

## 2010 Official Rules for the North Central Region of the TBFN Tournament Trails

(1) **Rules Changes:** The following rules shall remain unchanged throughout the events, but the tournament officials shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the tournament officials are final in all matters.

(2) **Participation & Eligibility:** Anyone who is a member in good standing with B.A.S.S. and Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, is 16 years of age or older and has paid the entry fee may participate. A minor must be a guaranteed non-boater. Only tournament contestants or an appointed observer are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. Contestants must have completed a personal information form before fishing the first tournament so their information may be included in the computer standings program.

(3) **Alcoholic Beverages & Drugs:** No alcoholic beverages or drugs (unless prescribed) are allowed in the boat or may be consumed during tournament hours and until after an angler signs his/her weigh slip.

(4) **Sportsmanship:** Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the rules of 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 and/or prize money.

(5) **Boat & Motor:** All boats and motors must meet all U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations. No motors shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat and no horsepower shall exceed 250 HP. All boats must have a working kill switch and an adequate aerated livewell. All boats will be inspected by a tournament official prior to the start of the tournament.

(6) **Safety:** A U.S. Coast Guard Approved chest-type life preserver must be worn and fully fastened by all boat's members and the kill switch must be attached to the operator any time the combustion engine is in operation.

(7) **Emergency/Leave Early:** If a contestant wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that contestant **MUST** notify the tournament director or a tournament official, leave a note at the designated check-in area, or notify another tournament contestant that **will be present** at the weigh-in in order to receive points for the tournament. This is a safety requirement that all **must** adhere to.

(8) **Tackle & Equipment:** Dip nets are allowed. Dip nets cannot exceed 6 1/2 feet in overall length. B.A.S.S. recommends the use of a rubber or vinyl-coated net. **No protests will be allowed regarding netting of a partner's fish.** All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner on artificial lures. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish is permitted. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rind. Only one rod may be used at one time. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Only rods shorter than 8 feet in length may be used. The use of electronic tracking equipment is not allowed at any time.

(9) **Protests:** All protests must be submitted in writing, including name or TX number, to any tournament official within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

(10) **Guaranteed Boaters and Guaranteed Non-Boaters:** A contestant will be a guaranteed boater by bringing his own non-boater for the tournament. Likewise, a contestant will be a guaranteed non-boater by bringing his own boater for the tournament. All guaranteed boaters and guaranteed non-boaters must be specified on both competitors' entry forms. Non-guaranteed non-boaters will be paired with non-guaranteed boaters.

(11) **Polygraph:** All contestants are subject to a polygraph examination at the request of the tournament officials. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph examination will result in immediate disqualification and forfeit of any entry fees and claims to any prizes.

(12) **Officials:** All contestants are required to cooperate with all requests from any tournament official whether on or off the water. Contestants affiliated with the club designated to help with the weigh-in must come in 15 minutes early for set-up.

(13) **Official Check-in:** **All** contestants will leave from the same ramp. During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land or to make the boat more accessible to fishing water. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by water.

(14) **Scoring:** Will be based on a points system. (Example 100 points for 1st, 99 points for 2nd, 98 points for 3rd and so on through the placements). Contestants with no fish shall be awarded 25 points less than the points awarded for the smallest stringer of fish weighed in. Each angler should ask to have his/her big fish weighed. Each contestant may weigh-in a 5-fish limit with a minimum length of 14 inches (courtesy check is allowed) unless the lake minimum is greater. (The

Gator Grip Golden Rule will be the official tournament measuring board). For each legal, dead bass, presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized .25 lbs per fish. Culling of dead fish is not allowed. Bass presented at weigh-in that fall short of the official length shall accrue a penalty of that angler's big fish for the day. (Courtesy check is allowed). 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. Contestants with no fish returning to the check-in late will be penalized at the rate of 1 point per minute late up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no points will be awarded. Culling of fish is each contestant's responsibility and no more than 5 fish may be kept in the livewell. Only Largemouth, Guadalupe, Smallmouth and Kentucky Spotted Bass will be weighed in. Each contestant **must sign** their weigh-in slip to receive show points. (Only exception see rule #7).

(15) **Ties:** In case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used: (1) The individual with the most fish weighed in. (2) The individual with the largest single fish. (3) If a tie still remains, the flip of a coin will determine the winner. (All contestants must have their big fish weighed).

(16) **Off Limits:** The tournaments lakes will be off limits from 6:00 p.m. Friday thru 4:00 p.m. Sunday except for tournament hours which will be determined by the Regional Director. No guides will be allowed on tournament waters 30 days prior to tournament.

(17) **Registration:** See NC Region Registration Procedure on the website.

(18) **Entry Fee/Payback:** Entry fee for each tournament will be \$75.00 with \$5.00 going for Big Bass, \$5.00 going into the Classic pot, \$3.00 going toward the Angler of the Year pot and \$2.00 to help fund Youth. Payback will be figured on 80% of the regular entry fees with one place paid per seven (7) entries. Payback for the largest bass by net weight is 100%. All paybacks (and any prizes) will be issued at the weigh-in site. Any late registration fees collected will be added into the general fund.

(19) **Angler of the Year:** Will be awarded to the angler having the greatest number of points totaled from all 6 tournaments. In the event of a tie, the angler with the highest place finishes during the Regional Trail will be named "Angler of the Year."

(20) **Championship Classic:** The North Central Regional State Team Representative (angler who goes to the divisional tournament) will be determined at a draw tournament after the Regional Trail is concluded. Contestants for the Championship Classic must fish at least 4 of the 6 Regional Trail tournaments to qualify. The number of contestants for this tournament will come from 60% of the average tournament field during the Regional Tournament Trail. \$5.00 from each Regional Trail tournament entry will go into a special jackpot fund for the purse of this tournament. Additionally, an angler who fishes all 6 of the regional trail tournaments receives an automatic bid to the championship.

(21) **Regional Top Six:** The contestants for the Regional Top Six Team for state championship will be selected from the Championship Classic contestants. If for any reason a Top Six Team cannot be selected and less than six (6) members wish to participate in the State Tournament, they still must pay full entry fee required.

(22) **Other Rules:** The Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Tournament Rules and Regulations will be used if a rule is not specifically covered in these rules. The North Central Regional Tournament Committee reserves the right to make final decisions on any other rule/issue.