Official Rules
B.A.S.S. Nation

Bassmaster B.A.S.S. Nation Series
Effective January 1, 2025

2025 Bassmaster B.A.S.S. Nation Series
ANGLER PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

P1. COMPLIANCE

This Angler Participation Agreement and the 2025 Mercury Bassmaster B.A.S.S. Nation Series presented by Lowrance at Tournament Rules, a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference, (the Participation Agreement and Official Rules collectively referred to herein as the "Agreement") sets forth the terms and conditions upon which I will be permitted to participate in any or all Bassmaster B.A.S.S. Nation Series Tournament Events (the "Tournament Series") during the 2025 calendar year. By signing this Agreement, the undersigned (referred to as "I" or "Angler" or "Competitor"), hereby agree to be bound by and comply with the provisions thereof. I also agree to abide by and comply with the B.A.S.S. Angler Code of Conduct, and all other guidelines, regulations, payment schedules and instructions communicated to me in writing by B.A.S.S. I affirm that I am a member in good standing with B.A.S.S., I am physically fit and that there are no health-related reasons or problems which preclude my participation in the Tournament Series.

P2. RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION

2.1. I expressly assume all risks associated with my participation in the Tournament Series and for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns, I hereby waive, release and discharge B.A.S.S., LLC, its agents, employees, owners, its affiliates and subsidiaries (collectively B.A.S.S.), the hosts, sponsors, and Tournament Series (collectively "Released Parties") from any and all losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses (including without limitation, attorney's fees and related costs), of any kind (hereinafter "Claims") arising out of or in connection with my participation in the Tournament Series, including but not limited to Claims involving, death, disability, personal injury and/or property damage. I hereby INDEMNIFY, DEFEND, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the Released Parties for any and all Claims arising as a result of my participation in this Tournament, whether brought by me or my agents/legal representatives or by third parties, relating to my participation in this Tournament. I acknowledge that this Tournament may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, illness and/or possible exposure to COVID-19 or other communicable diseases and personal loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by water conditions, temperature, weather, equipment,

actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, and spectators. This release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

2.2. I shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Released Parties against all Claims, whether or not a lawsuit or other proceeding is filed, to the extent that they arise out of : (1) my breach of the terms of this Agreement, (2) gross negligence, or willful misconduct by me, my agents or those acting on my behalf; (3) my violation of any applicable law, ordinance, rule, or regulation, including but not limited to all rules and guidelines applicable to Tournament Series events; (4) breach of any warranty provided by me to Released Parties hereunder. I shall provide B.A.S.S. with prompt notice of any claim and give complete control of its defense and settlement to B.A.S.S. I shall also cooperate in all reasonable respects with B.A.S.S. its insurance company, the Released Parties (as applicable) and their legal counsel in the defense of such claim. If I fail to promptly indemnify and defend a covered claim, the Released Parties shall have the right to defend themselves, and in such case, I shall promptly reimburse the Released Parties, for all of their associated costs and expenses.

P3. GRANT OF RIGHTS

3.1. For good and valuable consideration, including but not limited to B.A.S.S. allowing the angler participation in the Tournament, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, I hereby irrevocably grant permission to B.A.S.S., the successors and assigns of each of the foregoing, and each of their respective agents, licensees, designees, and assigns and those other parties acting under such parties' permission or upon their authority (collectively, with B.A.S.S., the "Licensees"), in perpetuity, a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free, fully paid-up license and non-revocable right to reproduce, display, exhibit, publish, broadcast, distribute, and otherwise use, and permit others to use, my name, image, nickname, initials, symbols, likeness, signature, photograph, voice, statements, performances, actions, biographical material, and any and all attributes of my personality and appearance (collectively, my "Identity") in materials created in connection with my participation in the Tournament Series and related events and activities of B.A.S.S. (collectively, the "Materials"), alone or in combination with any other materials, in connection with any B.A.S.S.-authorized production, collectibles, merchandise or publication, including, but not limited to, in connection with the promotion of B.A.S.S., the Tournament Series and any other events or programs staged by B.A.S.S., in any and all manner and media now known or hereafter devised, including without limitation, in print, within television programs, motion pictures, websites, social media channels, including without limitation, physical or digital trading cards or other collectible merchandise, public relations materials and for any other lawful purpose in B.A.S.S.'s sole discretion. For clarity, the foregoing shall also include the right to use my Identity in connection with the publicity, advertising, promotion, exhibition or other exploitation of the Materials, including, but not limited to, my appearance at and / or performance during the Tournament Series and related events and activities and my inclusion within any of the Materials. I agree to promptly and fully comply with all filming, camera location and other rules, guidelines and instructions of B.A.S.S. during each Tournament Series.

