

North Carolina Bassmaster High School and Junior Series (Spring 2021)

1. **These series rules may reflect slight deviations from the normal BASS High School Rules. BASS High School rules apply to any item, instance, or circumstance not covered by these rules. By signing the waiver, anglers acknowledge they have read and understand these rules and the BASS High School rules found at https://www.bassmaster.com/sites/default/files/2020_hs_rules.pdf . Anglers should pay special attention to the Angler Code of Conduct, Scoring, and Sportsmanship sections.**
2. Angler Eligibility
 - a. These tournament events are open to any youth age 18 and under (Senior year of high school and under).
 - b. Anglers must be a member of B.A.S.S. and B.A.S.S. Nation to acquire points toward advancement opportunities. Additionally, they should be a part of their school's club. If a school does not wish to sponsor a club, Community Clubs are allowed. Teams shall meet these requirements by **February 28, 2021** in order to accumulate points toward advancement opportunity.
 - c. To be eligible to compete in the 2021 NC Bassmaster Junior & High School State Tournament, anglers must be a member of B.A.S.S. and B.A.S.S. Nation no later than **February 28, 2021**. Anglers must also fish in at least two qualifying tournaments with the same partner in order to qualify for the State Championship.
 - d. Non-members may compete as a means of learning about the series and with the intent of either joining an existing club or creating one of their own within their school. Non-members will not be eligible for any advancement opportunities.
 - e. 8th graders are allowed to compete in the High School Trail. They may not dual enroll (Compete in High School Trail and as a Junior competitor).
 - f. Junior teams can compete in the trail but will not accrue points toward the National Championship by way of the trail. Junior Teams must fish in two trail events to be eligible to fish in the State Championship. **The Junior National Championship qualifying teams shall be determined at the State Championship**. Junior teams are students in Grades 2-8.
 - g. Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria have been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year.
 - h. This is a team event. Everyone needs a partner to qualify for points and the State Championships. See rule #21 regarding teams and points.
3. Boat Captains / Coaches
 - a. If a potential boat captain is a local guide (has a NC Wildlife Guide License), is an angler fishing the Bassmaster Elite Series, the FLW Tour, or MLF Bass Pro Tour or Cup events, then they are ineligible to be a boat captain. The exception is if the individual is an immediate family member. B.A.S.S. and this Series reserves the right to deny any boat captain.
4. Teams will consist of (1) one boat captain and (2) two youth anglers. The boat captain will provide a boat for the team to compete from. *(See Boat Requirements – Rule #14)*
5. Consent
 - a. Parental / Legal Guardian consent is required on the Covid Waiver Form, the Rules Waiver Form and the entry form for each youth angler. **A new entry form is required at each event.**
 - b. A Covid Waiver Form and the Waiver & Release form must be completed before each angler can compete. These forms are only required once per season, per series.
6. Spirit / Intent
 - a. The intent of this series is for the youth anglers to have a means of local competition events and to be exposed to the ever-changing conditions and techniques that surround tournament bass fishing. These events will allow boat captains the opportunity to educate young anglers about the many variables associated with the competition, such as lure selections, patterns, methods, fish care, and camaraderie among their competitors.
 - b. The boat captain is needed to operate the boat while the combustion engine is running and ensure proper safety measures are used. At no time can the youth anglers operate the combustion engine during competition. However they may operate the combustion engine during loading and unloading of the boat at the ramp, provided that all NC boating guidelines are followed.
 - c. The boat captain may operate the trolling motor if needed, but should use these events as a method for preparing youth to do so on their own as the youth will be required to do so during state or national level competitions.
 - d. The boat captain must allow the youth anglers to net their own fish except under the following conditions:
 - a. Any team not yet in high school (8th Grade & Under) may request the assistance of the boat captain for netting a fish.
 - e. The boat captain must allow the youth anglers to make their own casts and retrieve their own lures.
 - f. The boat captain may assist with lure selection, but every opportunity to allow the youth anglers to make their own decisions about these selections should be granted as the youth may be required to do so during state or national level competitions.
 - g. The boat captain may assist with removing or retrieving a snagged lure.
 - h. The boat captain may assist with the removal of fish from the hooks.
 - i. The boat captain is requested to assist with the culling of fish to help ensure proper fish care and handling.

