



Official Tournament Rules New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation Effective May 1, 2016

1. RULES AND PENALTIES

The following rules shall apply to all New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation immediately upon notice by New Mexico B.A.S.S. to its members, which notice may be published on the New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation internet site at www.NMBFN.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 Committee (all Directors in attendance and the President of NM B.A.S.S. Nation) may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 22 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the tournament committee, shall be final in all matters.

Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation, such as “sharing fish” and off-limits rules violations and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler must be reported to tournament director in writing 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.
- c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
- d) Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- e) Disqualification from future New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation events (with the consent of the Tournament Committee), which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- i. Participation in this tournament is for NM B.A.S.S. Nation members only. This tournament is open only to current members of NM B.A.S.S. Nation members who will be 16 years of

age or older at the time as of January 1, 2016. Members may reside in a neighboring state but must also be a member of NM B.A.S.S. Nation (club or at-large). Any candidate for competition 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 his/her partner or themselves may not be eligible. It is highly recommended that anyone that has a disability that limits their operation of the boat, have a full discussion with the Tournament Director and their non-boater prior to submitting an entry form. Special pairing of a specific non-boater with the ability to assist the boater may be made at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Service and companion animals are allowed on the boat at all times with the prior permission of the boater.

- ii. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF THE TOURNAMENT, NO BOATER OR NON-BOATER COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED INSURANCE OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000, PER OCCURRENCE, BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE 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 IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE.** The Tournament Director has sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S., LLC requirements.
- iii. The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend the acceptance time if notified of a late arrival due to unavoidable circumstances.

3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

- i. The tournament waters are off limits from 12:01 am the Monday prior to the start of competition until 12:01 a.m. the Friday prior to the competition.
- ii. There will be an official practice period beginning at 12:01 am the Friday prior to the start of competition. No competitors will be allowed on tournament waters after registration until the first day of competition, except under rule 3(iii). **During the official practice competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament director. 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 must be in operation. All running lights must be in working order prior to launch.**
- iii. Competitors renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location. Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS.
- iv. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- 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. 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 social media is not permitted.

- vi. A designated tournament committee 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, or 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 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.**

By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion. The New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation President with the advice of the Tournament Director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The 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 Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test 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. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred.

4. REGISTRATION:

A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE NM B.A.S.S. NATION Tournament Director before 6:00 P.M. of the Friday before the weekend qualifying tournaments. Tournament entry fees must be received by the NM B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Director before 6:00 P.M. of the Friday before the weekend qualifying tournaments. Payment penalties for all returned checks will be the responsibility of the contestant and may result in disqualification from future 2016 tournaments.

The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend the acceptance time if notified of a late arrival due to unavoidable circumstances.

5. SAFETY:

- i. **Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation (in gear).** This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. **It is suggested the Boater competitor have a safety check with the Non-Boater each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.**

- 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. Tournament Director has 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), shall result in cancellation.
- iv. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments.
- v. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**
- vi. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

6. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors in NM B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification by the Tournament Director or the President, NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

- i. Use of alcohol or the use of 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 NM B.A.S.S. Nation 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, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.
- iii. All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations of New Mexico. Anyone receiving a citation for boating or fishing rules violations during the official practice or tournament days may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

7. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

Anglers participating in any NM B.A.S.S. Nation-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 NM B.A.S.S. Nation., 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 NM B.A.S.S. Nation events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.
 - Heated public disagreements with NM B.A.S.S. Nation officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
 - Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of NM B.A.S.S. Nation rules or officials.
 - Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of NM B.A.S.S. Nation 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 director or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels (club officers).
 - 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.
- 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 points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in future NM B.A.S.S. Nation sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

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.

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. During practice and competition only artificial or biodegradable artificial lures may be used. All New Mexico state regulations apply for umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time. All state regulations apply concerning the number of lures and hooks and contestants are responsible for understanding those rules and regulations. 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 (17). No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-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. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

9. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in official tournament practice and in tournament competition will be **250 HP**. 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 their 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 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 NM B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

10. 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 manufactured lanyard may be used and it 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 or seats while fishing, is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. 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, 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 to be used by any competitor. “Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition.

11. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. **During official competition**, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat.

12. BOAT INSPECTION:

Prior to each day’s start, each boat **must** be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Each day, each boat shall 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.

13. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

During NM B.A.S.S. Nation competition, Boaters and Non-Boaters may fish from the front or the rear deck. **During both official practice and competition**, Non-Boaters are only allowed to operate the Boater’s boat (outboard motor) in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **During official practice**, Non-Boaters not practicing with a Boater competitor, may practice, drive, and fish from the front deck of the boat. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Non-Boater partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a Boater competitor request that the Non-Boater competitor not fish. **The cost of gas and oil for the competition days must be settled between the boater and the non-boater prior to the tournament day.** In NM B.A.S.S. Nation events where observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Any water within these boundaries posted “Off-Limits” or “No Fishing” by state or federal agencies as well as the area within 100 yards of the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS 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. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. 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.