3.2. I hereby represent and warrant that I have the right to grant these rights and that my granting these rights will not infringe the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain all necessary rights and permissions from all applicable third parties (i.e., those sponsoring or affiliated with me or my team and boat) to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in this paragraph 3.1 (collectively, the "Third Party Rights"). I will ensure that these Third Party Rights grant B.A.S.S. and the other Licensees the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignia, trade dress or other intellectual property (collectively "Third Party IP") shown in any Materials featuring me, or otherwise in connection with B.A.S.S.'s use of my Identity as set forth in paragraph 3.1(for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), and neither B.A.S.S. nor any other Licensee shall be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties for such uses of the Third-Party IP. I agree to defend, hold harmless and indemnify B.A.S.S. and each of the Licensees from and against, any and all third-party claims, damages, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of claims alleging that I do not have the right to grant the foregoing license and permission with respect to Third Party IP. I hereby represent and warrant that I have the right to grant these

rights and that my granting these rights will not infringe upon the rights of any third party. I represent and warrant that I have or shall obtain all necessary rights and permissions from all applicable third parties (i.e., those sponsoring or affiliated with me or my team and boat) to effectuate the grant of rights set forth in this paragraph 3 (collectively, the "Third Party Rights"). I will ensure that these Third Party Rights grant (or otherwise authorize or permit) B.A.S.S. and the other Licensees the right to utilize such third-party logos, insignia, trade dress or other intellectual property (collectively "Third Party IP") shown in any Materials featuring me, or otherwise in connection with B.A.S.S.'s use of my Identity as set forth in paragraph 3.1 (for example, on apparel worn by me or on items used by me), and neither B.A.S.S. nor any other Licensee shall be required to seek approvals from such Third Parties for such uses of the Third-Party IP. I agree to defend, hold harmless and indemnify B.A.S.S. and each of the Licensees from and against, any and all third-party claims, damages, costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees) arising out of claims alleging that I do not have the right to grant the foregoing license and permission with respect to Third Party IP.

3.3. I acknowledge that the Licensees have no obligation to use any or all of the Materials or my Identity. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve any finished product or the use to which it is applied and I agree no further approval is required for the Licensees to use any Materials or my Identity and that the Licensees will not be liable to me for any distortion or illusionary effect resulting from the exhibition, publication or broadcast of the Materials or my Identity. I acknowledge and agree that no further payment or consideration will be due to me for any of the Licensees' use of the Materials or my Identity as authorized herein.

3.4. I acknowledge that all right, title, and interest in and to the Materials, including without limitation all copyrights and trademark rights, shall be the sole and exclusive property of B.A.S.S. and that B.A.S.S. has the unlimited right in perpetuity and throughout the universe to edit, modify, distribute and otherwise use such Materials. With regard to the Licensees' exploitation of the rights granted hereunder, I, on behalf of myself and my heirs, executors, administrators and assigns, hereby irrevocably (a) release, discharge and waive all claims, demands, losses and liabilities of any nature against the Licensees that I, my personal representatives, agents, heirs, executors, administrators and assigns had, now have, or hereafter may have, including, but not limited to, claims in the nature of copyright or other intellectual property infringement, defamation, disparagement, slander, false light, violation of the right of privacy or publicity, or the like, and (b) covenant not to make any claims against any of the Licensees with respect to the rights granted hereunder.

3.5. During the Tournament Series, and subject to compliance with B.A.S.S. guidelines, B.A.S.S. hereby grants to the undersigned Angler, the right to create, use and publish Angler created materials ("Angler Materials") such as still photos and video shot by Angler, solely on Angler's website and social media channels. Angler may also live stream during a tournament, except when Bassmaster LIVE has a camera in Angler's boat. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke this permission at any time if B.A.S.S. in its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates any B.A.S.S. rules or any applicable law. In such event, Angler shall promptly cease from live streaming and/or remove any related content from all applicable accounts and platforms (and in any event, no later than within two (2) hours of notification).

P4. INSURANCE

I represent and warrant 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 should list B.A.S.S. as primary and noncontributory to any insurance procured by B.A.S.S. Additionally, 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 a separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable B.A.S.S. events. I shall provide B.A.S.S. with satisfactory evidence of that insurance prior to my participation in any Tournament Series event or at any time requested by B.A.S.S.

