

Revised Final October 17, 2016

Rules of Participation

Participation Agreement

P1. HAVING ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS IN THIS BOOKLET, I HAVE SIGNED AND DATED THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT. I WILL MAIL OR FAX THE COMPLETED PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND COMPLETE THE ONLINE ENTRY FORM BY THE DEADLINE DATES PROVIDED BY B.A.S.S.

In signing this agreement, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, payment schedules, late fines and regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament series and I hereby release B.A.S.S., LLC, its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, the hosts, sponsors and tournament series officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred by me in connection with my participation in this tournament series. I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament series, boat owners liability insurance (including coverage for third party property damage and bodily injury) with no “tournament exclusion,” having a minimum limit of \$300,000 per occurrence. The insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer rated A or better by A.M. Best and Company. Policy must include international waters, or a separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable Elite Series events. At B.A.S.S.’s request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of that insurance.

I hereby agree to waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the programs of the tournament in which I appear and consent to B.A.S.S., LLC (and its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, its owners, directors, employees and agents and those acting under their permission or upon their authority), copyrighting, distributing, televising, publishing and using in any way the audio and visual portions of any television videotape, film and photographs or pictures of me or of interviews, scenes or other sequences in which I may be included, and any reproduction thereof, anywhere at any time through any medium or media for advertising, promotion, trade, television programming or other lawful purpose whatsoever; and I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

P2. CONTENT RIGHTS

B.A.S.S. holds the content rights to the tournaments it owns and operates. However B.A.S.S. grants certain exceptions, including the following content rights, to tournament participants:

- Anglers may use up to 10 minutes of video, shot by the angler during a tournament, for promotional or marketing purposes, and in social media.
- During tournaments B.A.S.S. may ask to mount a GoPro or similar camera in a

competitor's boat (the footage may be used in B.A.S.S.'s web or TV coverage). A competitor is required to comply, even if he already has a personal camera mounted in his boat. Refusing to comply may result in a penalty.

- Still photos taken by an angler during a tournament may be posted to social media and the angler's website.
- B.A.S.S. also encourages anglers to send photos, videos and updates to fish@bassmaster.com for exposure on Bassmaster.com and our social media pages.
- In social media, you may use our hashtag #basselite to amplify and spread your post to our 1 million social fans.

B.A.S.S. reserves the right to revoke these exceptions, and the angler must remove the tournament-related content, if B.A.S.S. in its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other B.A.S.S. rules.

B.A.S.S. wants to help promote both your brand and the sport of professional bass fishing through its multimedia assets. If there are stories written about you or by you appearing on Bassmaster.com, B.A.S.S. grants permission to link to these stories, and any others on our website, from your website or social media pages. Please do credit Bassmaster.com.

P3. CONTINGENCY PROGRAMS

Contingency programs are sponsor-funded programs developed to reward competitors based on a predefined set of criteria. Participation in contingency programs is at the anglers' discretion.

P4. UNIFORMS, WRAPPED BOATS, ETC.

Elite Series anglers will be supplied with special rules relating to wrapped boats, tech inspection, fan experience, B.A.S.S. patch placement, contingency program patch placements, uniforms and any other special rules relating to those events. See uniform and boat wrap guidelines in this agreement. It is required that anglers wear the American flag embroidered on the left or right shoulder beginning in 2017. Anglers from countries outside the United States may embroider their nation's flag on their uniforms in addition to the United States flag.

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing, which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. B.A.S.S. may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in B.A.S.S.'s sole judgment, in poor taste. B.A.S.S. will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. No competing tournament trail logos other than B.A.S.S. properties or identity will be allowed on uniforms, rain suits, PFDs or complete boat packages, etc. Tow vehicles bearing emblems or logos of competing tournament trails will not be permitted in drive-through weigh-ins. Elite anglers are required to wear

uniforms during takeoff and weigh in, and when on camera or other times as determined by B.A.S.S.

