2026-2027 TOURNAMENT FORMAT AND REQUIREMENTS

Sunshine State Bass Nation Tournament Series, LLC, d/b/a Florida B.A.S.S. Nation (hereinafter referred to as "FBN") presents the FBN High School (HS) Tournament Series, which is a Team versus Team format. This format shall be effective in all FBNHS Tournaments. Rules also apply to the JR division with the exception of qualifications for the State Championship and Nationals.

MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS AND DUES

Anglers participating in the FBNHS Tournament Series will be required to be a member of an affiliated High School club. If a High School does not recognize or support the High School Club, then anglers may join/start a Community Club (requires at least two (2) members to start a High School Club and six (6) members to start a Community Club). A denial letter will be required from all High Schools that do not support the High School fishing program before an angler can join a Community Club. The Community Club advisor/faculty member must collect denial letters annually and keep them on file and available during the tournament year. Copies of denial letters will need to be presented upon request from B.A.S.S. and FBN.

Clubs are responsible for making sure angler's annual membership dues are paid for FBN and B.A.S.S Nation., which amount to $55.00 and cover the following:

B.A.S.S. Nation National Dues $30.00
Florida B.A.S.S. Nation State Dues $25.00

Every angler is required to pay the annual B.A.S.S. Nation National and FBN State dues as well as any dues associated with their club. Club fees may vary and may be collected in addition to the annual membership dues above. Every angler must be in good standings with their club, FBN, B.A.S.S. Nation, and B.A.S.S. to compete in the FBNHS Tournament Series.

FBN State dues can be paid online via Fishing Chaos under the FBN Junior/High School banner. FBN will only accept the State dues from a club advisor/faculty member on the day of the tournament. Checks shall be made payable to the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation. **No dues will be collected by FBN on an individual basis from the anglers or parents. The B.A.S.S. Nation National dues can be paid online by club/faculty adviser member at B.A.S.S. Nation (bassmaster.com).**

Clubs must retain Denial Letters for the year and make them available upon request.

ALL DUES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE FIRST EVENT OF THE SEASON.

Random checks of B.A.S.S. Numbers may be performed during the year on anglers. Should a team member not have an inactive B.A.S.S. Number, the team will not be eligible to participate in future FBN tournaments until the B.A.S.S. Number is renewed.

The FBN acknowledges that in Florida, anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, must have in his/her possession photographic identification and a boater safety identification card while operating a vessel. As of January 1, 2025, B.A.S.S. will require anyone boat captaining a team in a B.A.S.S. Junior or High School Tournament (Bassmaster HS Opens & Nationals), hold/have a boater safety ID card or be a licensed boat captain. The Boater Safety Card and photo ID must be presented upon request.

TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION

Upon registering and paying for an event, tournament anglers and boat captains agree they have read all tournament rules and understand them to their entirety.

All tournament entries and fees must be submitted by the deadline posted on the FBN website at www.floridabassnation.com. The entry fees for all FBN Junior and High School tournaments will be $65.00 per team. **Teams have until Wednesday 5pm EST, prior to each event, to register. No entries will be accepted after Wednesday 5pm EST prior to each event.** No registrations will be accepted the morning of the event. NO EXCEPTIONS. Online registration is considered an Official Entry Form of the FBN.

Tournament Officials reserve the right to suspend the acceptance of Official Tournament Entry Forms prior to the established deadline, as well as the right to extend the acceptance date deadline.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All boat captains operating a boat on tournament waters during the actual competition days of an FBNHS Tournament must submit a current copy of their boat insurance policy as proof of insurance to the Tournament Officials. The policy must contain coverage of at least $300,000 combined limited liability boating insurance, specifically name the boater as an “insured user” and have the expiration date printed on the policy. If entering more than one tournament, a copy of the valid insurance policy must be on file with FBN. Tournament Officials at any time may randomly request a copy of a boater’s insurance policy during the tournament. Failure to produce an active policy will result in disqualification.

HIRING OF GUIDES OR FISHING WITH GUIDES OR PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS

No competitor or boat captain can hire or have fished with a local guide on tournament waters that are listed on the Florida Bass Nation Jr/High School Schedule within 30 days before the start of the season which is the first tournament in Sept. (DEFINITION OF LOCAL GUIDE – A person that gets paid to take others fishing for any species on that body of water).

If a potential boat captain is a local guide, then they will be ineligible to be a boat captain on the waters which they are a guide. Exception to the rule, will be a parent or immediate family member (not best friend, aunt, uncle, niece, or nephew) of an angler participating in a trail(s) that will boat captain for the team all season.

If a potential captain is a current professional angler (Meaning they are actively fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series/MLF Pro Tour/NPFL) they will be prohibited as a boat captain unless they are an immediate family member. (Father/Mother/Brother/Sister/Grandparent). This rule will not apply to any Captains that are not actively competing as a professional angler. Past Elite or professional anglers will be permitted to Captain.

FBN Tournament Officials reserves the right to deny any Boat Captain.

TOUNAMENT TRAILS AND FORMAT

The 2026-2027 Tournament Schedule will be posted on the FBN website at 26-27-Schedule-.jpg (816×1056) (floridafederationnation.com).

The FBNHS Tournament Series will include four (4) tournament trails during the year.

North and South Trails (1-day tournaments held on Saturdays)

There will be North and South Trails, with each hosting four (4) tournaments. All tournaments will be 1-day events held on Saturdays and alternate every month throughout the season from September 2026 to April 2027.

Fall Trail (1-day tournaments held on Sunday from September through December 2026)

There will be a Fall Trail that will include four (4) tournaments occurring between September 2026 and December 2026. The tournaments will be 1-day events all held on Sundays from September through December 2026.

