

CONNECTICUT B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Participation and Eligibility: You must meet the requirements as stated in the C.B.F.N. By-Laws Article XII, Section B. There is no "Pay Out" for this event. You are fishing for a position on the 2011 State Team.

(a) For all events, a properly completed and signed official application form along with the entry fee must be postmarked by the date as indicated on the tournament form.

The CUTOFF For this event it is Saturday, September 18, 2010.

Any application postmarked after the cutoff will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS.

(b) **Non-Mothering Members** - If you paid / joined the National Federation Nation (Ma' BASS) in another State. Then you are a member of that state's Federation Nation. To fish with the C.B.F.N., you have to declare which state you are electing to be your "Mothering" state. (Which state is your primary state organization), this is a B.A.S.S. requirement. To accomplish this you must complete a Declaration Form. (See the Tournament Director prior to event or contact the C.B.F.N. Secretary.)

If you are **NOT Mothering** in Connecticut, you are not be eligible to qualify for the C.B.F.N. State Team. You are not eligible to fish the C.B.F.N. State Championship - Two Day event, Mr. BASS or qualify for the State Team from the regular trail. You are allowed to compete / fish the trail, but will not be eligible for the State Team positions.

2. SAFETY: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Caution and safety on the morning starts must be observed. **Each competitor must supply and wear a life vest (Coast Guard Approved wearable PFD) properly zipped, buckled, or snapped at all times when the craft's gasoline engine is in operation.** Tournament boats may not be powered by an engine which has a horsepower rating in excess of the boat's Coast Guard rating. The boat's "Kill Switch" must be properly affixed to the driver at all times when the gasoline engine is running.

3. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in all C.B.F.N. Tournaments are expected to follow the highest standards of **sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation.** Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Any infraction of the state rules and regulations may be deemed as cause for disqualification. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament or at the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification from this and all future tournaments. The use of illegal drugs or alcohol during the tournament (between"check in in the morning between and the closing of the scales in the afternoon) shall be considered cause for disqualification. 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 the Federation's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

4. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. are permissible. Rods over 8 feet long are prohibited. Only one spinning, spin- casting, or casting rod and reel may be in use at one time. All others are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only one wet line is allowable at any time. All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Trolling (the movement of a lure caused by the use of a gas or electric motor) is not allowed.

No electronic communication devices will be permitted except for emergencies.

5. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. **Each boat must have a working engine kill switch and a mechanically aerated live well.** All tournament boats must be adequately equipped, including a fishing seat for a non-boating partner, and provide sufficient room for two fishermen, their equipment, and two limits of fish. The boat must be deemed adequate for the body of water being fished at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

6. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat will be given, prior to the start of the tournament, a numbered flag, card or paddle which must remain with your boat until turned in at the weigh-in. This flag, card or paddle must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and turned in at the weigh-in (**refer to Rule 9**).

7. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES: A full discussion shall be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. **This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters an equal number of hours.** If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for 1/2 of the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. Due to the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, the non-boater partner will compensate the boat owner for tow vehicle fuel and fees in accordance with the following schedule:

Motor under 100 H.P. - \$25.00; 100-200 H.P.-\$30.00; over 200 H.P.-\$35.00.

8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: During the tournament, fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitor's boat, which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with trolling motor out of the water. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such boat believes the competitor is close to being within the 50-yard radius. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change the habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Contestants must not depart the boat to land a fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must depart from and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both contestants must remain in the boat at all times except in the event of a dire emergency. In the event of emergency and at all other times, partners must remain together, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above in order for their catch to be scored in the tournament.

9. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official location for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. This location shall be so designated. At the time of checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with the rules set forth in these tournament regulations. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbered flag, card or paddle and then proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. **Partners must stay together from the start of the tournament through the weigh in process. All competitors are required to check in and turn in their numbered flag, card or paddle regardless of whether they have caught fish. Failure to comply will result in disqualification of both competitors.**

The non-boater is required to stay with the boating partner until the boat is secured on the trailer or the boater releases him. Failure to do so may result in disqualification. All fish must be brought to the scales in official weigh-in bags, which will be provided by tournament officials. Connecticut B.A.S.S. Federation Nation 2009 Aug 19, 2009 3

10. SCORING: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five of the above species. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the state. At no time shall a competitor have in their possession more than the limits described above and Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision. In the event a competitor is found to have more than the above-described limits in their possession, then they shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit prescribed. Only bass as noted above which measure (twelve) 12 inches or more in length on the longest straight line should be presented for weigh-in. However, a courtesy measurement is available upon request by the contestant before he/she presents fish for weigh-in. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure 12 inches, shall disqualify the competitor. Any bass, which appears to be mangled, mashed or otherwise altered, will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After the competitor has delivered their catch to the weigh-master, they may not touch said catch until the weigh-in is completed. Bass may not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament or weigh-in.

11. PENALTY POINTS: No bonus points or ounces will be given. There will be an eight (8) ounce penalty for each dead fish brought to the scales. **NO CULLING OF DEAD FISH.**

12. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 9 at the appointed time shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of the total weight of his catch, including any weight to be counted toward a "Lunker award" for each one minute that he is late. Any competitor more than fifteen minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There is no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the checkpoint, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After commencement of a tournament, fishing is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced.

13. TIES: Ties will be broken in the following manner: 1) by weight of the largest fish 2) by total number of fish 3) by flip of a coin

14. PROTEST PROCEDURE: Protests must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director or his designated representative prior to completion of the weigh-in on the tournament day. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate.

15. BOATER LAUNCHING: All boats will launch out of the designated ramp and shall be in the water and ready to leave prior to **6:30AM**. Boats not in the water by the specified time will not be allowed to launch until the last boat has taken off. Official time and special rules (if any) will be at the check-in table. Tournament departure will be by boat number.

16. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS: The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for B.A.S.S. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the B.A.S.S. organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with B.A.S.S. and C.B.F.N. policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S. /C.B.F.N., B.A.S.S./C.B.F.N. officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary