

WEST SUBURBAN BASS ANGLERS

BYLAWS

REVISED 2024

ARTICLE I

INTRODUCTION

1. **Code of Rules.** These Bylaws supersede the West Suburban Bass Anglers Bylaws, and constitute the code of rules adopted by the West Suburban Bass Anglers for the regulation and management of its affairs.

2. **Purpose and Powers.** The West Suburban Bass Anglers, hereinafter referred to as the "WSBA", consisting of affiliated Chapter of Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation "IBFN" a chapter of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.), shall have the purposes and powers as may be stated in its Articles of Incorporation, and such powers as are now or may be granted by law. Additional purposes and objectives are:

- a. To promote and support approved conservation policies, practices and measures, preservation of aquatic resources and improvements of ecological and environmental conditions on local, regional, and state levels.
- b. To promote the practice of high standards of sportsmanship and conservation measures among the membership.
- c. To provide the state Game and Fish Commission organized political input, material support and encouragement.
- d. To promote improvement of bass angling skills in the membership through fellowship, the friendly exchange of techniques and ideas and the conduct of WSBA sponsored bass fishing tournaments.
- e. To encourage youth fishing, promote the conduct of youth fishing activities by the WSBA and, within budgetary allocations, provide funding and material assistance in the implementation of approved youth activities.
- f. To conduct bass fishing tournaments (Pro-Am Format ie Boater versus Boater and Non-boater versus Non-boater) for purposes of determining the members who will constitute the WSBA 10 man Team for the Illinois State 10 Man Tournament and represent the IBFN during B.A.S.S. sponsored tournaments.
- g. Within funding limitations, provide funding for the WSBA 10 man team participation in B.A.S.S. sponsored State tournaments as may be required.

ARTICLE II

LOCATION OF WSBA

1. **Geographical.** The WSBA Chapter of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation shall consist of those qualified members whose offices of record and majority of members are domiciled in the Norther part of Illinois and Southern part of Wisconsin.
2. **Principal Office.** The principal office and business address of this organization shall be the same as that of the WSBA President.
3. **Meeting Location.** The WSBA will meet on the second Wednesday of every month at the Tap House Grill located in Palatine, IL.

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

1. **Definition of Membership.** The members of the WSBA are those persons and organizations having membership in accordance with the provisions of these Bylaws.
2. **Categories of Membership.** The WSBA shall have one category of membership.
 - a. Individual – Persons who are members in good standing of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) and who are also members in good standing of both BASS Federation Nation and the IBFN.
3. **Affiliation.** Membership in the WSBA shall be acquired only by Members who meet the following prerequisites:
 - a. Membership is limited to 19 boaters/non-boaters and is open to anyone that is a member of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society and is 18 years or older
 - b. Yearly club membership dues of \$80.00 will be required (upon acceptance to the club).
 - c. Membership into the Bass Nation \$30.00 and the IBFN \$60.00
 - d. At no time is a Bass Federation Nation club member allowed to be a member of an FLW Bass Federation club. If you plan on being an FLW Bass Federation associate member, in order to fish FLW Bass Federation tournaments, your Illinois Bass Federation Nation status will change, you will be charged higher club dues and you will lose all voting privileges in the WSBA.
 - e. An angler who is thinking about joining the WSBA will be allowed to fish 1 club tournament before becoming a member, as a guest. They will pay regular tournament fees and be allowed to place and win money, but will not collect Angler of the Year points until becoming a member in good standing.
4. **Continuation.** Member affiliation in the WSBA shall be on a continuing basis provided:

