Louisiana Youth B.A.S.S. Nation
2025 General Rules

Presented By

TC Energy

1. These Rules apply to all entrants of this tournament. Violation of any of these rules will warrant appropriate disciplinary action by the Tournament Director. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these Rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN WRITING AND ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY. Protests from anyone other than official competitors will not be accepted. Contestants must submit a written and signed protest to tournament officials within thirty minutes of final check-in/weigh-in deadline to be taken literally. (Tournament Director / Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation State Youth Director's Decision will be final in all matters.) Acts of Nature can affect these rules.

2. Entry Fee is $64.00 per TEAM (including service charge). Deadline to complete online registration and make payment through your Fishing Chaos app is always Friday, one week before official practice day, at 11:59pm.

3. State, federal, local laws, and B.A.S.S. High School rules must be obeyed.

4. Participation in this tournament series is by invitation only. This tournament is open only to current members of official Bassmaster High School Clubs, recognized by said High School or an official Community Club. You must be a student currently enrolled in high school, in good academic standard, and a member of your institution's fishing team. Certain schools allow 8th grade students to compete. If your institution allows 8th grade students to compete a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. 7th grade students are not allowed to compete in Bassmaster High School tournaments. Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria has been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. This is a team event. You must have a partner and coach to compete.

5. All Entrants are subject to take a Polygraph Test. Failure to take and/or pass such a test will result in disqualification. Any person who has failed a polygraph test in connection with any bass tournament for cheating, will not be eligible.

6. Alcohol and narcotics will not be allowed in the possession of contestants/ Parents or Guardians during tournament hours unless prescription medicine. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited on tournament grounds and at any time during tournament hours of operation, by anyone present.

7. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is operating, as well as observe and abide by all state(s) life preserver regulations that apply to his/her age, while in tournament waters. This PFD must be strapped, snapped, and/or zippered securely, and must be maintained in that condition. Inflatable life vests may only be worn if you are 16 years of age or older AND weigh more than 80 pounds. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.

8. All boats must meet U.S. Coast Guard standards. Jet-drive, air-cooled engines, or airboats are not allowed. Outboard motors may not exceed boat manufacturers rating, or 250 HP maximum. All boats must have an emergency kill-switch that must be attached to the driver anytime the combustion engine is running (This is federal law and will be strictly enforced).

9. All fishing must be done with artificial lures only. Pork is permitted. Only one rod and reel may be used at time by contestants. No trolling with the combustion engine is allowed. All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner during tournament hours from tournament waters. No snagging of fish is allowed, and all fish must have been hooked inside the mouth to be counted toward the team's weight. Snagging of bedding fish is prohibited. If using cull tags, you must use Grip-on, **non-penetrating type**.

10. Contestants may not use any communication or video device for the sole purpose of locating or catching bass during tournament hours. Communication by cell phone or radio between contestants and parent/guardian or tournament officials is allowed for safety purposes only. Tracking devices inserted in bass may not be used by any contestant during or before the tournament. Hole-sitting by, or for entrants is not allowed.

11. **Tournament waters are all public waters (designated in individual tournament documents). Teams must stay within the boundaries stated in individual tournament rules. Any private canals and ponds are off limits. (See Pre-tournament document maps for reference) Any area posted as "private" or not open to public fishing is off limits **(contact tournament director for areas in question).** No fishing within 200 yards of the host landing. No fishing is allowed within **50 yards** of another tournament boat without mutual consent. No tube, bank, or wade fishing is allowed. All fishing must be from a previously inspected boat.

12. **Though there will be no off-limits fishing period for this tournament, **there is an "information" off limits period of 10 days prior to official practice day. No soliciting information from, nor fishing with, anyone not registered in the tournament.** Teams may fish with their primary or secondary captain on the Saturday and Sunday, the weekend before tournament day, as long as one angler is in the boat. No hiring of guides or paying for information during this period. Friday is the only "official" practice day, and all rules apply. (special circumstance may be considered, contact the youth director)

13. Boats must have a factory installed live well and an operating aeration system. Teams may keep no more than 5 bass per TEAM in the live well. Cull on the 6th fish. All fishing must stop until 6th fish is released.

