

OFFICAL ENTRY FORM

Tournament _____

State Federation _____

BASS Chapter name and/or number _____

BASS Member No. _____ Social Security No. _____

Name _____

Sex: M F Birth date _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: Area Code () _____ Business Phone: Area Code () _____

Business Address _____

Occupation _____

Are you fishing: Team Alternate

Will you bring a boat and motor? Yes No

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

(READ RULE NO. 8 CAREFULLY)

Horsepower of your motor _____

Are you a designated state team boater? Yes No

If you don't plan to use your boat or are not a designated state team boater, will you have a properly insured boat available if needed for tournament use? Yes No

Will your spouse accompany you? Yes No

Spouse's Name _____

Will your children accompany you? Yes No

If yes, how many? _____

Have you ever competed in a BASS Tournament? Yes No

Do you have Boating Liability Insurance on the boat you are using for this competition? Yes No

(SEE RULE #2)

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

If yes, explain _____

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 I hereby release BASS, the host, sponsors and Tournament officials from all claims of injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this Tournament. I hereby grant BASS the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with BASS, 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. I am currently a member in good standing of BASS I agree if I qualify for the CITGO BASS® Federation Championship™ or the CITGO/BASS Masters Classic® to use during the Federation or Classic competition any and all "official" products and equipment so specified and provided by BASS.

DATE _____

SIGNATURE _____

BASS® 2003-2004 FEDERATION TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. RULES CHANGES: Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by BASS Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director 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 BASS who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of BASS-affiliated chapters and who have participated in the appropriate state Federation qualifying tournament. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY BASS TOURNAMENT, NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS SUBMITTED DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$100,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE TO THE BASS FEDERATION DEPARTMENT. THIS DOCUMENTED PROOF MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE DATE AND EXPIRATION DATE AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY US ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE.** Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible. **A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED AT BASS HEADQUARTERS ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE.** The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. As a participant in BASS tournaments, you agree, if you qualify and are invited to be a contestant in the CITGO BASS® Federation Championship™ or the CITGO BASS Masters Classic conducted by BASS, to use during the Federation or the Classic competition and event any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by BASS **ENTRY DEADLINE DATE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT SHALL BE 21 DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST COMPETITION DAY OF EACH TOURNAMENT OR 7 DAYS AFTER THE FINAL DAY OF THE QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT IF THE TOURNAMENT FALLS WITHIN THE 21-DAY PERIOD.**

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be a practice period immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. The exact dates and times of the practice period must be obtained from the BASS Federation Department. The competitor must know and observe these dates. There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. **During the official practice, and during the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an “expert” on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, 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. **No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other contestant for use during any competition day.** During competition days of 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 information. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director 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 SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION.** The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director 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 his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

4. REGISTRATION: Each competitor must register in person with official BASS staff at the time and place prescribed in the schedule of events. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours shall result in a penalty of 1 pound off your total catch. **NO EXCEPTIONS. IT SHALL BE EACH COMPETITOR’S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR REGISTRATION TIME AND LOCATION OR OBTAIN TIMES FROM BASS FEDERATION DEPARTMENT.**

5. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor is required to 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. BASS reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournaments. 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.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in BASS 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 official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future BASS 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 efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing 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 the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. 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.

7. 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 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 sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day’s catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and **must be verified** by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. Gaffs may not be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited.

8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE 250 HP, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in its ruling of Nov. 1, 1972. When required, each boat **MUST** have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must **NOT** exceed the rating specified on this rating plate or the horsepower maximum set by BASS. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 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 would be cause for immediate disqualification from BASS tournaments.

9. 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 15 feet or more in length. Any raised platform 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 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 tournament, 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 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 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 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 partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Director shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.

10. 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.”

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

12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: A full discussion **MUST** be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to 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.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the BASS Federation Department. When anchors are used there are no distance or area restrictions on other anglers. Competitors are expected to extend professional courtesy and use good judgment when entering an area that is being fished by another angler(s). 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.

14. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. 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 that 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.

15. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: 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 Director; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbered buttons and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together and buttons must be turned in at check-in.

16. SCORING: Tournament standings, auxiliary 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 limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation 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 fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks-in at the official checkpoint he **MUST** present all **LEGAL** fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. His catch must be certified by the signature of his partner of that day. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. **This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited.** Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

17. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH: Each competitor is expected to keep his bass alive by use of a properly aerated livewell. The few bass which do not survive will be used for scientific study and for charity.

18. PENALTY POINTS: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized the following amounts on that day's weigh-in only. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

- 1 Dead Fish – 4 oz.
- 2 Dead Fish – additional 6 oz. = 10 oz.
- 3 Dead Fish – additional 8 oz. = 18 oz.
- 4 Dead Fish – additional 10 oz. = 28 oz.
- 5 Dead Fish – additional 12 oz. = 40 oz.

19. 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 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 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.

20. TIES: In case of a tie for first-place team or for team champion, the following tie-breakers will be used in order: 1) The team or individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition; 2) The team or individual with the largest number of legal **LIVE** fish weighed in during the competition; 3) The team or individual with the heaviest single-day catch during competition; 4) The team or individual with the second-heaviest single-day catch during competition. In the unlikely event that teams or team champions remain tied after these four tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s), and the money, if any, will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

21. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. Wherever possible, no contestants from the same city or state will be paired, nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner shall be made at the tournament 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. The Tournament Director, at his 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 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 14.) 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 all future tournaments conducted by BASS®.

22. 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 official practice period or the official competition days.

23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: BASS encourages the use of patches, logos and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media field that **MAY** sometimes restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, BASS reserves the right to **RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE** in such tournaments with as much advance notice as possible to the contestants. Each competitor agrees by his signature on this document to wear an official embroidered BASS patch on his shirt, vest or hat during each competition day of all BASS-sponsored events. This includes all BASS Federation Divisional Tournaments, the CITGO/BASS® Federation Championship™ and the CITGO BASS Masters Classic®.

24. STATE TEAM BOATS: Each twelve-person state team will designate six boaters and six non-boaters during the official tournament competition days. BASS recommends that each team bring at least one extra boat that meets BASS regulations.

25. STATE TEAM ALTERNATES: Each twelve-person state team will be allowed one alternate team member to replace an official team member if an official team member becomes ill or injured or has to leave the tournament due to personal business or tragedy. In addition, the State Federation president or his designated representative will be considered a second alternate. **BASS Headquarters must receive a completed entry form from the alternate team member and the State Federation president or his designated representative on or before the tournament entry deadline date or the state will not be allowed an alternate team member.** The Tournament Director must approve the reason for the leaving of the official team member before a replacement of the official team member with the alternate will be allowed. If the official tournament competition has begun, the team score will be determined by using the score of the official team member on the competition days in which he participated and the score of the alternate on the competition days in which he participated as a team member. The scores for the individual competition will be taken from each competitor’s own scores. After an official team member has been replaced by an alternate, the official team member cannot return to the competition for any reason as either a team member or as an individual competitor.

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