

# Tennessee BASS Nation HS/JR Trail General Guidelines and Tournament Rules for 2020-2021

**All times will be tournament launch location**

Launch will be **“Safe Light”** or **“Safe Conditions”**

**I will call numbers whether or not you are in the water!**

Mandatory Lunch Break **10:30am – 10:45am**

All Junior Boats will be due back in at **1:00pm**

First High School flight will be due back at **2:00pm**

## Competitors:

- Fishing Team – an independent or school affiliated youth fishing club registered with BASSMASTER
- Individual Team – two anglers who fish together for the entire year!

## Dues and Liability Forms:

- All membership dues must be paid prior to fishing first tournament: Required dues include 3 memberships (total of \$30 per angler.) \$10 BASSMASTER membership, \$10 BASS Nation membership, and \$10 Tennessee BASS Nation membership.
- All state liability forms must be completed with original signatures and turned in prior to October 15. Teams can add anglers. Dues and liability forms must be paid/submitted as you add additional anglers.

## Events:

- Launch positions will be drawn as each individual team registers for each tournament.
- Junior angler tournaments will be held the same day as High School tournaments and will start immediately after HS launch and will weigh in one hour prior to High School teams.
- Each event includes a mandatory lunch break. During lunch break anglers may not fish, baits may not be in the water, and rear motor and trolling motor must be off/not propelling the boat (Spot-Lock is allowed).

## Points:

- For each tournament, points start at 100 for the winning team and decrease 1 point per place of finish down to 40 points. After 60 places, all teams, including those with zero fish weighed, earn 40 points. The Championship tournaments awards double points.
- The Region Points Champions (Individual Team) is the team with the highest point total based on the best 3 out of 5 regular season tournaments plus the Region Championship.
- State Opens will be best 4 of 6 plus state championship
- Commissioner’s Cup will be Top 3 Individual teams points combined from each School
- To qualify for High School or Junior Division championships a team must fish 2 district events.
- To qualify for State Championships teams must fish one open event
- The ONLY route to the National Championship for Juniors is through the State Junior Championship Winner, State Junior Points Champion or BASS Opens.
- For high school teams, the winner of the Region points competition receives the first entry to the National championship. The rest of the entries for the National Championship will be awarded based on highest rankings in the points race, to the extent additional entries exist.
- In the event a high school team qualifies through a BASS Open event or the TN State Trail the region retains said entry and awards National Championship entries to the next highest placed team, and so on, until no more entries remain.
- The number of National Championship entries BASSMASTER awards to state and regional trails are based upon the number of individuals that fish and are paid members. Failure to pay dues by October 6, 2020 will result in loss of all points and you will no longer be allowed to fish.
- If your partner, for academic, or medical, or other reasons, is removed from the team, the remaining angler may keep points earned to date – at the sole discretion of the State/Regional director.

- If you and your partner choose to not finish the year together, points will NOT be carried forward.
- Payout of scholarship dollars will be based on number of entries to each event. Junior division anglers will receive plaques for the top 3 teams and for big fish.
- Licensed or unlicensed fishing guides or Professional Anglers may NOT be boat captains, unless the guide/Professional Angler is a "Director Family" member such as Dad, Stepdad, Mom, Stepmom, Brother....
- Guides may be hired/used prior to any TBN Event up to the tournament Briefing.
- No anglers or boat captains may be on the tournament waters after the registration/tournament briefing the evening prior to the event.

### **TN B.A.S.S. High School Coaches/Boat Captain Rules**

**Coaches/Captains may only fall in the following criteria:**

- **Official faculty member of the student's institution**
- **Close family friend/State Nation member**
- **Parent of the student's High School B.A.S.S. Club**

*\*If a potential coach is a local guide, then they will be ineligible for the tournament.*

*TN B.A.S.S. reserves the right to deny any Coach/Boat Captain.*

**During Competition Coaches/Boat Captains MAY:**

1. **Coach**
2. **Give advice (send in plays)**
3. **Verbally explain techniques, how to.....**
4. **MAY NEVER Fish**

*In addition, each team must take a 15-minute halftime beginning at the time designated by the Tournament Director. This is designed to instruct, hydrate, and eat before beginning the second half.*

**Coaches/Boat Captains MAY NOT:**

1. **Fish**
2. **Teach by example**
3. **Tie knots**
4. **Land fish with or without a net**
5. **Run the trolling motor**

**During Competition, anytime the combustion engine is running, coaches MUST be seated in the driver's seat in full control of the boat with kill lanyard attached.**

**Tournament Rules for 2020/2021 these rules will be posted each tournament by the regional or state director (s) as some items will change with the tournament body of water....**

**All times will be tournament launch location time**

Launch will be "Safe Light" or "Safe Conditions"

**I will call numbers whether or not you are in the water!**

Mandatory Lunch Break **10:30am – 10:45am**

First flight will be due back in at **2:00pm**

**Largemouth 15 inches**

**Smallmouth 18 inches**

**Kentucky/Spotted Bass 12 inches**

All Coaches/School Advisors: Please email all team rosters fishing this event to the XXXXXXXXX Not Later than XXpm on XX XXXX XX. Entries need to be paid at registration or the morning of the tournament. Boat numbers will be drawn/posted once registration closes... **I will be at Academy Sport + Outdoors in Symrna TN from XXpm to XXpm on Friday, 1 XXX 2020 for early pay and draw!**

Life Vest/Person Flotation Devices (Type III) must be worn by all individuals on board anytime the main motor is in use, ALL Buckles buckled, and all zippers zipped all the way up \*\*Tennessee State Law require all individuals 12 years of age and younger to wear a PFD at all times while on the deck of a vessel. Anglers under the age of 16 are **NOT** authorized to use the inflatable life vest.

