



## 2022 Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation (OBN) Qualifier Rules

The following rules can only be changed or amended by the tournament committee.

Effective January 1, 2021: The following rules shall apply to all Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, with the following exceptions:

- (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and
- (ii) these rules may be changed by Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation immediately upon notice by Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation to its members, which notice may be published on the Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation website at [www.okbassnation.com](http://www.okbassnation.com). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to 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, and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 19 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee shall be final in all matters.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

C1: Penalties

- (a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
- (b) Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked and verified by your partner/observer/camera operator. If not verified the entire catch maybe disqualified
- (c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- (d) Disqualification from the tournament in question
- (e) Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- (f) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year points.

**NOTE: Rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 15 minutes of the end of weigh in on the day of the alleged violation.**

EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE 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 COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, 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 Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the 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 Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline.

### **1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

This tournament is open only to members in good standing of the OBN, who are 16 years of age or older and active members of a State B.A.S.S. Nation club. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor.

DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY OBN EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT 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 candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible. As a OBN participant you agree if you qualify and are invited to be a member of the "STATE TEAM", to be bound by and adhere to all conditions set out in the "STATE TEAM CONTRACT". And to use while representing the OBN any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by OBN.

### **2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:**

There will be one official practice day immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. No competitors will be allowed on tournament waters after onsite check-in/registration until the first day of competition. There shall be five days of off-limits period immediately preceding the first practice day. During the off limits, practice, and competition, anglers cannot solicit, gather or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament. **NO EXCEPTIONS** (note: the old rule made exceptions for family members).

**Competitors may only fish with other competitors during 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.**

**No practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after 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.**

Anglers renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not snorkel, “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters.

No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. In two-day tournaments, once daily cuts are determined by tournament officials, competitors not making the cut are no longer considered in the tournament and cannot provide information to competitors making the cut.

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. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. **Competitors can use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc., however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.**

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.

**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, and all parties of interest will be provided a copy.**

**During official practice and competition, Pro-anglers and co-anglers are subject to all rules equally regarding rules violations either moving violations, fishing violations, boating regulations, or breaking a state law. A co-angler will not be held accountable for a rule broken by the pro-angler if the co-angler formally protests the pro-angler after weigh in has been completed.**

**By signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation.** The 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. Failure of a truth verification examination is not appealable. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked

during the test. The Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest OBN's headquarters. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred. Co-anglers may practice from their own boats providing the boat has the required insurance coverage and proof is shown at registration.

### **3. REGISTRATION:**

Eligible competitors must PROPERLY COMPLETE AND SIGN AN OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM AND SIGN THE LAST PAGE OF THE RULES BEFORE THE EVENT. Entry fee is \$160 for Pro-Anglers and \$100 for Co-Anglers for each of the 4 DQT qualifying tournaments (fee includes big bass). Tournament entry fees must be received by the OBN Tournament Committee on or before the balance due date. **BALANCE DUE DATE WILL BE 7 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST COMPETITION DAY.** Any balances or new entries received after the balance due date will be paid in cash (exact change) or money order. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. Competitors are encouraged to PRE-REGISTER.

Boaters will be encouraged to link with a Co-Angler but will not be required to gain entry into the O.B.N. qualifiers. For all boaters who do not sign up with a Co-Angler link, they will be drawn out with other unlinked boaters. These boater/boater draws will need to decide whose boat they will use for the day and they will be fishing using the shared boat format whereas they both get half the day at the front of the boat and half the day to fish where they want. Boater's will be allowed more than one link for the four qualifying tournaments. In the event that an entrant has notified O.B.N. before the first event day that he/she is unable to fish all tournaments due to circumstances beyond his/her control, a refund of the entry fee may be made. Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. Members who cannot attend the pretournament meeting must contact the tournament director if you cannot make the meeting. However, if you are not at the meeting, you are still responsible for finding out the tournament details such as boat number, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, partner draw, etc.

