



GBN HS|Jr Tournament Rules:

RULES AND PENALTIES:

- A. The following rules shall apply to all Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High School and/or Junior tournaments, with the following exceptions:
 - (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and
 - (ii) these rules may be changed by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation immediately upon notice by Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation to its members, which notice may be published on the Georgia B.A.S.S. High School internet site at georgiabassnation.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee, Tournament Committee, and GBN Board of Directors at a tournament or anytime of a discovery of such rule violation(s).
- B. In the event of a rule violation (s), the Tournament Director or a rules committee or GBN BOD may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in Section: [RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE](#), the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or GBN BOD or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.
- C. Penalties for rules violation(s) may include but not limited to the following:
 - (i) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
 - (ii) Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked verified by either your partner or boat captain. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified.
 - (iii) Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
 - (iv) Disqualification from the tournament is in question.
 - (v) Disqualification from future Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation High School events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
 - (vi) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director or GBN BOD.

Tournament Reminders and event schedules will be posted via the web site georgiabassnation.com and/or GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION HIGH SCHOOL FISHING Facebook page.



PARTICIPATION and ELIGIBILITY

Participation:

- (i) Open only to current members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society [B.A.S.S.] and active members of a High School/Junior Club with affiliation in the Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation.
 - a. Boat captains are **NOT** required to members of B.A.S.S.
- (ii) To enter a tournament, **the club or chapter** for which the student angler is a member must be in good standing with GBN.
- (iii) All Organizational DUES must be paid prior to first tournament participation, which include \$10 Bass Master membership and \$10 to BASS Nation.
 - a. Schools can add student anglers; they must be paid as you add them.
- (iv) Entry Fees – High School and Junior \$60 per team. \$55 of which is entry fee. \$5 service fee
 - a. We will draw launch positions Thursday evening and post them to website and Facebook.
- (v) All GBN tournament days are executed on Saturday **unless otherwise stated** by GBN BOD with the notable exception being the State Classic which is normally held on Friday – Saturday period.
- (vi) There will be an **official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition** which will always be the Friday preceding the event **unless stated otherwise** by tournament officials or GBN BOD. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to the local host community. The contender must know and observe these dates and times.
- (vii) GBN defines “**tournament participation**” as fishing a minimum of 3 hours during an official tournament.
- (viii) **GBN BOD reserves the right to change dates and times as deemed necessary for safety or other reasons.**
- (ix) ALL GBN communication will be done primarily by means of but not limited to:
 - a. Facebook
 - b. Website
 - c. Email

Eligibility:

HS|Jr:

- (i) High school student anglers currently enrolled in **the 9th thru 12th grade** or Junior student anglers currently enrolled in grades **2-8**.
 - a. High School Seniors are eligible to compete in additional events up to three months after graduation. Proof of grade or graduation date, to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential contenders. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner or themselves shall not be eligible.



- (ii) Student anglers must belong to **the same official high school/junior school club or official community club within or closest to the county of residence to compete as a team in a GBN HS/Jr tournament.**
 - (iii) Community clubs can incorporate multiple institutions to include home school students. Student anglers from those institutions must all be members of the same community club.
 - (iv) High School/Junior student anglers **must participate for the school which they would normally attend.**
 - a. If the school does not allow Home School Students to participate in sports, then they will participate for the next nearest school or community club who does, but only after receiving written acknowledgement from their school system declining homeschool students access to sports programs.
 - (v) If the HS|Jr (school) does not have a bass or fishing club, student anglers along with adults and school officials must try start a club within their respective school.
 - (vi) If this fails, after a collaborative effort with GBN, student anglers can be placed in the state community club; GBN, as a last resort. Georgia BASS Nation maintains a state community club for high school and junior student anglers. Any student angler who does not meet the above requirements may be placed in the state community club per GBN discretion.
 - (vii) **All student anglers belonging to a community club must present** GBN a denial letter filled out by the student anglers' school except for home schooled students. [Official Denial Letter](#)
 - a. **Any/All pairings of student anglers outside the above stated rule(s) or pairing across state lines must have written recommendation / acknowledgement of both Official High School/Junior School or Community Club Coaches and both State Youth Directors approval from B.A.S.S** Any questions can be directed to GBN Youth Director at [GBN Admin](#)
 - (viii) Complete a **PWA (Participation & Waiver Agreement)**, valid for the tournament season or year. If a student angler is under the age of majority (18), he/she must have the signature of her/his parent or legal guardian.
 - i. This form is completed on-line at GBN website.
 - (ix) All high school and junior student anglers are **required** to have an endorsement of having passed a boater safety course and provide proof of completion when completing her/his PWA (Participation & Waiver Agreement) **regardless of age.**
 - i. Boating safety courses are available online.
 - (x) All student anglers aged **16 and older** must a valid Georgia fishing license.
- Boat Captain:**
- (i) Boat captain or team furnishing a boat for a GBN HS/Jr tournament are **REQUIRED** to provide the following:
 - a. Complete a **PWA (Participation & Waiver Agreement)**, valid for the tournament season or year.



