



2017 Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Nation (OBN) Divisional Qualifier Rules

The following rules can only be changed at the end of the Calendar Year State Board meeting, with a motion and second being made at a previously held regular board meeting. Or written notice of a motion and a second, being made to EVERY club in the B.A.S.S. Nation, written notice must be made a minimum of 30 days in advance, but not later than Nov.1. The rules set forth at the end of the Year State Board meeting shall remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the O.B.N. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Committee and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

C1. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- (a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director
- (b) Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marked and verified by either your partner/observer/camera operator. If not verified the entire catch maybe disqualified
- (c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- (d) Disqualification from the tournament in question
- (e) Disqualification from future B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- (f) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year points.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open only to members in good standing of the O.B.N., who are 16 years of age or older and active members of a State B.A.S.S. Nation club. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY O.B.N. EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A POLICY IN FORCE WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the

Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible. A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY O.B.F.N. BEFORE THE EVENT(S). The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. As a participant in an O.B.N. Tournament you agree, if you qualify and are invited to be a member of the "STATE TEAM", to be bound by and adhere to, all conditions set out in the "STATE TEAM CONTRACT". And to use while representing the O.B.N. any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by O.B.N. The 2017 OBN State Team will consist of 10 boaters and 10 non-boaters with one alternate.

2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be one official practice day immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. There shall be four days of off limits period immediately proceeding the first practice day. The exact dates and times of the official practice period \ off-limits must be obtained from the O.B.N. The competitor must know and observe these dates. 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 ANYONE WHO IS DEEMED AN "EXPERT" ON THE TOURNAEMNT WATERS BY TOURNAEMNT OFFICIALS, UNLESS HE/SHE IS A CONTESTANT IN THIS TOURNAMENT or A DIRECT FAMILY MEMBER. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During 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 info. EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE 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, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Committee 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 their expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

No practicing at night.

3. REGISTRATION: Each competitor is encouraged to PRE-REGISTER, completed entries, (completed entry form and entry fees) must be postmarked two weeks prior to the first tournament day. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to obtain from the O.B.N. registration times and location. Entry fee is \$350 for boaters and \$250 for non-boaters for all six (6) DQT qualifying tournaments. Boaters will be encouraged to link with a non-boater but will not be required to gain entry into the O.B.N. Qualifiers. For all boaters who do sign up with a non-boater link, they will be drawn out with other unlinked boaters. These boater/boater draws will need to decide whose boat they will use for the day and they will be fishing using the shared boat format whereas they both get half the day at the front of the boat and half they day to fish where they want. The boater will be allowed more than one link for the six qualifying tournaments. In the event that an entrant has notified O.B.N. before the first event day that he/she is unable to fish all tournaments due to circumstances beyond his/her control, a refund of the entry fee may be made. Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. Members who cannot attend the pre-tournament meeting must contact the tournament director if you cannot make the meeting; however, if you are not at the meeting, you are still responsible for finding out the tournament details such as boat number, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, partner draw, etc.

4. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest- type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the boat is on plane. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches their 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. In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact emergency personnel by dialing 911 and then notify a member of the tournament committee, contact numbers will be provided at the pre-tournament meeting.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in an O.B.N. tournament 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 or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future O.B.N. 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 prevailing state 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 official practice or competition days. 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.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8- foot maximum length from butt of the 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 the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. No Alabama Rigs will be allowed or multi-hook baits.

7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U.S. COAST GUARD or NMMA RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. Maximum horsepower shall not exceed 250. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, 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 or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from O.B.N. Tournaments.

8. 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 16 feet in length or longer. Any raised platforms 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 an 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. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. 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. 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 available and will be paired with one who does when possible.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all the 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 FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate". Navigation lights must be operational. During morning check in, the boats will be checked for working live wells and working navigation lights. If during check in, the live wells fail to work, you will not be allowed to fish until the problem is fixed and the live wells are working. If during check in your navigation lights fail to work, you shall get a 30 minute penalty and you cannot start fishing until the 30 minute penalty has been served.

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official,

11. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: **During competition**, in pro-am type events, pros will fish from the front deck, co-anglers from the rear deck, NO EXCEPTIONS. Boater/boater pairings shall utilize the shared boat format. **During both practice and competition**, Co-anglers are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the pro's boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **During official practice**, co-anglers not practicing with a pro competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of their own boat with the proper insurance. Any pro that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their co-angler partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a pro competitor request that the co-angler competitor not fish. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the O.B.N. Fishing on Tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position WITH THE TROLLING MOTOR OUT OF THE WATER. The anchored boat has a responsibility to inform other competitor's boats when they have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. 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 Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

13. 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, both 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 counted. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official. If a tournament official is unavailable the contestants catch can be verified by any competitor participating in the event. In order for a contestants catch to be counted in the tournament the competitors must make a reasonable attempt to contact a tournament official first. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left 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. Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Officials.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout 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 proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area and place number chit in receptacle located at the weigh-in trailer. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

15. SCORING: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced by the Board of Directors. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The Pro limit shall be 5, Co-angler limit shall be 3, 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 in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, **they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in.** The official length for bass shall be decided by the Tournament committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the LONGEST State limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. All bass will be measured on a Golden Rule measuring board. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass and such bass will be returned to the lake and not weighed in. 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 the angler **MUST** present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitors catch has been measured, counted or 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. It has been determined that stringering decreases the chances of a bass's survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

16. CATCH & RELEASE: **CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. Upon mutual consent of both pro and co-angler paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight. **SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.** It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process.

Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised. Non penetrable culling clips are recommended. Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact tournament officials.

17. 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 one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day; including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that days catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will 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 stop upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

18. TIES: In case of a tie for first place weight, ties will be resolved in the following order: (1) individual with heaviest single day catch during competition; (2) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the second heaviest single day catch during competition; (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the individual with the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie.

19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner will be made at the Tournament Briefing, which **must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director**, by each competitor. It will 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/her 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 competitors 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 or exceptions. A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor. In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by BASS.

20. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: O.B.N. encourages the use of patches, logo and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media\sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of such signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, O.B.N. reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE, with as much advance notice as possible.

Note: All competitors will need to bring a valid fishing license and all competitors who will use their boat in official practice or during the tournament will need to have a copy of their insurance at registration on June 17, 2016.

2017 Divisional Qualifying Tournaments

Competition Dates

June 18 – 19, 2016 Eufaula

August 20 – 27, 2016 – Texoma

October 22 - 23, 2016 – Keystone

ALL DATES ARE PENDING PERMITS

Registration Friday night prior to each Saturday
tournament 6:00-7:00pm
Pairings draw 7:00pm