Elite anglers are required to start the season with one wrapped boat for all 2017 Elite Series competition. Any changes during the season must be to a comparable boat as approved by tournament officials. Anglers are required to use their wrapped boat during both practice and competition unless approved by tournament officials.

P5. ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS

I further understand and agree that the Tournament Director reserves the right to reject my application for any reason and, upon such rejection, to refund the deposit or entry fee.

I am currently a member in good standing with B.A.S.S.

All anglers who elect to participate in B.A.S.S.-sanctioned tournaments will be required to execute a Participation Agreement containing the rules and regulations, code of conduct and tournament series specific content such as wrapped boat and uniform guidelines.

In addition to adhering to the Rules, Code of Conduct and Wrapped Boat and Uniform requirements presented in this booklet, I agree to participate in other important programs to promote the growth of the sport and awareness of my individual angler brand and identity. In addition, to ensure effective and timely communication between B.A.S.S. and the anglers, I understand that I am required to provide B.A.S.S. with a current e-mail address. If I do not have my own e-mail address, I must furnish an e-mail address for a primary contact person. I agree that delivery of an e-mail to my designated contact will constitute delivery to me. I also understand I must provide my personal cell number capable of receiving text messages from B.A.S.S.

Signature _____

Print Name _____

Date _____

Official Rules of Competition

C1. RULES AND PENALTIES

The following rules shall apply to all Bassmaster Elite and Bassmaster Classic events except that (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by B.A.S.S. immediately upon notice by B.A.S.S. to its members, which notice may be published on the B.A.S.S. Internet site at www.bassmaster.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or rules committee may impose such

sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and entry fees and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph C23, below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee shall be final in all matters.

Elite Series pros are required to police themselves each competition day and must sign a Rules Adherence Form. If a pro angler has a concern regarding his catch or knowledge of possible violations by another competitor, he should not sign off on rules adherence. Instead, he should weigh his fish, and consult with rules officials immediately after weigh in. Anglers who sign off to full adherence and are later found guilty of a rules violation **MAY BE DISQUALIFIED** from the tournament. Anglers not signing the official rules adherence form, or scorecard, will not start next official competition day unless directed by tournament officials.

Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by B.A.S.S., and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in the Bassmaster Elite Series or other B.A.S.S. circuits, rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 24 hours of the final flight check-in on the day of the alleged violation.

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 caught in potential violation of rules or regulations. All bass under question must be marked and verified by your Marshal/camera operator. If not verified the entire catch may be 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 or for a specific period of time up to or including 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 the Year points. Also see fines schedule under Angler Code of Conduct (C7).

C2A. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

(i) This tournament is open only to current members of B.A.S.S. who are 16 years of age or older. However, employees, officers and directors of B.A.S.S. or its parent, subsidiary and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children and siblings, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. To be eligible for the 2018 Bassmaster Classic, Elite pro anglers must participate in all 2017 Elite Series events in which they are eligible unless an exemption is approved by the Tournament Director.

(ii) During the official practice and competition days of any B.A.S.S. tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000, per occurrence, in boat owners' liability insurance (see participation agreement for full details) covering the boat being used in the tournament.

Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in that boat. Random checks will be conducted, and any competitor who does not have proof of in-force insurance with \$300,000 coverage may be disqualified. Each policy must show an effective start and expiration date. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S., LLC requirements.

(iii) Elite anglers will be provided a payment schedule, which they must adhere to. Each calendar year prior to competing in a B.A.S.S. event, all competitors must complete a W-9 and when required a Form 590 or W-8 BEN provided by B.A.S.S. If tax status or address changes occur new forms must be submitted prior to participation in the next B.A.S.S. event. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. **DEPOSITS ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE REGARDLESS OF DATE OF CANCELLATION.**

Competitors may miss an event in cases of dire emergency only on approval from the Tournament Director. Elite Series participation fees are paid for the entire series, not on an event-by-event basis. While a competitor may miss an Elite Series event in case of a dire emergency, fees for the Elite Series have to be paid on schedule and in full. There will be no refund for a missed event. Elite anglers will be furnished a payment schedule with penalties for late payments.

