

OFFICIAL POINT CIRCUIT TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. WHO MAY COMPETE: (A) Any N.J.B.F. or TBF member 16 years of age. Under age 18 must have written approval of parent or guardian; (B) Anyone not previously banned from competition by N.J.B.F. unless reinstated.

2. APPLICATION & DEADLINE: A completed and signed online application form with entrance fee must be received on or before the deadline posted on the N.J.B.F.'s website. Late entries will not be accepted.

3. ENTRY FEE: The entry fee for a tournament shall be determined by The Board of Directors. The entry fee is due with the tournament application. NO REFUNDS will be given for persons entering and unable to attend the tournaments unless written notification is given to the Tournament Director by 4:00 PM on the Friday before the tournament.

4. OFF LIMITS: All tournament waters are the designated body and its tributaries only. Any other off limits will be communicated by the Tournament Director before the event.

5. REGISTRATION: It is the responsibility of the registrant to include all required information for both anglers (if applicable) on the online application.

6. TOURNAMENT BRIEFING: All tournament contestants will be briefed directly on official information pertaining to that specific tournament via e-mail after the expiration of the online registration. Such information will include such things as pairings, off limits, staging areas, flight times, etc.

7. BOATS: Boat must:

- A. Shall not exceed the Coast Guard engine horsepower rating plate on boat;
- B. Boat shall be at least 17 feet in length and have a minimum beam measurement of 79 inches.
- C. It must have raised casting decks, front and rear.
- D. It must possess an aerated livewell capable of keeping five fish alive for the duration of the tournament.

8. BOAT OPERATION: Partners may fish anywhere on the boat, including both on the front deck. **All** contestants must operate the boat in accordance with all federal and State laws, as well as in accordance with any direction communicated by the Tournament Director prior to a tournament. Any boat/team that receives a citation for illegal boat operation will be summarily disqualified. It is incumbent upon the anglers in the boat to report such infraction to the Tournament Director. Failure to adhere to this requirement may lead to future ban from tournaments.

9. TOURNAMENT HOURS AND TAKEOFF: All tournaments will start at time indicated by the Tournament Director. In general, events will start between 6:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Exact starting times will be communicated prior to the event. In the case of fog or bad weather, under the Tournament Director's discretion, boats **may be permitted** to take off with a 5 MPH RESTRICTION, which if exceeded, will cause automatic disqualification for that and all future N.J. Bass Federation Tournaments. At the beginning of the tournament, each boat will idle past the starter boat before getting on plane.

10. SCORING: Contestants will proceed to the weigh-in area with their day's catch in an official tournament bag. Scoring shall be determined by a total weight. The tournament winner will be determined by the total weight accumulated during the tournament. A penalty of .40 pounds will be given for each legal bass not kept alive. Legal fish include: largemouth and smallmouth bass only. Contestants who obtain or use services of an agent to locate fish on tournament day will be banned from that and all future N.J.B.F. Tournaments. While the legal limit for two anglers in a boat is 10 fish, these events are five-fish limits per team. **As such, at no time shall any boat have more fish five-fish in the boat.** Periodic checks by tournament officials may be made and any boat having more than the five-fish limit will have his fish culled by the official with the largest fish culled first. The weigh in area is off limits to non-tournament officials and all other contestants except those whose fish are on the scales. Once fish are turned over to the tournament officials at the scales, they are then to be handled by tournament officials

only until returned to the contestant. State laws supersede all N.J.B.F. rules regarding legal length of fish. However, in general, a bass will not be counted or weighed if it is less than 12 inches in length as measured on the weigh-in table. Fish are to be measured from the tip of the snout to the end of the tail with the fish laid flat, mouth closed and tail lobes pressed together or fanned. Fish presented for weigh-in which fail to measure 12 inches (or other length as appropriate) shall accrue a penalty of one (1) pound for each fish. Any fish that is mangled in any way will be measured and weighed only at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

11. TOURNAMENT POINTS/SUBSTITUTIONS: The winning team will receive 200 points for a one-day event and 1.5 times that amount for two-day events. Second place will receive 199 points and so on. Teams weighing in no fish shall receive 50 points less than the last placing team weighing in fish. Each angler on a team will receive comparable individual points per event based on their designation (Boater/Co-Angler).

- a. Each team is allowed one angler absence per season. So, if your partner cannot make one event, you are allowed to fish alone. In this circumstance, the team still receives full team and the partner who fishes also receives individual points.
- b. Each team is allowed one angler substitute per season. So, if a partner cannot make one event, you are allowed to one substitute. In this circumstance, the team still receives full team points, and the and the partner who fishes also receives individual points. The substitute angler receives no team points, but will receive individual points and is eligible to win cash prizes.

