



2019 Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation High School State Championship Rules Sunday April 28, 2019 Lake Texoma

The following rules can be changed at the discretion of the Oklahoma Bass Nation (OBN) High School Director and the OBN Tournament Committee. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Director/Tournament Committee. In the event of a rules violation, the Director/Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Director/Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. The field will be limited to 75 teams who have qualified for this event. This tournament is open only to members in good standing of the OBN and active members of an Oklahoma Bass Nation High School club who have qualified through the OBN Team Trail series. The top five from each team trail event plus the top 45 and ties in the AOY end of the year point's standings will qualify; proof of year in school to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY OBN HIGH SCHOOL EVENT NO TEAM MAY UTILIZE A BOAT UNLESS THAT TEAM HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A POLICY IN FORCE WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. Any team for competition who, in the judgment of the Director/Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder another team or endanger the safety and well-being of their team or any other team shall not be eligible. A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DIRECTOR/TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP ON OR BEFORE JUNE 15th. The Director/Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline.

Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). At each tournament contestants will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed. Failure to following these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document.

2. Anglers Code of Conduct: Anglers/Coaches participating in any OBN 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 OBN, 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 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 OBN sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by OBN.

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 fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

(i.) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in OBN events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with OBN officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of OBN rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of the OBN, OBN 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 OBN event.
- 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. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from this event

MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS The favorable public reputation of the OBN 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 OBN. 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 or the OBN 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 OBN 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 the OBN, OBN officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Team/Competitors in an OBN tournament 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 team/competitor during the official practice or during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future OBN 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 tournament waters. Any act

of a team/competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All teams/competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition days. 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 or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be three official practice days, Thursday April 25th, Friday April 26th and Saturday April 27th, immediately preceding the first day of the tournament, Sunday April 28th. There shall be three days of off limits period immediately proceeding the first practice day, Monday April 22nd through Wednesday April 24th shall be off limits. The teams/competitors must know and observe these dates. DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE, AND DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A TEAM/COMPETITOR MAY NOT HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE OF ANYONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LOCATING OR CATCHING BASS, NOR ENTER THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITH ANYONE WHO IS DEEMED AN "EXPERT" ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS BY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, UNLESS HE/SHE IS A CONTESTANT IN THIS TOURNAMENT or A DIRECT FAMILY MEMBER. During the official practice and during the tournament, a team/competitor may not "SKIN DIVE " or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During the tournament a team/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. Teams are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, teams may listen to the marine band weather info. EACH TEAM AGREES TO REPORT TO THE DIRECTOR/TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES OR FALSE VERIFICATION OF WEIGH-IN FORMS WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION. EACH TEAM AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THE ENTRY FORM, TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Director/Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Director/Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Director/Tournament Committee shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The participant shall be available, at their expense, at the location selected by the Director/Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

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. Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director.

During the official practice competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.

During the official practice, no fishing or practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.

4. REGISTRATION: Each team is encouraged to PRE-REGISTER, completed entries, (completed entry form and entry fees) must be postmarked by April 19th. Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. There will be a mandatory tournament registration and rules briefing meeting on Saturday April 27th at a location TBD at 7 pm. At the registration, **EACH TEAM MUST PROVIDE PROOF OF INSURANCE FOR ANY BOAT THAT IS TO BE USED DURING**

COMPETITION OR OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND ALL COMPETITORS OVER THE AGE OF 16 MUST SHOW A VALID STATE OF OKLAHOMA FISHING LICENSE. FAILURE TO COMPLY COULD MEAN DISQUALIFICATION FROM THIS EVENT.

5. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest- type life preserver. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition anytime the combustion engine is started and until the competitor reaches their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Director/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. In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact emergency personnel by dialing 911 and then notify the director/tournament committee, contact numbers will be provided at the pre-tournament meeting.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8- foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. No Alabama or Umbrella rigs will be permitted.

7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U.S. COAST GUARD or NMMA RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. Maximum horsepower shall not exceed 250. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. 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 or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from O.B.N. Tournaments.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. 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 in length or longer. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. A small 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 an 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. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR. The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament A competitor answering affirmatively the

question "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT. Director/Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Director/Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the OBN. Fishing on Tournament waters is permitted anywhere except as designated by the Director/Tournament Committee. 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 Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

11. TEAMS/CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Teams/competitors 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. Teams must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Teams/competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, teams and coaches/captains may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. If a team/competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official. If a tournament official is unavailable the contestants catch can be verified by any competitor participating in the event. In order for a contestants catch to be counted in the tournament the competitors must make a reasonable attempt to contact a tournament official first. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Director/Tournament Officials.

12. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint 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 check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in all boats shall proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area and place number chit in receptacle located at the weigh-in trailer. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in. YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.

13. SCORING: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced by the Director/tournament committee. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye 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 team have in possession more than the tournament limit. Director/Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a team has in their possession more than the stated limit, the team shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by the Tournament committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the LONGEST State limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. All bass will be measured on a Golden Rule measuring board. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one 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 team checks in at the official checkpoint, the team MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a team's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a tournament official, that team may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. It has been determined that stringering decreases the chances of a bass's survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Director/Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in. Culling clips that penetrate the lip of the bass are prohibited from use during the tournament, anyone caught using these type of clips will be given a one pound penalty.

14. CATCH & RELEASE: For each legally dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the team shall be penalized one quarter or one pound (.25 pounds) of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. The Director/Tournament Committee shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. At no time shall a team cull a dead fish for a live fish.

15. LATE PENALTY: Teams who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 15 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch, including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any teams more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that days catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a team be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, teams will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

16. TIES: In case of a tie for first or second place, the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1.) The team with the heaviest single day catch during competition; 2.) The team with the second heaviest single day catch during the competition; 3.) The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish caught during competition; 4.) The team with the largest number of legal fish during competition. In the unlikely event that teams remain tied after these four tiebreakers are employed; then will be a one hour sudden death fish off between the tied teams to break the tie for either first or second place finish in the tournament. A flip of a coin will be used to determine the winners and break ties for lesser positions by means selected by the tournament committee.

17. COACHES/CAPTAINS: During official practice Coaches/captains can:

- Coach
- Give advice
- Teach by example
- Fish
- Run the trolling motor
- Land fish with or without the net

During Competition:

Coaches/captains MAY:

- Coach
- Give advice
- Verbally explain techniques, how to.....

Coaches/captains MAY NOT:

- Fish
- Tie Knots
- Teach by example
- Land fish with or without a net
- Run the trolling motor

During official practice or competition, anytime the combustion engine is started, the coach/captain must be seated in the driver's seat in full control of the boat and both team members must be seated in the bottom of the boat.

18. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: OBN encourages the use of patches, logo and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restricts the use of such signage, etc. that promotes or advertises products, OBN reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE, with as much advance notice as possible.

These rules have been revised on June 11, 2018 and are the most current rules.