Competitors agree to use any and all official equipment provided by B.A.S.S. in the Elite Series and the Bassmaster Classic.

C2B. MARSHAL ELIGIBILITY

Immediate family members or significant others of an Elite angler are not allowed to enter as a Marshal. Any candidate for Marshal who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves may not be eligible.

The preferred method for marshal registration is online at www.bassmaster.com. Bassmaster Elite Series Marshals must provide a properly completed and signed official entry form, and the total event fee must be received by the B.A.S.S. Tournament Department on or before the event fee deadline date.

C3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION

(i) Special off-limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Classic will be announced by B.A.S.S. Off-limit periods for the Bassmaster Classic, Elite Events, Toyota Bassmaster Texas Fest (TBTF) and Angler of the Year Championship event will start on a Monday, 12:01 am local time of each event site as posted by B.A.S.S. There will be a three-day practice period prior to the first competition day for Elite Series tournaments and AOY events. Off-limits for Elite events begins on the Monday closest to 28 days prior to the first practice day. Off-limits for TBTF will begin on Monday, April 17, 2017, with a three-day practice starting on Sunday, May 14, 2017. To accommodate the Memorial Day holiday, a three-day practice period for Elite No. 6 at Lake Dardanelle will

begin on Tuesday, May 30, with competition beginning on Friday, June 2 and concluding on Monday, June 5. Off-limits and practice dates for the AOY championship will be posted by B.A.S.S. During the off-limits periods, other than using publicly-available information (e.g. newspaper and Internet reports), competitors cannot solicit, gather or intentionally receive any information via phone, electronic devices or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. **THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.** All information must be opened or accessed prior to official off-limits periods. No exceptions. For a first offense, the competitor will be disqualified from the tournament. For a second offense, the competitor will lose his eligibility for the following year's Elite Series events. During practice and competition, anglers cannot solicit, gather or intentionally receive any information from anyone other than another competitor in the tournament. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Any contestant accused in writing of violating the off-limits rule to tournament officials may be subject to a truth verification test relevant to the charges. Accusers may be required to take a truth verification test. Failure to pass the truth verification test may result in disqualification from the tournament.

No practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.

Competitors eliminated from competition are not allowed to fish on tournament waters until all competition is complete. Photo and video shoots, including those involving fishing, and other sponsor obligations may be allowed in the tournament off-limits live release area or other off-limits areas upon approval from tournament officials. Elite Series anglers are not allowed to have anyone in their boats during official practice, with the exception of a media observer, first responder, or military veteran approved in advance by B.A.S.S. Media observers, first responders and military veterans must sign a waiver form provided by B.A.S.S. Communications in advance of getting into the pro's boat. Only first responders, military veterans and credentialed, "working media" will be permitted to ride along during practice. Working Media is defined as a professional writer, photographer or videographer on assignment from a recognized media organization, such as a newspaper, magazine, television or radio station or network or consumer website. Persons creating video and other content intended for sale, rental or distribution for a fee are not considered working media and will not be allowed to ride along during official practice. Individuals providing website or social media content for the competitor or his sponsors are not considered working media and may not ride along during practice. It is the responsibility of the angler to determine whether a media representative has been approved for ride-alongs during practice. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to assign practice riders.

(ii) No competitors will be allowed on tournament waters after registration until the first day of competition, except under rule 3(iii). Unless otherwise specified, all official times are specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates and times. During both the official practice and the tournament, a competitor may not solicit or intentionally receive the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of

locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period, including, but not limited to, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee or any other person deemed an “expert“ on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless they are a competitor in the tournament. Marshals are not allowed to share information with Elite anglers and are subject to truth verification tests should they be accused of rules violations. NO EXCEPTIONS. Flying over tournament waters, other than on a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during off-limits, official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director. The use of drones for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition. During the official practice, competitors are not allowed to livewell or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.

(iii) Anglers renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location the day before practice begins. Testing of engines during off-limits period is not permitted on tournament waters. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. No Exceptions. During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not snorkel, “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters.