- i. This form is completed on-line at GBN website.
- b. A valid and active boat registration. If the boat captain is the owner of the boat, must have a valid and active GDNR Boat Registration number (“Certificate of Boat Registration” must valid and active) or applicable State.
- c. Always have a copy of “Certificate of Boat Registration” in the boat during official practice period and competition.
- d. If boat captain is NOT registered owner of the boat being used in competition:
 - i. Boat Captain must complete the on-line form “**Borrowed Boat: Permission to Use.**”
- e. Boat insurance:
 - i. **Watercraft Liability Insurance (WLI)** at a minimum of \$300,000.00
 - ii. or \$100,000 WLI policy coverage with an existing one million dollar minimum “UMBRELLA” Liability Policy.
 - iii. Each policy must **show an effective start and expiration date.**
 - iv. Regardless of the Boat Captain being the owner of the boat OR is using a borrowed boat.
 - v. Boat Captain is to always have a copy of WLI in the boat during official practice period and competition regardless of if he/she is owner of the boat OR using a borrowed boat.
 - vi. All Boat Captains must have read and understand the B.A.S.S. High School Coaches Rules posted by BASS (can be found at [Bassmaster.com/ high school - Coaches Rules](http://Bassmaster.com/high_school_-_Coaches_Rules)) for High School and Junior Tournaments.

During the official practice period and competition days of any GBN tournament, no competitor or boat captain may participate or operate a boat unless that competitor or boat captain has met all the requirements outlined above for Eligibility.

GBN reserves the right to accept or deny ANY boat captain.

STUDENT ANGLER CODE of CONDUCT:

- (i) Student anglers participating in any GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Student anglers, boat captains, parents and family members of Student anglers shall, always, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional student anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, BASS NATION, AND B.A.S.S. its members, officers or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.
- (ii) To this end, student anglers, boat captains, parents and family members of student anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. **Falsifying information on the PWA (Participation & Waiver Agreement), Tournament Entry form or any other applicable form requested by or required by GBN is a violation of Georgia law.** Any student angler, boat captain, parents and family members of student anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Student Angler Code of



Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, B.A.S.S., AND BASS NATION sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by GEORGIA B.A.S.S. NATION, INC.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contenders in GBN tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed the cause of disqualification.

- (i) Use of alcohol, tobacco, or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any contender or boat captain during the official practice period or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future GBN tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, tobacco or other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice period or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- (ii) Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, especially about boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contenders who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contender or boat captain, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification.
- (iii) All contenders are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Contenders are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.
- (iv) Chemical-Substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a GBN tournament and/or for disqualification from a GBN tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS:

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



integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a student angler, boat captain, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Georgia B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

TEAM PAIRINGS:

- (i) This is a team event tournament and requires a 2-person team (see [Participation & Eligibility](#)) at the event to qualify for the State Championship or to compete in the State Classic for Nationals.
- (i) **Solo fishing**, only one (1) student angler of a team is participating in a tournament, is allowed.
 - a. A single or solo student angler member of a designated High school or Junior GBN team is allowed **tournament participation in (1) SOLO** tournament per GBN tournament season, AND the designated team **will receive AOY points for that tournament.**
 - b. In the event of a lost partner or emergency, a team is allowed to participate solo in **more than one event**; however, the second, third, etc. event would **not be counted** toward the 3-event minimum, and **no AOY points** will be awarded.
 - c. You **MUST participate as a team** to qualify for the State Classic.
 - d. GBN reserves the right to allow additional solo events based on circumstances with **no AOY points awarded.**

AOY Pts

- (i) A 300-point system is used, and points are based on the team's order of finish in each single tournament event. See #6 above for SOLO rules.
- (ii) 300 points are given for first (1st) place, 299 points for second (2nd), 298 points for third (3rd) and continuing until all point credit is exhausted. Team(s) finishing with NO weight will receive 50 pts LESS than the last position with a recorded weight. For example, if the last position in the tournament with a recorded weight is 100th = 201 pts., then points awarded for ALL teams finishing with zero (0) weight would be 151.
- (iii) Tied position(s) are credited with same points for the higher position. For example, two (2) teams tied for the 10th position (10 & 11) would both receive 291 points, and twelfth (12) position would receive 290 points. (GBN **does not** reduce the pts for placement after the tied positions)
- (iv) There are NO drop tournaments; ALL tournaments will count towards AOY points.
- (v) At year end, if there are AOY ties in overall standings for positions one (1), two (2) or three (3), ties are broken under the following order:
 - a. The team with the highest cumulative weight for the season.
 - b. The total number of fish weighed for the season.
 - c. The total number of live fish weighed for the season.



QUALIFYING For State Classic

- (i) HS/Jr Teams are **REQUIRED** to participate in a minimum of **three (3) GBN HS|Jr Tournament events** during a season AND qualify using the process as described below. Registering for a tournament **DOES NOT** count towards qualification, you must **register and qualify for tournament participation**.
 - a. GBN defines “**tournament participation**” as fishing a minimum of 3 hours during an official tournament event.
- (ii) Process selection: 85/15 Rule
 - a. At the end of the HS|Jr yearly tournament season, ALL teams that have qualified **tournament participation** in a **minimum of three (3), or 4 or 5 tournaments** within the AOY points total standings, the following rules will be applied:
 - i. Teams with qualified tournament participation in **ALL 5 tournaments** will be automatically qualified for the State Classic.
 - ii. The remaining balance of teams with qualified tournament participation in a **minimum of 3 or 4 tournaments**:
 1. **The top 85% in AOY points** will be qualified for the State Classic.
- (iii) **LOSS OF TEAM PARTNER:**
 - a. If your partner for academic, physical reasons or gets removed from the team, the remaining student angler keeps all points at the GBN BOD’s discretion.
 - b. If you Divorce, points will NOT be carried forward.
 - c. If a qualified student angler loses their team partner after the last qualifier and prior to the state classic and another qualified student angler is not available to pair with:
 - i. The qualified student angler can pair with a non-qualified student angler from the same club.
 - ii. The qualified student angler must present in writing to the GBN BOD through the Youth Director a detailed explanation of the circumstances of the loss of the partner. The non-qualified student angler must have met tournament participation in a qualifying tournament in the same tournament year.
 - d. A team may be allowed to fish the State Classic solo but **will not be eligible** to qualify for Nationals as a **solo** student angler.

GBN reserves the right of review for any circumstances regarding participation and the acceptance or denial of entry and/or AOY/State Classic qualification(s).

There are NO drop tournaments; ALL tournaments will count towards State Classic qualification.

CONTRACTS:

Championship teams are required to sign a contract before competing in the National tournament.



- (i) Additional Teams making it to the nationals thru the additional qualifying slots are required to sign a contract before competing in the nationals. **NOTE:** Contract is an agreement your team will follow all requirements of GBN and sponsors during the National Tournament.

ENTRY REGISTRATION, CHECK IN, SAFETY MEETING

- (ii) An official GBN tournament on-line entry form must be completed on or before the entry deadline. Tournament entry fees are **REQUIRED** to be rendered at the time of on-line entry registration. **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.
- (iii) **Tournament check in** will start 1 ½ hours before daylight or at a time designated by GBN. Student anglers are responsible for picking up your boat identifier placard or other when checking in. Boat identifier placard or other is **REQUIRED** to be returned to the designated GBN official at their designated tournament flight return time. Loss of placard will result in a \$5.00 charge to the team for replacement.
- (iv) **Random document checks** will occur at check in and must be presented to tournament officials if requested as per student angler's and boat captain's PWA (Participation and Waiver Agreement).
 - a. Boat Captains are required to have on their person the following:
 - i. valid boat registration
 - ii. copy of boat insurance with correct [WLI \(Watercraft Liability Insurance\)](#) along with the required coverage and expiration dates (must be shown on insurance page) regardless of IF you are the owner of the boat OR using a borrowed boat.
 - b. Student anglers 16 and older are required to have on their person a valid fishing license.
 - c. Check in and then launch your boat.
 - d. Safety meeting starts ½ hour before safe light in most cases this will be done on the water after checking in and launching boat.