14. **No more than Two (2) contestants and (1) captain per boat allowed on official practice day and all persons in a boat **must be a registered contestant / registered adult in this event**. Only the team's registered captain is allowed in the boat with their registered anglers on tournament days. Captain must operate the large motor on practice and tournament day (except launching and trailering boat) – no other type of assistance to contestants on tournament day besides coaching. During official practice day, anglers cannot solicit, gather, or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another registered competitor in this tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS. Sharing of any information on tournament day is prohibited. The captain may fish on practice day but not on tournament day. Check-in/boat check will begin at 4:30 am. Team will receive their card when going through boat check. Contact Tournament Director for consideration of special circumstances.

15. Tournament Hours and check points will be given at check-in and are the responsibility of each entrant. All boats will take-off in a numbered order at safe light as instructed by tournament Director). You must check in with an official located in the designated area before your check in time that afternoon, or you will be considered late. Competitors, not at the official check-in point before their check-in time will lose all their weight for the day.

16. Teams will follow individual tournament documents for afternoon weigh-in procedures.

17. Upon entering this fishing tournament; contestants release Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation officials, and sponsors from liability of accidents, losses, or thefts. Contestants/Parents or Guardians are responsible for knowing and understanding these rules.

18. **Scoring will be determined by the total weight of 5 bass PER TEAM meeting designated size requirements. The minimum length is 12" for spotted and largemouth bass (Unless otherwise stated in individual event rules docs). Fish will be measured on a Gator Grip Pro Series measuring board with the mouth closed and tail pinched. All other team ties, the following tie breakers will be used in the following order: (1) The heaviest live Big Bass (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tie breaker will be the second heaviest single day catch during competition (2-day competition only). (4) If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, there will be a coin toss by tournament officials for placement.

19. Penalties: There will be a 1/4 (0.25) pound penalty deducted for each dead fish weighed in. Culling a dead fish is prohibited. There will be a one (1.0) pound penalty deducted for any fish not meeting the predetermined size requirement that is brought to the scales, plus, a loss of same fish.

20. NO COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF $300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNER'S LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT.

21. Boat Captain's may not be a guide on tournament waters unless a direct family member. Boat captains must meet the criteria set forth in the Captains Participation Requirements and **"may not" differ from previous qualifiers without prior approval from the tournament director via email. No captain may receive compensation for their service other than equal reimbursement for expenses incurred.**

22. Captains Rules: These events will allow boat captains the opportunity to educate young anglers about the many variables associated with fishing competition and camaraderie with their competitors. Below are the limitations on assistance that may be given to anglers:

    a. **As of 1/1/2025 all captains, no matter their age, must have completed a Boater's Safety Education course to participate.**
    b. Only captains can operate the outboard motor on official practice and tournament day except for trailering and launching boats.
    c. High School boat captains **are not** allowed to operate the trolling motor unless there is imminent danger to the vessel or occupants. If this occurs, competitors must notify the tournament director immediately.
    d. Junior captains **can run trolling motor**, but **we strongly recommend teaching anglers to run them** themselves then let them troll in competition.
    e. Boat captains **are not** allowed to net fish nor hand nets to high school anglers.
    f. **Any Jr team may request the assistance of the boat captain for netting fish**, but it is recommended that junior teams net their own fish.
    g. Captains **may not** assist in casting or reeling in lures or fish.
    h. The boat captain **should not assist** with lure selection or fishing locations, but they may make suggestions on patterns or observations to help anglers make their own decisions.
    i. High school captains **are not allowed** to tie on lures during tournament hours, but we will allow Jr captains to assist with tying lures.
    j. Captains may not remove backlashes for high school anglers, but Jr captains may.
    k. Captains may help with culling fish and keeping fish alive in the live well.
    l. High school captains may not assist with any fishing activity other than navigating the boat with the outboard motor.
    m. Captains can fish on practice days but not on tournament day.

23. *All other Bassmaster High School Series 2024/ 2025 rules apply unless otherwise stated in this document. It is the responsibility of every competitor and captain to read and comprehend those rules.*

24. Friday — Official Practice Day. Must be off the water by 5:00 pm.

Saturday — Tournament location TBD (all boats need to be launched by 6:00am)

- 4:30 am: Check in/ Boat check Live-well Inspection.
- Blast off Safe Light. (TBD)
- Tournament Check-in: 3:00 pm first flight for High School
- Tournament Check-in: 2:00 pm for Junior Bassmasters

Tournament Director: Tommy Abbott (504) 722-6638
Alternate Official: Jim Breaux (225) 772-3026
(Please text if you can't reach by phone)

Mail Club or School Team Checks to:
LHSBN
16446 Teneiya
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

Make checks payable to BASS.