(iv) No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. Once daily cuts are determined by tournament officials, competitors not making the cut are no longer considered in the tournament. Competitors making cuts may not receive information under rule C3 (i).

(v) During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Under the direction of B.A.S.S. officials competitors may use smart phones for BASSTrakk purposes to include obtaining unofficial scores during the tournament day. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc.; however, using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.

(vi) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

(vii) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms may be cause for disqualification. Official protests must be filed in accordance with Rule C1. All parties of interest will be provided a copy.

By signature on the Elite Series participation agreement or the official entry form, each competitor and Marshal agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation. Failure of a truth verification penalty is not appealable. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Director or rules committee or such person designated by the Tournament Director shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The B.A.S.S. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest B.A.S.S. headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test. Prior to any exam competitors must discuss any information received unintentionally per rule C3 (i). Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred. Random truth verifications tests may be administered on site during the course of an Elite Series Event.

C4. REGISTRATION

Each competitor must register in person with official B.A.S.S. staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours may result in a \$50 fine. Any competitor or Marshal, who has not contacted the B.A.S.S. Tournament Staff by the closing of the posted onsite registration, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. IT SHALL BE EACH COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO EITHER CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR REGISTRATION TIME AND LOCATION OR OBTAIN TIMES FROM THE B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT DEPARTMENT.

C5. SAFETY

(i) Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each boat passenger must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. Inflatable PFD's are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that Inflatable PFDs be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFD's on board. Elite anglers must carry two Coast Guard approved chest-type life preservers per boat.

(ii) When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.

(iii) Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by B.A.S.S., may be approved for competition.

It is recommended that each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety certification, or a “grandfather” exception, may be required in certain states. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.

(iv) Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part 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. Weather delays on full field days resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in) may result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days.

(v) B.A.S.S. reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. All boats used in Elite Series events must have a GPS unit on the console capable of displaying current miles per hour while on plane.

(vi) In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials as soon as possible.

(vii) Competitors and Marshals are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent.

C6. SPORTSMANSHIP

Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, fair play, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

(i) 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 will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future B.A.S.S. tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area.

(ii) 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 that reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy may be reason for disqualification.

(iii) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules, resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not

result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

C7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

(i.) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors
- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.

Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.

(ii.) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for participation.

Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of Angler of the Year points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.

Angler Code of Conduct Penalty Guidelines

When an Elite Series angler is found to have violated the Angler Code of Conduct, the following escalating scale of fines will be imposed, in addition to any other penalties that may be deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.:

- First offense Not less than \$250 nor more than \$500
- Second offense Not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,500
- Third offense Not less than \$5,000 nor more than \$10,000
- Fourth offense Possible suspension or ban from the Bassmaster Elite Series and other levels of B.A.S.S. competition.

The numbers of offenses in the list above refer to violations over the course of an angler's career, beginning with its effective date of April 28, 2014.

C8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Use of landing nets and grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. During practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (C17). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Such rigging, harness or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even with or trail behind where blades attach to the wires. B.A.S.S. officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or

with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel or other device.

No competitor may intentionally snag or foul-hook a bass to be counted in his daily catch. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have his catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, each bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by the angler's marshal, camera operator or other observer before being unhooked. With the fish's mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish for it to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

Competitors, including those who have been "cut" from competition in an event, are allowed to share baits and tackle with one another at any time.

C9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by B.A.S.S. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine 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 engine is also cause for immediate disqualification from B.A.S.S. tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by B.A.S.S. must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.

C10. BOAT AND MOTOR:

These restrictions apply during official practice and competition. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufacturer's lanyard may be used and must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time 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 that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The "Long-Lining" or "Strolling" technique is NOT allowed in either practice or competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions. 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 a manufacturer's authorized dealer are permitted. 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. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with "stick steering" shall be permitted. "Stick steering" shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.