- a. Member maintains current its affiliation with B.A.S.S.
 - b. Member maintains current its affiliation with B.A.S.S. Nation
 - c. Member maintains current its affiliation with Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation
 - d. Member maintains its domicile in a location with a geographical nexus to the Northern portion of Illinois and Southern portion of Wisconsin.
5. **Withdrawal From Membership.** Any Member may withdraw from membership, after fulfilling all of its obligations to the WSBA, by giving notice, preferably in writing, to the Secretary. In the absence of notification, Members who fail to have representation on four successive occasions at WSBA meetings shall be considered as having effected withdrawal action and will be removed from membership. Actions of withdrawal as enumerated above shall also be reported to IBFN for disaffiliation action.
6. **Forfeiture of Membership.**
- a. Members in violation of Article III, Section 4 may be dropped from membership.
 - b. Members who absent themselves (fail to have bona fide representation) from four consecutive regular WSBA meetings without acceptable cause being given, shall be considered at the next WSBA meeting, following the fourth absence, for forfeiture or retention of membership.
 - c. WSBA Members may be removed from membership for reasons stated above and for cause by two-thirds vote, with a quorum present of the Elected Officers, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment,
 - d. The Elected Officers considers such action to be in the best interests of the WSBA.
 - e. Individual's may be denied participation in WSBA sponsored activities by a two-thirds vote, with a quorum present of the Elected Officers for cause, and after opportunity to be heard, whenever, in its judgment, the Board may consider such action to be in the best interests of the WSBA for flagrant reasons, the Board may recommend removal of the individual from Chapter membership. WSBA members shall abide by the Executive Committee determination and remove the individual from membership in the WSBA. Any dues paid will be returned on a pro-rata basis.
7. **Reinstatement of Membership.**
- a. Membership in the WSBA that was terminated in accordance with Article III, may request reinstatement after the individual demonstrate compliance with the prerequisites set forth in these bylaws.
 - b. Membership in the WSBA that was terminated under Article III may be reinstated following a majority vote, with a quorum present of the elected officers.
8. **Rights and Privileges.** WSBA Members as members of the IBFN are entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations to which membership in B.A.S.S. Nation implies.
- a. Without limiting such rights and obligations, individual rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in the WSBA and the right to

vote on all matters requiring a vote of the individual membership; and such individual obligations shall include maintaining their current membership in B.A.S.S., membership in B.A.S.S. Nation and have active participation in WSBA activities and a conduct reflecting a favorable image of the WSBA in the community.

- b. The WSBA Members shall have representation with the IBFN with the rights and obligations that such representation shall entail, the right to vote through their Board of representatives (President and Vice President) on all matters pertaining to the operation of the IBFN; the right to participate in IBFN sponsored activities for which they are eligible and such other rights as may be conferred by the IBFN. The member's obligations shall include maintaining affiliation with the WSBA, active participation and support of WSBA projects and activities and the maintenance of a level of conduct and sportsmanship among its members that imparts a favorable image on the WSBA in the community.
9. **Non-discrimination.** There shall be no discrimination in membership or participation in the activities of the WSBA by reason of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, disability, age, veteran status, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

1. **General.** Officers of the WSBA shall be elected by the WSBA members and shall consist of those positions delineated in Article V sections 1 - 8. WSBA officers, as a group, shall be known as the Executive Committee and are empowered to carry out the directives of the IBFN. The WSBA Members shall have the power to overrule or modify the action of the Executive Committee or any officer of the WSBA with a majority vote of the quorum.

- a. The Executive Committee may act by a majority of its members at a meeting or informally without a meeting provided all members sign a document reflecting such informal action.

2. **Term of Office.** The term of office for WSBA officials shall be for a period of one (1) year. Officers shall take office in January following the meeting in which they were elected. They shall serve from that date. Officers may be elected for consecutive terms for the same position. As the last item of business, the incumbent president will administer the oath of office to the newly elected officers during the December meeting.

3. **Eligibility for Office.** Officers shall be members in good standing of WSBA, IBFN, B.A.S.S. Federation and B.A.S.S...

4. **Removal From Office.** Any officer may be removed from office for cause by two-thirds vote, with a quorum present. An officer's absence, without justifiable reason, from three consecutive meetings of the WSBA shall be cause for removal.

ARTICLE V

RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1. **President.** He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the WSBA. He or she shall:

- Preside and maintain order over all meetings of the Executive Committee WSBA.
- Schedule regular and special meetings of the Executive Committee; notify officers of meeting dates.
- Appoint Standing and Special Committees of the WSBA as appropriate, cooperate with Secretary thereof to assure proper functioning and reporting of each committee.
- See that regular elections are duly called, noticed and held.
- Direct all official business for the WSBA.
- Be the official representative of WSBA.
- Ensure adequate supervision of all WSBA sponsored activities.
- Except for Nominating Committee is ex-officio, nonvoting member of all standing and special committees.
- Maintain liaison with IBFN and endorsed sponsors and promoters.
- Initiate disciplinary action in respect to violations of standing regulations and procedure by WSBA members.
- Acquire a working knowledge of parliamentary law and procedures and a thorough understanding of the Articles and Bylaws of the WSBA.
- Be responsible as the outgoing President and Treasurer from the previous year to reasonably and willingly assist the new President and Treasurer with preparations for the previous year.

