



Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation College Championship
 June 10th, 2023
 Cypress Bend Park, Many, LA
 Presented by



1. RULES AND PENALTIES:

- A. The following rules shall apply with the following exceptions: (i) rules for some tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.
- B. Except for serious rules violations, as determined by Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation, such as the no information and off-limits rules, and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, rules violations must be reported by submitting in writing, to tournament officials within 30 minutes of the final flight check-in.
- C. Penalties for rules violations may include the following: (i) reduction of practice hours or competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director (ii) loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked verified by your partner/observer/camera operator. If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified. (iii) loss of catch for the day of the violation. (iv) disqualification from the tournament in question. (v) disqualification from future Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification. (vi) any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director, including but not limited to monetary fines.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- A. Participation in this tournament is an open format. This tournament is open only to current registered College Series clubs and individuals. Each club must be an official organization on campus with a minimum of two (2) members. Only one club from an institution is allowed.
- B. Each member must be a full-time student currently enrolled, in good academic standing, and an active member of their fishing club. If a student has graduated the previous December or requires less than a full-time schedule to graduate, may be granted eligibility if they have not exceeded their five (5) years of eligibility. A letter requesting eligibility must be provided before tournament registration deadline to be considered. The Tournament Director reserves the right to accept or deny any request.
- C. Each angler must be a member of B.A.S.S. and B.A.S.S. Nation. Each College Series **club must be in good standing with B.A.S.S.** and their school as well as have an active faculty advisor. This advisor will submit all membership paperwork. If an active advisor is not required by your institution, then all paperwork must be submitted by an official faculty member from your institution. Each club must complete eight (8) hours of community service.

- D. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS HAVE SOLE AUTHORITY TO DETERMINE IF INSURANCE POLICIES MEET B.A.S.S., LLC REQUIREMENTS.**

3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

- A. There will be no off-limits period for this tournament, although **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.** Friday June 9th will be the official practice day and all tournament rules apply. Teams may launch from other locations on official practice day but must be off tournament waters by 5:00pm.
- B. During practice and competition, anglers cannot solicit, gather, or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament. NO EXCEPTIONS. Competitors may only fish with other competitors during official practice and competition. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director. The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition. During the official practice competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.
- D. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- E. During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations only. Competitors can use smart phones for global maps, weather, and notes, however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.
- G. A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
- H. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms may be cause for disqualification. Official protests must be filed in accordance with Paragraph 1:B (“Rules and Penalties”). All parties of interest will be provided a copy.
- I. By his/her submission of the online tournament entry form, each competitor, named therein, agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The LBN Tournament Director, rules committee, or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test.

6. REGISTRATION:

- A. Each team must register online and submit online waiver forms at the links provided on the www.lhsbn.com website. It shall be each team's responsibility to register, submit the \$52 entry fee, and waiver before the **6/2/2022 deadline**. *(See instructions at the bottom of this document)*

7. SAFETY:

- A. Safe boating and 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 anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification.
- B. Competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
- C. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of inclement weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of dangerous weather.
- D. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE, THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- E. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT BUT MUST NOTIFY TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AFTER TAKING SHELTER.

8. SPORTSMANSHIP:

- A. Competitors in any B.A.S.S. 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.
- B. Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter, or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this tournament. No alcoholic beverages, other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or in the weigh-in area.
- C. 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 competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- D. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the State of Louisiana the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.
- E. If any contestant breaks Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries laws or regulations, that team will be disqualified from this event.

9. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- A. **Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Landing nets are allowed.**

- B. A-Rigs or Umbrella Rigs are allowed but must adhere to state Game and Fish regulations. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch but must be caught with the hook secured inside the fish's mouth.
- C. "Live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will not be permitted during official practice and competition, except pork strips or rinds.
- D. Only ONE casting, spin casting, or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time.
- D. No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in his daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have his catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth.
- E. Competitors, including those who have been "cut" from competition in an event, are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

10. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

- A. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 HP. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard rating specified on horsepower rating plate, affixed to each vessel. "Flashed" motors are strictly prohibited.