C11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump. During official competition every boat must have livewell space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass. B.A.S.S. recommends livewells be maintained at full level and aerators/recirculators set on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

Anglers must make a back seat available for Marshals each competition day. Competitors are required to make one dry storage compartment available to Marshals and to provide Marshals ample space to ice food and drink.

C12. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

Prior to each day's start, each boat must be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Each day, each boat may be given a number, which must remain with the boat. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and at each check-in.

C13. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

During competition, anglers are allowed to fish from anywhere inside the boat. Marshals should make every reasonable effort to not get in way of Elite anglers while they are fishing or landing fish. Marshals are not allowed to help competitors in any way. Marshals are allowed to drive boats only in cases of emergency or with permission from tournament officials with exception of loading and unloading boats from trailers. All cost of boat operation is the responsibility of Elite anglers. When idling in shallow areas, anglers are allowed to ask Marshals to move their sitting position as long as the Marshal can place his feet in the bottom of the boat.

Marshal obligations: Marshals are required to have knowledge of BASSTrakk operation. BASSTrakk operation will be explained in the tournament briefing by tournament officials. Pros and Marshals are to be honest and timely with catch and weight reports. Any competitor who, in the judgment of tournament officials, advises Marshals to neglect or falsely report catches or weights may be penalized. Marshals are not allowed to carry GPS systems or use cell phones during competition unless directed by tournament officials. Marshals are allowed to carry still cameras. Marshal photos should be discussed with pro partners regarding backgrounds, landmarks, etc. Marshals

should bring a personal PFD to each event. Marshals, at their acceptance, may be asked to text catch reports to tournament officials from their personal cell phones. Marshals are not allowed to text information to anyone other than B.A.S.S. media or tournament officials unless in an emergency situation.

If the Marshal is comfortable doing so, he/she may assist the angler with his personal GoPro or similar camera. Note: If B.A.S.S. asks to mount a GoPro or similar camera in an angler's boat, the B.A.S.S. camera has priority, in terms of placement and access to power, over the angler's personal camera.

C14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the B.A.S.S. Tournament Department. Any water within these boundaries that are legally and obviously posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing," as well as the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director, will be off-limits to tournament competitors and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off-limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. In states where landowners have the legal authority to claim private property, these areas must be posted or they will be considered tournament waters unless instructed otherwise by tournament officials at any time during the event. If forced to leave, a competitor must report the incident to tournament officials as soon as possible. Any water to which a competitor is barred access becomes off-limits to all competitors. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities. Competitors are not allowed to cut, remove, displace, or engage in any type structure removal from private property (dry land) during off limits, official practice or competition. Moving structure to include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water is only allowed if laws permit. No competitor may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

C15. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot. A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting his weight outside the boat must be released immediately. While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Anglers must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions are spelled out in rules C5, C15, and C18. In such an emergency or with permission from the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat to either a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat designated by the tournament director. Elite anglers and Marshals must remain together at all times, in sight of the Pro's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for the Pro's catch of that day to be scored in the tournament with the following exception. In breakdown situations and with the Marshal's permission, anglers may transfer their fish to another competitor's boat, or a tournament official designated rescue boat, and ride to check in, and they may leave their Marshals with the disabled boat. In such cases, anglers must stay with their catches at all times. If time allows, two Elite anglers riding together may fish until check in. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, partners are allowed to leave the boat; however, in that event, all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (without contacting a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown), competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitor to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, and the competitor will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

C16. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

Unless specified by tournament officials there shall be only one official checkpoint for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the checkpoint in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to designated tournament officials by means of the numbers described in Rule C12 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Elite anglers and Marshals must stay together to the weigh-in process. Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, Marshals are not required to accompany their angler partners through the weigh-in process.

