



AZ B.A.S.S. NATION COLLEGE STATE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT

TOURNAMENT RULES

1. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** This tournament is open to current B.A.S.S. 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. Each member must be a full-time student currently enrolled. A student may request an eligibility exception by providing a written request for the following:

- a) Graduated December of the current school year.

- b) Or requires less than a fulltime class schedule to graduate in the spring of the current school year.

This request must be provided before the tournament registration deadline. Student may be granted eligibility as long as they have not exceeded their five (5) years of eligibility.

ANY B.A.S.S. registered College Team may fish, but only B.A.S.S. registered College teams from Arizona can advance to the B.A.S.S. College National Championship.

B.A.S.S. and AZ BASS Nation reserve the right to accept or deny any request.

Each competitor must be a current member of B.A.S.S. and the B.A.S.S. Nation. Each College Series Club must 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.

During the official practice and competition days of any B.A.S.S. Tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boat owner's liability 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. Requirements.

A properly completed pre-printed and signed official entry form must be provided to AZ BASS Nation officials. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

2. **COMPETITOR CODE OF CONDUCT:** Competitors participating in any B.A.S.S. sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Competitors shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming professional anglers that will not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., AZ BASS Nation, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. To this end, competitors, coaches, advisors, parents, and family members shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any competitors, coaches, advisors, parents, and family who violates any of the provisions of the Competitors Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings,

suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S. or AZ BASS Nation. Competitors 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. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document:

- Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. or AZ BASS Nation 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. or AZ BASS Nation rules or officials.
- Public comments that a competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., AZ BASS Nation, officials or its sponsors.
- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other competitors, 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 competitors.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow competitor's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from the event.

MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for B.A.S.S. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow competitors or the B.A.S.S. organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with B.A.S.S. policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that a competitor knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and may result in disciplinary action.

3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION: There will be no Official Practice Days. Participants may practice until 5 PM, the Friday before a tournament day.

4. Pre-Tournament Meeting at 5 AM ALL ANGLERS MUST ATTEND.

TOURNAMENT HOURS: SAFE LIGHT TO 3 PM.

5. The competitor must know and observe these dates. During practice and competition, competitors 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 on 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. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.

6. Testing of engines or other mechanical issues after off limits time is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" OR "SCUBA DIVE" in the tournament waters.
7. 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 use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes, etc.
8. **REGISTRATION:** Each competitor must register by submitting a completed entry form with payment to tournament officials or mailing to: Tony Sendek 5051 W. Camino De Manana Tucson, AZ 85742. Boat numbers will be assigned based on the order the entry forms with payment are received.
9. **SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved 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. Engine kill switch must be attached to driver's life preserver anytime combustible engine is running. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials. It is suggested the Boater have a safety check with their partner each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment. It is recommended each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten 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. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.
10. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in 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. 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 and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other non-prescription stimulants or depressants shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area. 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. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations. 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/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament, and/or disqualification from a B.A.S.S. tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

11. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. Landing nets are allowed during tournament competition and practice. 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 subject to scoring rules. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, such as Umbrella Rigs or Alabama Rigs, 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 other device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits 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 twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits, 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 head or the line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even with or trail behind where blades attach to the wires. Tournament Officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered legal during practice and competition. 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. 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 in 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. The use of braid or other line to attach one stinger hook (single or treble) is allowed but cannot be over two inches in length. 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 and must be verified by the assigned partner or other observer before being unhooked. With the fish's mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish for it to be considered hooked inside the mouth. Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

12. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: 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. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine 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 engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification.

- 13. BOAT AND MOTOR:** 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. Only one manufacturer's lanyard may be used and 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. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The "Long-Lining" or "Strolling" technique is NOT allowed in either practice or competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions. Only gas tanks that are installed by the boat manufacturer are allowed. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. 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.
- 14. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** 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 catch of bass by both competitors using the boat. B.A.S.S. recommends live-wells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.
- 15. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Prior to the tournament start, each boat must be given an inspection check by a tournament official. 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 at check-in.
- 16. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Competitors are permitted to navigate and fish all areas of Lake Pleasant with the exception of the Agua Fria River, (closed to entry from December 15th to June 15th), boat slips in the Pleasant Harbor and Scorpion Bay Marinas and any other waters deemed off-limits by authorities (these areas will be marked with "No Fishing" buoys. All angling must be done from the boat.
- 17. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to locate fish, 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. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat, competitors are allowed for boat protection, to push off or shove off objects while landing a fish to counted as legal. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 7, 13, and 16. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. In breakdown situations, and with a tournament official's permission, competitors may transfer their fish to another competitor's boat and one team member may ride to check in, and the other team member must stay with the disabled boat. Any team 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, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), team will be disqualified from tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

- 18. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament meeting. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the Boat Numbers described in Rule 8 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if the team is weighing bass.
- 19. SCORING:** Final winners shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5, 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 within one hour of final flight check in to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered. Anglers who are proven to have fish weighed with fin clips will be assessed a 4 ounce penalty per clip. No manmade or foreign object connected to a bass will be weighed and will be removed by tournament officials. The minimum length for a legal bass shall be 12". Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. 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. Bass to be weighed for Big Fish should be identified prior to coming to the scales with non-penetrating cull tag.
- 20. CATCH AND 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. 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 competitors keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water. 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 an advised practice. **Only non-penetrating culling clips/tags are allowed.** Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact Tournament Officials.

- 21. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 18, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight of their 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." 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 cease 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 Meeting. It is each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day of the competition.
- 22. TIES:** In case of a tie, it will be resolved in the following order: (1) team with biggest fish caught during the tournament; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with the largest number of legal fish weighed during the tournament; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the team with the largest number of legal live fish weighed during the tournament. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors. If the tie is between competitors which will advance them to The Bassmaster College National Championship Tournament, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials.
- 23. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:** An appeals committee will be established by AZ BASS Nation, which shall be comprised of the Tournament Director and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed 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 rules 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 while under appeal. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing competitors, 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 competitors shall comply with all details of the final ruling. The three member ruling committee should remain confidential within the immediate appeals process.
- 24. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:** Competitors are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the competitor's sponsors. AZ BASS Nation may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in AZ BASS Nation's sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official BASS sponsors, or which are, in AZ BASS Nation's sole judgment, in poor taste. AZ BASS Nation will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By entering the tournament, each competitor agrees to wear an official B.A.S.S. patch (2 ¼" X 2 ¾") on either left/right chest, with the top of the patch hitting the

left/right collarbone during competition, including the weigh-in. This patch may be embroidered. In addition, if AZ BASS Nation provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests) bearing the logos of B.A.S.S. or the official sponsors of B.A.S.S., each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by AZ BASS Nation.

25. TAXES: Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on cash awards. Upon competitors being awarded payment for their finish in a tournament, an IRS Form W-9 will be required to be completed. If this form is not completed, all monies won will be forfeited along with any qualification into The Bassmaster College National Championship tournament.

26. WAIVER AND RELEASE: As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.

27. PENALTIES: Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- Reduction of total weight of catch
- Reduction of total weight of big bass
- Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
- loss of one or more fish in question
- loss of catch for the day of the violation
- disqualification from the tournament in question
- 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
- any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director.