



B.F.N.V. (“B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia”)

Junior State Qualifier (JSQ) Tournament

Junior State Championship

Official Rules and Regulations

ARTICLE 7. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS

7.1 TOURNAMENT RULES

7.1.1 **BASS TOURNAMENT DEFINED.** Bass tournament shall be defined as a competitive event in which the practices collectively known as fishing are skillfully applied by participants to catch bass and present them for scoring by weight, length or other criteria to determine a winner or winners who receive certain awards and/or other recognition.

7.1.2 **PURPOSE OF TOURNAMENT RULES.** Youth Tournament rules are adopted for the express purposes of providing equal opportunity for all participants to successfully apply their fishing skills and abilities, of improving the safety of both participant and non-participant users of the tournament area resources, and of providing for proper handling of the fish.

7.1.3 **AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS.** Only the Youth Program or Tournament Committee of the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation of Virginia Inc shall amend the Youth Tournament rules. They are subject to interpretation only by the Youth Program or Tournament Committee, under the coordination and supervision of the Chairman. Decisions of the committee approved by the chairman shall be final. All Youth tournament rules will be recommended to the Board for their approval or disapproval.

7.1.4 **BASS DEFINED.** Bass shall be defined as any of the species known as large-mouth bass (*Micropterus Salmoides*), smallmouth bass (*Micropterus Dolomieu*), spotted bass (*Micropterus Punctulatus*), suwannee bass (*Micropterus Notius*), redeye bass (*Micropterus Coosae*), and guadalupe bass (*Micropterus Treculi*), all of which are of the genus, *Micropterus*, in the family, *Centrarchidae*, the fresh water sunfish.

7.1.5 **ENTRY FEES.** Applications from otherwise qualified youth members; clubs/chapters of regions to enter and compete in tournaments shall be acceptable only when accompanied by the fee established by the Youth Program with approval of the Board. Fees shall not be

refundable to individual, team or club applicants once the fees have been accepted by the Federation except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board.

7.1.6 **ELIGIBILITY.** Members, and clubs/chapters in good standing whose official application and entry fee are received by the secretary/treasurer prior to the published deadline for the Junior State Qualifier's (JSQ) and Junior State Championship (JSC) shall be eligible to compete, conditional upon acceptance by the Youth Program and Tournament Committee. In order to be eligible to participate in the JSQ's and JSC the member must have been a member of that club at the time of submission of that club's official roster (no later than January 31st) and meet age requirements set down in the Youth By-Laws. Contenders must have obtained the age of 11 years, but not yet 19 years, by December 31st of the Divisional and/or National Championship competition year. Any member whose name is not present on the official roster submitted to the Federation Board will not be allowed to participate on that club's team. Any contestant that has "Special Needs" in such a manner as to hinder him/her during competition, or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner, boat captain shall notify the State Youth Director. Such notification will be handled on a case by case basis

7.1.7 **REGISTRATION.**

7.1.7.1 **JSQ** Each club/chapters Youth Advisor must register his/her team through the State Secretary prior to the event. A finalization of registration will be held prior to the Tournament Draw on the unsupervised practice day prior to the event. Boat Captains and anglers who cannot make the Practice Day/Tournament Draw will be allowed to participate as long as their Youth Advisor or other representative is in attendance to verify their participation and to record their information. i.e. Boat number and Jr. Angler names etc.

7.1.7.2 **JSC** The JSC is by invitation only and all participants will be required to register through the State Secretary at a deadline established prior to the event.

7.1.8 **ETHICS~ SPORTSMANSHIP AND PERSONAL CONDUCT.** All participants shall observe high standards of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct. They shall obey all of the laws, and the authorities having jurisdiction in the tournament area. They shall keep themselves informed and aware of the rules, laws and conditions applicable to the tournament. They shall yield to all other recreational users of the Tournament resource, sufficient distance or other courtesy to avoid interference with their activities. For example, duck blinds, which are occupied, on lawful duck hunting days, shall be given sufficient clearance to avoid interference with ducks approaching the blind in flight and to avoid danger from shot. Where a blind is situated in a narrow passage, boats shall move past them at no wake speed without stopping to fish. Drunkenness during the practice, competition and scoring activities will be cause for immediate disqualification. No alcoholic beverages shall be permitted in competition boats during competition hours. Participants shall yield to inspection by tournament officials at any time during the tournament.

