

# **Colorado BASS Nation State Team Qualifying Tournament Rules Effective APRIL 30, 2015**

Colorado BASS Nation State Team Qualifying Tournament (“STQT”) rules have been adapted to follow the B.A.S.S. Pro-Am format and comply with the qualification for the new B.A.S.S. Regional Tournament. Where you see an (\*) or dot, followed by bold print, is the Colorado BASS Nation rules addendum language.

## **\*STATE TEAM QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT OBJECTIVES**

The following objectives provide the foundation for establishing rules and procedures for CBN State Team Qualifying Tournaments (STQT). Proposed changes to the tournament rules contain herein should be measured against these objectives, priority shall be given in the following order:

1. Field the best team possible to represent the State of Colorado at the B.A.S.S. Regional Tournament:
  - a. Represent the highest level of competition among CBN tournament anglers
  - b. Bring skilled CBN tournament anglers together on a level playing field
  - c. Provide a challenging learning experience that best prepares CBN anglers for Regional competition
2. Promote the sport of tournament bass fishing:
  - a. Reflect highest level of fairness and competition
  - b. Provide a positive experience for all involved
  - c. Set the example for those advancing to upper-level competition
3. Promote participation at the STQT:
  - a. Provide incentives to those who compete at the STQT
  - b. Make competition as affordable as possible, while still maintaining the integrity of the event
  - c. Make the competition as convenient as practicable to a wide range of competitors
  - d. Market the STQT as a means to recruit new members to the CBN

## **\*RULES AND FORMAT CHANGES**

1. Significant changes to the following categories can be made only after an affirmative vote by the CBN Board of Directors (BOD) (Also see CBN Bylaws for Tournament Committee role and scope.)
  - a. Entry Fees
  - b. Pay-outs
2. Other aspects may be changed by the CBN Tournament Director at any time. Notice of rules changes will be done by posting the most current rules on the CBN

**website (<http://coloradobassnation.com>) and communication to contenders from the Tournament Director.**

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The following rules shall apply to the Colorado BASS Nation (“CBN”) State Team Qualifying Tournament (“STQT”), with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by the Colorado BASS Nation immediately upon notice by CBN to its members, which notice may be published on the Colorado BASS NATION internet site ([www.coloradobassnation.com](http://www.coloradobassnation.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 a rules committee 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. The decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.

**\*It is the responsibility of each CBN member to have full knowledge of the MOST CURRENT tournament rules and procedures prior to participation in any STQT.**

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 in question. All such fish must be marked and verified by either your partner or observer or 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 Colorado BASS Nation events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- (f) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director

**\*For decisions involving potential disqualifications only, a representative from each Chapter will be called upon to discuss the appropriate action prior to any decision being rendered by the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee, shall be final in all matters.**

#### **\* TOURNAMENT FORMAT**

The current CBN STQT format uses a single “main event” tournament to be held at a “destination location” such that no Chapter is advantaged or disadvantaged in any significant manner due to a lakes location. The tournament is a six day pro-am event, including three days of practice followed by three days of competition. Tournament waters are off-limits to STQT competitors thirty days prior to the event. The top ten boaters and top ten non-boaters will comprise the State Team and represent the State of Colorado at the B.A.S.S. Regional Championship the following year. The eleventh place boater and non-boater are designated alternates should any of the qualifiers elect not to compete. Additional alternates will be selected based on their order of finish if other qualifiers elect not to compete on the Colorado State Team.

## 1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- (i) This tournament is open only to current members of the Colorado BASS Nation who are 16 years of age or older. However, employees, officers and director of B.A.S.S. or its parent, subsidiary, and affiliated companies and members of their immediate families (spouse, parents, children and sibling, regardless of where they live) are ineligible. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves may not be eligible.

It is recommended each contestant have an endorsement of having passed a boating safety course or grandfathered by law. Failure to do so may prevent boating on tournament waters. Boating safety courses are available online.

- (ii) DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY B.A.S.S. TOURNAMENT, NO PRO OR CO-ANGLER COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF 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 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 CBN's requirement. **PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING ALL OF THE REQUIRED INSURANCE DOCUMENTATION TO THE ON-SITE REGISTRATION MEETING.**
- (iii) \* **A properly complete and signed official entry form and entry fees must be provided to the Colorado BASS Nation STQT administrative team prior to the first day of competition. Entry forms can be found on tournament director's section of CBN's web-site – [www.ColoradoBassNation.com](http://www.ColoradoBassNation.com). Participants must provide to their designated Chapter officer their completed entry form and full entry fee. (Each Chapter will determine what form of payments they will accept from participants.) Each Chapter will submit a check to CBN for their participants, provide a roster of their participants and all completed entry forms to the CBN STQT administrative team. All entry forms and fees must be acknowledged or received by the CBN STQT administrative team on or before 10 days of the first day of competition - June 1, 2015. CBN will accept entry forms after June 1, the entry fees must be paid in cash or certified funds and also may be subject to a \$50 late fee. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. ENTRY FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE AND NON-TRANSFERABLE REGARDLESS OF DATE OF CANCELLATION, EXCEPT FOR HARDSHIP CASES, WHICH WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.**

- (iv) **\*Participants must be verified as Members in Good Standing of an affiliated CBN Chapter by their Chapter. The definition of Member in Good Standing will be determined by each Chapter and may include such requirements as the timely submission of all dues, chapter participation, residency requirements, and reasonable conduct. Membership requirements may differ among chapters, except where the CBN bylaws establish universal requirements for all members.**
- (v) **\*Each member and their Chapter are to ensure and verify that all required dues (B.A.S.S. general membership, B.A.S.S. Nation membership, CBN membership and Chapter dues) are current. If payments are made concurrent with registering for the STQT, each Chapter is to notify the CBN STQT administrative team immediately.**
- (vi) **\*Participants agree to use any and all required and official clothing and products provided by the Colorado BASS Nation, B.A.S.S., and their sponsors for the CBN STQT and B.A.S.S. related events - including Regional, National Championship, and the Classic tournaments. Non-compliance will be a violation of the rules and may result in the above mentioned penalties.**
- (vii) The Tournament Director may deny entry to the STQT for any member of Chapter that is not in good standing, has been put on probation by the CBN BOD or its Chapter, or has been disqualified for previous rules or conduct violations. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a CBN (or B.A.S.S.) tournament and/or for disqualification from a CBN (or B.A.S.S.) tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.
- (viii) **Participants must have in their possession valid state fishing licenses that covers the tournament waters on which the tournament is held that they plan to fish. PARTICIPANTS MUST BRING THEIR FISHING LICENSE TO THE ON-SITE REGISTRATION MEEETING. Non-boaters should have ALL licenses to cover any waters that may be fished during the competition. \*Prior to or at the registration meeting, Boaters will be required to notify Tournament officials if they plan to fish tournament waters that may cross into another state so that non-boaters may purchase the necessary state fishing licenses.**

## **2. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Anglers participating in any Colorado BASS 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 general public and does not reflect unfavorably on Colorado BASS Nation, B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors

To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, forfeiture of tournament winnings and prizes, suspension from competing in individual Colorado BASS Nation (and B.A.S.S.) sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by the Colorado BASS Nation (and / or B.A.S.S.)

In addition, the B.A.S.S. guidelines will be followed:

- Do not pass any information about your partners' fishing locations to your next day's partners.
- Non-boaters must fish from the back of the boat and may leave the back of the boat to land a fish. There **IS NOT** a line drawn down the middle of the boat, but please respect your boater. For example, DO NOT cast over his line. See Rule #6.
- **During the course of the tournament days, non-boaters can only operate the boat in the case of emergency or an exception from Tournament Director. See Rule #12.**
- **Boaters cannot** tell non-boaters not to fish any area. Non-boaters cannot accept money from the Boaters not to fish.
- Non-boaters are allowed to practice out of their boats. Their boats must adhere to all rules and have proof of insurance at all times.
- No alcohol or drugs are allowed in the boat.