Spring Trail (1-day tournaments held on Sunday from January 2027 through April 2027)

There will be a Spring Trail that will include four (4) tournaments occurring between January 2027 and April 2027. The tournaments will be 1-day events all held on Sundays from January through April 2027.

Every trail is allocated a berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship based on the following:

Teams	Members	Berths
25	50	1
50	100	2
150	300	3
250	500	4
350	700	5
450	900	6
550	1100	7

Anglers are encouraged to fish with the same partner during the year but are not required. Anglers may switch partners and fish with another angler, if necessary. Anglers are not eligible to participate in the State Championship if they have not qualified with their partner during the season.

Determining the Trail Champions

The team earning the highest points after the four (4) tournaments in each trail are completed will be recognized as the trails Team of the Year. Teams may not count tournaments from multiple trails. The Trail Champions in each trail will earn an automatic berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship.

Should a tie exist between multiple teams for any of the trail's Team of the Year, the teams tied will advance to the State Championship Tournament and the highest finishing team (of the teams tied) after day-1 will be awarded the trail Team of the Year for that trail and earn the berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship.

The top 20 teams from each trail (North, South, Fall, and Spring) and any teams fishing all 16 tournaments will qualify for the State Championship Tournament. The Points System below will be used to determine each Trail's Team of the Year and overall final standings. After each of the four (4) trails (North, South, Fall, and Spring) are complete, 20 high school teams from each trail will advance to the State Championship Tournament. The 20 teams will be determined as followed:

• Winners of tournaments within a trail - Any team winning a tournament within a trail will qualify to fish the State Championship Tournament if they compete in all four (4) tournaments of the same trail (there is a potential of 4-teams from each trail to advance to the State Championship Tournament). Should a team win a tournament in the trail, and not fish all four (4) tournaments of the same trail, the berth will be applied to the next team in line as determined by points, as long as they have fished all (4) trail tournaments.

• Trail Champs - The team that wins the Team of the Year (Trail Champs) in a trail will qualify to fish the State Championship Tournament and earn an automatic berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship Tournament.

• Trail Final Standings – Once the winners of the tournaments in a trail and the Trail Champs have been determined, the remaining State Championship spots will be filled with the next highest placing teams based on the final points standings of the trail, until 20-teams have been recognized. If a team is already qualified for the State Championship Tournament through one of the other trails, the berth(s) will be awarded to the next highest placing team(s) and continue in consecutive order until no berth(s) remain.

FBN will allow any team fishing every tournament during the season to qualify for the State Championship Tournament should the team not qualify through one of the trails. Any team qualifying to fish the State Championship by fishing every tournament will be eligible to compete for a berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship.

JR teams will need to participate in a minimum of four (4) tournaments to qualify for the State Championship. These tournaments can be from any of the trails (North, South, Fall, and Spring).

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

The FBN will conduct a two-day State Championship Tournament after all tournament trails are complete. The location and date of the State Championship Tournament will be established by Tournament Officials. A separate set of rules will apply for the State Championship Tournament and will be available/published before the annual event.

The only teams eligible to fish the State Championship Tournament will be limited to the teams that have qualified during the season.

Only teams consisting of two anglers can qualify to compete in the State Championship. In the event an angler must compete in the State Championship solo (Partner backed out or could not attend), the angler will not be able to qualify for a National Championship Berth. The angler will still be permitted to compete in the State Championship and will be fishing for the awards and prizes.

Boat Captains for teams qualifying for the State Championship must have been a boat captain for the same team during the FBN High School Tournament season.

The State Championship Tournament Winners - The results of the State Championship Tournament will determine the Tournament Winner, which will earn a berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship (if not already qualified)

QUALIFYING FOR THE BASSMASTER HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT

ALL TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FBN STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT TO BE ELIGIBLE TO QUALIFY FOR THE BASSMASTER HIGH SCHOOL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENT.

In addition to the National berths awarded through each trail, the State Championship Tournament's final standings will determine the final teams that will advance to the Bassmaster High School National Championship Tournament. At least 1 berth will be awarded to the 1st place team of the State Championship. Any remaining National berths will be awarded beginning with the 2nd place team of the State Championship and working down the standings in consecutive order until no berths remain. If a team has already qualified for the Bassmaster High School National Championship through one of the tournament trails, the berth(s) will be awarded to the next highest placing team(s) and continue in consecutive order until no berth(s) remain.

All teams/anglers that qualify for the Bassmaster High School National Championship will be expected to sign an agreement (Participation Agreement and Liability Release) acknowledging the anglers will participate in all functions/events/meetings leading up to and during the Bassmaster High School National Championship. Failure

to submit the agreement by the specified deadline will result in the team not participating in the Bassmaster High School National Championship. The berth will then be awarded to the next team in line.

JR NATIONAL BERTHS

FBN has been given three (3) JR berths to the National Championship. These berths will be given to the top three teams at the State Championship.

CONTINGENCY PROGRAMS

Contingency programs are sponsor-funded programs developed to reward teams based on a predefined set of criteria. Participation in contingency programs is at the teams' discretion.

CLOTHING/SIGNAGE

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing during FBN tournaments which may bare patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors, but also *must display the B.A.S.S. Shield. Any angler coming through the weigh-in not displaying the B.A.S.S. Shield on their clothing will be given a one-time warning. Secondary offenses will result in not weighing the team's fish until a B.A.S.S. patch can be displayed on their person. FBN may restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in FBN's sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official sponsors, or which are, in FBN's sole judgment, in poor taste. FBN will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances.

