

trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bladder tanks, and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer, are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options, installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer, are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline, in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks, or containers capable of holding gasoline, can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted to be used by any competitor. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director.

#### 10. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat. BASS recommends live-wells be maintained at full level and aerators/recirculators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. Boaters must make a back seat available for non boaters each competition day.

#### 11. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

Prior to each day's start, each boat must be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Each day, each boat will be given a number, which must remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and at each check-in.

#### 12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE

During competition, in pro-am type events, pros will fish from the front deck, co-anglers from the rear deck, **NO EXCEPTIONS**. Co-anglers are only allowed to drive the pro's boat in emergency situations in both practice and competition, with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. During official practice, co-anglers not practicing with a pro competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of the boat. Any pro that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their co-angler partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a pro competitor request that the co-angler competitor not fish. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day. In BASS events where observers replace co-anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the pro in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

#### 13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the BASS Tournament Department. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing", by State or Federal agencies, as well as the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director, will be **OFF-LIMITS** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. During official practice and competition, competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so, if such action does not violate State or Federal regulations.

#### 14. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. In such an emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order

for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a **restart** will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

#### 15. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS

There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 11 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

#### 16. SCORING

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, and final winners, shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision. In the event a competitor has more than the above-described limit in possession, officials shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with the largest bass first. Once tournament officials reduce catch to prescribed limit and time allows, contestants may resume their competition day. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass, as described above, which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the **total score** of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered, will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they **must** present all **legal** fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed. Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

#### 17. CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however they are not allowed to receive ice from non contestants. Upon mutual consent of both pro and co-angler paired together for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight.

#### 18. LATE PENALTY

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 15, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late; to

be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch to include points credit under rule 19. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

#### 19. 300 Point System for all BASS Series.

At the conclusion of the tournament, points will be awarded to competitors as follow:

- 1st – 5th five point increments
- 6th – 10th four point increments
- 11th – 15th three point increments
- 16th – 99th two point increments
- 100th – balance of field, one point each, until end of field or points run out
- Bonus points – 5 per day for tournament leader
- Must weigh in a legal fish per tournament to receive points for that event
- Ties- See Rule #20 below.
- End of year point tiebreakers shall be total weights from full field days for season.

#### 20. TIES

In case of a tie for first place weight in the Pro division at the end of the tournament, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. All other ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with heaviest single day catch during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the second heaviest single day catch during competition. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors. Angler of the Year 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. In the Co-angler division, should a situation arise after using all the tie breakers a tie for first place occur, a sudden-death fish off will be arranged between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. Ties for any cut in the Pro and Co-angler division will be resolved in the same order explained above and if the tie is not broken, will be awarded as determined by tournament officials.

#### 21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS

Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Pros may be paired with pros, and share time. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the Tournament Briefing, which **must be attended** by each competitor. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency (see Rule 14 & 15). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by BASS.

#### 22. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE

An appeals committee will be established by BASS, which shall be comprised of one BASS employee not affiliated with the Tournament Department, and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed under PENALTIES (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings

shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal however penalties assessed under PENALTIES (b), (c), or (d) will remain until final ruling by Appeals Committee.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed under PENALTIES (e) & (f) until final ruling by Appeals Committee.

Appeals of non competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review

#### 23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. BASS may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in BASS' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official BASS sponsors, or which are, in BASS' sole judgment, in poor taste. BASS will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each pro agrees to wear an official BASS patch (2" X 2") on either left/right chest, with the top of the patch hitting the left/right collarbone during competition, including the weigh-in. This patch may be embroidered. Co-anglers agree to wear a BASS patch on their hat or front of their garment during competition, including the weigh-in. In addition, if BASS provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests) bearing the logos of BASS or the official sponsors of BASS, each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by BASS.

#### 24. BASS SPONSOR BOATS

When using BASS sponsor boats, anglers are responsible for the physical care of the boat. Damage incurred, determined to be excessive or wanton by the Tournament Director, shall result in the angler being responsible for all costs of repair.