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- j. If the boat captain is assisting with the retrieval of a snagged lure, the removal of a fish from the hooks, or the culling of fish, then only one of the anglers can continue fishing until these processes are complete, just as if one of the youth anglers were completing any of these processes on their own.
 - k. **The boat captain may not fish at any time during the time of competition.**
7. Entry Fees
- a. \$40 – High School teams acquiring points toward National Championship advancement/entry into the State Tournament.
 - b. \$20 – Junior (Middle School) teams. Junior teams will not acquire points; however, the Junior teams will have the opportunity to earn a National Championship berth during the NC Bassmaster Junior and High School State tournament event.
 - c. \$20 – Non-competitive team participating that is not a member of B.A.S.S. or part of an established high school club.
 - i. Note: Only teams that are in good standing with B.A.S.S. and are part of an established High School or Middle School club are eligible to advance to the National Championship.
8. Morning Registration/Check-In
- a. Registration/Check-In will start 90 minutes prior to the event starting time.
 - b. Teams must check-in the morning of the event, even if a team has pre-registered.
 - c. Teams must have their boat's livewell checked by a tournament official before starting.
9. Starting Positions
- a. Starting positions (Boat Numbers) will be assigned on a "first come – first served" basis as each entry form is received by the tournament director. Simply put, the earlier the entry is received, the earlier you will blast off.
10. Starting Times
- a. Events will start (Blast Off) at safe light. Approximate starting times will be posted at the tournament web site just prior to each event.
11. Starting Sequence
- a. Teams will start the event based on their assigned starting position (Boat Number).
 - b. The Tournament Director will announce the sequence of boat numbers one boat at a time and allow a safe distance between each boat.
12. Afternoon Check-In / Return Times
- a. Event check-in/weigh-in times will be posted at the tournament web site just prior to each event.
 - b. You must check-in with a tournament official before leaving, even if you are not weighing a fish. This is to ensure that everyone has returned safely and is off the water.
 - c. Teams will lose (1) One pound for every minute you are late for afternoon check-in. After (15) Fifteen minutes teams will be disqualified.
13. Scoring
- a. **(5) Five fish limit per boat. Culling must occur immediately after a sixth fish is caught. At no time should the Team have more than 5 fish in the boat livewell system. Penalties will be per the BASS High School Rules.**
 - b. All fish must be 14" minimum length, except that (2) two fish may be less than 14" minimum. During an event in which the state law requires a different length limit or slot limit these limits will be announced and provided to each team during morning registration. After weighing, all live fish are to be carefully and gently returned to the lake.
 - c. Any dead fish will receive a 0.25 lb (4 oz) penalty. The culling of dead fish is NOT allowed.
 - d. Any short fish attempted to be weighed will receive a (1) One pound penalty plus the loss of that fish for scoring. Boat captains should serve as "Boat Officials" and help properly measure fish and verify legal length fish. The goal is to teach the anglers proper sportsmanship, integrity, and honesty concerning legal fish.
 - e. Final positions will be determined by total weigh of catch after all penalties.
 - f. In case of a tie for first place at the end of the tournament that is not resolved by the following five (5) tie breakers there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. All other team ties, the following tie breakers will be used in the following order:
 - ii. The heaviest single day catch during competition.
 - iii. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the second heaviest single day catch during competition.
 - iv. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition.
 - v. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be largest number of legal fish weighed during competition.
 - vi. If the tie is not broken, the next tie breaker will be the biggest bass weighed.If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie, and prizes will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied teams or as determined by tournament officials.
 - g. Lunker ties will be split by heaviest total catch of the tied teams.

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14. Boat Requirements (For Safety Concerns & Fish Care)

- a. Can be either fiberglass or aluminum construction.
- b. Minimum Length is 16'.
- c. Must contain a livewell system adequate for maintaining the health of all bass within possession.
- d. All boats must contain all required Coast Guard safety equipment including an engine shut-off device (Kill Switch).
- e. Life jackets and shut-off device must be used anytime the combustion engine is running.