POINTS SYSTEM

The following points system will be used to determine the High School Tournament Trails Teams of the Year and the overall placement in the trails. The points system will start with the first- place finisher in each tournament receiving 200-points and will reduce in increments of 1-point through the 200th place finisher. The table below lists the points a team can expect to receive if they finish within the top 200 of the High School Regional and Statewide Trails. A team must be registered for the tournament to receive points.

Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points	Place	Points
1st	200	41st	160	81st	120	121st	80	161st	40
2nd	199	42nd	159	82nd	119	122nd	79	162nd	39
3rd	198	43rd	158	83rd	118	123rd	78	163rd	38
4th	197	44th	157	84th	117	124th	77	164th	37
5th	196	45th	156	85th	116	125th	76	165th	36
6th	195	46th	155	86th	115	126th	75	166th	35
7th	194	47th	154	87th	114	127th	74	167th	34
8th	193	48th	153	88th	113	128th	73	168th	33
9th	192	49th	152	89th	112	129th	72	169th	32
10th	191	50th	151	90th	111	130th	71	170th	31
11th	190	51st	150	91st	110	131st	70	171st	30
12th	189	52nd	149	92nd	109	132nd	69	172nd	29
13th	188	53rd	148	93rd	108	133rd	68	173rd	28
14th	187	54th	147	94th	107	134th	67	174th	27
15th	186	55th	146	95th	106	135th	66	175th	26
16th	185	56th	145	96th	105	136th	65	176th	25
17th	184	57th	144	97th	104	137th	64	177th	24
18th	183	58th	143	98th	103	138th	63	178th	23
19th	182	59th	142	99th	102	139th	62	179th	22
20th	181	60th	141	100th	101	140th	61	180th	21
21st	180	61st	140	101st	100	141st	60	181st	20
22nd	179	62nd	139	102nd	99	142nd	59	182nd	19
23rd	178	63rd	138	103rd	98	143rd	58	183rd	18
24th	177	64th	137	104th	97	144th	57	184th	17
25th	176	65th	136	105th	96	145th	56	185th	16
26th	175	66th	135	106th	95	146th	55	186th	15
27th	174	67th	134	107th	94	147th	54	187th	14
28th	173	68th	133	108th	93	148th	53	188th	13
29th	172	69th	132	109th	92	149th	52	189th	12
30th	171	70th	131	110th	91	150th	51	190th	11
31st	170	71st	130	111th	90	151st	50	191st	10
32nd	169	72nd	129	112th	89	152nd	49	192nd	9
33rd	168	73rd	128	113th	88	153rd	48	193rd	8
34th	167	74th	127	114th	87	154th	47	194th	7
35th	166	75th	126	115th	86	155th	46	195th	6
36th	165	76th	125	116th	85	156th	45	196th	5
37th	164	77th	124	117th	84	157th	44	197th	4
38th	163	78th	123	118th	83	158th	43	198th	3
39th	162	79th	122	119th	82	159th	42	199th	2
40th	161	80th	121	120th	81	160th	41	200th	1

PARTICIPATION POINTS

Every team participating in an FBN tournament will receive 20-participation points (10 points per angler) for fishing or registering for a tournament, regardless if the team weighs-in a fish or not. Teams must be registered and compete in the tournament to receive participation points.

Each angler is allowed to miss one tournament in the tournament trails. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit an angler from having a partner in a tournament, the team will receive the full 20 participation points for the first absence. If the angler misses a 2nd tournament within the same trail, the team will only receive 10 participation points. If the same angler misses a 3rd tournament within the same trail, the team will no longer receive any points for the trail and will be fishing for fun. Teams fishing for fun will be entitled to receive any monetary prizes should they finish high enough.

If a tie should occur between two or more teams, the tie breaker will be the team with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the tournament. Should a tie remain, then the team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the tournament will prevail. In the event a tie still exists, both teams will receive the same points for the tied position and the prize between the places will be added up and evenly divided amongst the winners. The big fish of the bag is not a tie breaker.

AWARDS

The first-third place teams and Big Bass at each tournament will receive Trophies/Plaques along with payout prizes.

PAYOUTS

Payouts for tournament trails will be awarded to FBNHS teams based on the attached payback schedule.

TRAIL CHAMPS

The team with the highest points in each trail (North, South, Fall, and Spring) upon the conclusion of said trail will be awarded as Trail Champs. No Drops This Season! Should a tie exist between multiple teams for any of the trail's Team of the Year, the teams tied will advance to the State Championship Tournament and the highest finishing team (of the teams tied) after day-1 will be awarded the trail Team of the Year for that trail and earn the berth to the Bassmaster High School National Championship.

STATEWIDE TRAIL TEAM OF THE YEAR JR and HIGH SCHOOL:

HIGH SCHOOL TEAM OF THE YEAR:

High School Team of the Year will be decided in the following manner. Cumulative points from all tournaments will decide the High School Team of the Year. The more events the team competes in will further their opportunity to become the High School Team of the Year. The Team of the Year will receive Trophies and Prizes at the Banquet!

JR Team of the Year will be decided in the following manner. Cumulative points from all tournaments will decide the JR Team of the Year. The more events the team competes in will further their opportunity to become the JR Team of the Year. The Team of the Year will receive Trophies and Prizes at the Banquet!

STATEWIDE JR AND HIGH SCHOOL CLUB OF THE YEAR:

HIGH SCHOOL/CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD Using the point system above, a High School/Club of the Year Award will be awarded to the school/club with the highest points over the 16-tournament season. Points will be based on the three highest placing teams from each school/club in each tournament. If a school/club only has

one team participating, then they will only receive points for the one team. Schools/clubs are encouraged to have as many teams as possible compete for the High School/Club of the Year Award.

