

MISSOURI B.A.S.S. CHAPTER FEDERATION NATION CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **RULE CHANGES:** The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged after set by tournament committee each year. Interpretation of these shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Rules Committee. **THE DECISION OF THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS IS FINAL.** The tournament committee includes Tournament Director, President, Vice-President, Secretary and those designated by the Tournament Director.
2. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in this tournament is by invitation only, and is open to chapters in good standing of the Missouri B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation as of the April Board of Director's Meeting. Any Chapter wishing to participate after that date is at the discretion of the Board of Directors of Missouri B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation. Contestants must be member in good standing of the Missouri B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Nation, B.A.S.S. National Federation and The Bass Anglers Sportsman Society on or before the June Board of Director's Meeting of the tournament year. Anglers must be 16 years of age or older. Each chapter must enter a four (4), six (6), eight (8), or ten (10) man team. The number of the team will not exceed 80% of the total club membership. **"A team captain must be designated and must attend the team captain's meeting at the tournament."**
3. **ENTRY FEES:** Entry fees shall be \$55.00 per participating chapter and \$90.00 per team member, with an optional additional \$10.00 per member big bass entry fee. Entry fees for Chapter teams must be received by the Secretary no later than the September Board of Directors' Meeting. The team entry fee, all or part of is not refundable for any reason.
4. **ALTERNATES:** Alternates, in the event of emergency or absence of team member or participants, will take created vacancy in the tournament. Any alternate who fills a position for his own team, then the alternate's weight will be included with his team weight. But, if he fishes for another club his weight is not counted toward their team weight. In both circumstances, he may count his weight as an individual. Alternates meeting will be held Friday evening.
5. **REGISTRATION:** Boat and contestant must register at the pre-tournament meeting, time and location prescribed in the "Schedule of Events."
6. **SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:** A "Schedule of Events" shall be planned by the Tournament Directors and or the President. It shall be distributed to all participants on or prior to the date of the tournament.
7. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by the tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Type III – Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver. **P.F.D. must be worn any time the combustion engine is running. Kill switch must be worn while the combustion engine is running.** If there is serious trouble with any boat / motor, high winds, or any type of condition that is a threat to the safety of the members which prevents the return by boat, competitors may return by whatever means are available as long as they stay in constant sight of each other. The tournament officials will rule on the validity of any such transfer and their ruling on such matters shall be final.
8. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES:** No alcoholic beverages or **"illegal substances"** are allowed in boats or the weigh-in line during tournament hours.
9. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared baits" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. 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. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use. However, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
10. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Fishing boats 14 feet or more in length will be accepted if powered by an engine of 10 horsepower or more. All tournament boats must have the required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment aboard and in working order. **NO BOAT WILL BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT, WHICH EXCEEDS THE HORSEPOWER LIMIT STATED ON THE B.I.A. RATING PLATE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT.** If no plate is attached, the N.M.M.A. rating formula, as stated in the U.S. Coast Guard handbook 33CFR, part 188, sub-part C, will be used to check conformity. All tournament boats must have properly aerated live well space to maintain alive, a limit of fish for each angler. All Missouri Water Patrol laws apply. Phones, CB Radios, or similar means of communication are to be used for emergency use only. Dealer boats with proper tags and insurance may be used.
11. **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat **MUST** be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official. A boat sticker, and or a number tag for each day, will be issued after inspection.
12. **BOAT OPERATION AND FISHING WATER:** **A full discussion will be made between paired partners, as to schedule of boat operations and water.** This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and in each partner's water. Time must be equally divided for the entire day. If a contestant waives the right to operate the positioning motor **"or the boat owner deems conditions due to wind, weather, current, or other circumstances jeopardize safety or property and render owner control necessary"**, they still have the right to his/her waters. Each

chapter will take care of their own boaters' fuel expenses. There is no need for money to be exchanged between the paired anglers. Due to safety procurement for the non-boater, the boater must have a rear seat of some type available.

13. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** “Partner’s should honor each other’s water and demonstrate integrity and good sportsmanship at all times. This means if you want to fish your first day partner’s water on the second day, please have the courtesy to discuss this with him and come to a mutual understanding. If a mutual agreement cannot be reached, the team captains of each chapter involved should help resolve the issue. If team captains cannot reach an agreement, they should take the matter to the tournament director before the start of the fishing day for resolution.”
14. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Anywhere on the tournament lake except fifty (50) yards of another contestant’s boat that is at anchor. Or within fifty (50) yards of a fuel pump. No fishing within 50 feet of a marina dock. There is no trailering of a contestant’s boat to get to any fishing water location.
15. **BREAKDOWNS:** Should a tournament boat become inoperable, one member of that boat’s team may bring both parties fish to the weigh-in as long as he/she is picked up by another tournament boat. Both members of the second boat must verify the catch of the disabled boat’s contestants, and sign their weigh-in slips. Each disabled contestant’s fish must remain separate while in the second boat. At the conclusion of the final flight deadline, team captains must report all team members in or unaccounted for to the tournament staff.
16. **SCORING:** Only Largemouth, Kentucky, Small Mouth, and Mean Mouth Bass will be counted. Total stringer weight by pounds and ounces (or 1/100 lbs.). Tournament winners will be determined by the total pounds and ounces accumulated during the two days of competition. Only **five fish per day** will be weighed. Bass may not be handled by anyone other than tournament officials, after being brought to the scales. Any contestant bringing more than five fish to the scales will have his/her largest bass removed from the stringer. Bass that appear to be mangled, frozen, mashed, or mauled will be measured and credited only at the discretion of the weigh-in officials. The official measuring board is the “**Gator Grip Gold Rule**” on a flat surface. Only fifteen (15) inch or longer bass shall be weighed.
17. **DETERMINATION OF TEAM’S FINAL STANDINGS:** A team’s final standings shall be determined by dividing the team’s total weight by the number of team members, giving the average weight per angler for that team.
18. **PENALTY: Dead Bass Penalty:** For each dead bass weighed in, eight (8) ounces (or .50 lbs.) will be deducted from the total weight. **Short Fish Penalty:** Any fish brought to the weigh-in failing to measure at least fifteen (15) inches, shall result in a one (1) pound deduction from the total score of legal length fish plus loss of short fish. If no legal fish are turned in by the angler, deductions will come off his/her team weights. **Late Penalty:** Contestants, who are not officially checked in on time, shall be penalized one (1) pound of their total weight for each one (1) minute that they are late up to fifteen (15) minutes. If contestant checks in later than fifteen (15) minutes, their total weight will be disqualified for that day.
19. **BREAKING OF TIES:** If deemed necessary, the tournament committee may determine the break of ties, by means of number of bass, alive bass weighed in, and or a flip of the coin.
20. **CONTESTANTS PAIR OFF:** Contestants will be paired by computer (random), or manually, at a date and time specified by the “Schedule of Events”.
21. **WITHDRAWAL:** “Any contestant who must leave the tournament should make every effort to report to his team captain and or the tournament director before 5:30 am of the fishing day. Any contestant who leaves the tournament without just cause and without notifying their team captain and or the tournament director before 5:30 am on the contest date shall cause a one year suspension in that contestant’s eligibility to fish the Sate Championship. Example: not being on fish or catching fish the first day, a contestant decides to not fish the next day. This is not deemed “Just Cause” and this would result in the one year suspension penalty. The Tournament Committee will make the decision.”
22. **AWARDS:** Awards shall be of merchandise and or trophies only. There will be no individual cash awards presented other than the big bass pots. Trophies shall be for big bass of each day’s competition, and 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th places. Merchandise prizes shall be determined by the President and Vice President. The winning Chapter Team will be awarded trophies for each member (excluding alternate) and shall be awarded a free entry (in lieu of cash pay back) into next year’s Championship Tournament depending on the number of participants on their winning state team.
23. **EXTRA GAS CONTAINERS:** Participants can not carry extra gas containers in the boat unless approved by the Tournament Director.
24. **PROTEST:** Protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes after the weigh-in is closed. The Tournament Committee will make all decisions.