12. TIES

- A. During regular point tournaments, money will be distributed equally between tied contestants.
- B. End of the year point standing ties will be broken by:
 - 1) Total weight caught.
 - 2) Total number of fish alive.
 - 3) Heaviest single stringer at any point event fished.

13. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live" or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork or pork type strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spinning; or spincasting reels and rods may be used. Only one rod may be used at any time by each angler. Other rigged rods may be present, but only one shall be in use at any time. If any lure is fouled it must be retrieved or broken off before another rod can be used by that contestant. No rod over the length of 8 feet will be allowed. Electronic depth finders, thermometers, oxygen gauges, PH Meters and water clarity devices are permitted along with hand held nets to land legally hooked fish.

14. CARE AND DISPOSITION OF FISH: Contestants must exert all effort regarding care and release of fish. It is the sole responsibility of the anglers to keep, consume or dispose of all fish not kept alive. It is illegal to dispose of dead fish at the tournament site. A contestant shall be granted the right to keep a trophy fish for mounting purposes at the discretion of the Tournament Director and will lose .40 pounds if the fish was still alive. Only fish brought to the weigh-in table in an official N.J.B.F. weigh in bag will be weighed in. If not, they will be returned to the water unweighed.

15. LATE PENALTY: Contestants not cleared at check-in point on time shall be penalized 1 lb. per minute for each minute late. A contestant arriving at the check-in point more than ten (10) minutes late shall lose all weight for that day. There will be no excuse for tardiness and no one will be allowed to make up fishing time. Each contestant will be given ample time to proceed from the check-in to the weight station and must not leave the presence of their partner or will lose the credit for their catch.

16. PROTEST: A contestant wishing to protest another angler's actions must do so in writing no later than ten (10) minutes after the scales close and deliver it to the Tournament Director.

17. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Fishing on tournament waters will be permitted everywhere except:

- A. Within fifty (50) yards of another competitor's anchored boat (trolling motor must be out of water).

- B. Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish.
- C. Within any area declared off limits by the Tournament Director.
- D. Tournament boats must not leave the tournament water or be trailered during the tournament hours.
- E. Anywhere that you are asked to leave by State Officials or Law Officers of the State.

18. SAFETY: All contestants must wear a life vest approved by the Coast Guard while the boat's gasoline engine is on. This vest must be secure while persons are in transit or automatic disqualification will result. All boats must be equipped with kill switch system for their gasoline engine and it must be used when the engine is in operation. No wake zones will require the boater to proceed without white water developing from the boat and a wake of less than 3 inches. **THERE WILL BE NO PASSING IN A NO WAKE ZONE.** All boat owners/operators must have a boater safety certificate and are to operate their boats in a safe manner and abide by all local, State and federal laws.

19. SPORTSMANSHIP: Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation are expected from all contestants. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles will be deemed cause for disciplinary action. Any violation of these rules will be cause for disciplinary action to be decided and taken by the Tournament Director.

20. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES: No alcoholic beverages or controlled substances shall be allowed in the possession of any contestants during the tournament hours.

21. RULE DECISION: The interpretation of these rules shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final. These rules and regulations are subject to amendment at any time by the Tournament Director and approved by the N.J. Bass Federation Board of Directors. Any changes will be made known to the contestants prior to the tournament by posting to the NJBF website.

22. BREAKDOWNS: In the event of a mechanical breakdown, one team member may return with the team's catch. The following criteria must be met:

1. You must return in another competitor's boat.
2. Catches must be kept separated.
3. You must return in your original flight and be on time.
4. You must advise the Tournament Director of your circumstances before you weigh in.

23. ETHICAL TOURNAMENT ANGLING: It is the responsibility of all anglers in the tournament to practice ethical angling. An "Ethical Angler" is an angler who:

- A. Protects and preserves the environment. One who does not pollute or disturb the natural order of the lake or river he is fishing on.
- B. Respects other anglers' rights, both those who are fishing in the tournament and those who are not. He is also courteous, especially when he is a guest on another state's body of water.
- C. Practices catch and release.
- D. Practices safe boating.
- E. Obeys all local fishing and boating laws.

24. ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS: During any official competition days of a 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. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Competitors may listen only to the marine-band weather information channels.

25. APPLICABILITY: Any other tournament rules not covered above will follow those enacted by The Bass Federation first and Major League Fishing second.