JR CLUB OF THE YEAR AWARD Using the point system above, a JR/Club of the Year Award will be awarded to the school/club with the highest points over the 16-tournament season. Points will be based on the two highest placing teams from each school/club in each tournament. If a school/club only has one team participating, then they will only receive points for the one team. Schools/clubs are encouraged to have as many teams as possible compete for the JR/Club of the Year Award.

PAYBACK SCHEDULE

All high school anglers/teams earning through tournaments offered by the FBN will be expected to fill out a W9 IRS Form. Any angler earning more than $600 during the year will be sent a 1099 for tax purposes. No checks will be issued to anglers without a W9 form on file.

The payback schedule below will be used to award teams after each tournament.

*Amounts listed will go to each angler of the team. Payout scale is participation based. Paying out 1 place for every 7 teams that participate in the tournament. Please refer to the attached payout scale. (Amount shown is total payout for the team. Divide in half to get per angler amount)

OFFICIAL RULES

(Effective September 1, 2026 through August 31, 2027)

The following are the official Tournament Rules developed for the Sunshine State Bass Nation Tournament Series, LLC d/b/a Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Jr./High School Tournament Series (hereinafter referred to as the "FBNHS") and approved by the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Jr./High School Tournament Committee. These rules apply to all Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Jr./High School Tournament Trails and the State Championship.

RULES AND PENALTIES

1. The interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the FBNHS tournament staff (hereinafter referred to as "Tournament Officials"). In the event of a rule violation, Tournament Officials may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.

Any rules violations must be reported to Tournament Officials. If the team in question is found to be in violation of said rules, the team will be disqualified from the tournament.

2. A team shall consist of no more than two (2) anglers that must be a member of the same High School or Charter (Community) Club in the High School Division and a boat captain.

3. Teams are expected to obey all applicable Florida Boating or Fishing and Wildlife Statutes and Rules. Violation of such statutes or rules may result in your disqualification from tournaments and being banned from future participation in FBNHS Tournaments. All local, state, and federal laws supersede FBNHS Tournament Rules and By-laws.

4. It is the duty and responsibility of every angler in a tournament to report any violations or infractions of these Tournament Rules to the Tournament Officials. Failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules is cause for disqualification.

5. Teams who wish to lodge a protest concerning a "rules violation" during the tournament, must do so within tournament hours or before the presentation of the awards. All protests must be presented in writing to a Tournament Official. Text or Email will suffice as "in writing",

6. Falsifying any official weigh-in form or any other official tournament document will be cause for disqualification.

7. If a potential boat captain is a local guide, then they will be ineligible to be a boat captain on the waters which they are a guide. Exception to the rule, will be an immediate family member of an angler participating in a trail(s) that will boat captain for the team all season. FBN Tournament Officials reserves the right to deny any Boat Captain. If a potential captain is a current professional angler (Meaning they are actively fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series/MLF Pro Tour/NPFL) they will be prohibited as a boat captain unless they are an immediate family member. (Father/Mother/Brother/Sister/Grandparent). This rule will not apply to any Captains that are not actively competing as a professional angler. Past Elite or professional anglers will be permitted to Captain.

8. No competitor or boat captain can hire or have fished with a local guide on tournament waters that are listed on the Florida Bass Nation Jr/High School Schedule within 30 days before the start of the season which is the first tournament in Sept. (DEFINITION OF LOCAL GUIDE – A person that gets paid to take others fishing for any species on that body of water).

9. Solo Anglers. In the event an angler must compete in a tournament solo the angler will need to also have a marshall ride along with the angler and boat captain. The Marshall must be an adult. It is suggested that the marshall be an immediate family member. The marshall cannot be a guide on the tournament waters for said tournament. Florida Bass Nation must pre-approve the Marshall prior to the tournament's official practice days. The only exception for an angler to go solo with just the boat captain is as follows: The Captain will have to be an immediate family member (Father, Mother, Brother, Sister, Grandparent). This is a new rule that will be imposed by B.A.S.S. at the National Level, and we are following suit to implement it at the State Level.

10. The decision of the Tournament Officials shall be final in these and all tournament related matters.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Anglers must be a student currently enrolled in high school, in good academic standing with a 2.0 grade point average or better (**maintained throughout the season**), and a member of a High School (Institution) fishing team or a Community Club affiliated with FBN. Only one club from each institution is allowed.

2. The FBNHS Tournament Series is open only to current members of affiliated High School Clubs, recognized by said High School or an affiliated Community Club.

3. For those anglers that are home schooled, they may:

    a) create their own charter (community) club so long as the requirements for starting a club are satisfied; or
    b) join the high school club which they are required to attend/participate/zoned through by the local school district.
    c) Should a club not exist in the local school, or the local school district does not support the high school fishing club concept, the angler may join another charter (community) club that already exists in the area.

4. Certain schools allow 8th grade students to compete. If your institution/club allows 8th grade students to compete, a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria have been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that qualify for the next calendar school year. Proof of grade or graduation date, to the satisfaction of Tournament Officials is the responsibility of potential competitor.

5. This is a high school team event where both anglers are to be from the same school or community club. You must have a partner and coach to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit an angler from having a partner in a tournament, then a request must be submitted to Tournament Officials in writing for approval. FBN reserves the right to accept or deny such request. If an angler is granted permission to fish alone, the team may or may not receive points for fishing the event depending on the circumstances.