1. You must maintain 50 yards away from another competitor, unless you invite the competitor in...once you invite a competitor in all are invited.
2. NO Hole sitting (You may NOT have anyone sit/hold/block and area)
3. Alabama/Tennessee rigs are authorized, must meet TWRA Regulations or Alabama Regulations if in Alabama Waters.
4. All Boat Captains and Anglers must have read and understand the general tournament rules posted by BASS for High School and Junior Tournaments.
5. At NO TIME will Junior or High School Boat Captains fish or touch any rod, reel. Line or bait during tournament hours. (Junior Captains may assist in tying or fixing lures or reels until 1 Jan 2021, but may NEVER Fish)
6. Mandatory 15-minute break by all teams/anglers starting at 10:30am local time
7. A Boat Captain can "Coach" anglers while on the water...Captains MAY NOT demonstrate...verbal coaching only. Boat captains can coach but will never touch or handle any fishing rod, lures or line during competition hours. Including lunch break. Captains can net if a single angler is in boat.
8. Trolling Motor Operation – Manually or by REMOTE, In the interest of Safety...High School Teams: A boat Captain may operate the trolling motor to "Make Safe" the anglers and vessel, this is the only time a High School Captain should be operating the trolling motor.  
**\*\* JUNIOR Boat Captains\*\*** if the anglers are not familiar with operating the trolling motor, you MAY operate the trolling motor...BUT PLEASE teach them, once anglers move up to High School level they MUST operate the trolling motor. All Teams which qualify to fish at the National Level "MUST" operate the trolling motor.

9. Junior Boat Captains- **Junior Level only until 1 January 2021:** Boat Captain may assist/instruct with tying lures, measuring a catch, clearing backlashes (reel must be detached from rod) and may net fish (the effected angler must be observing the boat captain and not fishing while you teach him/her...again, it is expected that you teach your anglers as once they reach the next level they must be able to do these actions themselves). Junior Captains may **NEVER FISH!**
10. ALL, it is the ANGLERS responsibility to ensure length limits of all fish and number of fish in the livewells. Anglers **MUST** cull immediately upon catching the 6<sup>th</sup> fish...no more than 5 fish are to be in the livewell at any given time.
11. Anglers will present the days catch to the scales. There will be a NO courtesy check station at the weigh-ins. Once a catch is presented to the scales, the catch may/will be checked as needed by the weigh master. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Short fish will not be weighed. Dead fish penalty is .25 pounds.
12. **Anglers** are not authorized to use electronic devices (cell phone, for example) unless emergencies arise including during lunch break. No phone fishing
13. **Boat Captains** may and are encouraged to video and/or take pictures during the competition hours and post them to Facebook or send them to the tournament directors for use on Facebook.
14. All Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency rules must be adhered to at all times. It is the Anglers responsibility to be familiar with and understand TWRA Regulations. If you have a question, contact the tournament Director. A ticket during tournament hours from TWRA/USCG/TVA is a automatic Disqualification for the tournament day.
15. All Boat Captains and Anglers must have read and understand the general tournament rules posted by BASS ( can be found at [Bassmaster.com/](http://Bassmaster.com/) high school) for High School and Junior Tournaments.
16. Licensed or unlicensed fishing guides or Professional Anglers may **NOT** be boat captains, unless the guide/Professional Angler is a "Direct Family" member such as Dad, Stepdad, Mom, Stepmom, Brother....
17. Guides may be hired/used prior to any TBN Event up to the tournament Briefing.
18. No anglers or boat captains may be on the tournament waters after the registration/tournament briefing the evening prior to the event.
19. All Protest or complaints shall be filed either prior to the start to the weigh in or immediately following the weigh in...once we start issuing scholarships it's over. Period!
20. Failure to report a rules violation to the tournament director **SHALL** result in both the offending team and the team who fails to report said violation to be disqualified, points removed for that event or complete suspension for the remainder of the tournament season. In other words, if you fail to report the day of the tournament, but later report a violation or complain that you saw a violation...this rule will be enforced.

These tournaments are meant to be a teaching, learning and enjoyable experience. It is the responsibility of all Coaches, School Advisors, Boat Captains and Tournament Officials to teach and ensure good sportsmanship and prepare our anglers for the next level of life and tournament competition. If you have questions, please contact the Asst State Director Capt Jake Davis at 615.613.2382 or via email at [sctnbassnation@gmail.com](mailto:sctnbassnation@gmail.com) or the State Director David Lowrie at 931-235-6216