PRACTICE and COMPETITION:

- (i) All Georgia Department of Natural Resources rules must be always adhered to. It is the student angler's responsibility to be familiar with and understand GDNR Regulations. If you have a question, contact the Tournament Director or GBN.
- (ii) There will be no off-limits period prior to any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Committee or GBN BOD.
- (iii) For the **seven (7) consecutive days** preceding a tournament competition day, a student angler and boat captain can only be on the competition day tournament waters with another student angler, or immediate family member (mother or stepmother, father or stepfather, brother or stepbrother or sister or stepsister) or boat captain registered for the same tournament event or solo, provided the age limits are met.



- (iv) **During official practice period and competition:**
- a. A contender can only have the assistance or advice of another contender for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters.
 - b. Contenders may **only fish with other contenders or their registered boat captain during official practice period and only contenders during competition with the exception noted below in (a).**
 - a. Student anglers 16 years of age and older with a valid Boater Education certificate are allowed to operate the boat and fish per Georgia State Law during official practice period **ONLY**.
 - c. A second adult **is NOT allowed to participate or be in the same boat with** the student anglers and designated boat captain.
 - d. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited unless approved by the tournament director.
- (v) Student anglers and Captains must be **off the water** by 30 minutes after official sunset during the official practice period day.
- (vi) Junior Tournaments: except at the discretion of the GBN BOD with regards to State Classic, will be held on the same day as High School and will start immediately after HS launch and will weigh in prior to High School Teams at a predesignated time.
- (vii) Scholarship awards, prizes, and/or other awards will be based upon the number of tournament entries.
- (viii) Student anglers renting boat slips may launch and proceed immediately to the slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director (pertains to multiple day events). **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
- (ix) During the official practice period and during the tournament, a contender may not “SKIN DIVE” or “SCUBA DIVE” in the tournament waters.
- (x) No contender may **buy or barter a fishing location** from anyone for use during any competition day.
- (xi) A designated tournament official or GBN BOD representative must be granted access to the contender’s boat **at any time** during the official practice period or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- (xii) Each contender agrees to report to the Tournament Director or GBN BOD member immediately any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another contender that they violate these Rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.



TIME OUTS and HALF TIME:

- (i) Five (5) one minute time outs are allowed to be called by boat captain or contender. There is also 1 mandatory 15 mandatory half time.

OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING

- (i) All protests will be filed prior to the award presentation on the day of the tournament. Failure to report known rule violations the day of tournament will result in disqualification of both the offending team and the failure to report team for next tournament.
 - a. There is no reason not to be able to produce a good picture or video evidence.
 - b. Boat captains and student anglers who are responsible **for proven or unproven rumors or false accusations** after completion of tournament will be suspended for the next tournament.
- (ii) By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each student angler and boat captain agree to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The GBN Tournament Director or GBN BOD, rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test.
 - a. 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 student angler shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such a test.
 - b. **Student anglers taking a truth verification test, along with parents or legal guardians will be responsible for all costs incurred with failure of such test.**
- (iii) Student angler(s) under the age of majority (18), requires the consent of parents or legal guardians. Any such approval would **require** a parent or legal guardian to be present during the administration of the truth verification test.
- (iv) Random truth verifications tests **may be** administered on site during any GBN High School/Jr tournament event.

SAFETY

- (i) Contenders and captains must always observe safe boat conduct. During official practice period and competition Boat Captains and Contenders will abide by and obey all State and Local Boating Laws.
- (ii) During the official practice period and competition, each contender and captain **must wear** an appropriately sized, Coast Guard-approved chest- type life preserver any time the combustion engine is operating, as well as observe and abide by all state (s) life preserver regulations that apply to his/her age, while in tournament waters.



