



Open tournament Rules

1. RULES / CHANGES: The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for any special rules and/or changes for a specific tournament as decided by the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee. Such special rules and/or changes will be announced at the Tournament Briefing and at the Captains meeting the morning of the tournament. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director/Committee. All rule infractions must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee prior to weigh in, and must be in writing before the end of weigh in. Competitors will be allowed to weigh but no awards, prizes or money will be awarded until a final ruling has been reached. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director / Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, fine of prizes. All rulings will be voiced by the Tournament Director and shall be final in all matters. Any violations which lead to further disqualifications shall be decided by the Tournament Director / Tournament committee.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is open to members of the general public who are 16 years of age or older to operate a vessel. Proof of age to the satisfaction of Tournament Director/Tournament Committee is the responsibility of potential competitors. Eligible participants must be 10 years of age or older and fish from the same vessel as a PARENT OR GUARDIAN. This competitor may be a substitute or full time partner. All Open Team Tournaments and the DBN Classic may be fished as a team or as individuals. Teams participating in the Open Buddy Tournaments and B.A.S.S. Team Trail for Points will be allowed one angler substitution for the season . However there are no substitutions allowed for the Classic. A minimum of \$300,000 boating liability insurance is required to participate in any Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation sanctioned tournament. This documented proof must show an effective date, expiration date, and be available before the application deadline. Contestants of the tournament will be randomly checked, and the contestant will not be allowed to participate without documented proof. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director/Tournament committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible.

3. REGISTRATION: Each competitor must submit entry and money to the Tournament Director by 7:00 PM on the tournament draw date prior to the tournament to be included in the boat draw. The Draw Meeting is to be listed on the DBN's Website. Competitors not registered by this date will be registered on a first come first served basis via late mail in registrations or registrations accepted by the Tournament Director/Tournament Committee the day of the tournament. Competitors that have registered and paid, but later discover they are unable to compete in the event due to hardship, family emergency, mechanical breakdown, etc. will be eligible for a refund only if they contact the Tournament Director/Committee no later than 24 hours prior to the start of the tournament. Special circumstances outside of this time period will be decided on a case by case basis by the Tournament Director/Tournament Committee. ** Boats are to be in the water or in line to launch at the time defined on the entry form during the day of the scheduled event. Any team that has already registered and arrives past the designated Check-in time will be handed a written copy of the drivers meeting, get their live wells and navigation lights checked prior to unloading their boat, pay an additional \$20.00 donation, and start the event at the back of the field. If the team does not want to comply with these stipulations then they will forfeit their entry and not be allowed to participate in the event. Their entry will not be forwarded to the next event. If the Tournament Director has boarded their boat, any team arriving late will not be allowed to participate. The competitor's entry fee will not be forwarded to the next event.

4. TOURNAMENT/PRACTICE: There is no designated practice period prior for all DBN sanctioned tournaments. If such a period is deemed necessary it will be approved. State Qualifying Tournaments will be governed by an amended set of rules due to the changes imposed by B.A.S.S. for the 2019 State Team. State team members are required to help conduct each tournament. If no state team members volunteer, state team members will be selected by the tournament director. Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation Open series will consist of six tournaments. There will be one drop tournament per team, so Bass Team trail, AOY, and Classic points will be the sum of the five highest point tournaments.

5. Safety: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is gear. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the boat is no longer under power by the outboard engine. Violation of this rule shall be the reason for disqualification. Inflatable life jackets can be worn but a non-inflatable life jacket for each person in the boat is required. 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. Bow and stern lights are required to be on and working prior to launch. The Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation reserves the right to impose boat speed limits and the area covered by the speed limit on any or all tournaments. Such decisions are exclusively at the discretion of the Tournament Director/ Tournament Committee.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation 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. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice, during the tournament, and during weigh-in will not be tolerated. These actions shall be cause for disqualification from this and all future Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation 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 the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries, conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish bind all competitors. 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, suspension, 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 strips, rinds, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel per angler may be used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before removing the hook to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs or grippers may be used to boat bass or permitted in boats at any time. Puncture cull tags are prohibited, so only non puncture cull tags may be used.

8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The maximum horsepower rating is limited to the Coast Guard rating plate up to 250hp. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor 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 motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

9. BOAT AND MOTOR: ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH BILGE PUMP, AERATED LIVE WELL WITH ADEQUATE SPACING TO ACCOMMODATE A LIMIT OF FISH AND SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. The ignition-kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in gear. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunwale of the boat. An 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 a manufacturer's 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. During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" WILL BE ALLOWED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: The Tournament Director/ Tournament committee shall establish Tournament waters for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Delaware B.A.S.S. Nation. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: 1.) Within 25 yards of another competitor's boat with the trolling motor in the water and actively fishing, or 2.) Within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such a boat believes the competitor is close to being within this 25 or 50-yard radius. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 25 or 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. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director/Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal Regulations.

11. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown). If the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, competitors can continue and their catch will be counted.

12. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official point 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 checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules as set forth by the Tournament Director/ Tournament committee; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the check-in person and proceed immediately to the weigh-in area. No Angler's boat is to be pulled out of the water until the competitor's have weighed in their bag of fish unless otherwise discussed at check-in by the Tournament Director/ Tournament committee. Competitors not at check-in at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "BIG FISH award." Competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose that day's catch.

13. SCORING: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners will be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per 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 reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above- described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director/ Committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the 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-in. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 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 tournament officials. After a competitor checks-in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. For legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces of weight for the first fish. This penalty shall increase by 4 ounces for each fish after the first (example: 1 dead fish, 4 ounce penalty, 2 dead fish, 4 ounces for the first, 8 ounces for the second and so on). When a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. The signature of the competitor must certify his catch.