2. **Vice President.** If the President is unable to perform the duties of his office for any reason, the Vice-President shall occupy his position and perform his duties with the same authority as the President. He or she shall:

- Assist the President as directed.
- Oversee the functioning of such committees of this organization as the President shall direct.
- Assume the office of President for balance of term should office be vacated.
- Directly responsible to track and report Angler of the Year "AOY" and provide monthly updates to members.
- Will oversee the IBFN Make A Wish Ticket Program
- Will oversee the Monthly Fifty Fifty Raffle for WSBA

3. **Tournament Director.** In the event of absence of President and Vice President, he or she shall be next in rank to occupy the president's position and shall assume and discharge pro tempore the powers and duties of the President.

- Coordinate tournament planning, communicating the status of WSBA sanctioned tournaments to the Members and Executive Committee. Obtain Special Use Permits and B.A.S.S. Insurance Certificate.

- Monitor preparations for WSBA sanctioned tournaments; keep the president and members of the Executive Committee current relative to the preparatory activities.
- Maintain current files of “B.A.S.S. Tournament Rules and Regulations” governing conduct of the WSBA sanctioned tournaments, and any prescribed exceptions to these rules as may be required to meet tournament conditions.
- Establish rules and procedures to govern all WSBA sanctioned tournaments to assure their conduct within the spirit and high degree of standards established by B.A.S.S. and the IBFN.
- Determine requirements and request funding allocations required for conduct of WSBA sanctioned tournaments and tournament related activities.
- Assist the President as directed.

4. **Conservation Director.** He or she shall be the action officer for the WSBA in such matters as related to the natural environment and its protection and to the conservation, propagation and protection of aquatic resources. He or she shall:

- Coordinate and supervise the implementation of IBFN sponsored environmental and conservation related programs.
- Collect and evaluate reported violations of local, state and federal anti- pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulatory devices; recommend and take actions as directed.
- Undertake information and educational programs to bring to the members and the public an awareness of threats to the environment and opportunities to improve fisheries.
- Maintain current information pertaining to legislation at local, state or national levels that will influence environmental or aquatic resources; assure membership awareness of such legislation.
- Maintain liaison with the Illinois Game and Fish Commission and other state and national agencies as appropriate.
- Assist the President as directed.

5. **Secretary.** He or she shall be under the supervision and direction of the President. In fulfillment of this, he or she shall:

- Keep a record of the proceedings (minutes) of all meetings of the WSBA and Executive Committee.
Maintain a current a roster, inclusive of mailing address, telephone number and register and maintain the record of attendance of WSBA meetings
- Have custody and maintain general records of the WSBA, including, but not limited to, minutes of the WSBA meetings; Member attendance; committee appointments and reports; addresses and telephone numbers of members.
- Coordinate the preparation and submission by members of the Executive Committee of such reports as are required by IBFN, and other agencies; conduct correspondence for the WSBA as directed.
- Maintain current a roster of WSBA officials and members; disseminate updated copies to IBFN officials.

- Maintain current a jacket file of WSBA with the BASS, IBFN; such files to include, at the minimum, a copy of the current Chapter membership roster, Chapter's B.A.S.S. number and status.
- Notify the executive committee member does not meet eligibility requirements identified in Article III of these bylaws.
- Assist the President as directed.

6. **Treasurer.** He or she shall have the care and custody of and shall be responsible for all the funds, securities, evidences of indebtedness and other valuable documents of the WSBA, and deposit all such funds in the name of the WSBA in such banks, or trust companies, or other depositories, or in such safe deposit vaults as the Executive Committee may designate. He or she shall:

- Sign, make and endorse in the name of the WSBA, all checks, notes, drafts, bills of exchange, acceptances and other instruments for the payment of money, and payout and dispose of and receipt therefore, under authorization and direction of the President or Board of Directors.
- Render a statement of the condition of the finances of the WSBA at each regular meeting of the WSBA, and at such other times as shall be required of him or her.
- Keep full and accurate books of accounts of all WSBA business and other such books of account as the Executive Committee may require, and shall exhibit the same to any member of the WSBA upon application thereof.
- Prepare and submit a complete calendar year financial report at the succeeding year's first meeting.
- Pay statements from officers and committee members only when clearly authorized by the President or Vice President, and when fully documented by receipts.
- Issue statements and collect for financial obligations owed to the WSBA.
- Have custody and maintain records of WSBA accounts and disbursements. At termination of office such records shall be inventoried; active records shall be turned over to the succeeding Treasurer; old records shall be committed to WSBA files as the President or Vice President shall direct; a receipt for same will be obtained. Valuable documents of the NMBN in depositories or elsewhere shall be jointly inventoried by the outgoing and new Treasurer in the presence of the President prior to transfer of custodianship to the new Treasurer.
- Perform all duties incident to his office.

7. **Membership Director:** The Membership Director will be responsible for the recruitment of new members to the club. Any potential new recruits are to be referred to the Membership Director where he or she will serve as a liaison for said recruit. Duties include but are not limited to: promoting, introducing, mentoring, guiding, attending shows, speaking, and more.

8. **Social Media Director:** The Social Media Director will be responsible for managing, editing, and posting on all social media platforms (Facebook, X, Instagram, etc.) on behalf of WSBA. All social media content and postings are to be approved by WSBA membership or Club Officers.

ARTICLE VI

ELECTIONS

1. **Officers.** Officers of the WSBA shall be elected by the WSBA Members in accordance with procedures as prescribed herein; they shall have such terms of office and eligibility requirements as provided under Article IV, Sections 2 and 3.

- a. Regular Nomination to fill officer positions shall be conducted during the October meeting of the calendar year. The Nomination shall be by members of the quorum present
- b. A plurality vote shall be necessary to elect. Voting for each officer position shall be by a written ballot at the November meeting.
- c. b. Should vacancies occur among officer positions, such vacancies may be filled at a regular or special meeting of the WSBA Members, and any officer so elected shall hold office until the end of the normal term or until his successor shall be elected and shall qualify.

ARTICLE VII

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

Special committees may be appointed by the President, subject to concurrence in their composition and purpose by the Executive Committee, for closely defined purposes.

ARTICLE III

CONDUCT OF MEETINGS

1. **Rules of Order.** The Rules of Order, inclusive of Order of Business adopted for meetings conducted by the WSBA is appended to these Bylaws as Appendix I, Rules of Order.

2. **Parliamentary Procedures.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in the WSBA Articles or Bylaws, all questions of order or procedure with respect to any meeting in action of this organization, its Executive Committee, or any committee appointed hereunder shall be determined in accordance with "Robert's Rules of Order (as revised)."

ARTICLE IX

MEETINGS OF INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

1. **Frequency of Meetings.** Meetings of individual members of the WSBA shall be conducted on the second Wednesday of every month

2. **Quorum.** Ten percent (10%) of the total WSBA membership must be present to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all monthly meetings of the individual membership.
3. **Voting.** Each member of the WSBA, who by active membership are qualified to vote **and are present**, shall be entitled to one (1) vote on each matter submitted to a vote at meeting of individual members.
4. **Meeting Points.** Each member attending a regular monthly meeting shall be awarded 2 points. Each member participating in the WSBA annual conservation project shall be awarded 2 points.

ARTICLE X

AUTHORITY OF REPRESENTATION

IBFN Conference. The WSBA are an affiliate of IBFN. and it shall be necessary from time to time to have representation at the state office or elsewhere to obtain information and new policies and procedures and to add the WSBA's voice and vote in State B.A.S.S. matters, the WSBA shall have the power to pay the necessary expenses of its representative(s) to each annual IBFN Conference as are deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE XI

