELEASE IS A MINOR, THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED BY MINOR’S PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN:

I represent that I am a parent or legal guardian of the minor who has signed the above Agreement, and I hereby consent to the terms of set forth herein and agree that we both shall be bound thereby. I UNDERSTAND THAT THIS AGREEMENT CONTAINS LIABILITY AND OTHER RELEASE LANGUAGE. BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Address: _____ City, State & Zip _____

Cell Phone #: _____ Date: _____



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Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use ** EXAMPLE ONLY **

Form is on-line ONLY ** NO mail-in accepted

PERMISSION TO USE LETTER (FROM BOAT OWNER)

To: Georgia Bass Nation

ATTN: GBN Tournament Committee/Director

RE: Loan of my Bass Boat

MAKE: _____ MODEL: _____

Registration NR: _____

ENGINE: _____

I _____, am the owner of the referenced bass boat and have given my full and

complete consent to _____ (Borrowers Name),

Complete Address _____, to use this boat on _____ (Date).

*Attached is a photocopy of my boat liability policy specification page and a letter from my

insurance agent stating that _____ (Borrower Name)

will have \$300,000 boat liability coverage while using my boat.

*OR

* _____ (Borrower Name) the borrower will provide his/her own \$300,000 of boat liability insurance.

The tournament committee may contact me _____, at

(Phone Number) _____, with any questions concerning this matter.

Sincerely,

Boat Owner's Signature: _____ Date: _____