

Tennessee Bass Federation

Junior Bass Rules

Revised 8/16/2022

1. Rule changes

The following rules are for Tennessee Junior Bass tournaments and shall remain unchanged. The tournament committee, consisting of the tournament director and state officers, may change the rules for special tournaments. The decision of the tournament committee shall be final in all cases.

2. Participants and eligibility

This tournament is open to all members in good standing of Tennessee Junior Bass Clubs that are in good standing. Contestants must not have started the ninth grade before the end of the current tournament year. Proof of grade enrollment should be provided at the club level and may be asked for at any state event. Each team will consist of a boat captain that is 19 years of age or older and two anglers. No angler will be allowed to fish alone. The boat captain must maintain on board at all times proof of liability insurance in the amount of \$300,000. This must also be provided to the tournament director upon registration. No team may fish without all release papers and proof of boat insurance.

3. Registration

All competitors must register as a team. Early registration is highly recommended to allow for proper planning of the event. A late fee may be imposed for registration on the day of the event. Entries with inaccurate or incomplete data may be rejected by the tournament director. Registration information will be made available as soon as possible.

4. Pre-Tournament Practice

During official practice and tournament hour only the boat captain may operate the combustion engine except in dire emergency and loading or unloading of the boat. No Skin Diving or Scuba Diving on Tournament Waters for 7 calendar days prior to tournament day. No using cell phones (including texting), CB radios, marineradios, or any other type of communications during the tournament. There will be no off limit days.

5. Purchasing of information

Purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available services) and the hiring of fishing guide services or a coach is not permitted by contestants or coaches within 15 days of the tournament. Violation may result in disqualification.

6. Safety

Safe Boat conduct will be observed at all times by competitors and boat captains. All State laws will apply. All competitors must wear an approved life preserver at all times while in the boat. You must be at least 16 years of age to wear an inflatable life preserver. The tournament director has the right to delay or cancel the tournament due to weather or other factors that might endanger the competitors. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a recommended-on plane seating location with feet resting on main floor when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting or leaning on pedestal seats with combustion engine running will be immediate disqualification.

7. Sportsmanship

Competitors and coaches are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Conduct not complying with these standards include but is not limited to the following: - Violation of or failure to comply with any of the rules for this tournament - Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind altering substance during registration, pre-tournament meeting, tournament or weigh-in - Abuse of, or addiction to, mind altering substances - Conviction of a felony within 36 months prior to tournament events - Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization - Any act of a competitor or coach which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote conservation, clean waters, courtesy, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules

8. Boat Operation

Coaches must drive boat for their team. To qualify as a coach the person accompanying the team must be at least 19 years of age. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches can provide information including location or methods to catch fish but are not permitted to fish. Each contestant must be allowed equal time fishing from the front of the boat and picking where to fish.

9. Tackle and Equipment

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait other than pork rinds may be used. Only one rod and reel with 8-foot max length may be used at one time. All bass must be caught in a conventional and sporting manor. Any bass caught while site fishing must be presented to coach before removing the hook for verification on hook being on inside of mouth. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish will be disqualified. Each competitor will be allowed 6 rod and reel combinations in the boat. Nets are allowed. Coach may net fish for competitors.

10. Horsepower and boat regulations

Maximum hp is 250 hp. Hp cannot exceed maximum rating on boat rating plate. Boat must have an operable kill switch that must be attached to driver at all times combustion motor is in operation. Legal boats will be 16 feet or longer and propeller driven. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than gunnels of boat. Electric trolling motors may be used but trolling as a means of fishing is not permitted. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. All boats must have a functioning bilge pump.

11. Permitted fishing locations and boundaries

Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters that is available to the public and accessible by boat except areas designated by "off limits," "restricted," "no fishing," or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access. It is not permitted to fish within 50 yards of a competitor's boat that is anchored (anchor down and trolling motor stowed). Competitors must notify approaching anglers if they are using a gps anchoring trolling motor. All contestants and the coach must remain in the boat at all times during the tournament. Exact tournament times will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

12. Official checkpoint

There will be an official check out and check in point to be designated at the pre-tournament meeting. Everyone must check out and check in, no exceptions.

13. Scoring

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by each team's catch during the tournament. Only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, red eye or shoal bass will be counted. The 5 largest bass of the day will be the total weight for the tournament.

14. Penalties

A one pound per minute late penalty will be deducted from total weight and big fish weight. If a team fails to check in after 15 minutes they will be disqualified. A short fish presented to the weigh master will result in a one-pound penalty as well as loss of that fish from the catch before it is weighed. A dead fish will be a one-pound penalty per dead fish. Maximum of 2 dead fish may be weighed in each day. If a dead fish is weighed for a big fish there will be a one-pound penalty on the big fish also.

15. Ties

In case of a tie the following tiebreakers will be used in the following order: -The team with the largest number of legal fish caught during the tournament -The team with the heaviest single fish during the competition -Flip of the coin to determine the winner

16. Rules enforcement

A proper tournament official may enter a competitor's boat at any time for rules enforcement.