- This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and always maintained in that condition.
- (iii) No person shall operate a moving vessel upon the waters of this state with a **child under the age of 13 years** on board such vessel unless such child is wearing an appropriately sized personal flotation device, as required by state law to be on board the vessel.
 - (iv) A **child under the age of 13 years** is required by state law to always wear an approved, appropriately sized pfd anytime the boat is in motion. This includes propulsion by an electric (trolling) motor.
 - a. Georgia BASS Nation BOD and tournament officials do not assume the responsibility of determining appropriately sized.
 - (v) Life vests will be checked at blast off. If not properly donned, you will be sent to make proper adjustments and not given permission to blast off until the issue is resolved.
 - (vi) 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.
 - a. For everyone on the boat wearing an inflatable PFD, you are **REQUIRED** to have a corresponding vest type lifejacket for everyone as well. **This is a Coast Guard REQUIREMENT.**
 - (vii) When boating in low visibility situations i.e., fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, contenders must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
 - (viii) Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by GBN, maybe approved for competition.
 - (ix) It is suggested boat captains have a safety check with the student anglers each day prior to launch to familiarize them with the location of all safety equipment.
 - (x) Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of severe weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the contenders. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of severe weather. Weather delays on full field days, of multiday events, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take off and check in) shall result in cancellation.
 - (xi) GBN reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.
 - (xii) **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, CONTENDERS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE, THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
 - (xiii) **CONTENDERS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**



TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- a. The use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Multiple lure rigs (Umbrella Rigs) are allowed if it follows state fishing regulations. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used.
- b. No “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice period and competition, except for pork strips or rinds.
- c. Only ONE casting, spin- casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in boats ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.
- d. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. If a contender breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to try with the rod being used or by hand to secure the line and land the fish to be counted as legal.
 - a. He may **NOT** hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. If a contender loses his rod and reel while landing a bass, he **MAY** use another rod and reel to retrieve the lost outfit. If that rod and reel is verified to be the lost outfit that bass may be landed and counted as a legal fish.
- (v) Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.
 - i. Contenders are allowed to always share bait and tackle.

HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

- (i) **MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER** for all outboard motors used in official practice period or competition will be 250 HP.
- (ii) Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat **MUST** have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must **NOT** exceed the rating specified on this plate or the horsepower maximum set by GBN.

BOAT AND MOTOR:

- (i) Each boat captain agrees to submit, by his/her signature on the official entry form and/or PWA:
 - a) the boat (both type, length & color)
 - b) and outboard motor (both type & HP) used in the tournament.
 - c) Also, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is **any reason** to suspect the horsepower is more than the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a contender’s engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification.



- (ii) 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.
- (i) For the safety of all contenders, during official practice period and competition, 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 operating and in gear.**
- (ii) Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.
- (iii) Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. **Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing is not allowed.**
- (iv) An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
- (v) All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament contender.
- (vi) No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used by any contender. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director.
- (vii) Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice periods and competition.

BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

- (i) During official practice period and competition, every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump.
- (ii) During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive all bass caught. GBN recommends live wells to be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual.
- (iii) Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.



BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

- (i) Each day, each boat shall have a boat identifier placard or other (see section: [ENTRY REGISTRATION, CHECK IN, SAFETY MEETING](#)), provided at tournament check in.
- (ii) The boat identifier placard or other must be in the boat and must remain with the boat during the tournament. This identification placard or other must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and returned to a tournament official at the designated check in location (end of day check in location to be determined by tournament director).
- (iii) **LOSS of boat identifier placard or other will result in a \$5.00 charge to the team for replacement.**

BOAT OPERATION:

- (i) The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contenders must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both contenders must always remain in the boat except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency contenders may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other contenders or to a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. Partners must always remain together, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament.
- (ii) Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited unless you have checked in and have ended your tournament day.
- (iii) No high school/junior student angler shall operate the boat with the big engine at any time during the tournament competition day.
 - a. The only acceptable time for a student angler to operate the boat with the big engine is unloading prior to launch or loading the boat after check in.
 - b. Boat captains **must be 18 years old or older** to operate a boat for a team. Boat captains are the only ones allowed to operate the boat using the gas engine during the event.
 - c. In the event of emergency, student anglers are allowed to operate the boat.
 - d. During official practice period and competition Boat Captains and Contenders will abide by and obey all State and Local Boating Laws.



(iv) **Boat Captains:**

- a. If a Boat Captain wishes to “Coach” student anglers while on the water. Boat captains can coach during designating breaks/timeouts but will never touch or handle any fishing rod, lures, or line during competition hours. Including lunch break.
- b. **HS** – help cull fish **ONLY**, cannot net fish for student anglers. High School Level may not have/handle a student anglers catch, any fishing rod or lures during competition hours.
 1. Captains **can net if a single student angler is in boat.**
- c. **Jr** – can operate trolling motor, net fish, and cull. The Junior Level Boat Captain may assist with tying lures, measuring a catch, clearing backlashes and may net fish (it is expected that you teach your student anglers as once they reach the next level, they must be able to do these actions themselves).

(v) Trolling Motor Operation:

- a. **Remote controlled trolling motors: Using the remote or cell phone application to control the boat is the same as using the peddle control.**
- b. In the interest of Safety: **High School/Junior Teams:** A Boat Captain may operate the trolling motor to “Make Safe” the student anglers and vessel or in an **emergency.**
- c. **JUNIOR** Tournaments are “Teaching/Learning” tournaments, if student anglers are not familiar with operating a trolling motor **TEACH THEM.**

(vi) High School student anglers who qualify to fish at the National Level **MUST** operate the trolling motor.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- (i) Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water within these boundaries posted “**Off-Limits**” or “**No Fishing**” by state or federal agencies as well as the **live-GBN release area** established by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing are off-limits.
- (ii) **NO** fishing within 50 yards of a marina (gas pump).
- (iii) **You must maintain 50 yards away from another competitor unless you invite the competitor into the same 50-yard area.**
 - a. **Once you invite a competitor, everyone is invited.**
- (iv) **NO hole sitting (You may NOT have anyone sit/hold/block an area).**
- (v) Contenders wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

CONTENDERS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

- (i) Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament day. Contenders must leave and return to official checkpoints by boat.
- (ii) During the competition day, contenders must **NOT** depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.



- (iii) Both contenders must always remain in the boat except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director.
- a. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, contenders may be removed from their boat to either a boat operated by other contenders, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must 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.
 - b. In the event of a needed restroom break or a refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contenders are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a contender violates any of the above conditions, (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), both contenders must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament.
 - c. If, after the emergency is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the contenders to resume fishing, a **RESTART** will be allowed, the contenders will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee.
- (iv) **Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited**, except by the direction of tournament officials.
- (v) Contenders are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by BOTH contenders must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

- (i) There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, official checkpoints shall be designated at the tournament briefing.
- (ii) 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. At the time of check-out, all contenders and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the GBN BOD.
- (iii) In the morning, each team must be in the water with his/her partner 30 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time for their flight.
- (iv) Trailering of boats before weighing in will be designated by the tournament director. Partners must stay together through the weigh-in process if weighing bass.

SCORING:

- (i) Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and tenths of each team's catch during the tournament. **Only Largemouth, Spotted, Redeye, Shoal, or Smallmouth, bass will be weighed.**



- (ii) All Georgia Department of Natural Resources (GDNR) rules must be always adhered to. It is the student angler's responsibility to be familiar with and understand GDNR Regulations. If you have a question, contact the Tournament Director.
- (iii) Once a contender checks in, they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. After contenders check in at the official checkpoint, they **MUST** present all **LEGAL** fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. Once a contender's catch is measured, counted, and verified by a tournament official, that contender may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.
- (iv) Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed.
 - a. **ONLY NON-PENETRATING** tags/clips are allowed.
- (v) **Tournament Creel Limit (number of bass):**
 - a. The tournament creel limit shall be **5** of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (restricted as per GBN or applicable GDNR rules/laws; example – hot weather/fish care concerns). GBN reserves the right and has the **SOLE** discretion in reducing this legal limit or number of bass if warranted.
 - b. At no time shall a contender have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit.
 - a. If a team determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce their catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch.
 - b. **CULLING DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.**
 - i. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, **the contender shall be penalized ¼ lb. (0.25 or 4 ounces).**
 - 1. GBN BOD reserves the right to change the penalty amount.
 - ii. Each contender is expected to keep their bass alive by using a properly aerated live well.
 - iii. **Do not** clip fins or otherwise physically mark the fish for identification.
 - c. If teams present their catch to the verification table, that have **more** than their tournament limit in their possession,
 - i. Team will be allowed to cull down to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a **2-pound penalty** to be deducted from their daily score.
- (vi) It is the student angler's responsibility to ensure length limits of all fish and number of fish in the livewells.