WSBA TOURNAMENTS

1. **Location and Dates of Execution.** The dates and location for the WSBA's qualifying tournaments shall be as established by WSBA Tournament Director.
2. **Tournament Eligibility Requirements.**
 1. WSBA Members in compliance with Article III, Section 4 and Article IV, Section 2, (4) of these Bylaws are eligible to participate in the WSBA tournaments (excluding open tournaments).
 2. A. Invited Anglers and potential new members are allowed to fish one tournament as a guest. In order to compete in a tournament they must attend the monthly meeting prior to the event that they plan to fish. All guests must pay the standard entry fee and sign a waiver for the tournament they wish to enter. Guest will have thirty days to complete the membership process (see Article III section 2) to earn points and have the tournament become official. For Anglers that do not attend the prior monthly meeting the Tournament Director may accept his or her entry with full payment into the club (BASS Membership, BASS Nation, IBFN Dues and Club Dues: Article 3 Section 2), and with consent from the Executive Committee approval.
B. Member's friends and spouses are allowed to fish with a Boater that does not have a partner. Friends are allowed to fish 2 tournaments per year. Spouses are unlimited. These individuals do not have to attend the meeting prior to the tournament. They must pay entry fees to the tournament. The Boater that they fish with shall be responsible for all fees the individual owes. The individuals will be eligible for winning tournament payout money only. They will not accrue points toward WSBA AOY. In order to

receive payment of winnings, they must attend the meeting after the tournament that they have fished in.

3. Rules and Regulations. The rules and regulations governing conduct of the WSBA's tournaments shall be based on the current "B.A.S.S. Nation Regional Tournament Official Rules" and the IBFN Ten Man State Qualifier they may be amended by the exceptions determined by the President, Tournament Director, and/or Tournament Committee if so appointed. Such rules shall be distributed or made available electronically to tournament registered participants. Exceptions ("Exceptions to The Rules") shall be those amendments required in the rules because of conflict with IBFN rules or policy and those required to adapt the rules to the tournament site and waters. WSBA rules which shall not be amended by imposition of the B.A.S.S. rules are contained in Appendix II, WSBA Tournament Rules and Policy to the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XII

MISCELLANEOUS

- 1. Contracts on Behalf of WSBA.** The Executive Committee may authorize any officer or officers, agent or agents, employee or employees to enter into any contract or other instrument on behalf of the WSBA and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Except as herein provided, no officer, agent, or employee, other than the President and those officers granted special authority under Article V of these Bylaws, shall have any power or authority to bind the WSBA by any contract or engagement, or to pledge its credit or to render it liable, for any purpose or for any amount.
- 2. Fiscal Year.** The Fiscal Year of the NMBN shall begin on January 1 and end on December 31.
- 3. Audits.** The option to audit the financial books and accounts is prescribed in Article III, Section 10; however, the books and records of the WSBA may be reviewed by any member in good standing.
- 4. Endorsements for Public Office.** The WSBA shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor shall partisan politics or sectarian religion be debated by members in meetings of the WSBA.
- 5. Conflict of Interest.** No officer or member of the WSBA shall use his position as a means of furthering any personal, political, or other aspiration, nor shall the WSBA as a whole, take part in any movement not in keeping with its purpose and objectives.
- 6. Sources of WSBA Income.** Funds for support and maintenance of the WSBA will be derived from the annual dues, WSBA qualifying tournaments, other WSBA sponsored tournaments, assessments, special "activity related" projects, fund raising efforts and donations. Under no circumstances may the WSBA accept monetary assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations or government agencies, if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to the primary goals of the IBN.

ARTICLE XII

STANDING RULES

1. **Amendment of Standing Rules.** The Standing Rules of the WSBA were adopted by rule of the majority; they are therefore subject to the will of the majority at any WSBA meeting and may be suspended, modified, or rescinded by a majority vote, with a quorum present, without the delay incident to giving written notice.
2. **Dissemination of WSBA Rosters.** A roster of WSBA may not be given to any individual or organization outside the B.A.S.S. unless approved by the Executive Committee.
3. **Catch and Release.** The program of catch and release shall be enforced for all WSBA tournaments.
4. **Interpretation of Bylaws and Standing Rules.** The final authority for interpretation of these Bylaws and Standing Rules shall rest with the Executive Committee.

