

## **The South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. State Championship Tournament**

To qualify for the Championship Tournament an angler must have fished in at least one federation event, either a trail tournament or the Six-man Team Tournament in the current year. You can fish this event either way you desire, Boater or Non-boater. This tournament is held in November of each year and is like all tournaments on the second weekend. This tournament like the 6 Man Team Event, it is a two-day tournament. This tournament will be held on Friday and Saturday. The combined individual weight for both days determines the winners and the last four-team members and the first Alternate. The first and second Anglers are Boaters and the first and second Co-Anglers are Non-Boaters. The third place Angler will be the first Alternate for the State Team. If any of the Top Four positions have previously qualified then the next position will work their way down the line. If Non-Boaters are now qualified as Boaters then we will go back to the event they qualified from and pull the next person in line. The entry fee for the State Championship is \$135 for Boaters and \$85 for Non-Boaters. This tournament is subsidized with monies from both the Trail and the 6 Man Team Event. The amount taken from the Trail will be matched from the 6 Man Team Event. This combined total will be paid back minus the expenses. The site for the State Championship will be drawn out of a hat at the State meeting in August.

### **South Carolina Bass Federation Inc. Advertising Rates**

We have a Web page on the internet. This web page is available to each and every member of the Federation. All Districts are allowed space for news that is particular to their respective Districts. The Federation's Web page (scbassfed.org). This page is also offered to you for free.

If anyone would like to advertise see the following:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Annual Fee</u>
Business Card	\$100.00
1/4 Page	\$250.00

Advertising rates are being re-considered and adjusted accordingly.  
Please contact any BOD member for current pricing.

### **Bad Check Policy**

Any returned checks for insufficient funds will be subject to a \$30.00 processing fee - plus the amount of the original check. Cash Only. No further checks will be accepted for a period of one (1) year from the date of the second bad check.

## **General Tournament Rules**

These rules have been adopted as standard for all tournaments sponsored by or sanctioned by the South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. All affiliated B.A.S.S. clubs are urged to follow these rules during all interclub and intraclub tournaments to promote safety, sportsmanship, and Bass preservation.

### **1. Insurance:**

Members using a boat at any South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. Tournament must have valid liability insurance of at least \$100,000 and must show proof upon request at the pairing meeting.

### **2. Participants:**

Must be a member in good standing with the South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc., National B.A.S.S. Federation and B.A.S.S. at all times.

### **3. Polygraph:**

All participants are subject to polygraph upon request. Anyone refusing to take or not clearing polygraph will be disqualified.

### **4. Registration:**

Regular registration will begin at 4:30 A.M. the morning of the tournament. Regular registration will end at 5:30 A.M. Late registration with a \$10.00 late fee until pairing begins.

### **5. No refund after pairing!**

### **6. Practice Days:**

No off limits

### **7. Tournament Pairings:**

All tournament participants will be paired until all non-boaters are used. All pairings are final, and no refunds will be made after that time. Pairings will be conducted by and in a manner selected by the Tournament Director at registration time. It is the participant's responsibility to meet tournament times and deadlines.

### **8. Pre-Tournament Meeting:**

All participants must attend the meeting prior to each day's blast-off.

### **9. Safety:**

All State and Coast Guard requirements must be met by the contestant and their equipment operated in accordance with those laws. A kill switch (safety switch) must be installed and in working order on each boat. Each contestant must wear an approved PFD-3 (chest type) whenever the combustion engine is running. The kill switch must be operational and attached to driver when the combustion engine is running. All auxiliary gas tanks must be permanently mounted. All fueling during the tournament hours must be pumped from a marina located on the tournament waters. Infraction of these rules may result in penalties or disqualification of the violator.

### **10. Sportsmanship:**

Sportsmanship is expected of all contestants. Safety and courtesy are essential to a successful tournament. A participant may not discuss fishing with anyone, other than another participant, during tournament hours for a tournament gain or fishing advantage.

### **11. Tackle and Lures:**

Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait is allowed except commercial pork baits. Only casting, spinning, and spin casting tackle will be used. Only one rod will be in water and fished at a time. Other rods may be pre-rigged and available for immediate use, no rods over 8 feet will be

allowed. Fish must be caught in the accepted conventional manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their days fish disqualified. No Alabama rigs (or other dual bait rigs) may be used. Penalty will be disqualification of days catch.

**12. Non-Boater Requirements:**

Each non-boater/co-angler must provide his/her own life jacket / PFD-3 (chest type) and should limit His/her equipment to 6 rods/reels, and 2 small or 1 large tackle bag/box.

**13. Accessory Equipment:**

Underwater cameras/video equipment are not allowed, any other electronic equipment may be used. Two-way radios and communication equipment may only be used in case of an emergency and not for tournament gain or a fishing advantage.

**14. Boating Equipment:**

Only boats and motors complying with state laws will be used. Boats powered by any outboard motor (minimum 60HP and maximum 250HP) may be used in South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. Tournaments. No boat may be powered by an engine exceeding the Coast Guard approved rating plate. All boats must be a minimum of 16-ft in length as recorded on the registration. Only boats equipped with a steering wheel may be used. Each contestant has the option of not riding in a boat where his safety is in question. Trolling as a method of fishing with gas engine is prohibited.

**15. Boat Operation:**

Operating a boat in a negligent or unsafe manner or in violation of any State or Federal law may result in penalties or disqualification. Each boat will be provided a means of Tournament identification, which must be displayed upon request during Tournament hours. The angler can only cast from front deck, the co-angler can only cast from rear deck.

**16. Fishing Locations:**

First to arrive at a location "owns" that location and all water within fifty (50) yards of their boat in any direction for fishing if trolling motor is up and anchor out. Any off limits will be announced at pre-tournament meeting.

**17. Competition Fish:**

Only largemouth bass species and small mouth bass will be counted. Boaters can only weigh five (5) fish Non-Boaters can only weigh three (3) fish. All fish must meet the minimum size limit set for the lake by the tournament director measured on a flat board by the Tournament officials. Mashed or mangled bass will not be counted.

**18. Lake Headquarters:**

Will be designated by the Tournament Director. Boats must leave and return by water to this location. A check-in point will be designated. Each contestant must check-in at the end of the Tournament Day. Failure to check in will result in immediate and final disqualification.

**19. Culling Rule:**

When 6th fish is brought into boat, one must be culled to maintain a 5 fish limit before next cast or moving boat. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his/her catch to the tournament limit with a 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. Use of piercing cull tags will result in disqualification of days catch.

**20. Catch and Release:**

All tournament boats must be equipped with an operational live well system capable of supporting two (2) limits of fish under tournament conditions. Fish will be brought to check station in contestants own bags. A bag that holds water, keeping your fish alive is your responsibility.

**21. Departing Boat:**

For any fishing advantage is not allowed. Partners must remain together during tournament hours. Any participant-leaving tournament must weigh fish and sign weight slip at time of departure. Once leaving the tournament, the participants will not be allowed to return to the tournament. In certain circumstances a boater may be allowed to go back out alone if reason for non-boater departure was unavoidable.

**22. Tournament and Competition Hours:**

Will be announced by the Tournament Director. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES during the Tournament Hours! Tournament hours begin with registration and end after awards presentation. Two-day event tournament hours for first day will end when last contestant weighs their fish. Violation of this rule may result in penalties or disqualification.

**23. Blast Offs:**

Numbers of boats per flight will be decided by the Tournament Director at each tournament. Number of boats, water restriction, and weather conditions will be considered in each tournament.

**24. Weigh-Ins:**

Will be at Lake Headquarters. A weigh-in deadline will be announced. Partners must remain together at weigh-ins. Fish must be caught by the contestant weighing them in. In case of a mechanical failure, rule #31 applies.

**25. Penalties:**

Once fish are presented to the officials, the contestant does not have the right to cull his fish. Penalties will be incurred at that point. Fish will be measured and counted. Over 5 fish will mean disqualification. Each fish under the DNR size limit will be culled and incur a penalty of one (1) pound penalty. If your short fish is your only fish negative weight will be applied. A penalty of (4) ounces will be deducted for each dead fish. A one (1) pound per minute penalty will be assessed for each minute late for weigh in or for late check in for two day tournaments, up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no fish will be weighed for the late contestant. A one (1) pound penalty will be assessed per occurrence for not observing no wake zones on ALL bridges (marked or unmarked).

**26. Winners & Scoring:**

Winner and subsequent standings will be determined by the largest total pounds and ounces after any penalties. In case of ties, involving payback or points, in the top ten (10) positions during any tournament the following tiebreakers will apply:

- \* 1. Angler with the single largest fish.
- \* 2. Angler with largest number of live fish.
- \* 3. Angler with largest number of fish.
- \* 4. Flip of coin.
- \* 5. Ties in points at the end of the Trail Tournament season will be broken by total pounds and ounces.

**27. Big Fish Pot:**

Money will be paid in each division for largest bass per day. Each contestant may enter one (1) fish per day for big fish competition. A penalty of four- (4) ounces will be deducted from weight if fish is dead.

**28. Each Contestant:**

Must verify their fish weight on a form provided by the Tournament Director. All results are final after contestant leaves the weigh-in table.

**29. Protest:**

Any violation or rumor of a violation will be investigated by the Tournament Committee.

**30. Hazardous Weather:**

The Tournament Director will determine proper weather and go or postpone accordingly. If postponement of a trail tournament is determined, make up will be the following Saturday. Postponement of tournament will be decided at ramp on day of tournament. Six Man Team and Federation Championship will not be postponed.

**31. Mechanical Failure:**

You must compete (fish) with the same partner that you started competition with. If boat becomes rendered useless, you may send or bring your fish to weigh-in with another participant by water in a tournament boat. At that point the competitors of the useless boat competition is ended. Any change of boat must be approved by South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. Tournament Director.

**32. Tournament Trail Points:**

250 Point System per tournament. Points awarded according to finish. The people not catching a fish will receive 50 points lower than the last place person weighing in a fish. Standings at the end of the qualifying tournaments will be adjusted using four (4) or less highest place finishes to determine the Trail Champion, runners-up and the participants for the State Team.

**33. Enforcement:**

The duly appointed Tournament Director will be the final authority for the interpretation and enforcement of these rules and any special circumstances.

**34. Release of Media:**

By signing the official weigh in slip each angler agrees to:

I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity with the regard to the programs of the tournament in which I appear and consent to S.C. Bass Federation, B.A.S.S. LLC, its subsidiary companies or those acting under their permission or authority to copyrighting, distribution, televising, publishing and using in any way the audio, video, photographs or interviews of this event. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

**Disbursement of Tournament Trail Entry Fees**

	<u>Angler</u>	<u>Co-Angler</u>
Payback	\$65.00	\$48.00
Operational Expense	15.00	9.50
Big Fish Pot	10.00	8.50
Championship	3.00	2.00
State Team Fund	<u>7.00</u>	<u>7.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

**Angler Payback = \$65.00 x number of entrants**

**Co-Angler Payback = \$48.00 x number of entrants**

**One place will be paid for every five entrants in each division (up to 10 positions per division).**

**Two Big Fish for each division.**

Efforts have and will be made to keep these rules as up to date as possible. If any differences between the rules in this handbook and the most current rules of the South Carolina Bass Federation, Inc. may exist, the most current years official rules shall prevail, and shall be approved by the Tournament Director or his/her designee.