

2010 OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

REGISTRATION: Contestants may register by e-mail at stxbfn@hotmail.com using the registration form on the South Region Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (STXBFN) Web site <http://www.texas-bass.com/south/index.html> and pay at official registration. **Official registration will be the night preceding each tournament from 6:00-7:00 PM at the designated tournament registration site listed on the tournament flyer or tournament schedule.** It will be the contestant's responsibility to obtain any special instructions given at official registration.

PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY: All participants must be B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, and Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation members to be eligible to fish. Contact the STXBFN Director to learn about membership details and benefits. Any member of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. Federation Nation, and the Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation that is 16 years or older and has paid an entry fee may participate. Only contestants registered in the tournament and immediate family or persons under the age of 16 are allowed in the boat during tournament hours. If a contestant's Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation bass club is holding a tournament in conjunction with a STXBFN tournament, a bass club member not entered in the STXBFN tournament may be in the contestant's boat. Only the fish caught by the registered contestant are legal for weigh-in. **No guide may fish a tournament on a lake they've guided on within 30 days of the tournament date.**

RULES & REGULATIONS: The following rules will remain unchanged throughout all STXBFN events. However, the STXBFN Director shall reserve the right to modify or change rules as needed and allow for special considerations. Contestants must follow all local, state, and federal laws. It is each contestant's responsibility to read and fully understand these rules as contestants will be disqualified for non-compliance and forfeit all prize money, qualification points, and entry fees. All contestants agree by signing the tournament registration form that all decisions of the STXBFN Director are final and not subject to appeal.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: Saturday tournaments will have a 4-day off limits period designated as Monday through Thursday preceding each tournament. Sunday tournaments will have a 5-day off limits period designated as Monday through Friday preceding each tournament.

PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE-STXBFN CHAMPIONSHIP: The STXBFN Championship Lake is off-limits Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday prior to the tournament. Thursday and Friday are official pre-tournament practice days. Obtaining information from **ANYONE** who has been on the STXBFN Championship Lake during the off-limits period is prohibited.

ASSISTANCE/INFORMATION EXCHANGE: The purchasing or bartering of information or the hiring of a guide within 30 days prior to any tournament is prohibited. Assistance from anyone other than contestants during a tournament is prohibited. No radios and/or cell phones may be used to discuss fishing related information during tournament hours.

OFFICIAL CHECK-POINT: There will be one official check-point for boat inspection and take-off in the morning and afternoon check-in for all events. Failure to go through boat check-out in the morning or to check-in at the official check-point in the afternoon will result in disqualification from the tournament. Contestants may launch their boat at a ramp other than the designated take-off location, but all contestants must come through the official check-point location before leaving to fish. Take-off ramp location and official check-point procedures will be provided at the official registration. Official tournament time will be the same as GPS time.

SPORTSMANSHIP & CONDUCT: All contestants are required to follow high standards of conduct, sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the tournament weigh-in, 2) Abuse of, or addiction to, mind altering substances, 3) Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months, 4) Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably on the STXBFN tournaments or the sponsors of those tournaments or reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules. If conduct does not comply with the standards set forth, the STXBFN Director shall have the right to disqualify a contestant forfeiting all prize money, qualification points, and entry fees.

BOATS & MOTORS: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment and meet state regulations. No motor shall exceed the BIA rating for that boat. All boats must have a working kill switch, navigation lights, fire-extinguisher, and an aerated live well to maintain alive contestant catch.

SAFETY: Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors. The decision to shorten or cancel tournament days will be determined by the STXBFN Director.

TACKLE/EQUIPMENT: Fish must be caught on artificial lures in a legal/sporting manner. Trolling with the combustible engine or intended snagging of fish is not permitted. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one rod may be used at any time. Only rods shorter than 8 Ft in length may be used. Electronic tracking equipment is prohibited. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

PROTEST: All protests must be submitted in writing to the STXBFN Director within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

POLYGRAPH: All contestants are subject to polygraph examination at the request of the STXBFN Director. Failure to submit to a polygraph or to pass will result in immediate disqualification/forfeiture of entry fees or claims to any prizes.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: No boater may practice or compete unless they possess current boat liability insurance of \$300,000 or more.

MEXICO REQUIREMENTS: All contestants fishing on Mexican waters must possess valid boater, fishing permits, and requisite insurance.

PERMITTED FISHING WATERS: Contestants will not be allowed to fish within 25 yards of the host marina, ramp, and/or any area that has been designated off limits by the STXBFN Director or lake authorities. No trailering of tournament boats during tournament hours is allowed unless under the direction of the STXBFN Director. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of an anchored or tied boat (an anchored or tied boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or line attached to a stationary object (i.e. standing timber) with the trolling motor in the up position) or within 25 yards of a non-anchored boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other angler(s).

SCORING & FISH CARE: Only largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass are accepted species for weigh-in. **Each contestant's catch must be presented in an official weigh bag. Any contestant presenting bass for weigh-in, not in an official bag will be disqualified.** Each contestant may weigh five bass. Any contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit will be disqualified. The length limit for all tournaments will be a minimum length of 14 inches. Any contestant presenting bass for weigh-in, which fail to measure 14 inches will be disqualified. A dead fish penalty of 0.25 pounds per fish will be deducted from the total weight of that contestant. Each contestant is required to check-in at a designated checkpoint. Contestants returning to the checkpoint late will be penalized at a rate of 1 pound per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no weight will be allowed. Culling of fish is each contestant's responsibility. No more than five fish per contestant is allowed in the live well except during the culling process. No dead fish may be culled. In case of a tie, all ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place prize money and points. The big bass weight will be penalized 0.25 pounds if weighed dead. STXBFN angler point system; ex. 200-first; 199-second; 198-third; and so on. Any contestant weighing no fish (no weight) will be given 40 points less than the last weighed place.