#### 25. TAXES

Where and when state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to non-residents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Anglers/Observers are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Various States require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates and anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these States are responsible for remitting their tax to BASS. Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of Angler of Year Points, fines, and/or disqualification from all future BASS events.

#### 26. WAIVER AND RELEASE

As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.



BASS Tournament Department  
P.O. Box 10000  
Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830  
Phone: 407-566-2277 or 877-BASS-USA

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OFFICIAL RULES

2010

BASSMASTER  
OPENS



Effective January 1, 2010

Attn: Tournament Department

PO Box 10000

Lake Buena Vista, FL 32830

Phone: 407-566-2277 or 1-877-BASSUSA

www.Bassmaster.com

## 2010 BASSMASTER OPENS OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Name of Tournament .....

Social Security No. ....  
Name .....

Mailing Address .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....

Birth date .....

Home Phone ( ) .....

Business Phone ( ) .....

Cell Phone ( ) .....

E-mail address .....

BASS Member No. ....

Date BASS Membership Expires .....

Pro  Co-Angler

### FOR PRO ANGLER USE ONLY (NOT REQUIRED FOR NON-BOATERS)

Brand of Motor \_\_\_\_\_ Horsepower of motor \_\_\_\_\_

Rating on boat \_\_\_\_\_ Brand /Model of boat \_\_\_\_\_

*Because of AD&D life insurance provided by B.A.S.S.-ESPN to you during the tournament, you must name your beneficiary:*

Name .....

Emergency Contact ..... Phone .....

Do you have Boating Liability Insurance?  Yes  No (SEE RULE No. 1)

Have you had a boating accident(s) in the last 5 years?  Yes  No

If yes, explain .....

Do you have any physical impairment which would hinder your partner or endanger the safety and/or well-being of your partner or yourself?  Yes  No

If yes, explain .....

### PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

HAVING ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS IN THIS BOOKLET, I HAVE COMPLETED THE APPLICATION FORM AND AM ENCLOSED THE APPLICATION FORM, MY DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE PAYABLE TO BASS, LLC, ALONG WITH THIS PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT CONFIRMATION.

In signing this Official Entry Form and Participation Agreement, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, PAYMENT SCHEDULES, LATE FINES, and regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament series and I hereby release BASS, LLC., its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, the host, sponsors and tournament series officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred by me in connection with my participation in this tournament series. If I am using my own boat in the tournament series, I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, boat owners liability insurance (including coverage for third party property damage and bodily injury) with no Tournament exclusion, having a minimum limit of \$300,000 per occurrence. The insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer rated A or better by A.M. Best and Company. Policy must include international waters or separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable BASS Events. At BASS' request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of that insurance.

I hereby agree to waive my rights of privacy or publicity with the regard to the programs of the tournament in which I appear and consent to BASS, LLC's (and its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, and those acting under their permission or upon their authority), copyrighting, distributing, televising, publishing and using in any way the audio and visual portions of any television videotape, film and photographs or pictures of me or of interviews, scenes or other sequences in which I may be included, and any reproduction thereof, anywhere at any time through any medium or media for advertising, promotion, trade, television programming or other lawful purpose whatsoever; and I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

I further understand and agree that the Tournament Director reserves the right to reject my application for any reason and, upon such rejection, to refund the deposit or entry fee. I am currently a member in good standing with BASS.

In addition to adhering to the Rules, Code of Conduct, and Wrapped Boat and Uniform requirements presented in this booklet, I agree to participate in other important programs to promote the growth of the sport, and awareness of my individual angler brand and identity. In addition, to ensure effective and timely communication between BASS and the anglers, I understand that I am required to provide BASS with a current e-mail address. If I do not have my own e-mail address, I must furnish an e-mail address for a primary contact person. I agree that delivery of an e-mail to my designated contact will constitute delivery to me.

Print Name .....

Signature ..... Date .....

The following rules shall apply to all Bassmaster Open tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by BASS at any time upon notice by BASS to its members, which notice may be published on the BASS internet site at [www.bassmaster.com](http://www.bassmaster.com). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, Angler of Year points, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 22 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- (a) reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director  
(b) loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked and verified by either your partner/observer/camera operator. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified  
(c) loss of catch for the day of the violation  
(d) disqualification from the tournament in question  
(e) disqualification from future BASS events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.  
(f) any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or Angler of Year points.

### 1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

(i) This tournament is open to current members of BASS who are 16 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. However, employees, officers and director of BASS or its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children and sibling, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves shall not be eligible.

(ii) During the official practice and competition days of any BASS tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance covering the boat being used in the tournament. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitors using that boat. Random checks will be conducted and any competitor who does not have proof of in-force insurance with \$300,000 coverage may be disqualified.

(iii) A properly completed pre-printed and signed official entry form (attached to these rules) must be provided to the BASS tournament administrative team prior to the first day of competition. All competitors must complete a W-9 and when required a Form 590, or W-8 BEN provided by BASS (one time). Tournament entry fees must be received by the BASS Tournament Department on or before the balance due date. BALANCE DUE DATE WILL BE 30 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST COMPETITION DAY. Any balances or new entries received after the balance due date will be subject to a \$50 late fee. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. **DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE REGARDLESS OF DATE OF CANCELLATION. ANY BALANCE OF THE ENTRY FEE PAID IN EXCESS OF THE DEPOSIT WILL ONLY BE REFUNDED IF PROPER NOTIFICATION IS MADE TO THE BASS TOURNAMENT DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO THE BALANCE DUE DATE.** While a sponsor may pay the entry fee, competitors agree to use any and all official products provided by BASS in Open Series events.

(iv) The preferred method for tournament registration is on-line at [www.bassmaster.com](http://www.bassmaster.com).

### 2. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers participating in any BASS sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on BASS, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

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

### MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favorable public reputation of BASS 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 BASS. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the BASS organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with BASS policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of BASS, BASS officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

### 3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

(i) There will be no off limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. Special off limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Classic will be announced by BASS.

(ii) There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Three official practice days will begin at 12:01 am the Monday prior to the start of competition. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates. During practice and competition a competitor can only have the assistance or advice of another competitor for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters. **Competitors may only fish with other competitors during practice and competition.** Flying over tournament waters during competition is not allowed.

(iii) Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.

(iv) No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.

(v) During the official competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine-band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device, for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio, telephone, or any other type of communication device, only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, competitors may listen to the marine-band weather information.

(vi) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

(vii) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violated these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, will be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.

**By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a polygraph examination and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation.** The BASS Tournament Director, rules committee, or such person designated by the Tournament Director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a polygraph examination. The BASS 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 polygraph examination. The BASS Tournament Director, or his/her designee, shall attempt to have the location of such polygraph examination as close in proximity to the angler's permanent address, or such other mutually convenient location as possible. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination. Anglers taking a polygraph examination may be responsible for any and all costs incurred.

### 4. REGISTRATION

Each competitor must register in person with official BASS staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours shall result in a \$50 fine. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Any competitor who has not contacted the BASS Tournament Staff 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration period, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to either check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times from the BASS Tournament Department.

### 5. SAFETY

(i) Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. **During the official practice and competition,** each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn at all times the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

It is suggested the Pro competitor have a safety check with the Co-angler each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.

(ii) 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 competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days.

(iii) BASS 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 director.

(iv) IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

(v) COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

### 6. SPORTSMANSHIP

Competitors in BASS tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

(i) Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future BASS tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be

allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or in the weigh-in area.

(ii) Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification.

(iii) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

(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 BASS tournament, and/or disqualification from a BASS tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

### 7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

The use of a landing net is permitted. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited. Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. 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. Other rigs, as specified above, may be in the 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. 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. Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle at all times, including competitors who have been cut from competition.

### 8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be **250 HP.** Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by BASS. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from BASS tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by BASS 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.

### 9. BOAT AND MOTOR

For the safety of all competitors, **during both official practice 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. 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. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing, is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However,