P5. MISCELLANEOUS

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

5.2 Other Events. If Angler elects to participate in other B.A.S.S. sanctioned tournaments, Angler will be required to execute a Participation Agreement containing the applicable rules and regulations, code of conduct and Tournament Series specific content such as wrapped boat and uniform guidelines. Failure to comply with guidelines may result in a $250.00 fine.

5.3 Additional Requirements. Angler agrees to participate in programs recommended or developed by B.A.S.S. that promote the growth of the sport and to fully support programs intended to raise awareness of my individual angler brand and identity.

P6. LEGAL

6.1 Credibility Assessment. By registering and signing the Participation Agreement, Angler agrees to submit to a credibility assessment, at any time during the Tournament series and abide by its conclusion and hereby waives any expectation of privacy relation to his participation in the Tournament series.

6.2 Communication. Angler must provide B.A.S.S. with a current e-mail address. Angler agrees that delivery of any notice, communication, guideline or instruction to Angler via email shall constitute notice to Angler and shall comply with any notice requirements set forth herein. Angler must also provide a United States provider personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from B.A.S.S.

6.3. Governing Law, Venue, and Jurisdiction. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in all respects in accordance with the substantive laws of the state of Alabama, without regard to its choice of law and/or conflicts of law principles.

6.4**.** Miscellaneous**.** If any provision of this Agreement is determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such determination shall in no way affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision herein. This Agreement along with the Code of Conduct, Official Rule, etc. sets forth the entire agreement of the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and supersedes any and all prior or contemporaneous oral and/or written representations, discussions, negotiations, understandings, and/or agreements relating to the subject matter hereof. This Agreement may not be modified except by an instrument in writing signed by both parties. In signing this document, I am not relying on any promises, representations or other statements that are not contained in this Agreement.

6.5. Electronic Signature. The execution of this document by electronic mail or by any other electronic or digital means shall be deemed to constitute effective execution of this document. Any signature transmitted by facsimile, email or other electronic or digital means shall be deemed an original signature for all purposes.

6.6. Arbitration. Any controversy or claim arising out of or relating to this Agreement, or the breach, invalidity, enforceability, arbitrability, or interpretation thereof, shall be settled by arbitration administered by the American Arbitration Association in accordance with its Commercial Arbitration Rules, and judgment on the award, which shall be rendered by a single arbitrator, may be entered in any court having jurisdiction thereof. B.A.S.S. and the Angler agree that no arbitrator shall have authority to conduct a class or collective proceeding, or to join or consolidate any claim with the claim of another person. To the extent permitted by applicable law, all claims must be brought solely in B.A.S.S.'s or the Angler's individual capacity, and not as a plaintiff or class member in any purported class or collective proceeding. All mediations arising under this provision shall take place in Birmingham,

Alabama, and the Angler consents to that forum and waives all objections to the propriety or convenience of that arbitration forum.

6.7. Requirement for Consent of Parent or Guardian. If I am under the age of majority in the state in which I reside, I understand that I must have the consent of my parent or guardian to participate in the tournament series. I agree to provide accurate and complete information to B.A.S.S. to facilitate B.A.S.S.'s efforts to secure such consent. I acknowledge that my failure to provide accurate information or secure consent from my parent or guardian may result in my disqualification from the Tournament Series.

Content Usage Guidelines

B.A.S.S. holds the content rights to the tournaments it owns and operates. However, B.A.S.S. grants certain exceptions, including the following content rights, to tournament participants:

- Anglers may use provided photos from the official B.A.S.S. content distribution system INFLCR for use on their own social media pages and/or website.

- Anglers may use video or still images, shot by the angler during a tournament, for promotional or marketing purposes on the Angler's website and in social media. You may also live stream during a tournament, except when Bassmaster LIVE has a camera in your boat.

- During tournaments B.A.S.S. may ask to mount a POV streaming camera in a competitor's boat (the footage may be used in B.A.S.S.'s web or TV coverage). B.A.S.S. may also request the Marshal operate these, or other (POV, smartphone or other) cameras. A competitor is required to comply, even if they already has a personal camera mounted in his boat. Refusing to comply may result in a penalty.

- If a competitor has a personal camera person or crew following them on the water, that person or team must not get in the way of Bassmaster photographers or videographers who are covering the tournament. Off the water, they must follow the general guidelines of any media covering the tournament as set forth by B.A.S.S. Communications.

- B.A.S.S. also encourages anglers to send photos, videos and updates to update@bassmaster.com for exposure on Bassmaster.com and our social media pages.

- In social media, you may use our hashtag #bassnation and/or #Bassmaster to amplify and spread your post to our millions of fans. B.A.S.S. also encourages anglers to tag B.A.S.S. in relevant content so that we are able to share (where applicable). For an updated list of B.A.S.S. social visit: bassmaster.com/social

B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke these exceptions, and the angler must remove the tournament-related content, if B.A.S.S. in its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other B.A.S.S. rules.

B.A.S.S. wants to help promote both your brand and the sport of professional bass fishing through its multimedia assets. If there are stories written about you or by you appearing on Bassmaster.com, B.A.S.S. grants permission to link to these stories, and any others on our website, from your website or social media pages. You may also grab photos from Bassmaster.com to promote yourself and the Nation Series. Please do credit Bassmaster.com.

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

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

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip _____

Cell Phone #:_____

Date: _____

Official Rules of Competition
B.A.S.S. Nation

Effective January 1, 2025

The following rules shall apply to all B.A.S.S. Nation Events except that (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by B.A.S.S. immediately upon notice by B.A.S.S. to its members, which notice may be published on the B.A.S.S. internet site at (www.bassmaster.com). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the B.A.S.S. Tournament Officials or their designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Officials or rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and entry fees and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth below, the decision of the Tournament Officials, their designee, or the rules committee shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

i. Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open only to current members of B.A.S.S. who are 16 years of age or older, who are active members of the appropriate B.A.S.S. Nation state chapter, and who have participated in the appropriate state B.A.S.S. Nation qualifying tournament(s) or National Qualifier Tournaments. However, full-time Bassmaster Elite Series or MLF Tour pros or Tackle Warehouse Invitational pros, employees, officers and directors of B.A.S.S. 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. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves may not be eligible.

ii. During the official practice and competition days of any B.A.S.S. tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum 300,000 liability insurance. 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 a separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable B.A.S.S. events. I shall provide B.A.S.S. with proof of insurance covering the term of the Tournament series prior to my participation in any Tournament Series event or at any time requested by B.A.S.S. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S. requirements.

iii. Competitors will be provided with a payment schedule, which they must adhere to. Each calendar year prior to competing in a B.A.S.S. event, all competitors must complete a W-9 and when required a Form 590 or W-8 BEN provided by B.A.S.S. If tax status or address changes occur new forms must be submitted prior to participation in the next B.A.S.S. event. The Tournament Officials reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and the right to extend the acceptance date. Nation competitors' deposits are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of date of cancellation.

iv. As a participant in B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, you agree, if you qualify and are invited to participate in the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship or the Bassmaster Classic to use all official equipment provided by B.A.S.S.

2. RULE ENFORCEMENT, PENALTIES, AND APPEAL PROCESS

i. B.A.S.S. Nation competitors are required to police themselves each competition day. The integrity of the field, the company, and the sponsors must be a top priority. If an angler has a concern regarding their catch or knowledge of possible violations by another competitor, they should report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately or consult with tournament officials immediately after weigh-in. Failure to report violations, suggestions to another competitor 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 this rule. All parties of interest will be provided with a copy.

ii. Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by B.A.S.S., and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the Bassmaster Nation Series or other B.A.S.S. circuits, rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 2 hours of the final flight check-in on the day of the alleged violation.

iii. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:
- Reduction of practice hours or competition hours as determined by the Tournament Officials
- Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations. All bass under question must be marked and verified by your partner/camera operator or documented on POV camera. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified
- Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- Disqualification from the tournament in question
- Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events or for a specific period up to or including a lifetime disqualification
- Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Officials including, but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of the Year points. Also see fines schedule under Angler Code of Conduct

iv. Credibility Assessment

a. By signature on the Nation participation agreement or the official entry form and rules, each competitor agrees to submit to a credibility assessment should they be accused of any rule violation. Failure to pass an assessment is appealable. The appeals process including any retest will be case dependent and at the sole discretion of B.A.S.S. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Officials or their designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert and training qualified examiners to administer and interpret the results, perform an independent quality control review and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of examiners, the questions which may be asked during the assessment. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Officials or their designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest B.A.S.S. headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make themselves available at the location selected by the Tournament Officials and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Prior to any exam, competitors must discuss any information received unintentionally per rule 5. Anglers taking an assessment may be responsible for any and all costs incurred. Random assessments may be administered on site during the course of any event.

