



North Coast Bass Anglers LLC  
PO Box 467  
Edinboro, PA 16412

## **OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES** **North Coast Bass Anglers LLC**

These rules apply to all the North Coast Bass Anglers LLC (hereinafter referred to as N.C.B.A.) Tournament Events. The most recent version of these rules will be posted at [www.NorthCoastBass.com](http://www.NorthCoastBass.com)

Participants in N.C.B.A. tournaments are responsible for the safe operation of tow vehicles, trailers and watercraft. Under no circumstances is the N.C.B.A. any affiliated organization, and their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, contractors, sponsors and representatives (collectively "Releasees") responsible for unsafe or irresponsible operation of tow vehicles, trailers or watercraft during tournament days. As a participant I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives now have, or may have in the future, for injury, death, or property damage, related to (i) my participation in these activities, (ii) the negligence or other acts, whether directly connected to these activities or not, and however caused, by any Releasee, or (iii) the condition of the premises where these activities occur, whether or not I am then participating in the activities. I also agree that I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives will not make a claim against, sue, or attach the property of any Releasee in connection with any of the activities of the N.C.B.A.

Understanding these rules is the responsibility of all participants of N.C.B.A. sanctioned events and N.C.B.A. members.

### **Eligibility of Participants**

- a. All tournaments not designated as an Open Tournament will be open only to current N.C.B.A. members. Competitors must be at least 16 years of age and if under the age of 18 must have a waiver and parental consent form signed before competing.
- b. A membership fee will be assessed to belong to the N.C.B.A. This fee allows members to compete in Member Only Tournaments.
- c. N.C.B.A. Open Tournaments do not have fees for membership.
- d. Tournament Fees are tournament specific and can vary depending on the type of tournament. Fees will be posted prior to each tournament at [www.NorthCoastBass.com](http://www.NorthCoastBass.com)
- e. During competition days, no competitor shall operate a motorized vessel unless the operator can document that the vessel has proof of at least \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability insurance. Such documented proof must be in the boat at all times and random checks will be done at each event. Random checks may be chosen by assigned boat numbers at each event and these numbers will be changed for each event.

### **Entering a Tournament**

- a. A properly completed pre-printed and signed official entry form must be provided to the N.C.B.A. Tournament Director or staff representative prior to competition. Tournament entry fees must be received by N.C.B.A. on or

before the beginning of the tournament. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue or extend acceptance of applications prior to deadline.

- b. Entry Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of the date of cancellation.
- c. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director(s)
- d. All mailed entries must be received with sufficient time for checks to clear financial institutions. Generally the Wednesday prior to a weekend tournament.
- e. Onsite registration tournament day will begin one hour prior to sunrise (safe light) the morning of tournament.
- f. Starting boat position will be made as registrations are received/processed.
- g. Phone in registration will not be accepted.

## **Disputes**

Any violation or protest must be made in writing and turned in to the Tournament Director(s) prior to the closing of the scales.

The Tournament Director will attempt to resolve any and all disputes prior to the closing of the scales on any tournament day. By signing the official entry form contestants agree to submit to a truth verification examination should he/she be accused of any rule violation. N.C.B.A. may also conduct random truth verification examination throughout the year. Any person convicted of violating tournament rules or failing to successfully pass truth verification in this or any other tournament denied membership or entry into any future N.C.B.A. event(s). The administration and interpretation of the truth verification shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the tournament director. Without limiting the foregoing, the N.C.B.A. shall have sole discretion to select the location, at which such truth verification shall be administered, the individual who administers such truth verification, and the scope of the questions that may be asked during such test. Failure to take and pass the truth verification examination, if required, will result in immediate disqualification without recourse. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest and available location with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. 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.

In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director(s) may disqualify, hold prize money, awards, etc.

## **Practice and Competition**

- a. All N.C.B.A. tournament waters will be off-limits beginning at 12:01am the day of event.
- b. During competition days a competitor may only accept help from another competitor within the event.
- c. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine or electric trolling motor for the purpose of extending a cast or lengthening a retrieve.
- d. During the official competition days a competitor may use a CB Radio, a VHF Marine band radio, or cell phone only in a case of emergencies. Using such devices to help catch or locate fish is prohibited.
- e. The Tournament Director(s) or Appointed Official(s) have the right to enter any registered boat for inspection as long as the owner occupies the boat. Permission should be requested.
- f. Anglers may launch their boats from any available ramp locations but must present themselves and boat at the predestinated registration location at least one half hour prior to the start of the tournament for registration and inspection.

- g. 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.
- h. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

### **Media**

- a. From time to time local media may be present during any phase of the tournament(s). Participants should be cognizant that their likeness may appear in various media forms and may be used in promotion activities of the N.C.B.A.