7.1.9 **PRACTICE DAYS AND COMPETITION.** Tournament waters are open at all times to all competitors. However, prior or during any Federation sponsored tournament no competitor may hire, buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification from the tournament.

THE EXCEPTION will be the JSC which will have an **off limits** period imposed five days prior to the practice day of the tournament.

- 7.1.10 **TOURNAMENT WATERS.** Tournament waters shall be defined as all public waters which are accessible by boat from the tournament headquarters with the exception of such off limits areas as may be designated and announced at the Tournament Draw by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. All fishing by participants shall be done from a boat on tournament waters and all participants and competition boats shall remain on tournament waters throughout the competition hours. Violators shall be disqualified for that day's competition.
- 7.1.11 **COMPETITION HOURS.** Competition hours shall be determined by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee and announced at Tournament Draw. The hours will generally be from safe light to 1:00 PM. Safe light will be determined on site at the Tournament Draw. The hours may be changed by the Youth Director/Advisors as necessary because of changing conditions and with reasonable notice to participants during the tournament. Late arrival at the check-in point at the end of competition hours shall not be excused. No make-up time shall be granted for any reason to any participant who has been unable to compete during any part of the tournament.
- 7.1.12 **WEATHER CONDITIONS.** Tournaments shall proceed as scheduled regardless of weather conditions, except that competition may be suspended or terminated by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee whenever it finds weather conditions to be hazardous. Competitors shall not fish during periods of suspension or after termination of competition. They may decline to compete without penalty only after the Youth Director/Advisors have accepted their notice, given prior to withdrawing, that they believe weather conditions to be hazardous.
- 7.1.13 **SAFETY AND INSPECTION.** Safety shall be the concern of first priority to all participants. All competition equipment shall be presented for inspection before the beginning of competition and all participants shall yield to inspection upon the request of tournament officials during the entire tournament event including scoring, award ceremonies, the protest period and during the deliberation of any protests that may be registered by participants. Competition equipment found to be unsafe or unseaworthy by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee shall not be used in the tournament.
- 7.1.14 **SAFETY EQUIPMENT.** Participants, throughout the official practice and competition hours, shall wear a vest type personal floatation device, or life jacket, which is approved by the United States Coast Guard, **AT ALL TIMES**. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional device, known as a kill switch, which will terminate the operation of the primary propulsion engine when the operator leaves the controls. The kill switch shall be attached to the operator whenever the engine is in operation. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional power operated pumping device, which will remove water from the boat effectively, and in a manner acceptable to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. Jr ****Anglers 15 years of age and younger are not** allowed to wear suspender type PFD's. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition.
- 7.1.15 **BOAT REQUIREMENTS.** Competition boats shall be sixteen feet or more in length and powered by at least a seventy-five-horse power engine. The boat must also have an electric

bow mounted trolling motor and sufficient live well capacity to maintain a limit of bass by both contestants in good condition during the tournament hours. No cumbersome craft, stick steering or motors of a horsepower that exceeds the manufacturers rating plate will be permitted. All boats must comply with all the applicable federal and state regulations. All boats that do not meet these requirements cannot be used in any of the state level draw tournaments conducted by the Virginia Bass Federation Nation. Boats built on or after November 1, 1972 shall display horsepower rating plates installed by the manufacturer. Boats built before November 1, 1972 shall display horsepower rating plates if plates were installed by the manufacturer. All tournament boats shall be powered within their rating plate specifications, or in the absence of rating plates they shall comply with the United States Coast Guard horsepower rating formula. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden. Any violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification from that day's competition. **"All boats used in state and region events of the Virginia B.A.S.S. Federation must have no less than \$300,000.00/300,000 liability insurance on these boats.** In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events. Boat Captains and Jr. Anglers must have signed waivers in the possession of the State Secretary or State Youth Director prior to participating. If you do not own the boat to be used in the event, a letter of permission to use the boat in that event must be provided by the owner (s) prior to use. **Youth Advisors will be responsible for ensuring that Boat Captains recruited for their anglers comply with these requirements. Each Boat Captain must have a signed release and proof of insurance documents filed with the State Secretary prior to participation.**