(vii) It is suggested in warm weather tournaments student anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contenders are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contenders. Upon mutual consent between both contenders paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check-in time of the first flight. SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.

(viii) **Tournament Length Limit (length of bass):**

- a. The legal length limit for each tournament bass will be set in accordance with GDNR laws and regulations. This will be announced at the designated tournament or before. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters.
- b. The Tournament Director or designee has the **SOLE** discretion in determining if a bass presented for weigh-in is considered of legal or official tournament length limit.
- c. Only bass as described above which measure the official tournament length limit or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed.
- d. Bass presented to the verification table, which fails to or **DOES NOT** measure the official tournament length limit, shall result in a penalty of **1 pound for each such bass**, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the contender.
- 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.

(ix) **LATE PENALTY:**

- a. Any team who are not at the official check-in point, as described in the section: [OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS](#), at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the **rate of 1 pound per minute late** to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “big bass award”.
- b. Any team more than **15 minutes late** shall lose all credit for that day’s catch.
- c. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a team be allowed to make up “lost time.” After proper recognition at the check-in point, teams will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After official practice period OR the tournament begins, fishing in the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

(x) **TIES:** In the case of a tie for any place, the following rules will be enforced to determine placement:

- a. The team with the greatest number of fish wins the place.



- b. or if still tied, the greatest number of live fish shall win the place in question.
- c. If the tie is yet unbroken, the team with the largest fish, if known will win place.
- d. If the tie is yet unbroken a coin flip will resolve any yet unbroken tie. The next place will go to the team so eliminated.

LOCAL GUIDES:

- (i) Anyone who guides on tournament waters or is considered a professional angler cannot participate or boat captain any junior or high school student anglers during official practice period or during tournament, as any violations of these rules will result in disqualification.
- (ii) If the **parent or legal guardian** is a guide on tournament waters or is a professional angler of one student angler in the boat, this rule is waived.
 - a. Definition of a professional angler includes all FLW Tour, Bassmaster Elite Series, Major League Fishing (Bass Pro Tour) and the National Professional Fishing League anglers who fished one or more events in these tournament trails within the last 12 month or are currently registered for these respective tournament trails in the next 12 months.
- (iii) No team can hire, solicit, barter, or receive any information other than publicly available information, or have fished with, a local guide on Tournament Waters 14 days prior to GBN tournament.
- (iv) **NOTE:** As per section [Practice & Competition](#) / #3:
 - a. For the **seven (7) consecutive days** preceding a tournament competition day, a student angler and boat captain can only be on the competition day tournament waters with another student angler, or immediate family member (mother or stepmother, father or stepfather, brother or stepbrother or sister or stepsister) or boat captain registered for the same tournament event or solo, provided the age limits are met.

COMMUNICATION:

- (i) There will be **no** communication, visually, vocally, or electronically between competitors and non-competitors or between other teams during the competition hours concerning fishing.
- (ii) Boat Captains can post pictures of catches to the Facebook page.
- (iii) Boat Captains **cannot** communicate with other boat captains on how fish are being caught.
- (iv) **OBSERVER:** GBN cannot provide alternate/observers.

RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

- (i) An appeals committee will be established by GBN., which shall be comprised of one GBN BOD member not affiliated with the Tournament Department, and two Boat Captains NOT affiliated or involved with the protest in question.
- (ii) Appeals for penalties assessed must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director or GBN BOD. Appeals hearings shall



- take **place within seven (7) business days, if possible**, from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at the prescribed time of hearing.
- a. 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.**
- (iii) Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed under [RULES AND PENALTIES](#). | C. "Penalties," sections (v) & (vi) until final ruling by Appeals Committee.
- (iv) Competitors are allowed to compete while under appeal. Field sizes after cuts would include any appealing student angler making the cut for the next round of competition for that event.
- a. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing student angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official.
 - b. Standings, including points, prizes, and scholarship awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected student anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.
- (v) The three-member appeals committee should remain confidential within the immediate appeals process.

None of the above Tournament rules under any section shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any contender's boat at any time.

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