15. 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. Both 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 5, 15, and 18. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be allowed to leave their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both 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 competitors to resume fishing, a **restart** will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

16. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

There shall be only one official check point 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 check-in point 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 by means of the numbers described in Rule 12 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

17. 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 Boater limit shall be 5, Non-Boater limit shall be 3, of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his/her catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Once a competitor checks in they 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 1 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score.

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 a red "Will-e-Go" belly board 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.

18. CATCH AND RELEASE:

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. 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. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells 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 the Conservation Director.

19. LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 16, at the appointed time according to the Tournament Director's clock), shall be penalized at the rate of one 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. Unavoidable delays caused by official safety or game warden checks should be anticipated and are not allowed reasons for late arrival. Allow time for

unexpected events, inspections and inclement weather conditions. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition 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 each competitor's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

20. TIES:

At any NM B.A.S.S. Nation tournament, in the Boater or Non-Boater division, in case of a tie for first place champion at the end of the tournament that is not resolved by the two tie breakers listed below there will be a flip of the coin under the direction of the Tournament Director.

All other ties 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 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, and monetary prizes and points for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors.

21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:

Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Boaters may be paired with other Boaters, and share time. At most, one boater *may* be allowed to fish alone or with a tournament staff appointed observer. Boaters and Non-boaters registering together on the entry form will fish with each other for that tournament. Unpaired boaters and non-boaters are encouraged to pair before entering the tournament. Any unpaired boaters and non-boaters will be paired by the Tournament Director as needed to assure there are two people in each boat. An observer may be assigned to any boat that does not have a registered non-boater. Announcement of "paired" fishing partners will be made at the Tournament Briefing, which **must be attended, except with permission from the Tournament Director**, by each competitor. It will 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. When there are mechanical breakdowns or other legitimate reasons, 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 two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions (see Rule 15, 16 & 18). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor (sharing bass). In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

22. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

An appeals committee will be established by President, NM B.A.S.S. Nation, which shall be

comprised of the President, New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals of penalties assessed under Rule 1 (b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and 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.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal. 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 points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. NM B.A.S.S. Nation may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in NM B.A.S.S. Nation's' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official B.A.S.S. sponsors, especially in photo and media pictures. Anglers may be requested to wear B.A.S.S. alliance sponsor gear during photos.

24. TAXES:

Where and when state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to non-residents, the taxes will be automatically deducted prior to the awards being presented to the winners. Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.

25. WAIVER AND RELEASE:

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

26. STATE TEAM QUALIFICATION:

It is important that the State Team be declared and identified to B.A.S.S. and sponsors to assure each team member may access the many incentives and discounts offered by the sponsors. A twenty-person state team will consist of ten Boaters and ten Non-boaters based on the standings in each separate category after all qualifying tournaments (no drops). All state team members must accept the position and agree in writing by signing and returning the acceptance form to the NMBN President by October 1, 2016. The President will invite all remaining competitors to declare their interest (by email or written notice) to be on the team by October 1, 2016. The President shall then fill the team from those that have declared their interest by going down the standings until the team is filled. If the team is not full, open positions will be filled by the President on a first come, first served basis by any NM B.A.S.S. Nation member with preference

given to any officers of NM B.A.S.S. Nation. If a person withdraws from the team, a replacement will be named by the President as well as two alternates.

Each twenty-person state team will be allowed one alternate team member to replace an official team member if an official team member becomes ill or injured or has to leave the tournament due to personal business or tragedy. The alternates may be placed in the Boater or non-boater division, if needed. Alternates attending the Western Regional shall receive stipends and incentives just like other team members. During the official pre-fish and tournament, any non-boater bringing their boat to the Regional will be allowed to switch with a boater if the boater is not able to provide a boat (due to mechanical breakdown). New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation state president or his/her designated representative will be considered a second alternate per B.A.S.S. rules.

27. STATE TEAM PARTICIPATION:

New Mexico B.A.S.S. Nation bylaws govern the responsibilities and stipends for team members. No other payment or incentives are implied by these rules. Team members must complete all B.A.S.S. entry forms and tax forms by the required date and agree to abide with NM B.A.S.S. Nation bylaws and B.A.S.S. rules at all times. Team members are expected to also participate in fundraising for the team beginning no later than October 1, 2016. Failure to participate in fundraising will result in removal from the team by the President, NM B.A.S.S. Nation.

B.A.S.S. headquarters must receive a completed entry form from the alternate team member and the B.A.S.S. Nation state president or his/her designated representative, on or before the tournament entry deadline date or the state will not be allowed an alternate team member(s). The Tournament Director must approve the reason for the leaving of the official team member before a replacement of the official team member with the alternate will be allowed.