



JR. BASSMASTER TOURNAMENT TRAIL OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **Rule Changes:** The following rules shall remain un-changed throughout the events; however the tournament director shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters.

2. **Participation & Eligibility:** This tournament is open to all individuals, male or female, ages 3 to 18. Membership in B.A.S.S. Youth is required. Participants with out a membership may join at the event (\$10 annual dues).

3. Divisions:

(Age as of Nov. 30th of Tournament Year)

Beginners: Ages 3 to 6

Juniors: Ages 7 to 10

Advanced: Ages 11 to 14

Seniors: Ages 15 to 18

Beginners and Juniors may weigh in any combination of any legally caught fish in accordance with the state fishing laws set forth by the Texas Parks & Wildlife regulations, including fish caught with live bait.

Advanced and Seniors may only use artificial lures and weigh in Black Bass, Smallmouth Bass or Spotted Bass. You must register in your age group as described above. Failure to do so will be grounds for disqualification at the State Championship Tournament.

4. **Scoring:** ADULTS MAY NOT ADD A FISH TO THE CREEL FOR ADVANCE OR SENIORS. ASSISTANCE IS ALLOWED FOR THE BEGINNERS AND JUNIORS ONLY. PLEASE ALLOW THE KIDS TO CATCH THE FISH. WE ARE HERE TO TEACH THEM HOW TO FISH, NOT TO FISH FOR THEM. Advance and Seniors ARE ENCOURAGED TO operate trolling motors during regional events. Exception may be made for safety concerns only. Decision will be made by the tournament director. The minimum length of the bass to be weighed will be 14" unless local lake rules differ. (Using official tournament measuring board). A dead fish penalty of 0.50 pounds per fish will be deducted from the total weight of the contestant. Any contestant bringing a fish to weigh-in that is short of legal length will be assessed a 1-pound penalty per short fish and loss of that fish's weight. Each contestant is required to leave from and return to the designated checkpoint. Any contestant returning to the checkpoint late will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed. In the event of boat / motor malfunction, contenders must call tournament director immediately; the TD will assess the issue and consider justification. Culling of fish is each contestant's responsibility and no more than 5 fish may be kept in the live well.

All fish must meet Texas Parks & Wildlife creel and size limits. A total of 100 points will be awarded to the 1st place winner of each age group, determined by creel weight. 2nd place will receive 99 pts and on down. Anyone not weighing in fish will be awarded 15 pts LESS than the last place creel for that age group.

5. **Entry Fee and Registration:** Entry fee is \$25 per child for advance and seniors and \$15 for beginners and juniors. Registration may be made at the tournament site the morning of the event. Late arrivals are not encouraged, but could be allowed to enter as long as someone is available at the host marina to accept the late registration.

6. **Tournament Times:** Tournament times are from safe light until 12:00pm (noon).

7. **Sportsmanship:** Any contestant(s) who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the rules or any federal state or local laws or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified and shall forfeit all entry fees. The use of communication devices for the purpose of locating fish is prohibited. Contestants must remain 50ft from another contestant with the trolling motor.

8. **Safety:** All participants must wear an USCG approved life jacket while the boat is powered under the main engine. All participants under the age of 13 will be required to wear a life jacket as required by the State of Texas during tournament hours. All boats must meet Coast Guard regulations and be equipped with a safety kill switch to be used by the operator when the main engine is running.



9. **Boats and motor:** All boats and motors must meet U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations. No motor shall exceed BIA rating for that boat. Minimum boat length for any contestant is 16'. All boats must have a working kill switch and an adequate aerated live well.

10. **Prizes:** Prizes will vary for each age group, and will be determined by donations from our sponsors. We will make every effort to have something for each participant at every tournament.

11. **State Championship:** Anglers earning 200pt will qualify for state championship. The state championship will be a draw tournament for advance and seniors competitors. Advance and seniors must operate trolling motor, find and locate fish, and boat the fish with no assistance from boat captain or other competitor. Anglers qualifying through Jr clubs will have a \$30 entry fee.

12. **Points & Dues:** regional directors must submit each tournament results for all participants and state entry fees to state director postmarked within 7 days.

13. **Guides:** No guides and no outside information will be allowed 30 days prior to tournament.

14. **Insurance & Liability:** It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to have adequate general liability insurance covering him / her and passengers.

15. **Conservation:** this is the primary concern of the Texas B.A.S.S Federation Nation. All fish caught during a Region tournament become the property of the Region and will be released if possible.

BASSMASTERS' CREED: I promise to create among my fellow anglers, and the public in general, an awareness of my Chapter's and Society's contributions to angling, conservation and outdoor recreation. I will encourage and instruct the youth of my community in the art of bass fishing. I pledge myself to full adherence to all conservation codes and to detect and report any polluter of our nation's waters.

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