v. Appeals

a. Appeals for penalties assessed under Rule 2 (“RULE ENFOREMENT, PENALTIES, AND APPEAL PROCESS”) must be presented in writing to the tournament officials within 24 hours from the time of the ruling. If a competitor admits to violating a rule, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation an appeals committee will be established by B.A.S.S., which shall be comprised of one B.A.S.S. employee not affiliated with the Tournament Department and two current or recently retired Bassmaster anglers who were not in the event in question. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (14) business days, if possible, from the date of receipt of the written appeal. All parties must make themselves available at the prescribed time of the hearing. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

b. To protect the integrity of the appeals process, names of the ruling committee members, witnesses, and/or other involved parties are to remain confidential and must not be disclosed to the public.

c. Competitors are allowed to compete while under appeal. Should an angler fishing under appeal make a cut, the next angler below the cut will be invited to compete on the cut day with the clear

understanding that any prize money and points he might earn will be contingent upon the outcome of the appeal. If the appealing angler wins their appeal, the additional angler below the cut will revert to the points and prize money he/she was due at the end of fishing prior to the cut day. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including AOY points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after the appeals committees' final ruling, and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

3. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S.-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 professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Any angler's immediate family members, friends, or other agent representing their behalf who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may result in fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.

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

i. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or by others on behalf of competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document:
    a. Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors, fans and volunteers during an event.
    b. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
    c. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors.
    d. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to the fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
    e. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
    f. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event, including comments on social media.
    g. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
    h. Intentionally interfering with an angler's ability to compete.
    i. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and from participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament(s).

ii. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, a conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude may be grounds for disqualification from the competition and for rejecting any application for participation.

iii. Angler Code of Conduct Penalty Guidelines

    a. Any competitor who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings and suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S.-sanctioned events, permanent ban from

competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S. The following Angler code of conduct guidelines may be used when determining the appropriate penalties.

b. When an B.A.S.S. Nation Competitor is found to have violated the Angler Code of Conduct, the following escalating scale of fines may be imposed, in addition to any other penalties that may be deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S. Code of Conduct violations are not appealable and resulting penalties are final:

Level 1	Not less than $100 nor more than $200
Level 2	Not less than $250 nor more than $500
Level 3	Not less than $550 nor more than $1,000
Level 4	Possible suspension or ban from the B.A.S.S. Nation Series and other levels of B.A.S.S. competition.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

Competitors in B.A.S.S. 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 – as long as such prescribed drug does not impede the ability to operate a vehicle) by any competitor during official practice or the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all futureat B.A.S.S. tournamentsofficials sole discretion. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area.

ii. Maximum courtesy must be always be practiced, especially with regard to boating and angling on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy may result in disqualification.

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

iv. In both official practice and competition, competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.

5. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

i. There will be a 10 day off-limits period for any B.A.S.S. Nation tournament prior to the first day of practice. Special off-limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Classic and the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship will be announced by B.A.S.S.

ii. There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Three- and one-half official practice days will begin at 12:01 a.m. the Saturday prior to the start of the competition. No competitors will be allowed on tournament waters after Noon local time on Tuesday, until the first day of competition, except under the exceptions listed in Rule 5(x). Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone-specific to the local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates. The competitor is responsible to know and observe these dates and times.

iii. The no-information rule will apply during any posted off-limits period, official practice, and competition. "Bartering" refers to the exchange of goods and services, with or without money. The purchase, solicitation,

or bartering for any information on locating or catching fish in tournament waters—whether through GPS waypoints, hiring guides, or other means—is strictly prohibited. Sharing tournament winnings with competitors or non-competitors in exchange for such information is also banned. Purchasing or bartering for fishing locations or information from another competitor is not allowed and will result in disqualification for both parties.

iv. During official practice and competition, competitors may not solicit or intentionally receive assistance or advice for locating or catching bass, nor may they enter tournament waters with anyone who has been on the waters during the off-limits period. This includes professional guides, wildlife agency employees, or any individuals deemed "experts" on the waters.

v. Competitors may only fish with other competitors during official practice and competition. Once daily cuts are made, those not making the cut are no longer considered part of the tournament. Competitors who make the cut cannot receive any information from anglers no longer in the competition.

vi. Any contestant accused of violating the off-limits or no-information rule may be required to take a credibility assessment. Failure to pass the test will result in disqualification.