15. Boat Insurance

- a. Each boat being used must have documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boat owner's liability insurance covering the boat being used in the tournament event. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in that boat. Random checks may be conducted and any competitor that does not have the requested proof of in-force insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 coverage may be disqualified. Each policy must clearly show an effective start and end date.

16. Tackle and method of catch

- a. All bass must be caught in a legal and sporting manner.
- b. Only artificial lures are accepted.
- c. Contestants can use only one rod and reel at a time.

17. Approved Fishing Locations / Respect Of Other Competitors

- a. Any areas designated as open for public use is permitted within the body of water being used for the tournament event.
- b. Trailering to another body of water is not permitted.
- c. You may not fish within 50 yards of another competitor without permission from such competitor. Note: Once you grant permission for one boat to enter your 50 yard "no fish zone", you open that area up to any and all competitors. You cannot select who can and cannot fish within your 50 yard "no fish zone".

18. Break-downs

- a. In the event of a break-down a team may only receive assistance from another competing team if you choose to transport you and your fish to weigh-in by use of the other team's boat. One team member and boat captain may stay behind to secure the disabled boat.
- b. Teams may receive a tow from anyone in order to arrive back at the launch/weigh-in area.

19. Off-Limits Period

- a. Off limits shall be **Monday through Thursday** prior to the scheduled event. This off-limits period includes both the anglers and the boat captains. Teams may pre-fish/practice on Friday (the day before the scheduled event.) From the beginning of the off limits period through the end of the scheduled event, no information may be purchased, received, bartered, or solicited from any person(s) who entered the official tournament waters during the off-limits period or has knowledge from someone who entered the waters during the off limits period.

20. Tournament Rules Committee / Rules Interpretation

- a. **All decisions determined by the Tournament Rules Committee are final in all cases.**
- b. **Any violation of the above rules will be grounds for disqualification and/or suspension from this and any future events.**

21. Season Points Competition (High School Division)

- a. Each team will acquire points at each event, based on finishing positions.
- b. 1st place is valued at 250 points. 2nd place 249 points, 3rd place 248 points, proceeding at 1 point increments thereafter.
- c. All teams not weighing a fish will receive 100 points.
- d. **Each team's lowest two scores from the six events will be dropped when calculating the final points value. (In other words, we'll use your best 4 out of 6 scores to calculate the final points value.)**
- e. In order to receive points toward Season Points Competition an angler or anglers must declare their team (partner) during the first event that they compete in. Once a team is declared they may acquire points and cannot have any substitutions in order to accumulate points. However, one team member may fish alone, representing the team, and acquire points for the team. If circumstances dictate a change in Teams (partners), all points are forfeited. The Tournament Director shall be contacted by the Club Advisor/Coach to review and approve any changes in Teams.
- f. At the conclusion of the season, the team that has acquired the most points after all six events have concluded will be named the seasonal points champions and may receive an invitation to the Bassmaster High School National Championship.
 - i. Invitations from B.A.S.S. to attend the Bassmaster High School National Championship are pending verification from B.A.S.S. based on the total participation among each series of events.
 - ii. The series must have a minimum of 50 unique teams (100 individuals) that are members of B.A.S.S. and the North Carolina B.A.S.S. Nation compete, at some point, throughout the season to receive an invite/invitations to the National Championship event. (Refer to Rule 2b above.)

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BASS, LLC

Waiver and Release (Page 1 of 2)

ALL COMPETITORS MUST EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND NAME AND LIKENESS RELEASE

As a condition of my being permitted to participate as a volunteer in the (the "Event"), an opportunity available to a limited number of people, and for other goods and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged and intending to be legally bound, I agree to the following:

Name and Likeness Release

I hereby grant permission to BASS, LLC its parent companies, its subsidiaries and subsidiaries of its parent and their affiliates, their successors, licensees and assigns (the "Distributors") to utilize my appearance, performance, name, voice and likeness in connection with the Event itself and any productions incorporating or based on the Event, in connection with publicity for the Event and future editions of the Event and in connection with the promotion of BASS, LLC and any tournaments or other events staged by BASS, LLC in any and all manner and media throughout the universe in perpetuity. I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect or approve any finished product or any advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it is applied. I hereby warrant that I have the right to make this release and that my granting this release and the rights conveyed thereby will not infringe the rights of any third party.

Physical Condition

I am physically fit to participate as a volunteer in the Event, and have not been advised otherwise by a medical practitioner.

Equipment and Facilities Inspection

I agree that before I participate as a volunteer in the Event, I will inspect the related facilities and equipment. I will immediately advise the supervisor of the Event of any unsafe condition that I observe. I will refuse to participate in the Event until all unsafe conditions observed by me have been remedied.

Assumption of Risk

I understand that I, and each participant in the Event, will be engaging in activities that involve the risk of serious personal injury, illness, permanent disability, dismemberment and death, and that also involve the risk of severe economic and property loss and damage. I understand that these risks may result from the actions, negligence, fault, omission and failure to act of myself and others (including but not limited to Divisional and Junior Bassmaster World Championship Host Cities and other participants in, and the sponsors, organizers and volunteers of the Event) and from the rules of play, the challenges of the Event and the condition of any property, facilities or equipment used. I also understand that there may be risks involved which are not known to me or to the Distributors, sponsors, organizers, Divisional and Junior Bassmaster World Championship Host Cities and other volunteers, and may not be foreseen or reasonably foreseeable by any of them or us at this time or at the time of the Event. I assume all of the foregoing risks including the risk of any negligence by other participants or by the Divisional and Junior Bassmaster World Championship Host Cities and the Distributors, organizers, sponsors or volunteers of the Event and their respective owners, directors, officers, employees or agents, and the risk of injury caused by the condition of any property, facilities or equipment used during the Event, and accept personal responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury, disability, dismemberment and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability or expense, of any kind or nature, that I or my property may suffer arising out of or in connection with the Event or my participation therein or attendance thereat.

Liability Release and Indemnity Agreement

I hereby release and forever discharge and agree to save and hold harmless BASS, LLC and its respective parents and their subsidiaries, subsidiaries of its parents and their affiliates, the Divisional and Junior Bassmaster World Championship Host Cities and other volunteers associated or affiliated with the Event, the owners, lessors and lessees of the property, facilities and equipment used in connection with the Event, including without limitation the respective organizers, directors, officers, employees and agents of all of them, and the other participants in the Event (each such entity or individual being referred to as a "Released Party") of and from any and all injuries (including personal injury, disability, dismemberment, and death), illness, losses, damages, claims, liabilities or expenses (including attorneys' fees) of any kind or nature (and whether accruing to me, my heirs or my personal representatives) that are caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by my action, negligence, fault, omission, failure to act, or by my breach or alleged breach of this Waiver and Release, or by the condition of the property, facilities or equipment of any Released Party or that arise out of or in connection with the Event or my participation therein or attendance thereat.

Medical Treatment

In connection with any injury I may sustain or illness or other medical conditions I may experience during my participation in or attendance at the Event, I authorize any emergency first aid, medication, medical treatment or surgery deemed necessary by the attending medical personnel if I am not able to act on my own behalf. I further authorize the attending medical personnel to execute on my behalf any permission forms, consents or other appropriate documents relating to medical attention and to act on my behalf if I am not able or immediately available to do so.

Severability of Provisions

I agree that the foregoing agreements are intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by law. Any provisions herein found by a court to be void or unenforceable shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provisions.

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You only need to provide this signed waiver and release form once per season.

BASS, LLC

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I HAVE READ AND HAVE UNDERSTOOD THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND NAME AND LIKENESS RELEASE. I UNDERSTAND THAT BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE, I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS. I HAVE VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date: _____

IF THE PERSON EXECUTING THE FOREGOING RELEASE IS A MINOR, THE FOLLOWING SECTION MUST BE COMPLETED:

I represent that I am a parent or legal guardian of the minor who has signed the above Waiver and Release, and I hereby consent to the terms of the above Waiver and Release agree that we both shall be bound thereby.

Signature: _____ Print Name: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Date: _____

E-Mail Address _____

Phone Number _____ Optional Phone Number _____