Team Waiver

1. I have read and understand the description of this tournament series and the official rules of this organization. I will obey all rules set forth for individual tournaments and understand that any violation may result in immediate disqualification without refund of my entry fee. I also understand that tournament officials may reject my application for any reason, and in that event will refund my entry fee.

2. I understand and acknowledge that competitive fishing is a dangerous sport, the risks of which include, though not exclusively, drowning, collisions in the water, and injuries from hooks and other fishing paraphernalia. I voluntarily assume all responsibility for these risks, identified and not identified, and all risk of injury or death or damage to myself or my property or to others, including spectators and their property arising from my participation in the tournament.

3. I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless and indemnify B.A.S.S., its shareholders, officers, directors, agents and employees, the host, sponsors and tournament officials, and it partners, agents or employees, and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament from any and all liability, claims , demands, actions or rights of action which are related to, arise out of, or are in any way connected with my participation in this tournament, including specifically, but not limited to the negligent acts or omissions of Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation, its shareholders, officers, directors, agents or employees, the host, sponsors and tournament officials, and its partners, agents or employees and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament for any and all injury, death, illness or disease, and other damage or loss to property suffered by myself or others, By entering this tournament, I acknowledge and agree that if anyone is hurt or property is damaged while I am engaged in this event, I will have no right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against B.A.S.S. or Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation; its shareholders, officers, directors, agents or employees, the host, sponsors, officials and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament, even if they or any of them negligently caused the bodily injury or property damage.

4. Any suit brought by me against B.A.S.S. or Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation as a result of my participation in this tournament will be brought in state or parish court, East Baton Rouge Parish Louisiana. Should it become necessary for Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation; or someone on its behalf to incur attorney's fees, and costs to enforce this agreement, or any portion thereof, I agree to pay the reasonable attorney's fees thereby expended, or for which liability is incurred.

5. I have sufficient health, accident and liability insurance to cover any bodily injury or property damage incurred by myself or others as a result of my participation in this event.
6. I have no past or present medical or psychological condition that might affect my participation in the tournament in such a way as to cause harm to myself or others.

7. I irrevocably grant to B.A.S.S., Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation, and its' sponsors, unlimited rights to use, in any media, any photographs and video/audio recordings of me, contestants, fish caught and accounts or interviews with contestants for any and all purposes and event coverage including, but not limited to promotional and advertising purposes. I agree to submit to and accept the results of the polygraph test given at this event. I understand and agree that Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation has the right to designate a camera boat or a "follow" boat which will be observing only and may be within 25 yards of my boat.

8. All local, state and federal taxes, title, license and registration become the responsibility of each prize/cash winner. By entering this tournament series, reflects, that I have read this entire document, understand it completely, understand if affects my legal rights, and agree to be bound by its terms. References to "I", "my," "myself," and other first-person references shall include any child or ward to which I sign or agree.

Angler/Captain/ Family, Code of Conduct:

a. Anglers/coaches participating in any LYBN, or 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, parents and family members of anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., LYBN, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. To this end, anglers, parents, coaches, faculty members, friends and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of amateur and professional fishing. Any angler, parents and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual LYBN or B.A.S.S.-sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S. or LYBN.
b. Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as adhering to tournament rules, fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.
c. The following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document: • Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. or LYBN officials, other competitors, fans and volunteers during an event. • Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. or LYBN rules or officials. • Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of LYBN, B.A.S.S. or LYBN officials, or its sponsors.

- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. or LYBN event, including comments on social media.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.

Media Comments; Public Attacks:

The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. and LYBN 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 news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers LYBN or the B.A.S.S. organization. Competitors, parents and/or family members are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with B.A.S.S. policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler, parents and/or family members knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of LYBN, B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials, or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming of a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

By registering and making payment to participate, we agree to the terms of the rules set forth in this document for all team members and captain included in the registration.

⬆️ *Keep this rules document for your record and referral, Keep a copy in your boat!* ⬆️