vii. During off limits, official practice, and competition, competitors may not place brush, or other physical attractors, including chum of any kind, in tournament waters nor can another person do so on their behalf.

viii. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the Tournament Director. The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition. During the official practice, competitors are not allowed to livewell or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.

ix. No practicing at night, defined as beginning 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, including running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low-light conditions, running lights should be in operation.

x. Competitors renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to the slip location with permission from the Tournament Director. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not snorkel, “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters.

xi. During the official competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not make or receive cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters or to gain any competitive advantage. During competition days anglers may not view or visit websites or participate in social media with the intent of gaining a competitive advantage. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations requiring emergency or similar services. Only under the direction of B.A.S.S. officials, competitors may use smart phones for BASSTrakk purposes to include entering the angler's unofficial weight during the tournament day but not viewing BASSTrakk weights via Bassmaster.com. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes.

xii. 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.

6. REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

i. Each competitor must register in person with official B.A.S.S. Nation tournament staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Failure to register/check in, in person, during the prescribed hours may result in a $100 fine. Any competitor who has not contacted the B.A.S.S. Nation 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 the registration/check-in time and location or obtain times from the B.A.S.S. Nation Department.**

7. SAFETY

i. Safe boat conduct must always be observed by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each boat passenger 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, worn outside the outermost clothing, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be the reason for disqualification. Inflatable PFD's are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that Inflatable PFDs be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFD's on board. B.A.S.S. Nation anglers must carry two Coast Guard approved chest-type life preservers per boat. *It is required that each contestant prior to official practice successfully complete a boating safety course, boating safety certification, or possess a USCG Captain's license. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.*

ii. When boating in low visibility situations, i.e., fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner not to exceed any restrictions determined by tournament officials.

iii. Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by B.A.S.S., may be approved for competition.

iv. Tournament officials may delay, shorten or cancel any part of a competition day, official practice day or restrict tournament waters because of weather or other factors. Delays on full field days resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check-in) may result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days. In the event of cancelled day(s), any B.A.S.S. Nation Series event will be extended no more than one day after the scheduled conclusion date.

v. B.A.S.S. 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. This will never result in speed limits in excess of those posted on local waters. Additionally, a safe operating speed is impacted by a number of factors and should be maintained at all times and is the sole responsibility of the Competitor. All boats used in Nation Series events must have a GPS unit on the console capable of displaying current miles per hour while on plane.

vi. In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

vii. Competitors and partners are allowed to leave the boat in case of emergency or when danger may be imminent. Competitors should always use their best judgement in these situations.

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

i. Use of landing nets landing bass is allowed during tournament competition unless specified by tournament director. Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited. During official practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. The use of braid or other line to attach one stinger hook (single or treble) is allowed but the line cannot be over two inches in length. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (see Rule 18 below). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, except for pork strips, rinds or like products.

ii. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Rigging, harness or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above.

iii. Twin arm spinnerbaits, twin arm underspins and twin arm buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers of twin arm baits must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these twin arm baits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the head or line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even with or trail behind where blades attach to the wires. B.A.S.S. officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

iv. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks their line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, they are allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with their hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. You may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel or other device. If a fish in your possession exits the boat, you are allowed to make an attempt to grab it with your hands. Once you resume fishing, that fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner.

v. No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When knowingly fishing for bedding bass using any means (whether visually, blind-casting, using forward facing live sonar or any other method), to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth. 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. Anglers must verify the fish is hooked in the mouth with another person in the boat or their POV camera. Otherwise in such type events credibility assessments may ask this question. Any fish hooked in the mouth where the hook did not enter through the mouth, but entered through the gills must be released.

vi. Competitors, including those who have been "cut" from competition in an event, are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another.

9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

i. The maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower. 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 competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry formAngler Participation agreement and rules, the boat, electronics data and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel if there is any

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 B.A.S.S. tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by B.A.S.S. must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits may result in penalties listed under Rule 2 above.