C17. SCORING:

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, redeye or shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines he has over the limit he must immediately reduce his catch to the

tournament limit with a live bass of his choice from his catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from his daily score. In this case competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and, if unsuccessful, must notify officials at check in. Once a competitor checks in, he must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit, and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from his daily score. If, after a competitor has his fish verified and weighed, he discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials, he then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check in. A 2-pound penalty for each bass discovered will be imposed. Failure to notify officials after one hour of final flight check in time will result in loss of day's catch. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. 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. 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 competitors check in at the official checkpoint they must present all legal fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed. Specially designed bags that increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

C18. CATCH AND RELEASE:

Culling of dead bass is prohibited. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces, 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. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water from a retail store. However they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. For fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour before first flight check-in time. Small dip nets for culling purposes are encouraged. Dip nets cannot be used for landing bass. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in livewells 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 B.A.S.S. officials.

C19. LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not at the official check in point, as described in Rule C16, at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward

a “big bass award.” Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch, including “points,” under rule C20. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time.” After proper recognition by tournament officials at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease 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. It is the angler’s responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

C20. ELITE SERIES POINT SYSTEM:

Bassmaster Elite Events, including the TBTF and AOY events, will be on a 1-point-per-place system based on the field size on Day 1 of the first Elite event in 2017. From that day forward, the point system will remain the same throughout the 2017 season, including any post-season event. Example: If the season starts with a field size of 108, first will be awarded 108 points, second, 107, down to the last angler weighing a legal fish in the final standings. The remainder of the season would remain the same regardless of the number of withdrawals.

Competitors must weigh a legal bass during competition to receive points. In the case where one or more competitors do not weigh a legal bass, points will end at the place of competitors weighing a legal bass.

Year-end points/AOY tiebreakers will be broken by total weight from full field days for the season, to include the TBTF event and the AOY championship.

C21. TIES:

In case of a tie for first place weight at the end of the tournament, there will be a fish-off between the tied competitors under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. Ties for standard cuts and places below first at the end of the tournament 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. When ties for cut position are not broken by the foregoing procedures, competitors still tied will compete for the next cut. Additional places will not be awarded. Monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in equal amounts. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points. In B.A.S.S. Elite events where weights are zeroed, ties for cuts going into the final round shall be broken by Angler of the Year standings following most recent concluded Elite Series event. A tie for first at the end of the AOY Championship shall be broken by the above procedures and not result in a fish-off.

C22. PAIRINGS:

Marshals/camera operators/media members may be assigned to each boat. Announcement of your first-day partner shall be made at the Tournament Briefing, which must be attended by anglers and Marshals. It shall 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 partners check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and the Pro's catch throughout the day until the Pro's fish are bagged for weigh-in, except in case of dire emergency (see Rules C15, C16 & C18 for exceptions). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by him/her 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 B.A.S.S.

C23. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

Appeals for penalties assessed under Rule C1 (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) or under C7 Angler Code of Conduct must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 48 hours from the time of the ruling being appealed. An appeals committee will be established by B.A.S.S., which shall be comprised of one B.A.S.S. employee not affiliated with the Tournament Department, and two anglers who were not competitors in the event in question. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days, if possible, from the date of receipt of the written appeal. All parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

The three member ruling committee should remain confidential within the immediate appeals process.

Competitors are allowed to compete while under appeal. Should an angler fishing under appeal make a cut, the next angler below the cut will be invited to compete on the cut day with the clear understanding that any prize money and points he might earn will be contingent upon the outcome of the appeal. If the appealing angler wins his appeal, the additional angler below the cut will revert to the points and prize money he was due at the end of fishing prior to the cut day. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including AOY points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

C24. B.A.S.S. SPONSOR BOATS:

When using B.A.S.S.-supplied boats, anglers are responsible for the physical care of the boat. Damage to the boat which is determined by the Tournament Director to be excessive or wanton shall result in the angler being responsible for all costs of repair.

C25. TAXES:

Where and when state laws require income taxes be withheld on cash awards to non-residents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes, execution of all tax forms, and rules on both cash and merchandise awards. Various states require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates; anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these various states are responsible for remitting this tax to B.A.S.S. Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of Angler of Year points, fines and/or disqualification from all future B.A.S.S. Events.

C26. WAIVER AND RELEASE:

As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor and Marshal must execute a waiver and release of liability and a name and likeness release.

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