

**Tennessee Bass Federation**  
**Jr Bassmasters' Tournament Rules & Regulations**  
**Revised: November 1, 2008**

**1. RULE CHANGES:** *The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by TENNESSEE BASS FEDERATION, INC.. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Rules Committee consisting of the Tournament Director and State Officers. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters. Junior Bass State (JBS) qualifying season shall be from July 1 through June 30th each year.*

**2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

This tournament is open only to members in good standing of the Tennessee state Federation Jr. Bassmasters club that is in good standing. Contestants must meet age and eligibility requirements set forth as follows: Contenders must have obtained the age of 11 years, but not yet 19 years, on August 31 of tournament competition year. JBS tournaments will allow six (6) contenders per club federation team. Three (3) members who have attained the age of 11, but not yet 15 years of age as of August 31st of tournament competition year. And a MAXIMUM of Three (3) members who have attained the age of 15, but not yet 19 years as of August 31st of the tournament competition year. State team rosters and completed entry forms, which **MUST** include proof of age, (copy of birth certificate or government issued passport), along with completed liability waivers and medical form release must be submitted to the State's Youth Rep., for entry into any JBS 30 days prior to the tournament. The tournament officials reserve the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. Tournament officials may reject applications improperly completed or unsigned. Changes to team rosters are permitted prior to pairings for said tournament with proper notification and paperwork to the State's youth rep. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor and is required. Each state federation **MUST** designate an adult team manager to be in full control and responsible for that states team at all times during the event. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY JBS EVENT NO ONE MAY USE OR OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS ON BOARD THE VESSEL AT ALL TIME, DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE. State and country laws may apply. THIS PROOF MUST SHOW EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATES COVERING THE FULL RANGE OF THE EVENT(S) . NOTE:** Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. BOATS WITHOUT PROOF OF INSURANCE MEETING THE ABOVE REQUIREMENTS AND COVERAGE OR PERMISSIONS LISTING THE BOAT CAPTAIN BY NAME WILL NOT BE Allowed. Any candidate for competition who in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible.

**3. REGISTRATION:**

Each competitor is required to PRE- REGISTER, complete entries, **(completed entry form, signed, proof of age, etc.) must be postmarked no less than 30 days prior to the official practice day. Any incomplete, inaccurate or late entries, (postmarked after the deadline), maybe be rejected by tournament officials. The entry fee for the tournament is \$10 per person and can be sent as part of the pre-registration entry. The fee can also be paid at the pre-tournament registration meeting.** It shall be each competitor's responsibility to obtain from the Tennessee Bass Federation registration times and location. Changes in registration can still be made at the tournament registration meeting on the day before the tournament.

**4. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:**

**DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE, AND DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A JUNIOR COMPETITOR MAY NOT OPERATE THE COMBUSTION ENGINE OR DRIVE THE BOAT FOR ANY REASON, EXCEPT IN CASE OF DIRE EMERGENCY.**

During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE " or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During 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. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather info. EACH PARTICIPANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES OR FALSE VERIFICATION OF WEIGH-IN FORMS WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION.

**5. SAFETY:**

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by all participants, competitors, observers and Boat Captains. During the official practice and during the tournament, anyone in a tournament boat, (STATE laws will apply) This preserver must be worn AT ALL TIMES by everyone in the boat. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zipped securely and maintained in that condition at all times. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay 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. ALL PERSONS IN A TOURNAMENT BOAT SHALL REMAIN SEATED IN A RECOMMENDED ON PLANE SEATING LOCATION WITH THEIR FEET RESTING ON THE MAIN FLOOR OF THE BOAT WHEN THE COMBUSTION ENGINE IS RUNNING. SITTING ON PEDESTAL SEATS WHILE THE COMBUSTION ENGINE IS IN OPERATION IS NOT PERMITTED. VIOLATION OF THIS RULE SHALL BE REASON FOR IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION.

## 6. SPORTSMANSHIP:

**Competitors in a JBS 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. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any participant during the official practice or during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future JBS tournaments. 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 participant, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing state or country statutes and regulations of the various waters within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition day or when in the weigh-in area. 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 for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

## 7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Each **JUNIOR COMPETITOR IS ALLOWED 6 RODS AND REELS** as specified above in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass should be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. **NETS ARE ALLOWED.** Bass may not be "stringered" at anytime. No gaffs OR "grippers" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in the boat at any time.

## 8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS (Adult Boat Captains):

**MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED 250HP NOR EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U. S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER.** Each Boat captain agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from all BJDC Tournaments.

## 9. BOAT AND MOTOR (Adult Boat Captains):

**All 6-person Junior teams are REQUIRED to provide three (3) official tournament boats and boat captains to be used on the official practice day and the official tournament day.** For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating the boat captain must be in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in length or longer. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, 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 and installed by an authorized dealer are legal. 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. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. **NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR.** The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Director.

## 10. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT (Adult Boat Captains):

Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **LIVWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT.** Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate" and the boat meets all safety requirements set forth.

## Boat Operations cont.

### 11. BOAT OPERATIONS AND EXPENSE:

**A full discussion MUST be held between the two Junior Anglers and the Boat Captain prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations.** This schedule MUST permit each Junior Angler equal time to fish their selected waters. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the tournament officials, operates in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. The Boat Captain has sole discretion to veto any location for safety reasons. **BOAT CAPTAINS MUST BE 21 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER. BOAT CAPTAINS AND BOAT OWNERS MUST COMPLETE AND SIGN THIS ENTRY FORM. COST OF OPERATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT SHOULD BE SHARED BY EACH ANGLER AS A COURTESY TO THE BOAT CAPTAIN. EXPENSES FOR GAS AND OIL SHOULD BE SETTLED BEFORE THE WEIGH-IN. BOAT CAPTAINS MAY NOT FISH. THEY ARE THERE TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION AND ASSIST THE JUNIOR ANGLERS IN AN EMERGENCY. THEY SHALL NOT BAIT THE LINE, TIE KNOTS, CAST OUT THE ROD, SET THE HOOK, BRING FISH TO THE BOAT AND \ OR NET THE FISH.**

### 12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each Tournament and is announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is the responsibility of the angler to know what the permitted fishing areas are. Fishing on Tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitors boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position **WITH THE TROLLING MOTOR OUT OF THE WATER.** The anchored boat has a responsibility to inform other competitors boats when the have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted "off limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be **OFF LIMITS** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only the water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

### 13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

Participants must not depart the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing maters. Boats must remain in the tournament waters during tournament days. Participants must leave as return to official checkpoint by boat. All participants must remain in the boat as all times except in the case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: **A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT.** The momentary condition of being out of site of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Otherwise, Competitors 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 counted. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report and emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and a tournament official must verify their catch in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a **RESTART** will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

### 14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of the checkout all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in all boats shall identify themselves and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together; through check-in and weigh-in. **YOU MUST CHECK IN EVEN IF YOU DONT HAVE ANY FISH.**

### 15. SCORING:

Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by each competitor's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties pre day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and if the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for a bass shall be decided 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 which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This 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 the tournament officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he **MUST** present all fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitors catch has been measured, counted or verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling. The Tournament Committee will furnish specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, and these bags must be used for weigh-in. **The winner will be determined by the total weight of his / her legal catch.**

### 16. CULLING OF FISH:

If it becomes necessary for a competitor to cull his or her day's catch, every effort must be made by the competitor to handle his or her own fish. Competitors cannot cull a dead fish. State laws may prevail. **DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH:** Each competitor is expected to keep his or her bass alive by use of a properly aerated livewell.

## **17. "Paper Weigh-Ins"**

Under certain circumstances, "paper weigh-ins" shall be conducted in lieu of bringing live fish back to the tournament site. This special rule will be declared in advance, usually by the tournament officials prior to registration and / or at the tournament briefing held before the first day competition. This rule allows different length limits to be counted than are otherwise allowed with live fish. For instance, if the legal state length limit on a tournament lake is 14 inches, the length limit to be counted can be designated 12 inches as long as the fish is immediately returned to the water after being measured. All measurements shall be performed by the adult boat captain using the official measuring device. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be counted. Lengths will then be converted to weights using the official length / weight conversion sheet given to each contestant prior to the tournament. Only the highest 5 total fish will be allowed to count. All other culling rules previously stated apply to the catch.

## **18. PENALTY POINTS:**

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized TWO (2) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. The Tournament Director shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

## **19. LATE PENALTY:**

Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 15 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitor's more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuses for tardiness and in no case will 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 stop 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.

## **20. TIES:**

In case of a tie the following tiebreakers will be used in order:

- 1). The Individual with the greatest number of legal live fish weighed-in during the competition;
- 2). The Individual with the heaviest single fish during competition;
- 3). In the unlikely event that individuals remain tied after these two tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the money, if any, will be equally split.

## **21. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:**

Wherever possible two contestants will be assigned to each boat with one boat captain. If for any reason only one contestant is available to go with a boat captain, an observer will be assigned to ride in that boat with them. Whenever possible, contestants from the same clubs will not be paired together. Announcement of your day's partner and Boat Captain shall be made at the pre-tournament briefing. Attendance is mandatory for Competitors, and Boat Captains or their representative. It shall be the responsibility of each participant to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding lost partners. The tournament director may reassign partners at any time prior to take-off. It is suggested that 30 minutes, minimum, is required for preparation to depart the checkout point. When participants check out in the morning they must stay together and in sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is completed except in cases of dire emergency (See rule 14). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this and all future tournaments.

## **22. RULES ENFORCEMENT:**

Nothing in the above rules shall prohibit a proper tournament official from approaching or boarding a competitor's boat at any time during the official tournament or the official practice day.