APPENDIX I

RULES OF ORDER

TO WSBA BYLAWS

1. General.

- a. These rules constitute the Rules of Order for the conduct of WSBA Meetings.
- b. The rules contained in "Roberts Rules of Order (as revised)" shall govern the WSBA in all cases to which they are applicable, and in which they are consistent with these Rules of Order, the Bylaws or Articles of Incorporation of the WSBA
- c. WSBA shall have monthly meetings
 - a) January: Tournament Schedule draft/plan
 - b) February: Tournament Schedule released and finalized
Members are encouraged to bring items for sale or trade
 - c) March: Tournament Schedule implemented – Permits filed & approved
 - d) April: Tournaments Start
 - e) May: Tournaments & Conservation Project
 - f) June: Tournaments
 - g) July: Tournaments
 - h) August: Tournaments
 - i) September: Tournaments
 - j) October: WSBA Classic, Nominate New Officers for Election, Propose new rules.
 - k) November: Election of new Officers and vote on new rules
 - l) December: End of Year Awards and Swearing in of New Officers
****There is no longer a Club funded banquet in December.**
 - m) Angler of the Year "AOY" is tracked by the Vice President and determined by:

1. Club participation in meetings from October till September members will receive two points per meeting attended and allowed two drops.
2. Tournament results 10 regular season tournaments will be scheduled. You may count up to 8 of those tournaments towards AOY.

1. **Call to Order.** Regular meetings of the WSBA shall be convened on such dates and at such a place as shall be determined and announced in accordance with Section 4. Article III of the Bylaws; and, it shall be the duty of the President to call the meeting to order at the appointed time, to preside over the meeting, to announce the business before the Members in its proper order, to state and put all questions properly brought before the Executive Committee, to preserve order and decorum, and to decide all questions of order.

2. **Assumption of Office.** Terms of office, procedures for elections and guidelines for assumption of office by WSBA officials are prescribed in Article III and IV of the Bylaws. Officials elected during the November meeting of the calendar year shall assume office immediately following the administering of the oath of office by the incumbent President in December. The period between elections and the first quarter meeting of the following calendar year shall be utilized as a transition period to allow incumbent officials to complete any unfinished business and to familiarize newly elected officials with all pending or ongoing agendas.

3. **Amendments of Rules of Order.** These rules can be amended at any regular meeting of the WSBA, by two-thirds vote, with a quorum present, provided the amendment was submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting. September's meeting will accept any and all submissions for rules changes with a decision being made at the November meeting with a majority vote with a quorum present.

WSBA

APPENDIX II

Official Tournament Rules

Effective Jan 1 2024

1. RULES AND PENALTIES

The following rules shall apply to all WSBA tournaments, with the following exceptions: (i) rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and (ii) these rules may be changed by WSBA immediately upon notice to its members, which notice may be published on the WSBA internet site at www.westsuburbanbassanglers.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left **exclusively to the Tournament Director** or his/her designee at a tournament. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Committee (all Executive Committee members in attendance) may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Subject to the appeal process set forth in paragraph 22 below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the tournament committee, shall be final in all matters.

Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by WSBA, such as “sharing fish” and off-limits rules violations and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler must be reported to tournament director in writing within 24 hours of the final flight check-in on the day of the alleged violation.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

- a) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
- b) Loss of one or more fish caught in potential violation of rules or regulations.
- c) Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
- d) Disqualification from the tournament in question.
- e) Fined
- f) Disqualification from future WSBA events (with the consent of the Tournament Committee), which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

- i. Participation in WSBA tournaments are for WSBA members in good standing only. Any Angler who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is disabled in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his/her partner or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner or themselves may not be eligible. It is highly recommended that anyone that has a disability that limits their operation of the boat, have a full discussion with the

Tournament Director and Executive Committee. Service and companion animals are allowed on the boat at all times with the prior permission of the boater and Tournament Director.

- ii. Invited Anglers and potential new members are allowed to fish one tournament as a guest. In order to compete in a tournament they **must attend the monthly meeting prior to the event** that they plan to fish. All guests must pay the standard entry fee and sign a waiver for the tournament they wish to enter. Guest will have thirty days to complete the membership process to earn points and have the tournament become official. For Anglers that do not attend the prior monthly meeting the Tournament Director may accept his or her entry with full payment into the club (BASS Membership, BASS Nation, IBFN Dues and Club Dues), and with consent from the Executive Committee approval
- iii. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF THE TOURNAMENT, NO BOATER OR NON-BOATER COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED INSURANCE OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000, PER OCCURRENCE, BOAT OWNERS LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE.** The Tournament Director has sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S., LLC requirements.