### **4. 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 worn anytime the boat is on plane. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. 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 a member of the tournament committee, contact numbers will be provided at the pre-tournament meeting.

## **5. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Competitors in an O.B.N. 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. Anglers shall, always, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on the BASS Nation, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; 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 B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors, and fans and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. 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. 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.

Maximum courtesy must be displayed 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 shall be reason for disqualification. All 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. (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician). 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.

## **6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

Use of gaffs or grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Landing nets are allowed. During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable

artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. 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. No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or buzz baits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these twin arm spinnerbaits or buzz baits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the line tie point. The “head and hook” portion of the lure must be even or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires. OBN officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted is use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. **No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch.** Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. 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.

## **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 Director. A competitor answering affirmatively to 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. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat available and will be paired with one who does when possible.

#### **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. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate". Navigation lights must be operational. During morning check in, the boats will be checked for working live wells and working navigation lights. If during check in, the live wells fail to work, you will not be allowed to fish until the problem is fixed and the live wells are working. If during check in your navigation lights fail to work, you shall get a 30-minute penalty and you cannot start fishing until the 30-minute penalty has been served.

#### **10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:**

Each boat MUST be inspected by a tournament official prior to each day's takeoff. Each boat will be given a number, which **must** remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and hung on the trailers check-in board.

#### **11. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:**

**During competition**, in pro-am type events, pros will fish from the front deck, co-anglers from the rear deck, NO EXCEPTIONS. In the event we have a Boater/Boater pairing we shall utilize the shared boat format where both anglers will share the front of the boat (50/05 split). **During both practice and competition**, Co-anglers are **only** allowed to drive (outboard motor) the pro's boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **During**

**official practice**, co-anglers not practicing with a pro competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of the boat. **During official practice**, co-anglers practicing with pro anglers are allowed to fish from the front deck and operate trolling motor. Any pro that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their co-angler partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a pro competitor request that the co-angler competitor not fish. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day. In B.A.S.S. events where observers replace co-anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the pro in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

## **12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the O.B.N. Fishing on 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 THE TROLLING MOTOR OUT OF THE WATER**. The anchored boat has a responsibility to inform other competitors' boats when they have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. 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.

## **13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:**

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot. A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting his weight outside the boat must be released immediately. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal. Competitors can leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. In such an emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat to either a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat designated by the tournament director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of their catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament with the following exception. **In breakdown situations and with a tournament official's permission, Co-anglers may transfer their boat's (Pro's and Co-angler's) fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in, and they may leave their Pro with the disabled boat. In such cases, the co-**



**angler must stay with their catches at all times and assisting boat's partners should verify the catch. Any angler whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish.** In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, partners are allowed to leave the boat; however, in that event, all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat.

If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (without contacting a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitor to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, and the competitor will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

#### **14. 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.**

#### **15. SCORING:**

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The Pro limit shall be 5, Co-angler limit shall be 3 of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in. Once a competitor checks in, they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table 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. If a competitor has his fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials before final weight in to receive a 2-pound penalty for each bass discovered. **Anglers who do not remove fin clips prior to verification will be assessed a 4-ounce penalty per clip. No manmade or foreign object connected to a bass will be weighed and shall be removed by tournament officials.** The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest

straight line, shall be weighed. All bass will be measured on a Golden Rule measuring board. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which 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 competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured, and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted, and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

**16. Oklahoma Bass Nation qualifier ONE HUNDRED POINT SYSTEM and STATE TEAM composition:**

Oklahoma Bass Nation events are based on a 100 points system regardless of field size. The winner of each event will receive 100 points, second 99 points, until points run out. Competitors must weigh a legal bass during competition to receive points. In the case where one or more competitors do not weigh a legal bass, points will end at the place of competitors weighing legal bass.