### **Boater Safety**

- a. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Competitors must wear a US Coast Guard approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD) at all times when the combustible engine is running. This vest must be zipped, snapped or strapped on securely. The boat driver must have the kill switch attached anytime the engine is in gear.
- b. Tournament waters may be restricted at any time in case of bad weather.
- c. All Federal, State and local regulations and requirements will be observed at all times. In the case of any special regulations, the Tournament Director will post or announce any such regulations.

### **Sportsmanship**

- a. Competitors in any N.C.B.A. sanctioned event are expected to use a high standard of sportsmanship at all times.
- b. Any infraction of such sportsmanship may be grounds for disqualification.
- c. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future N.C.B.A. Tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition days, or when in the weigh-in area.
- d. 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, shall be reason for disqualification.

### **Tackle and Equipment**

- a. Only artificial or biodegradable baits are to be used during competition days. No live bait or prepared baits are allowed with the exception of bottled pork
- b. Baitcasting and spinning rods are limited to eight feet in total length. Fly fishing rods properly rigged with fly fishing line, fly reels and artificial fly fishing lures are permitted.
- c. Competitors may only use one rod at a time. Other lines that may have an opportunity to catch a fish must be out of the water before another cast is made.

- d. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five spinners, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail.

### **Boat and Motor and Horsepower Regulations**

- a. The maximum horsepower allowed in all N.C.B.A. events will not exceed 250 hp.
- b. Horsepower cannot exceed the US Coast Guard regulations or the manufacture rating plate.
- c. Upon registration, each angler agrees to an inspection of their outboard if requested by the tournament staff.
- d. 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 from N.C.B.A. tournaments.
- e. During competition days, all motorized vessels must have an operable kill switch with a lanyard not exceeding 2 feet in length.
- f. Boats less than 16 feet in length are prohibited, unless otherwise specified in the tournament specific regulations.
- g. Additional gas tanks other than the ones installed by the manufacturer are prohibited.
- h. All boats must have operating livewell mechanisms that will be inspected prior to the start of each tournament, unless otherwise specified in the tournament specific regulations.
- i. All motorized vessels will have operable navigation lights that may be inspected prior to the start of each tournament.

### **Fishing Locations**

- a. Tournament waters will be designated by the Tournament Director(s) and will be announced or posted prior to each event.
- b. All competitors must abide by all Local, State and Federal regulations at all times.
- c. The Tournament Director(s) has the right to make off limit areas.
- d. Only waters accessible to the public are open.
- e. An angler may not leave their boat to access a fishing area.

### **Competitors Must Remain in the Boat**

- a. A competitor may not leave their boat to land a fish or to help access an area of the lake. An angler may however leave their boat to help retreat from an area.
- b. In case of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first then notifies the Tournament Director(s) or other Tournament Official(s).
- c. In case of a rescue situation, the Tournament Director(s) must be contacted, and then an angler may ask for assistance from another competitor to help with returning to the weigh-in area.
- d. The N.C.B.A. will not ask a competitor to abandon their boat. One competitor can stay with the vessel while the other returns to the weigh-in area. In the case of transporting the days catch, the Tournament Director(s) must previously verify the number of fish for each competitor and the catch must be tagged for separation purposes.
- e. In the case that an angler receives permission from the Tournament Director(s) to leave their boat, their partner, if a team tournament, must cease fishing until their return.

- f. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger is imminent.

### **Tournament Scoring**

- a. Pounds and ounces or pounds and tenths of pounds will determine all tournament winners.
- b. All fish will be measured with the mouth closed, tail fanned or pinched to meet official length.
- c. Any bass that is presented to the official bump board that does not meet the lake requirement will be issued a (1) one-pound penalty.
- d. Type of bass weighed in must meet rules of individual tournament.
- e. No culling of a dead fish.
- f. There will be an 8 oz. or a .5-pound penalty for a dead fish.
- g. In the event a dead fish is weighed in for Big Bass during an event, a .5 lb penalty for dead fish carries over to the Big Bass total weight. (a 5.32 lb dead fish for Big Bass will only count for 4.82 lbs)

### **Late Penalty**

- a. Competitors that are not at the official checkpoint designated by the Tournament Director(s) at the described time will be penalized (1) one pound per minute. A competitor's catch, for that day only, will be disqualified after 15 minutes.

### **Tie Breakers**

- a. The largest number of fish weighed in by a competitor will break all ties. The second tie will be broken by the largest number of live fish weighed in by each competitor at that event. The largest fish weighed in by a competitor at that event will break the third tiebreaker. In the instance that neither competitor had weighed a fish for big bass, the fourth tiebreaker will be used automatically.
- b. In case of a fourth tiebreaker, that place and the preceding place will be combined and split between the competitors.

### **Tournament Specific Rules**

- a. Specific tournaments may have individual tournament rules in addition to those listed above. Tournament Directors from time to time may alter/modify these rules for tournaments sponsored and produced by N.C.B.A. All alterations will be posted to the North Coast Bass Anglers web page at [www.NorthCoastBass.com](http://www.NorthCoastBass.com) prior to the beginning of the tournament.