- 7.1.16 OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF BOAT AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT. Boats will be checked at tournament start for lights, life jackets, kill switch and live wells. Any non operating equipment will send the boat to the end of the tournament launch line and must be corrected prior to release. Prior to being allowed to compete in a tournament each boat must be checked and approved by the Youth Director/Advisors. Each boat must meet all guidelines specified in Regulation 7.1.14 and Regulation 7.1.15. Boat inspections will be conducted at the ramp on tournament day. It is the responsibility of each Boat Captain to make sure that his boat has been registered and officially approved prior to beginning the tournament.
- 7.1.17 FISHING TACKLE. Competition tackle shall be limited to casting, spinning and spin-casting rods and reels, and artificial lures. Live baits or natural baits are prohibited and shall not be present in boats during competition except that skin, feathers and hair of non-aquatic animals may be used as lure components subject to approval by the Youth Program. As many sets of tackle, which include rod, reel, line and lure, may be kept in competition boats as participants' desire. Only one such set may be in actual use at any one time.
- 7.1.18 FISHING METHODS. Trolling as a method of fishing shall be prohibited. Participants shall hook, play and land any fish they catch in competition, using no devices other than a landing net, tackle as provided in section 8.1.17, and that participant Jr. Anglers or Boat Captains may assist in landing and bringing them into the boat if requested. All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land the fish. Boats may not be tailored during tournament hours.
- 7.1.19 PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except OFF LIMITS areas specified by the Youth Director/Advisors or within 50 yards of

marina gas pumps or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. Any such anchored boat shall have its trolling motor retracted from the water. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Violation will result in disqualification for that day's competition. It is the responsibility of the anchored boat to make other competitors aware that he is anchored.

7.1.20 FISHING PARTNERS REQUIRED. Participants shall fish with partners assigned at the Tournament Draw conducted on the unsupervised practice day prior to the event. No two members from the same region/club or parent/legal guardian will be paired together at the Tournament Draw. In the event an entrant has to exclude himself/herself from the competition they shall report immediately to their Youth Advisor and notify them of the situation. Upon the loss or absence of their duly assigned partner the entrant's partner shall terminate all activity and report directly to their Youth Advisor. The Youth Director/Advisors shall be responsible for pairing the entrant with another tournament entrant or observer if available. Only as a last resort shall this entrant be paired with someone from his/her own region. Violators are subject to the penalties provided in Regulation 1.7.30.

7.1.21 BOAT OPERATION. Jr. Anglers shall fish as partners with one Boat Captain. Each Jr. Angler is entitled to all the rights and privileges of fishing from the boat entered in the competition. Providing a boat for competition is a voluntary option and Boat Captains are responsible for the operation and overall safety of their boats. Each competitor shall be permitted to fish from the front seat and in full control of the tournament boat (providing for safety considerations and that he/she is competent and comfortable with operation) and in fishing locations of his/her choice during half of each competition day, except that the Boat Captain will be the operator of the primary propulsion system, taking the boat to areas chosen by the Jr, Anglers during each half of the competition day. Junior Anglers scheduled for a JSQ practice day and attending the official tournament draw WILL NOT be allowed to operate a combustion engine during practice or tournament conditions to include un-loading and loading watercraft. Failure to cooperate with a partner or Boat Captain will result in a protest to the Youth Director/Advisors and could result in disqualification of the non-cooperating partner from competition. Waiver of any part of the required sharing shall not constitute a waiver of any of the remainder. Boat operation in manner, which unnecessarily handicaps a partner or any other competitor, shall be prohibited. The Boat Captain will assume all expenses incurred in the operation of the boat. *It is encouraged that the Jr. Anglers share in paying the expenses of the boats supplied by the Boat Captains.*

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Junior Anglers 16 years of age are eligible to compete in adult tournaments.
2. Junior anglers participating in scheduled adult tournaments and meeting State watercraft requirements are permitted to operate combustion engines during **ADULT** tournament conditions **ONLY**. Participation in an adult tournament scheduled on the same venue as a JSQ must be confirmed **one week** before practice day; otherwise the competitor will be **DISQUALIFIED**.

7.1.22 CONTACT WITH OTHER BOATS. No fishing shall be permitted within fifty yards of the anchored boat of another participant. Anchored boats shall not restrict navigation through narrow channels to or from other tournament waters. Participants shall not approach closer

than necessary or otherwise make physical contact with other boats or persons during competition hours for reasons other than emergencies. Any competitors' boats seen in physical contact on the lake without the existence of an emergency will be disqualified from that day's competition.

- 7.1.23 **EMERGENCY CONDITIONS.** Emergency conditions are defined as conditions which subject persons or property to imminent danger or conditions which are deemed by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee to be of emergency nature. Only under emergency conditions, or in cases where boats are disabled, may participants leave their boats. In cases of dire emergency or where safety is involved, both contestants must remain in the boat at all times. Under such conditions (dire emergency or safety), they may ride in other boats and bring their fish to the tournament headquarters for scoring subject to all requirements otherwise applicable. Otherwise, they shall remain in sight of each other at all times until their fish are turned over to tournament officials. In such cases, both partners or the non-boating partner alone may take their/his fish to the weigh-in in another contestant's or official's boat. The contestant or official providing the return ride becomes responsible for signing the weigh-in forms for the non-boater who returned without his original partner. The contestant who remained behind is disqualified as soon as his original partner leaves in the other boat. Except for this emergency situation partners must remain in sight of each other's catch for the catch to be scored. Violators are subject to the penalties provided in Regulation 1.7.30. ******(Exception: Female youth anglers will be allowed to leave the boat for personal matters and the remaining youth angler and boat captain shall stay in sight of the dock until the female youth angler returns to the boat.)
- 7.1.24 **HANDELING OF FISH DURING COMPETITION.** Competition boats shall be equipped with a functional, adequately aerated fish holding device, known as a live well, sufficient to maintain live bass of average size. All fish caught and retained in possession of participants shall be segregated for identification and kept in a live well. No stringers, ropes, or other devices, which would injure fish or subject them to unnecessary stress, shall be used. Dead fish large enough for scoring shall be kept by participants and submitted for scoring. Fish too small for scoring shall be returned to the water. No more fish than may be scored may be held in captivity at any time during competition hours. **Culling Dead Fish Will Not Be Allowed.** Fish shall not be mutilated or otherwise intentionally injured or mistreated. A swallowed single hook shall be cut free of other tackle and left in place whether the fish is to be kept or released. Lures may be extracted in the least injurious manner available.
- 7.1.25 **CHECK IN AND LATE PENALTY.** Jr. Anglers shall check into the scales with their respective partners regardless of whether they have fish to weigh in for interviews and accountability. All competitors must check in with tournament officials at the official check-in site by the previously announced finish time. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of **1 lb per minute** or portion of a minute deducted from the competitor's total weight of catch for that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "Big Fish award". Any competitor who is more than 15 minutes late will lose all credits for that day's catch. There will be no acceptable excuses for tardiness
- 7.1.26 **HANDLING OF FISH AT CHECK-IN AND DURING THE WEIGH-IN.** All fish present in a competitors boat when he checks in at the check-in point become the property of the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. Discarding or transferring any fish will result in

immediate disqualification. The practice of culling and measuring after check-in is prohibited. All fish shall be placed in containers supplied by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee for transport to the scoring area. The containers may be placed in landing nets for added strength. Water shall be added to reduce injury. All fish that are alive at the completion of the scoring procedure shall be returned to the water by tournament officials except that the requests of governmental, education and research agencies may be honored, and trophy fish may be returned to the participants who caught them when they request them for mounting and display. Fish not judged by tournament officials to be alive shall be protected from spoilage, and disposed of as food, or otherwise in a manner, which complies with the law if; they are unfit for use as food.

- 1.7.27 **TOURNAMENT CREEL AND SIZE LIMIT.** At no time shall a competitor have more than four fish in the live well. Possession of more than four fish will result in disqualification. The minimum acceptable length of fish will be 12 inches with the exception of those bodies of water with a slot limit or a 14/12 law of which the highest length limit will be used. Any fish which does not meet the minimum acceptable length will be removed from the competitors catch and the competitor will be assessed a **one pound penalty** for each short fish deducted from the total weight of his remaining legal fish. Any fish presented for weigh-in, which is judged to be dead will result in a **.50 pound** penalty for each such fish, deducted from the total weight of fish.
- 1.7.28 **SCORING.** Each competitor's score will be the weight of the legal bass, minus penalties caught and kept during competition hours. The competitor with the greatest accumulated weight will be the winner. Total weights will be arranged in descending order for other places.
- 1.7.29 **TIES.** All ties will be determined first by the number of fish caught and then by the largest fish then by the flip of a coin.
- 1.7.30 **VIOLATIONS. PROTESTS AND PENALTIES.** Participants shall honor the letter and the intent of the Tournament Rules or they shall be judged to have violated them. All judgments are reserved to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. Participants who suspect that the Tournament Rules have been violated may protest to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament site followed with a written protest within 30 minutes after closing the scales. Protests shall be decided by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee through any means available within the Constitution and By-laws and Tournament Rules in consideration of the statements and other evidence presented by the concerned parties and witnesses. Polygraph examination, administered by a qualified examiner who is duly licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be included among the methods available to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee for consideration in their deliberations. All participants shall be presumed to be familiar with the Tournament Rules and to have implied their consent and agreement to submit to polygraph examination when they affix their signatures to the official registration list. Polygraph examination may be requested only by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee and shall be provided under his supervision and at the expense of the Federation. Refusal to submit to such examination reasonably requested and provided may be considered during protest deliberations. Participants held by the Board of Directors to have violated the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct explicitly or implicitly included in the Tournament Rules may be declared ineligible to

compete in present and future tournament events. Participants held by the Tournament Committee to be in violation of the Tournament Rules shall be penalized as specified in the rules. When a penalty is not specified for a violator the Tournament Committee has the discretion of determining what degree of penalty is appropriate for the violation.

1.7.31 BOAT CAPTAIN REQUIREMENTS:

Boat Captains will submit a waiver and a copy of vessel insurance policy to the Club Youth Advisor prior to participation. Boat Captains shall be at least 21 years of age and meet State Requirements for watercraft operation. \$300,000.00 of insurance coverage on the watercraft is mandatory. The boat must be at least 16 feet in length and be powered by at least a 75 HP engine. Club Youth Advisors will ensure paper work is forwarded to the State Secretary

1.7.32 BOAT CAPTAINS SHALL OPERATE UNDER THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES:

1. Boat Captains will not be allowed to fish, tie on lures, suggest lures, location or techniques or in any other way assist the Junior Anglers with two exceptions:
 - a. Boat Captains may net the fish if requested by the Junior Angler.
 - b. Boat Captains may run the trolling motor if requested by the Junior Angler or at any time a safety issue is a consideration.
2. Boat Captains will not be allowed to locate fish for the competitors other than a map recon at the drawing when you are paired with your Junior Anglers.
3. Boat Captains are responsible for safe operations and have the final authority in all safety considerations.
4. Boat Captains will be responsible for enforcing Tournament Rules and ensuring compliance with those rules.
5. Boat Captains will be expected to be a role model and mentor for the Junior Anglers and conduct their actions accordingly.

At no time during practice or tournament conditions will a Junior Angler be allowed to operate a watercraft under combustion engine power. (See 6.3.4.) Tournament Rules will be posted in a separate document. Boat Captains presence at the pre-tournament draw is advantageous to all but is not mandatory as long as we can provide a contact number to the Junior Anglers so that arrangements can be made for tournament day. All Junior Anglers are required to wear PFD's at all times while in the watercraft on practice and tournament days. Junior Anglers 16 years and older may wear suspender type PFD's. Boat Captains will ensure that their boat meets all State, Federal and BFNVA safety requirements.

1.7.33 COMMUNICATION. During competition days of the tournament, a competitor may not use a cellular phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition. Starting 12:01 A.M. Monday prior to the practice day Saturday of any JSQ and continuing through the final weigh-in of the JSQ, competitors cannot solicit,

receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means with regard to locating or catching fish on Junior State Qualifier waters. NO EXCEPTIONS.

1.7.34 **PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENT.** Any competitor or team that leaves a Virginia B.A.S.S. Federation Nation sponsored draw tournament prior to notifying a tournament official will not be eligible to participate in any Federation sponsored draw tournaments in the remaining year of the violation nor in the following calendar year. Those individuals may appear before the Board of Directors in order to appeal their suspension to present their reasons for leaving the tournament not later than the next board meeting after the occurrence. The affected regional director will notify the respective chapter officers of the violation.

1.7.35 None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the warm-up period or competition day.

1.7.36 See **B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION OF VIRGINIA, INC. B.A.S.S. YOUTH PROGRAM BY-LAWS** for further clarification and requirements.

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