

Western North Carolina Bassmaster High School and Junior Series Rules (2023-24)

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/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/2023-High-School-Rules-and-Waiver-.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 aged 18 and under (Senior year of high school and under).
 - b. **All anglers must be a current, registered member of B.A.S.S. and B.A.S.S. Nation in order to be eligible to fish in the tournaments. Any and all BASS Nation dues shall also be paid prior to entering any tournament.** Additionally, they should be a part of their school or community's club. If a school does not wish to sponsor a club, Community Clubs are allowed. Teams and anglers shall meet all requirements prior to fishing these tournaments.
 - c. To be eligible to receive an invitation to compete in the 2023-24 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 March 1, 2023. All Nation and State dues shall also be paid. Anglers must also fish in at least two qualifying tournaments with the same partner in order to qualify to receive an invitation to the State Championship. **Invitations to the State Championship are given solely at the discretion of the State Youth Director.**
 - d. Eighth (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 Series competitor).
 - e. Junior teams compete in the trail and have their own tournament, but do not accrue points toward the National Championship by way of the trail. Junior Anglers must fish in two trail events with the same partner to be eligible receive an invitation to the State Championship. The Junior National Championship qualifying teams shall be determined at the State Championships. Junior teams are students in Grades 2-8.
 - f. 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.
 - g. This is a team event. Everyone shall have a partner to be eligible to qualify for points (High School) and the State Championships. See rule #21 regarding teams and points.
3. Cell Phones
 - a. **During the official competition day(s) of the tournament a competitor or boat captain may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors are allowed to use smartphones for global maps, weather, notes, Bassmaster.com updates, etc.; however, using smartphones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.**
4. 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. Boat captains shall serve in that capacity for a minimum of two (2) tournaments in order to be eligible to be a boat captain in the State Championships.
 - b. The boat captain shall 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. **Boat captains may NOT fish at any time during the competition and should never have a rod in their hand. Violations will result in suspensions to both the anglers and the boat captain. The suspensions will be a minimum of 3 events for the anglers. The team will also automatically be disqualified from fishing in the State Championship.**
 - d. **ANY BOAT CAPTAIN CAUGHT IN THE ACT OF FISHING DURING AN OFFICIAL EVENT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO DISQUALIFICATION FROM BEING A BOAT CAPTAIN FOR A MINIMUM OF SIX (6) TRAIL EVENTS OR INDEFINITELY. IN ADDITION, THE TEAM SHALL BE DISQUALIFIED FROM THAT TOURNAMENT AND IS HEREBY DISQUALIFIED FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE POINTS RACE (high school team) AND/OR FISHING IN THE STATE CHAMPIONSHIP.**
 - e. Boat captains for High School should never be on the front deck and ARE NOT ALLOWED TO COACH anglers while they are fishing for bedding bass. Captains may sit down and coach them on the "how to" at any time, but never when watching anglers fish for a bedding fish. The exceptions for a High School captain being on the front deck would be:

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- I. When rescuing the boat from a dangerous situation i.e. running onto rock or docks or anything that might damage or scratch the boat or trolling motor;
 - II. When netting a fish for a solo High School angler;
 - f. The boat captain shall 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.
 - g. The boat captain must allow the youth anglers to net their own fish except under the following conditions:
 - I. Any junior series team (8th Grade & Under) may request the assistance of the boat captain for netting a fish.
 - II. Anyone fishing by themselves (no partner) may have their boat captain assist in netting fish.
 - h. The boat captain must allow the youth anglers to make their own casts and retrieve their own lures.
 - i. The boat captain may assist junior series anglers in tying knots or leaders but should be attempting to teach the anglers to do this on the own. One angler may not fish while the captain is assisting with knot tying.
 - j. 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.
 - k. The boat captain may assist with removing or retrieving a snagged lure, but the captain may ever fish.
 - l. The boat captain may assist with the removal of fish from the hooks, but the angler may not fish during this time.
 - m. The boat captain is requested to assist with the culling of fish to help ensure proper fish care and handling.
 - n. 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.
5. 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)
6. Consent: Parental / Legal Guardian consent is required on the Rules Waiver Form and the entry form for each youth angler. A new entry form is required at each event. The rules waiver is only required once.
7. 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 may not fish at any time during the time of competition., but fishing during practice is allowed.
 - c. **Intentional outside Information/help is not allowed from other non-competing boats during tournament hours. Receiving information from another non-competing boat intentionally where the boat is fishing (trying to help a team or teams) and relaying information about fish locations directly to the team is NOT allowed. An example would be another boat finding bedding fish and relaying those locations to one or more teams. Hole sitting is also strictly prohibited. Violations to any part of this rule shall result in the immediate disqualification of the team from the current tournament and additional suspensions as decided by the State Director and Tournament Director.**
8. 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. Note: Only teams that are in good standing with B.A.S.S., The State Director, and are part of an established High School or Middle School club are eligible to advance to the National Championship.
9. Morning Registration/Check-In
- a. Registration/Check-In will start 90 minutes prior to the event starting time (safe light.)
 - b. Teams must check-in the morning of the event, even if a team has pre-registered.
 - c. Teams must have their boat's live well checked by a tournament official before starting.
10. Starting Positions/Time:
- 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. Any exceptions to this rule shall be noted on the entry form (where a random draw may be used.)
 - b. Events will start (Blast Off) at safe light as deemed by the tournament director.