11. BOAT AND MOTOR:

- A. These restrictions apply during official practice and competition. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard that must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat, and all competitors must be seated with their feet on the floor of the vessel. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used and must be equipped with wheel steering. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines and tunnel hull boats engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition. Any boat/hull designs other than standard mass-produced units are only allowed at the discretion of tournament officials. Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The "Long-Lining" or "Strolling" technique is NOT allowed in either practice or competition.
- B. 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 manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. 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.
- C. During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit of bass by competitors using the boat.

13. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

Prior to each day's start, each boat must be inspected by tournament officials. Each day, each boat may be given a number, which must remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and at each check-in.

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- A. Tournament waters shall be **all waters of Toledo Bend**, accessible from Cypress Bend Park Landing, any water within the boundaries. Areas that are legally and obviously posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" are considered off limits. Only water open to **all** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off-limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. If forced to leave an area, a competitor must report the incident to tournament officials as soon as possible. Any area landlocked from main tournament waters is considered off limits.
- B. No Fishing within 200 yds of host landing.

15. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

- A. During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, **or with permission from the Tournament Director**.
- B. In the event of mechanical failure, teams may transfer their boat's catch to another competitor's boat. One angler will accompany their catch to ride to check in. The second angler must remain with the disabled boat. In such cases, the displaced angler must stay with their catch at all times and assisting boat's partners should verify the catch. Any college team whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish. **Tournament director must be notified before transfer of catch, by phone or text**, if unable to reach by phone.
- C. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that team must cease until the angler is back in the boat and tournament director must be notified immediately.

16. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

- A. The official afternoon check point for this tournament is the pavilion at the end of the dock in the mouth of the Cypress Cove landing area. Morning boat check will be on the south side of the parking lot near launch. (See pre-tournament docs for traffic flow) Failure to go through boat check and check-in during the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-in, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At afternoon check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers issued prior to the tournament and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process.

17. SCORING:

- A. Tournament standings, and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-decimal weight of each team's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, or Redeye bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 fish. At no time shall a competitor have in his

or her possession more than the tournament limit. When culling the 6th fish, all fishing activities must stop until there are only 5 fish on board.

- B. Once a competitor checks in, they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the bump station. If competitors at the bump station have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score.
- C. Teams who do not remove fin clips prior to fish check will be assessed a 4 ounce penalty per clip. Failure to notify officials after 30 minutes of final flight check-in time will result in loss of day's catch
- D. **The official length for all bass shall be 14 inches, mouth closed, tail pinched.** Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each bass, and shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor as well as loss of short fish.
- E. Culling tags or clips are allowed but must be clip on, non-penetrating style.
- F. **Teams must only use bags furnished by the tournament officials for the weigh-in.**

18. CATCH AND RELEASE:

- A. **CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh in officials, the competitor shall be penalized $\frac{1}{4}$ (.25) pounds to be deducted from their daily score.

19. LATE PENALTY:

- A. Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Paragraph 16 ("Official Checkpoints") at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award". Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day. **Official's time recorded at check in will be final.**

20. TIES:

- A. All ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with largest single "Big Bass" weighed during competition. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will be resolved by a coin flip.

21. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

- A. All rule violation penalties will be assessed by the tournament director and/or a rules committee. Penalties may be assessed per section 1 of this document. All decisions by the tournament director and/ or rules committee are absolute and final.
- B. Teams must adhere to all other Bassmaster College Series Rules unless otherwise stated in this document. Failure to do so may result in penalty or disqualification.
- C. It is the sole responsibility of competitors to read and understand these rules as well as those set forth by the Bassmaster College Series.



Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation College Championship
June 10th, 2023
Cypress Bend Park, Many, LA

Tournament Waters: Toledo Bend Reservoir
Tournament Site: Cypress Bend Park,
3462 Cypress Bend Dr.
Many, LA 71149
Official Practice Day: Friday June 9th, 2023
Tournament Date: Saturday June 10th, 2023
Check-In starts: 5:00 am
First flight due in: 3:00 pm

Please visit www.LHSBN.com to register and find the link to the online waiver form.

Pay \$75 entry fee via PayPal (@LaBassNationYouth) or Venmo (@LouisianaBASS-Nation)

A pre-tournament document and information will be uploaded to www.LHSBN.com

Tournament Director: Tommy Abbott (504) 722-6638