The 2019 OBN State Team will consist of 10 pro-anglers and 10 co-anglers with one alternate each. Four (4) qualifying tournaments will be held with points being awarded for finishing position. There will be a pay out at each qualifier, please see pay out schedule. The team will consist of the 4 Pro-Angler and Co-Angler winners of each of the four qualifiers. The 4 Pro-Angler and Co-Angler winners must fish all four qualifiers to be eligible for the state team. The remainder of the state team will be the top six in Angler of the Year point's standings.

Angler of the Year standings will be the Pro-Angler and Co-Angler with the cumulative point total for three of four qualifier tournament scores. The tournament committee will add the Pro-Angler and Co-Angler highest three qualifier tournament scores to determine the Angler of the Year standings. If a Pro-Angler and Co-Angler double qualifies or if one of the four Pro-Angler and Co-Angler winners has not fished all qualifiers; the nation will invite the next highest standing Pro-Angler and Co-Angler from the Angler of the Year standings.

Paid and registered competitors may miss an event in cases of unplanned dire emergency involving an immediate family member only on approval from the Tournament Director. While a competitor may miss an event in case of a dire emergency, fees for the event must be paid on schedule and in full. There will be no refund for a missed event.

**17. CATCH & RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.**

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants can purchase ice on the water.

However, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. Upon mutual consent of both Pro-Angler and Co-Angler paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight. SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised. Non-penetrable culling clips are required. *Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed.* Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact tournament officials.

### **18. LATE PENALTY:**

Competitors 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 that day; including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitors 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 will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors 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.

### **19. TIES:**

Single day competition: In case of ties, the following tie breakers will be used in order:

- 1.) The heaviest single day catch during competition (Big Bass);
- 2.) The second heaviest single day catch during the competition (2d Big Bass);
- 3.) The largest number of legal LIVE fish caught during competition.
- 4.) The largest number of legal fish during competition.

In the unlikely event there remains a tie after these four tiebreakers are employed; then there will be a one-hour sudden death fish off between the tied anglers 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.

Angler of the Year Standing Ties: In case of a ties the following tie breakers will be used in order:

- 1.) The largest number of legal Live fish weighed-in during the events used to determine their final score.
- 2.) The largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the events used to determine their final score.
- 3.) The heaviest single fish during events used to determine their final score (Big Bass).
- 4.) The second heaviest single fish during the events used to determine their final score (2d Big Bass). In the unlikely event that their remains a tie after these four tiebreakers are employed, then there will be a one-hour sudden death fish off between the tied anglers to break the tie for Angler of the Year and/or a one-hour sudden death fish off between anglers on the cut line for making the state team.

### **20. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:**

Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the Tournament Briefing, which **must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director**, by each competitor. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions. A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by BASS.

### **21. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:**

O.B.N. 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, O.B.N. reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE, with as much advance notice as possible.

### **22. TAXES:**

Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards. Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of points, fines, and/or disqualification from all future Events.

### **23: RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:**

An appeals committee will be established by Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation, which shall be comprised of three Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Committee members who are not affiliated with the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed under rule C1 (b), (c), (d), (e), & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days, if possible, from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rule's violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules, or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed under Rule C1 (e) & (f) until final ruling by Appeals Committee.

Competitors are allowed to compete while under appeal. Field sizes after cuts would include any appealing angler making the cut for the next round of competition for that event. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling. The three-member ruling committee should remain confidential within the immediate appeals process.

These rules have been revised on January 22, 2021 and are the most current rules.

**Note: All competitors are required to have a valid fishing license and all competitors who use their boat in official practice or during the tournament will have a copy of their insurance at ALL registrations.**

**2022 Qualifying Tournaments**

**Competition Dates**

March 7, 2021 - Texoma

May 23, 2021 – Ft Gibson

September 26, 2021 Keystone

October 31, 2021 – Eufaula

**Only CASH accepted after registration deadline!**

**Registration Saturday night from 5:00-6:00pm prior to each tournament**

**Pairings at 6:00pm**

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Member Signature

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Date