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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 normally begin at 3:00pm EST. Any exceptions will be posted/announced 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 live well system. The penalty will be two (2) pounds deducted from the team's total weight.
- 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 any 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:
 - i. The heaviest single day catch during competition.
 - ii. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the second heaviest single day catch during competition.
 - iii. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition.
 - iv. If the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be largest number of legal fish weighed during competition.
 - v. If the tie is not broken, the next tie breaker will be the biggest bass weighed, if each team has a big bass weighed or one team has the largest bass of the tournament.

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 or Big Fish ties will be broken by heaviest total catch of the tied teams.

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 live well 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 may be used during competition.
- c. Each contestant may use only one rod and reel at a time.

17. Approved Fishing Locations / Respect for 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".

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18. Breakdowns

- 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. The tournament director should be notified prior to this occurring.
- 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 (if any) shall be announced prior to the scheduled event. This off-limits period includes both the anglers and the boat captains. Details for any off-limits will be announced prior to 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 ONLY – Based on 100 entries or less – More than that may mean points adjustments)

- 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 that show up, pay, and fish the tournament but do not weigh a fish will still receive 100 points.
- d. **Bonus Points- Ten (10) bonus points are awarded for fishing all Western North Carolina qualifying tournaments held—six (6) will be scheduled.**
- e. Each team's two (2) lowest 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 finishes and bonus points to calculate the final points total.)*
- f. 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.
- g. **If circumstances dictate a change in Teams (partners), all points are forfeited for both team members- Exceptions below.**
- h. **If circumstances occur where one team member wishes to leave the team to fish alone: This will not be allowed unless there are extenuating circumstances that are approved by the Tournament Director and State Youth Director. Even if approved, the individual is ineligible to fish the State due to not being a legal team.**
- i. **If circumstances occur where one team member wishes to leave the team to fish with another person (highly discouraged) all accumulated points shall be awarded to the partner left behind (unless there are extenuating circumstances that are approved by the Tournament Director, State Youth Director, and State Federation Director.) The partner left behind may retain the points with his/her new partner.**
- j. **A person who leaves a team without extenuating circumstances, may or may not be allowed to fish the remaining tournaments with a new partner, and may not receive an invitation to fish the State Tournament. State Championship invitations are solely at the discretion of the State Director.**
- k. The Tournament Director shall be contacted by the Club Advisor/Coach to review and approve any changes in Teams.
- l. 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 invitation(s) to the National Championship event. (Refer to Rule 2b above.) All decisions on invitations to the National Championships are strictly decided by B.A.S.S. and subject to change.
 - III. Any tie in the points where a National Championship berth may be on the line shall be broken by the following:
 - a. Total number of fish weighed in the best four tournaments
 - b. Total number of live fish weighed in the best four tournaments
 - c. Total weight of the best four tournaments
 - d. Highest finish in the four best tournaments
 - e. Second highest finish in the best four tournaments
 - f. Total points in the top 5 tournaments
 - g. Total weight in the top 5 tournaments
 - h. Total points in the top 6 tournaments
 - i. Total weight in the top 6 tournaments
 - j. Coin flip

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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

Waiver and Release (Page 1 of 2)

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 _____