6. A Tournament Official must be notified when two anglers choose to partner up that are from separate schools or clubs, each angler will be entitled to count the tournament toward the qualifying requirements and will be entitled to any scholarship funds or prizes being offered for the tournament. The anglers will only be eligible to earn participation points (10-points/each angler). NO other points will be earned by the team for the event and NO team with anglers from separate Clubs will be eligible to participate in the State Championship Tournament unless otherwise permitted within the rules for the State Championship Tournament.

7. Each participating team must have a Boat Captain. Boat Captains must be at least 18-years of age or older and not in high school to operate a boat in a FBN Junior/High School Tournament Series.

The FBN acknowledges that in Florida, anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, must have in his/her possession photographic identification and a boater safety identification card while operating a vessel. As of January 1, 2025, B.A.S.S. will require anyone boat captaining a team in a B.A.S.S. Junior or High School Tournament (Bassmaster HS Opens & Nationals), hold/have a boater safety ID card or be a licensed boat captain. The Boater Safety Card and photo ID must be presented upon request.

Every tournament contestant and boat captain acknowledge they have read the rules upon registering for every tournament. All the rules in this document and the Boat Captain Rules must be followed. Failure to follow these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document or not participating at all in a tournament.

8. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Officials, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and wellbeing of his/her partner or themselves shall not be eligible.

9. Should a split occur between teammates, where one angler cannot or chooses not to finish (in other words “quits”) out the season for reasons such as, but not limited to, “…can’t get along with partner/boat captain”, “…lack of interest in sport”, “…grades”, “…injury”, or “…relocation”, the other angler will be eligible to find another partner. An official of the tournament staff must be notified of the circumstances before a new angler can fish with the partner that chooses to remain fishing. Once an angler commits to a FBN Official to forfeit, leave or “quit” the program, the remaining angler will be entitled to any points the team earned toward the Angler of the Year in a trail. Should the partner that forfeit, left or “quit” the program, choose to return in a future event of the trail he/she previously participated, he/she will not be entitled to the previous points earned with previous partner.

10. In situations where there is a “Divorce” among teammates and both anglers choose to continue participating in a trail, both anglers will lose all tournament points earned at the time of the “Divorce”. Each angler will retain their 10 participation points for each tournament already fished and will start over earning tournament points with new partner.

BOAT INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

DURING THE COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY FBNHS TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF $300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF INFORCE INSURANCE WITH $300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet tournament requirements.

SPORTSMANSHIP

Teams in FBNHS Tournaments are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infractions of these basic and fundamental sporting principles may be cause for disqualification.

1. Use of alcohol, tobacco, cigarettes (including vaping) or the use of drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any angler, during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future FBN tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, smoking/vaping, or chewing of tobacco other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.

2. Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, especially regarding boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a team or angler, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.

3. All teams are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which we fish when participating in tournaments. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Regardless, anyone cited for a violation during a tournament should report it to a Tournament Official. Teams are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

4. 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 Tournament Officials. 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 tournament, and/or disqualification from a tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by Tournament Officials.

ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers/Boat Captains participating in any FBNHS sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers, parents and family members of Anglers shall always conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., FBN, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

To this end, anglers, parents, coaches, faculty members, friends and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, parents, coaches, faculty members, friends and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual FBN sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by FBN.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; therefore, it is imperative that tournament teams demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by teams in FBN events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with FBN officials, other teams, fans, and volunteers during an event. • Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of FBN rules or officials.

- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of the FBN, FBN officials or its sponsors.

- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of Tournament Officials, volunteers, fellow teams or others connected with a FBN event.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow teams.

- Intentionally interfering with a fellow team/angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. and/or FBN tournament.

MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favorable public reputation of FBN 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 FBN. Accordingly, it is an obligation of teams 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 FBN organization. Teams, 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 FBN policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials.

However, public comments that an angler, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, which will harm the reputation of FBN, FBN officials, or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming of a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

COMPETITION DAYS/OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAYS

1. There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by a Tournament Official. Special off limits and practice periods for tournaments will be announced by FBN and will be listed on the FBN website. Official Practice Days will be the Thursday and Friday prior to each tournament. All tournament rules must be adhered to during official practice days.
2. No teams will be allowed on tournament waters once the tournament begins, except during the official tournament hours, see exception to under Rule 6 below.
3. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to local host community. The teams must know and observe these dates.
4. During competition, anglers cannot solicit, gather or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another team in the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS. The team also cannot have anyone "spot sit" (go to a fishing spot and stay on the spot until the team arrives, hindering any other team from fishing said spot.
5. The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in competition.
6. No practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. Running lights must be on at/during launch and remain on until teams reach their first fishing spot. Anytime during a competition day, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.
7. Anglers renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to the slip location.
8. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Officials. NO EXCEPTIONS.
9. During the tournament, a team may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.
10. No teams may buy or barter a fishing location from any other team/competitor for use during any competition day. If the tournament is two or more days and a team chooses to drop out before the end of the tournament, that team is no longer considered in the tournament and other teams may not receive information under Rule 4 above.

11. During the official practice days and competition days of the tournament a team may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Teams can call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Teams can use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes, FBN updates, etc., however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs, asking for assistance, such as bringing tackle or food, talking/texting with friends, or to participate in social media is not permitted.
12. A designated Tournament Official must be granted access to the team's boat at any time during the competition day. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

13. Each team agrees to report to Tournament Officials immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, suggestions to another team that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms may be cause for disqualification. Official protests must be filed in accordance with Rule 5 listed under "Rules and Penalties". All parties of interest will be provided with a copy.
14. By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each team agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. FBN Tournament Officials, rules committee, or such person designated by Tournament Officials, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. FBN Tournament Officials 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. FBN Tournament Officials or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The team shall make themselves available at the location selected by Tournament Officials and shall cooperate in all respects with such a test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for all costs incurred. Random truth verifications tests may be administered on site during a High School Series Event.