10. BOAT AND MOTOR

These restrictions apply during official practice and competition.

i. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufacturer's lanyard may be used and must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear.

ii. 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.

iii. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used and must be equipped with wheel steering. No other steering device will be permitted.

iv. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Each competitor's boat shall be restricted to one (1) electric motor to be mounted at the bow of the boat. Electric motor(s) mounted at the stern of the boat are prohibited. Each competitor may keep a spare trolling motor in the boat in case one malfunctions. Trolling motor brackets and electronics are not considered "raised platforms." Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. 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 either practice or competition and is defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. NO EXCEPTIONS.

v. 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 competitor.

vi. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. Jet drive engines, surface 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 with the written approval of tournament officials.

vii. All electronics must be mounted in a way not to obstruct the competitor's line of sight while piloting the boat on plane. It is recommended that console electronics be mounted in a manner where the tops of graphs are no higher than 26 inches from the steering column where it exits the console, and bow electronics be mounted in a manner where the tops of graphs are no higher than 18 inches from the front deck.

viii. Competitors will be required to allow B.A.S.S. to access their electronics for media purposes. Failure to allow access may result in a penalty. If B.A.S.S. is unable to access the unit in the bow of the boat, the angler will be required to mirror through console electronics with an unobstructed view.

11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT

i. During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump. During the official competition, every boat must have livewell

space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limited catch of bass. B.A.S.S. recommends livewells be maintained at full level and the aerator/recirculation set on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity are proper and adequate.

ii. Anglers must make a back seat available for a partner each competition day as needed. Competitors are required to make one dry storage compartment available to the partner and to provide the partner ample space for ice, food and drink.

12. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

Prior to each day's start, each boat **must** be inspected and checked by a tournament official. Each day, each boat may 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.

13. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE

i. During the competition, in Boater - Non boater type events, Boaters will fish from the front deck, and Non boaters will fish from the rear deck, NO EXCEPTIONS. During both official practice and competition, non-boaters are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the Boater's boat in emergency situations except for loading and unloading from trailers. During official practice, non-boaters not practicing with a Boater competitor may practice, drive and fish from the front deck of their boat. During official practice, non-boaters practicing with Boaters are allowed to fish from the front deck and operate the trolling motor. During official practice, non-boaters not practicing with a boater must retain the proper Insurance and Boat Regulations per this document.

ii. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their non-boater partner shall be disqualified. At no time may a Boater competitor request that the non-boater competitor not fish. In B.A.S.S. events where observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

iii. If B.A.S.S. asks to mount a POV camera or similar camera in an angler's boat, the B.A.S.S. camera has priority, in terms of placement and access to power, over the angler's personal camera.

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Officials for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the B.A.S.S. Tournament Department.

i. Any waters within these boundaries that are legally and obviously posted "Off-Limits," "No Fishing," "no boats," "restricted," or "no trespassing," by state or federal authorities as well as the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Officials, will be off-limits to tournament competitors. 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 while fishing.

ii. In states where landowners 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 competitor must report the incident to tournament officials as soon as possible. Any water to which a competitor is barred access becomes off-limits to all competitors.

iii. Prior to 8 am local time the day before the tournament is scheduled to begin, any questionable areas or areas with language or markings intended to restrict public access must be brought to the attention of the tournament director. Questionable areas will be off limits until a determination can be made with the authorities and may be announced in the briefing or via text for all to know unless determined

otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

iv. Once the schedule is announced and prior to the 10 day off limits period competitors must follow all local laws and regulations including but not limited to cutting or placing trees or brush or placing other physical attractors of any kind (including chum). Moving structure to include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water for navigation is only allowed if laws permit. No competitor may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

15. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN THE BOAT

i. All angling must be done from the boat. During official practice and competition, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. You are not allowed to use a winch, pulley, come along, cable, rope, or similar device/tools to gain access to tournament waters. 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. A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting the majority of weight outside the boat must be released immediately. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure, all fishing must cease until competitors are back in the boat. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until competitors are back together in the boat. Only then may fishing resume. The boat must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours.

ii. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both anglers must always remain in the boat, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions are spelled out in Rules 5 (“Safety”), 15 and 18 (“Catch and Release”). 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, with the following exception. In breakdown situations and with a tournament official’s permission, there are three permitted methods for returning to check-in:

   a. Non-boaters may transfer their boat’s (Boater and Non-boater’s) fish to another competitor’s boat and ride to check-in, and they may leave their Boater with the disabled boat. In such cases, the non-boater must always stay with their catches, and the assisting boat’s partners should verify the catch. Any angler whose boat is disabled that rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh-in is not allowed to fish.
   b. The boat may be towed in by a non-contestant with the boater and non-boater remaining in the boat.
   c. In rare circumstances a rescue boat may be designated only with approval from the tournament director. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or designee.

   Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification.

iii. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency is resolved by tournament officials, 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.

iv. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except at the discretion of tournament officials.

16. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS

i. Unless specified by tournament officials, there shall be only one official checkpoint 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 checkpoint in the afternoon will 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 Officials. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to designated tournament officials by means of the numbers described in Rule 13 ("Boat Identification") or visually and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area.

17. SCORING

i. Partners must stay together through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass for the daily catch to count. Once the bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process. Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament.

ii. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The Boater limit shall be five (5) and the non-boater limit shall be three (3) of the above species and varieties per day unless specified otherwise by tournament officials (for example: hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events).

iii. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor 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 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 competitor has their fish verified and weighed and, upon returning to the boat, discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that was not presented to officials; he/she then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check-in to receive a 2-pound penalty for each bass discovered. Failure to notify officials after one (1) hour of final flight check-in time will result in a loss of a day's catch.

iv. Anglers who present fish at the verification table with fin clips attached will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. No man-made or foreign object(s) connected to a bass, outside of natural causes, will be weighed and shall be removed by tournament officials. Competitors are not allowed to replace anything attached to a bass or regurgitated by a bass to be included as part of their catch.

v. 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 fails to measure the official length shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor.

vi. 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 placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

18. CATCH AND RELEASE

i. Culling dead bass is prohibited. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces to be deducted from their daily score.

ii. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The tournament director or designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the tournament director or designees may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm-weather tournaments that anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Competitors are allowed to obtain ice and other items for fish care from competitors and/or non-competitors.

iii. Upon mutual consent of both boater and non-boater paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one (1) hour prior to check-in time of the first flight. Anglers may be allowed to weigh in early with permission from the tournament director. Small dip nets for culling purposes are encouraged. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in livewells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised.

iv. Only nonpenetrating culling clips and culling beams are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates or is designed to penetrate the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed. A proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices, please contact tournament officials.

19. LATE PENALTY

i. Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 17 ("Official Checkpoints"), at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of their 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. 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 in 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 for the daily pairings.

20. TIES

i. In case of a tie for first place weight in the boater 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.

ii. In case of a tie for first-place weight at the end of the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials.

iii. In case of a tie for first-place weight in the non-boater division at the end of the non-boater portion of the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship that is not resolved by the four (4) tiebreakers listed below, all tied non-boaters will advance to the final day of the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.

iv. All other ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) The individual with the heaviest single-day catch during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the second-heaviest single-day day catch during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal live fish weighed 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. In the instance

where merchandise is involved, it will be awarded as determined by tournament officials. Ties for any cut in the boater and non-boater division will be resolved in the same order explained above and when ties for cut positions are not broken by the foregoing procedures, competitors still tied will compete for the next cut.

21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS

i. Two competitors may be assigned to each boat. The announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the tournament briefing, which must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director, by each competitor. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time.

ii. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at their sole discretion, may reassign partners up to morning checkout. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart form the checkout point. When competitors in the same boat checkout at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions — see Rules 6 ("Safety"), 16 ("Competitors Must Remain in Boat") and 18("Catch and Release").

iii. 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 B.A.S.S.

22. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE

i. Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing, which may bear patches, logos, and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. B.A.S.S. may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc., that promote or advertise products that are, in B.A.S.S.'s sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official B.A.S.S. sponsors or which are, in B.A.S.S.'s sole judgment, in poor taste. B.A.S.S. will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each boater and non-boater agrees to wear an official B.A.S.S. shield (2 1/4 x 2 3/4 inches) on either left/right chest, with the top of the shield hitting the left/right collarbone or hat during competition, including the weigh-in. This B.A.S.S. shield must be printed or embroidered. In addition, if B.A.S.S. provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests) bearing the logos of B.A.S.S. or the official sponsors of B.A.S.S., each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by B.A.S.S.

23. B.A.S.S. SPONSOR BOATS

i. When using B.A.S.S. 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.

24. TAXES

i. Where and when state laws require income taxes be withheld on cash awards to non-residents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes, execution of all tax forms, and rules on both cash and merchandise awards. Various states require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates; anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these various states are responsible for remitting this tax to B.A.S.S. A failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of Angler of Year points, fines and/or disqualification from all future B.A.S.S. events.

25. WAIVER AND RELEASE

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

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Birmingham AL 35242
877-BASS-USA (227-7872)

I ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THE OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE B.A.S.S NATION SERIES AND AGREE TO THE TERMS SET FORTH THEREIN.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Date: _____