

Official Tournament Entry Form and Rules Effective Feb. 14th 2015. ****Updated 2021**** The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by The Bass Federation, Inc., and herein after (TBF). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Director and TBF Tournament Officials shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is open only to members of TBF and FLW who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members in good standing of Arkansas State TBF Federation. Proof of age is the responsibility of the potential competitor. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters to be fished. **DURING THE COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY TBF EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF AN INSURANCE POLICY IN FORCE, THAT COVER THE EVENT DATES WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY COVERAGE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable.**

Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or their self shall not be eligible. **PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TBF BEFORE THE EVENT.** During the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. This also includes social media outlets. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to marine band weather information. **EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO SUBMIT TO A TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST OR POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON and abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification.**

3. REGISTRATION: Each competitor must register in person with official TBF staff at the time and place selected for the pretournament meeting.

4. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each

competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament Officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from the competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. TBF will announce emergency contact numbers and instructions at the pre-tournament briefing.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in a TBF tournament are expected to follow the very highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any violation of these basic sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future TBF tournaments. 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 any competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during competition days or during the weigh-in. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, may be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. A-rigs will follow MLF/BFL

Rules accounting for a MAXIMUM of 5 wires, 5 spinners, 5 lures but only 3 hooks.

7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: Maximum horsepower for all outboard motors used in tournament competition will be 250hp. WHERE REQUIRED, EACH BOAT MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. In no case may the horsepower of your outboard exceed the rating specified on the rating plate or the horsepower limit set by TBF.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH SAFETY DEVICE. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime 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 may be used that are 17 feet in length or longer and must have a rear deck. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Any type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. 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. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to all contenders and/or the public. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will

be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR.

9. BASIC BOAT & SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch by BOTH competitors using the boat.

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a live well and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament official.

11. BOAT OPERATION: Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat. Non-boaters will fish from the back deck. Anglers may move around the boat as needed to land a fish or retrieve a lure but not for casting or fishing purposes. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except water within tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies which will be OFF-LIMITS. OFF-LIMITS will be announced at the tournament briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public

fishing will be closed to tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

13. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE BOAT: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. 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 counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone 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 to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves, and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in, until weigh-in slips have been signed. YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.

15. SCORING: Tournament standing, awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced in the pre-tournament briefing. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Meanmouth, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than five (5), or a special limit is established by the Tournament Director, in which case the state limit, or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. In the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by Tournament Officials and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in.

Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal bass. This 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 a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a Tournament Official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a Tournament Official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. Each contestants catch must be presented in a weigh-in bag,

16. CATCH AND RELEASE: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

17. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Big Bass Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that days catch. After proper recognition at the check-in

point, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the pre-tournament briefing begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

18. TIES: In case of a tie during a Qualifier event the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual with the heaviest big bass. (Providing both anglers weighed a fish for big bass). 4) In the event a tie remains after these three tiebreakers are employed; Points will go to both anglers and the prize money for both places will be combined and split. In the event the tie is for the last place prize money then that place points and prize money will be split.

In case of a tie to determine State Team positions the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during a qualifier both anglers participated in. 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during a qualifier both anglers participated in. 3) The individual with the largest single days catch during a qualifying event that both anglers participated in. 4.) The individual with the heaviest big bass during a qualifier both anglers participated in. (Providing both anglers weighed a fish for big bass). 5) Coin flip.

19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. No contestants linked will be paired together. Announcement of your partner shall be made at the pretournament rules and safety briefing which must be attended by each competitor. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check in at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament Officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. When two contestants check in the morning of the tournament they must stay together and in sight of each other and each other's catch until the weigh-in is completed except in cases of dire emergency (See rules 13 &14). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this and all future tournaments conducted by TBF.

21. STATE TEAM QUALIFICATION: The State team will consist of the allotted amount of participants per the formulas given by The Bass Federation. Formula includes (but not limited to) 1.) the number of members in the Arkansas Division, 2) the number of participants per club in the Arkansas Division, and 3.) the total number of participants over the course of the 3 tournaments.

A 200 point system will be used. The best two events for each angler will be used to determine the anglers position on the state team.

Under no circumstances shall an individual be allowed to attempt to qualify for a state team in more than one state in the same qualifying year.

AMENDMENTS AS OF 2/1/2024

***Payments will be accepted through PayPal for registrations, membership fees and big bass pots. NO PAYMENT will be accepted via PayPal after the Monday prior to each tournament. After the Monday prior to each tournament payments will only be accepted in person or via mail-in check. It is to be noted that checks sent by the USPS and not received prior to the tournament will not be accepted on "good faith". In this instance, participants will be responsible for submitting an entry fee prior to the pre-tournament meeting at the listed event. Checks received via USPS after the tournament day will either be voided and disposed of or allowed carryover to the next event. Discretion is the responsibility of the Arkansas TBF President and officers.**

PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by The Bass Federation, (doing business as TBF) and/or Operation Bass, Inc., (doing business as FLW Outdoors), either jointly or separately, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that: The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and, I have been advised by TBF and/or FLW Outdoors, and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and, I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE BASS FEDERATION, INC. and/or OPERATION BASS, INC., THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AGENTS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT (“RELEASEES”) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND, I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; and, I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE

CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW. I agree to submit, by signature on this document, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination. Hereinafter known as a truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at TBF’s sole discretion, and administered by TBF or its agents. I understand that failure to pass the examination as determined by TBF will result in disqualification. I certify that the number shown on these forms is my correct taxpayer identification number. Having fully acquainted myself with the tournament rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournament. In signing this application, and by my presence at the event, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, participant release of liability and safety regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament and I hereby release The Bass Federation, Inc., (TBF), Operation Bass, Inc. (dba FLW Outdoors) and its parent, and affiliate companies, its licensees and affiliates, and all their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, and stockholders, the tournament hosts, tournament sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this tournament. If I am using a boat during the official practice or during the tournament, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having a limit of no less than \$300,000 and covering the dates and my participation in all events I attend. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same,

video\audio productions and/or articles and press releases by TBF, FLW Outdoors, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever. I am currently a member in good standing of my home state federation, an affiliated member club, TBF and FLW Outdoors. I agree if I qualify for The Federation National Championship or any other event representing TBF to use any and all "Official" products and equipment so specified and provided, and be bound by the terms and conditions of a STATE TEAM or LIVING THE DREAM CONTRACT, if applicable. The Participant signifies by their signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.

Dated:

Age:

Signed: