

# OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

## LOUISIANA BASS FEDERATION OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **RULES CHANGES:** Great effort, study and research has gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Rules Committee. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Rules Committee may impose such sanctions as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the judges and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

2. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open only to members of B.A.S.S., the National B.A.S.S. Federation, the LA State B.A.S.S. Federation, who are 16 years of age or older and active members of a State Federated 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 LA STATE B.A.S.S. FEDERATION EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS SUBMITTED DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$100,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE TO THE LA STATE B.A.S.S. FEDERATION. THIS PROOF MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATES COVERING THE FULL RANGE OF THE EVENT(S).** 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. **PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY LA STATE B.A.S.S. FEDERATION (LA S.B.F.) BEFORE THE EVENT(S).** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance prior to or after this deadline. As a participant in B.A.S.S. tournaments you agree, if you qualify and are invited to be a contestant in the "B.A.S.S.® National Championship™" or the BASS Masters Classic® conducted by B.A.S.S. to use during the National or the Classic competition and event any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by B.A.S.S. **ENTRY DEADLINE DATE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT SHALL BE 11 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY.**

3. **PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** There will be two official practice days immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. The tournament waters shall be off-limits to all competitors starting at sundown 11 days prior to the first practice day. The exact dates and times of the practice period can be obtained from the Tournament Director. The competitor must know and observe these dates. During practice, and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating bass, such as a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed a "local expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Committee, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During the official practice and during the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather info. Each competitor agrees to report to tournament officials 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 TO SUBMIT, BY HIS SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST.** The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Committee, and its agents, and shall be used (or not used) in the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Rules Committee shall have sole discretion to (1) select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, (2) the individual who administers such polygraph test and (3) the scope of questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Rules Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

4. **SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to furnish and wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his 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. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournament. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

5. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in Louisiana Bass Federation 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 drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and all future 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 competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the Federation's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats or in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addition or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the Federation's efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

6. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. 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. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional manner. No gaffs may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time.

7. **HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL NOT EXCEED THE HORSEPOWER LIMITATIONS SET BY U.S. COAST GUARD IN THEIR RULING OF NOVEMBER 1, 1972.** When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit by his 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 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 also will be cause for immediate disqualification from Louisiana Bass Federation tournaments.

8. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. A small motor, gas or electric, may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. 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 Committee. 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 or his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with one who does when possible. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use and a basis for sharing operational expenses. If the partners are unable to agree the Tournament Committee shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners. 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 a manufacturer's 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. During the official practice and during the

Club Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security No. \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: M \_\_\_\_\_ F \_\_\_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Will you bring a boat and motor? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, give exact maximum Coast Guard Horsepower rating of boat

(READ RULE NO. 7 CAREFULLY)

Horsepower of your motor \_\_\_\_\_

B.A.S.S. Number \_\_\_\_\_

Date B.A.S.S. Membership expires \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever competed in a Bass Anglers Sportsman Society®

Tournament? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you had a boating accident(s) in last 5 years? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have boating liability insurance? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE: Proof of \$100,000 liability must be submitted with application.

Do you have any physical impairments? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Having acquainted myself with the rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournament. In signing this application, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all Tournament rules and regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the Tournament and exempt officials from all claims or injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this Tournament. I hereby grant B.A.S.S., Inc., the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with B.A.S.S., Inc. video/audio production and/or articles and press releases, and I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the Tournament Committee reserves the right to reject my application for any reason and, upon such rejection, to refund this entrance fee. I am currently a member in good standing of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society®. I agree if I qualify for the B.A.S.S. National Championship or B.A.S.S. Masters Classic to use during the National or Classic competition and any and all "official" products and equipment so specified and provided by B.A.S.S.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

ournament, 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.

**9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all 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 FISHERMEN USING THE BOAT. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate."

**10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official, also a numbered flag, which MUST remain with your boat until turned in each day at the check-in. This flag must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials, and turned into the officials at each check-in.

**11. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:** A full discussion MUST be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as in the schedule of boat operations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat. It is suggested that the non-owner partner at least share part of the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

**12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by the tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the tournament Director. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: Within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position. 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 Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

**13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. 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. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), both 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 competitors 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 tournament officials.

**14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** There shall be only one official point for check-out 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 Committee; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbered flags and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, and flags must be turned in at check-in.

**15. SCORING:** Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundreds of a pound weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Smallmouth 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 tour-

namment by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit shall be the tournament limit. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the limit described above. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. 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-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fails to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. The penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. Each competitor must present his catch to the weigh-in official, and the weight of his catch must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. 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 Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

**16. PENALTY POINTS:** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized .25 lbs. (4 oz.) of weight, to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointee will have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

**17. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker award," for each one (1) minute he is late. 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 the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

**18. TIES:** In case of a tie, the tie will be broken in the following manner: (1) number of legal fish weighed and (2) number of legal LIVE fish weighed. If the contestants are still tied the Tournament Official will flip a coin to decide the winner.

**19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:** Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. Whenever possible, no contestant from the same club will be paired, nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day. An official check-in station will be established prior to tournament briefing. All are required to check in, in person or by proxy if arriving late. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner shall be made at the briefing which MUST BE ATTENDED by each competitor. It shall 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. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart the check-out point. When two contestants 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 (See Rule 13). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from future tournaments conducted by Louisiana Bass Federation.

**20. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:** LA B.A.S.S. Federation 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 restrict the use of such signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, LA B.A.S.S. Federation reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE with as much advance notice as possible.

**21.** None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the "warm-up" period or the competition days.

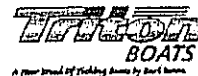
**BANK ONE.**

**L. LOWRANCE**

**MERCURY**

**AT QUANTUM**

FISHING IS A CONTACT SPORT.



## Official Rules of Louisiana Bass Federation Tournaments