### **MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS**

The favorable public reputation of Colorado BASS Nation and B.A.S.S. as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for the Colorado BASS Nation and B.A.S.S. Accordingly, it is an obligation of participants to refrain from comments to the media (news, social, forums, etc.) that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers, CBN or the B.A.S.S. organization and its' media platforms. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with Colorado BASS Nation or B.A.S.S. policies are encouraged; however, attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials will not be tolerated. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Colorado BASS Nation or B.A.S.S., Colorado BASS Nation or B.A.S.S. officials, members or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a Colorado BASS Nation member and may result in disciplinary action.

### **3. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:**

- (i) There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director. Special off limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Classic and the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship will be announced by B.A.S.S. \* **FOR CBN'S STQT, TOURNAMENT WATERS SHALL BE OFF-LIMITS TO ALL COMPETITORS COMMENCING AT 12:01 AM, THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF OFFICIAL PRACTICE. NO FISHING IS ALLOWED ON THE FIRST DAY OF PRACTICE PRIOR TO SAFE LIGHT. UPON A FIRST OFFENSE, VIOLATION OF THIS RULE WILL MEAN IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION FROM THE STQT. ANY**

**SUBSEQUENT OFFENSE WILL RESULT IN A PERMANENT REMOVAL FROM FUTURE CBN COMPETITIONS.**

- (ii) There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition. Three official practice days will begin at 12:01 am the Monday 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) or **\*as announced at registration meeting if the registration meeting is held prior to the last day of official practice.** Unless otherwise specified, all official times are time zone specific to local host community. The competitor must know and observe these dates. During practice and competition a competitor can only have the assistance or advice of another competitor for the purposes of locating or catching bass on tournament waters. Competitors may only fish with other competitors during practice and competition (**\*guests may be approved by the tournament director, see requirements listed below**). Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during 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 live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.
- **No practicing at night**
  - **Any guest must be a member of BASS with associated BASS insurance coverage.**
  - **Guests are limited to immediate family members (spouse, son, or daughter) of the boater or non-boater.**
  - **If a paired boater/non-boater, all affected parties must agree to the addition of any guest(s) and submit said agreement to the Tournament Director prior to entering tournament waters.**
  - **If a single boater, and only one guest is being proposed, there is no issue and no agreement need be submitted. However, Tournament Director's approval is still required.**
- (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. 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 cut may not receive information under rule C3(ii).
- (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 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, 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 WRITING, WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE SCALES CLOSING OF THAT DAY'S WEIGH-IN. IF IT PERTAINS TO PRACTICE DAYS, WRITTEN PROTEST MUST BE DONE PRIOR TO THE FIRST DAY OF COMPETITION. 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 should he/she be accused of any rule violation. The Colorado BASS Nation Tournament Director, rules committee, or such person designated by the Tournament Director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test. The Colorado BASS Nation 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 Colorado BASS Nation Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest Colorado BASS Nation 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. 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 a Colorado BASS Nation Event.

#### **4. REGISTRATION:**

Each competitor must register in person with Colorado BASS Nation 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, who has not contacted the Colorado BASS Nation Tournament Director 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on-site registration period, 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 Colorado BASS Nation. **Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament meeting.**

#### **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.** This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear or 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 PFD's must be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFD's on board. It is suggested the Boater have a safety check with the Co-angler each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.\*Any contestant fishing alone during official practice must check-in with the Tournament Director PRIOR TO ENTERING TOURNAMENT WATERS. Check-out and check-in procedures will be determined at that time.**
- 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 Colorado BASS Nation, may be approved for competition.
  - 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), shall result in cancellation. Full fields may be carried over to cut days.
  - v Colorado BASS Nation 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.
  - vi IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
  - vii COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT

## **6. SPORTSMANSHIP:**

Competitors in Colorado BASS Nation (and B.A.S.S.) 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.

- (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 his and all future Colorado BASS 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 prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations
- (iv) 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/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. Any disqualification, suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a Colorado BASS Nation tournament, and/or disqualification from a Colorado BASS Nation tournament, after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director

## **7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:**

Use of 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. 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. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or 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 these spinnerbaits or buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure. The "head and hook" portion of the lure must trail behind the blade or blades. Colorado BASS Nation 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 (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 is 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. Anyone guilty of 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 and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. 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.

Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle at all times with one another, including Competitors who have been cut from competition.

## **8. 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 Colorado BASS Nation. 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 Colorado BASS Nation tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by Colorado BASS Nation 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.

## **9. 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. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The trolling or long line technique is only allowed with the trolling motor. 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, 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.

## **10. 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. Colorado BASS Nation recommends live wells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. Boaters must make a back seat available for co-anglers each competition day.

**\*Boaters and non-boaters make significant financial and time commitments when fishing the STQT. While it is recognized that the boaters' expenses exceed those of the non-boaters', it is still expected that those who provide a boat for competition ensure that their boat is in SAFE AND SOUND operating condition and "tournament ready." Although breakdowns do happen, providing a boat that is known to be prone to failure is unfair to other competitors who must also rely on that boat. If your boat is not tournament ready, you should participate as a non-boater only.**

### **11. 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.

### **12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:**

**During competition**, in pro-am type events, boaters will fish from the front deck, co-anglers from the rear deck, NO EXCEPTIONS. **During both practice and competition**, Co-anglers are only allowed to drive (outboard engine) the pro's boat in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. **During official practice**, co-anglers not practicing with a boater, 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 co-angler partner, shall be disqualified. At no time may a boater request that the co-angler competitor not fish. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day. In Colorado BASS Nation events where observers replace co-anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the boater in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

**\*With current increases in gas and oil prices, and in view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament ready bass boat, an initial operational fee of \$30.00 each day of competition is to be paid to the boater by the travel/practice partner they signed up with. At a minimum, the boater's sign-up partner will pay \$90.00 to cover boat gas and oil for the 3-day competition, unless otherwise agreed to. Compensation for boat gas and oil, and vehicle gas used prior to the 3-day competition should be negotiated between partners. It is expected that if the expenses for a day of fishing exceeds the \$30.00 minimum, be fair and split the added expenses for gas and oil for the day between the boater and that day's DRAW partner.**

### **13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:**

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Colorado BASS Nation. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies as well as 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.

#### **14. 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. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5, 14, and 17. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from 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. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.

#### **15. OFFICAL 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 above 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.

#### **16. SCORING:**

Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce or pound and 1/100 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, Co-angler limit shall be 3, 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 they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2 pound penalty to be deducted from their 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 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 2 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. If a competitor has his fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat 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 to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered. 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 which increase survival rate may be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in if available.

#### **17. 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 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. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. Upon mutual consent of both pro and co-angler paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight. **SMALL DIP**

NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED. 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 tournament officials.

### **18. LATE PENALTY:**

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 15, at the appointed time, 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. 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.

### **19. TIES:**

In case of a tie for first place weight in the Boater division at the end of the tournament, there will be a sudden-death fish-off between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials.

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 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, and monetary prizes for each competitor will be awarded in an equal amount between the tied competitors. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each competitor will be awarded equal points. In the instance where merchandise is involved, it will be awarded as determined by tournament officials. In the Co-angler division, should a situation arise after using all the tie breakers a tie for first place occur, a sudden-death fish off will be arranged between the tied competitors, under the direction and special rules established by tournament officials. Ties for any cut in the boater and Co-angler division will be resolved in the same order explained above and if the tie is not broken, will be awarded as determined by tournament officials.

### **20. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:**

Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. If necessary, Boaters may be paired with Boaters, and share time. Announcement of your first-day fishing partner 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. 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 Rules 14, 15 & 17). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them 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 the Colorado BASS Nation.

### **21. 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. Colorado BASS Nation may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in Colorado BASS Nation's sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official Colorado BASS Nation sponsors, or which are, in Colorado BASS Nation's sole judgment, in poor taste. Colorado BASS Nation will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each boater agrees to wear an official B.A.S.S. patch, when provided, during competition, including the weigh-in. This patch may be embroidered. Co-anglers agree to wear a B.A.S.S. patch on their hat or front of their garment during competition, including the weigh-in when provided. In addition, if Colorado BASS Nation provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests, jerseys) bearing the logos of B.A.S.S., Colorado BASS Nation or the official sponsors of B.A.S.S., each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested.

### **22. TAXES**

Where and when Federal and state laws require income taxes be paid on cash awards to nonresidents, Competitors will be responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.

### **23. 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.