REGISTRATION AND MORNING CHECK-IN

ALL DUES MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO THE FIRST EVENT OF THE SEASON.

Anglers are encouraged to pay FBN state dues using Fishing Chaos. Clubs may collect the state dues and pay all at once at the first tournament of the season by the club advisor. Checks shall be made payable to the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation. **No dues will be collected by FBN on an individual basis from anglers or parents**.

Tournament Officials reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of tournament entries prior to deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date. As a participant in FBNHS Tournament Series, you agree to use during tournaments all official products and equipment so specified and provided by Tournament Officials.

All anglers entering a tournament must sign a Liability Release Form when they register online. For those anglers that are under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian will need to sign the Liability Release Form using the space provided under the angler's name.

On the morning of a tournament, teams (Anglers and their Captain) will be required to check-in in person at the designated time and place in the schedule of events, which will be posted on the FBN website. Failure to check-in during the designated time will result in a penalty, which will be a delayed launch time determined by Tournament Officials. The check-in process may include getting the boat inspected before take-off each morning of the tournament. Any team who has not contacted the Tournament Staff within 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration period, may be disqualified from participating in that day's tournament. It shall be each team's responsibility to check the schedule of events for registration time and location.

Tournament Briefing: The morning of the tournament there will be a short tournament briefing where Tournament Officials will cover key announcements, such as any fog delay, water hazards, shorten tournament day due to weather, start and check-in times, weigh-in procedures, rules, etc.

No refunds, credits, or roll-overs to future tournaments will be granted for teams that are disqualified for not properly checking in to fish on the tournament date for which they registered.

SAFETY

1. Safe boat conduct must always be observed by teams. During the competition, each team member must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.
2. When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, teams must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by Tournament Officials. Running lights should always be used during low visibility situations regardless of the time of day.
3. Radar units (this does not include fish finders, geographical positioning systems (GPS) units, side imaging, etc.) permanently mounted in the boat are subject to approval by the FBN and may be approved for competition. FBN's approval does not guarantee B.A.S.S. will approve radar units in a future B.A.S.S. sanctioned tournament.
4. It is suggested the teams have a safety check with their partner and boat captain each day prior to launch to familiarize them with the location of all safety equipment.
5. It is required that each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety certification, or a "grandfathered" exception, may be required in certain states. As of January 1, 2025, B.A.S.S. will require anyone boat captaining a team in a B.A.S.S. Junior or High School Tournament (national level), must hold a boater safety ID card or be a licensed boat captain and present upon request. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.
6. Tournament Officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the teams. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.
7. The FBN reserves the right to impose boat 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 Officials.
8. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, TEAMS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE THEN NOTIFIES TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
9. TEAMS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

LAUNCH ORDER

1. Launch order will be determined by random selection generated by the computer program for the tournament.
2. Once a boat leaves the launch area at the start of the tournament, the two anglers must stay together and within sight of each other, and each other's catch, throughout the day until weigh-in is completed, except for "natures call" or a credible emergency. A team will not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the

score (weight) of another team. In such a case, both teams shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by the FBN.

HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be a **maximum of 250 HP and a minimum of 40 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 B.A.S.S. Each team 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 in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a boat's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from FBN tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by FBN 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.

BOAT AND MOTOR

These restrictions apply during competition days.

1. For the safety of all teams, 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. 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 and each team member must be wearing a Coast Guard-approved chest type life preserver.
2. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used.
3. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing, is not allowed.
4. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The "LONG LINING" or "STROLLING" technique is NOT allowed in competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions.
5. Only gas tanks that are installed by the boat manufacturer are allowed. 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 team. Teams may stop for gas while on the waters.
6. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted.
7. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by Tournament Officials.
8. Jet drive engines and tunnel hull boats are not allowed 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. No air boats may be used to fish during a FBNHS Tournament. None of the rules shall prohibit designated Tournament Officials from approaching or boarding any team's boat at any time during the actual tournament for the purpose of inspecting the boat for violations of these rules. A team who refuses to allow his/her boat to be inspected by a Tournament Official shall be disqualified from the tournament and all entry fees and prizes or prize money shall be forfeited. Tournament Officials, at his discretion, may impose additional sanctions regarding future tournaments.

BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

1. During competition, every boat must have the required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump.
2. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit of bass caught by the team. FBN recommends livewells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament Officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether live-well aeration and capacity is proper and adequate for use during tournaments.

BOAT IDENTIFICATION

Prior to the start of every tournament, each boat will be inspected/checked by a Tournament Official. Each boat will be assigned a boat number, which must remain with the boat. This number must be provided upon the request of Tournament Officials, and at each check-in at the end of the day. **Teams are not considered checked-in until their numbers are presented at the official check-in location.**

BOAT OPERATION

1. Anglers will NOT be permitted to operate the boat (main motor) during tournaments, only the Boat Captain. Anglers are only allowed to operate the trolling motor. Anglers may assist with operating the boat when loading and unloading the boat as long as life jackets are worn and secured around the angler's body.
2. During tournament hours, teams may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole- sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.
3. The use of mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB radios, etc., during tournament hours, is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, disabled boat, etc.) or to communicate with Tournament Officials.
4. Contestants are expected to remain on tournament waters and compete until the official end of the tournament, emergency situations notwithstanding. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility to compete in future tournaments.
5. An angler may not leave the boat to land a fish.
6. In a credible emergency, such as an inoperable boat, one or both competitors may transfer to another tournament boat, or a rescue boat, for immediate return to the weigh-in site. A competitor who chooses to remain with the disabled boat to await rescue, waives the right to protest or challenge the official weight of his catch. All teams involved in the rescue must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by Tournament Officials to be counted in the official tournament weigh-in. If a team's original boat becomes inoperable during a tournament and a replacement boat is available for the team to use, the boat must meet all criteria listed under, "Boat Insurance Requirements, "Horsepower Regulations", "Boat and Motor", and

"Basic Boat Equipment" above, and the boat must be inspected/checked by a Tournament Official before it can be used.

7. IN THE EVENT OF AN ACCIDENT THAT INVOLVES ONE OR MORE BOATS, TEAMS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE EVERYONE IS SAFE THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ALL BOATS INVOLVED IN AN ACCIDENT, AS WELL AS ALL WITNESSES TO THE ACCIDENT MUST CEASE FISHING AND RETURN TO THE LAUNCH SITE, IF POSSIBLE.
8. If time remains after an emergency is resolved, the Tournament Officials may allow the anglers to resume fishing, a "restart" will be allowed, and the teams may continue fishing and their catch will be counted. This applies only to a credible emergency or accident.
9. Failure of a team to render assistance to another team in a credible emergency, when requested, may be cause for immediate disqualification.
10. A boat must always remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Teams must leave and return to the official check-in point by boat, and both anglers must remain in the boat always except in the case of "natures call" or a credible emergency.
11. No Trailering: Loading a boat onto a trailer and driving to a ramp other than the official tournament launch site, during tournament hours, is strictly prohibited, except under the express direction and authority of the Tournament Officials. If a boat breaks down, the team's fish must be transported back to the weigh-in site by boat. No fish may be trailered back to the weigh-in site.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

1. Teams may use only artificial lures as bait. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during competition, except for pork strips or rinds.
2. Only one casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (maximum length ten feet) and one reel may be used by a competitor at a time. Other similar types of rigs may be in the boat, ready for use, however only one (1) rig is permitted to be used at a time.
3. No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in his daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have his catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by the assigned partner or other observer before being unhooked. With the fish's mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish for it to be considered hooked inside the mouth.
4. The use of "grippers" to land a bass is prohibited.
5. The Boat Captains are NOT ALLOWED TO FISH under any circumstances. Doing so will result in the disqualification of the team and boat captain from the current tournament and may result in disqualification of any future FBN events (Junior, High School, & Adult). NO EXCEPTIONS.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

1. Tournament waters shall be established by Tournament Officials for each tournament. Each team must obtain this information from Tournament Officials. Any water within these boundaries that are legally and obviously posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing," as well as the live-bass-release area established by Tournament Officials, will be off-limits to tournament teams and will be announced during the tournament briefing.

2. All waters within 50-yards of any marina gas pump are off-limits.

3. Only 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 is permitted.

4. All angling must be done from the boat.

5. Anywhere a landowner may have the legal authority to claim private property, these areas must be posted, or they will be considered tournament waters unless instructed otherwise by Tournament Officials at any time during the event. If forced to leave, a team must report the incident to Tournament Officials as soon as possible. Any water to which a team is barred access becomes off-limits to all teams.

6. 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.

7. Moving structures that include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water is only allowed if laws permit. No team may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

TEAMS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

1. During the competition days, teams must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
2. Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push off or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal.
3. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Teams must leave 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 Tournament Officials.
4. In such an emergency, or with permission of a Tournament Official, teams may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other teams, or a rescue boat designated by a Tournament Official. 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.
5. In breakdown situations and with a Tournament Official's permission, teams may transfer their boat's fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in, and they may leave their Boat Captain with the disabled boat. In such cases, the team must always stay with their catch and the assisting boat's Boat Captain should verify the catch. All competitors involved in the rescue must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by Tournament Officials in order to be counted in the official tournament weigh-in. Teams must still make it back to the tournament check-in on time per their flight. Teams that are late will still be accessed a penalty for being late.
6. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants can leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. 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 a Tournament Official.
7. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of Tournament Officials.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS

1. The official launch site and “check-out/check-in points” will be established by the Tournament Officials for each tournament. 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.
2. Each tournament will begin at safe daylight. Weigh-in time will be 2:30 pm in the time zone which the tournament is held unless otherwise announced by Tournament Officials.
3. Prior to launch time, all teams’ boats will be inspected by Tournament Officials for compliance with tournament requirements. Boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by Tournament Officials. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning may result in disqualification.
4. Prior to the start of every tournament, each team will be assigned a boat/team number. At the end of the tournament day, all teams will “check-in” with this assigned boat/team number before proceeding to the weigh-in area. Teams are not considered checked-in until their numbers are presented at the official check-in location. This includes boats with no fish. Any boat that fails to “check-in” at the end of the tournament day may be subject to disqualification and will not receive any points for participating that day.
5. After proper recognition at the check-in point, all fishing must cease, and teams should immediately proceed to the weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if weighing fish. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification from the tournament and all future tournaments.

SCORING AND FISH CARE DURING TOURNAMENTS

1. Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by using scales measuring in hundredths of a pound for each competitor’s catch during the competition days of the tournament.
2. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eyes, Shoal and Suwannee Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by Tournament Officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns). Only bass, as described above, which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line sweeping tail to make lobe of tail (no pinching) to line up in a long straight line with tip of jaw, shall be weighed.
3. At no time shall a team have in their possession more than the tournament limit. When one angler on the team is in the “act of culling”, the other angler may continue to fish. Should the second angler catch a fish while the first angler is “in the act of culling”, all fishing must cease until the additional fish are culled. 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. 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. 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 team has their fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; the angler must notify Tournament Officials before any awards are presented to receive a 2-pound penalty for each bass discovered.
4. Anglers who do not remove fin clips prior to fish check will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. No manmade or foreign object connected to a bass will be weighed and will be removed by Tournament Officials.
5. The official tournament length for bass shall be twelve (12) inches. Only bass described above that measure 12 inches or more in length on an "Official Golden Rule" with mouth closed will be weighed. Exemptions will be provided for exceeding State regulations. In the event exemptions are not provided, State Regulations will prevail.

6. A “short” fish brought to the scales for weigh-in shall result in the loss of that fish and shall result in a penalty of 1-pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. A “short” fish will not be counted in the creel limit.
7. Courtesy measurements will NOT be permitted at the weigh-in station; however, teams may check their boat rulers to the FBN board the morning of the tournament to make sure the boards are the same.
8. Don’t Kill Your Catch! A Team should make every effort to maintain the welfare of its catch throughout the day. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of Tournament Officials.
9. After team’s check-in at the official checkpoint, they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to Tournament Officials to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a team’s catch is measured, counted and verified by Tournament Officials, that team may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Teams should stay together until their fish are weighed.
10. Specially designed bags which increase the survival rate will be furnished by Tournament Officials and must be used for the weigh-in. No other bags are to be used to bring fish to the weigh- in area when these bags are in use. These weigh-in bags are the property of the FBN and must be returned. Anyone caught with an FBN weigh-in bag in their possession after a tournament is over may be disqualified from future FBNHS Tournaments.

Special Exception: If special weigh-in bags are not in use, competitors may bring their fish to the scales in their own bags and only when instructed by Tournament Officials.

CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.

1. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized a half of a pound of weight (8-ounces), which will be deducted from their daily score.
2. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, Tournament Officials may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather teams keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants can purchase ice on the water.
3. 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 an advised practice.
4. Bass must never be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament.
5. Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed. Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed.
6. A proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact B.A.S.S. officials.

LATE PENALTY

Teams who are not at the official check-in point, as described under “Official Check Points”, item #4, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor 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 the tournament begins, fishing tournament waters are prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. It is each Team’s responsibility to confirm check-in times each day.

TIES

In case of a tie, the following measures should be employed in this order to break the tie. The biggest bass is not used to break ties.

1. The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition.
2. The team with the heaviest single day's catch during competition.
3. The team with the second heaviest single day's catch during competition.
4. In the unlikely event that there is still a tie, the monies for first and second place shall be evenly split between the two teams. Points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points. In the instance where merchandise is involved, it will be awarded as determined by Tournament Officials.

INAPPROPRIATE CLOTHING/SIGNAGE

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing during FBN tournaments which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. The FBN may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in the FBN's sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official sponsors, or which are, in the FBN's sole judgment, in poor taste. The FBN will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances.

For a copy of the 2026-2027 Tournament Season Rules, go to www.floridabassnation.com.

BOAT CAPTAIN RULES

(Effective September 1, 2025 through August 31, 2026)

Each participating team must have a Boat Captain. Boat Captains must be at least 18-years of age or older and not in high school to operate a boat in a FBN Junior/High School Tournament Series.

Boat Captains must be of the age that would place them out of High School and legally able and eligible to operate a boat. The FBN acknowledges that in Florida, anyone born on or after January 1, 1988, must have in his/her possession photographic identification and a boater safety identification card while operating a vessel. As of January 1, 2025, B.A.S.S. will require anyone boat captaining a team in a B.A.S.S. Junior or High School Tournament (Bassmaster HS Opens & Nationals), hold/have a boater safety ID card or be a licensed boat captain. The Boater Safety Card and photo ID must be presented upon request.

Every tournament contestant and boat captain acknowledge they have read the rules upon registering for every tournament. All the rules in this document and the Boat Captain Rules must be followed. Failure to follow these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document or not participating at all in a tournament.

Boat Captains may only fall in the following criteria:

- Official faculty member of the student's institution
- Close family friend/State Nation member
- Parent of the student's High School B.A.S.S. Club
  - ➢ **If a potential boat captain is a local guide, then they will be ineligible to boat captain on the waters which they are a guide. FBN Tournament Officials reserves the right to deny any Boat Captain.**

High School:

During Competition coaches MAY:

1. Coach
2. Offer advice (send in plays)
3. Verbally explain techniques, how to…
4. Assist with culling fish, if one angler is in the act of culling. Captains can only verbally help cull fish. The angler must be the one handling and actually performing the act of culling.

During Competition coaches MAY NOT:

1. Fish
2. Teach by example
3. Run the trolling motor
4. Land fish with or without a net
5. Assist in removing backlashes
6. Assist in tying lures

JR:

During Competition, Boat Captains MAY:

1. Coach
2. Teach by example without fishing
3. Run the trolling motor
4. Land fish with or without a net
5. Assist with culling fish

6. Assist in removing backlashes
7. Assist in tying lures, Give advice
8. Verbally explain techniques, how to…

During Competition, coaches MAY NOT:

1. **Fish**

Violations of the above rules may result in the disqualification of the team and boat captain from the current tournament and may result in disqualification of any future FBN events (Junior, High School, & Adult). NO EXCEPTIONS.

During competition, anytime the combustion engine is running, coaches MUST be seated in the driver's seat in full control of the boat and each team member must be wearing a Coast Guard-approved chest type life preserver.