2.PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

- i. WSBA events will have no off limits period though an official practice may be established by the Tournament Director
- ii. No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
- iii. 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. Cellphones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. **Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc., however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or social media is not permitted.**
- iv. A designated tournament committee official must be granted access to the competitor's boat at any time during the competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

- v. **Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification. OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY. By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to abide by its conclusion.**

3. REGISTRATION:

- **All entries must be made and paid in full at the prior months meeting.**
- **Qualifier Tournament fees shall be \$70 (\$75 including Big Bass pot) for a one day tournament and \$120 (\$125 including Big Bass pot) for a two day tournament.**
- **WSBA Classic: A club Classic tournament will be held at the end of the year. The Classic will be a 2-day tournament with the highest cumulative weight determining a Boater and Non-Boater Classic Champion. Anglers must qualify for the Classic by fishing in at least 50% of the regularly scheduled club tournaments during the year. An angler may “buy-in” a total of 2 tournaments to qualify for the Classic. The “buy-in” cost shall be \$100.00/tournament. There will be a Big Bass pot for each day of the Classic. Only Classic participants are allowed to pre-fish. The Boater Angler of the Year (AOY) shall be given the 1st take off position for Day 1 of the Classic tournament. Take off positions shall be reversed for Day 2. The Non-Boater Angler of the Year shall be paired with the Boater AOY for the Classic tournament. The Monday and Tuesday of the week during which the Classic tournament is held shall be off limits to all participants. The locations of the previous 2 Classic tournaments shall be omitted from consideration for the current year’s Classic tournament. **The Tournament Director will determine the location of the Classic tournament prior to the start of the season.****
- **Tournaments may be scheduled on Sundays at the Tournament Director’s discretion.**
- **A mid-summer 2 day tournament shall be held in June.**
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to extend the acceptance time if notified of a late arrival due to unavoidable circumstances it is the members responsibility to contact the Tournament Director.
- All late Entries and those not paid at the prior meeting will incur a **\$10.00 late fee** without prior approval/arrangements from the Tournament Director.
- If an Angler drops out of a tournament, he can either forfeit his entry fees and receive 5 participation points with the tournament counted as one he has fished OR he can be refunded his entry fee but receive no participation points and the tournament does not count as one he has fished.
- **Anglers can change their status to/from a Boater/Non-Boater BEFORE fishing their first tournament or they will forfeit any existing AOY points. Boaters may fish as a Boater in the back of another boat in the event of mechanical difficulties.**

4. SAFETY:

i. **Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. During the competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation (in gear).** This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is out of gear. **A \$10.00 fine will be assessed to all competitors for each occurrence** this includes loading and unloading the boat. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. **It is suggested the Boater competitor have a safety check with the Non-Boater each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.**

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

iii. Tournament Director has the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on full field days, resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check in), shall result in cancellation.

iv. Tournament Director reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments.

v. **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

vi. **COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.**

5. SPORTSMANSHIP:

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

i. Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WSBA tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, or **when in the weigh-in area.**

ii. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a

competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, may be reason for disqualification.

iii. All competitors are bound by the statutes and regulations of the State and Local Ordinances. Anyone receiving a citation for boating or fishing rules violations during the official practice or tournament days may be disqualified at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Competitors are responsible **for research of fishing and boating regulations.**

iv. Competitors are to maintain a safe distance of 50 yards from other competitors.

6. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

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

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport. Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in WSBA events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with WSBA officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event Public attack through media, including social media, upon the integrity of WSBA rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of WSBA officials or its sponsors.
- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament director or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels (club officers).
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- Excessive cursing or use of vulgar language in the presence of spectators or the general public.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete; Boaters will NOT block Non-boaters from fishing nor tell Non-Boaters where to cast. Non-Boaters will not aggressively forward cast in a way that hinders the Boater ie: casting over there line or in a way that interferes with their ability to fish.

ii. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for participation. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of

points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, and suspension from competing in future WSBA sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by WSBA Executive Committee.

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

7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition. The use of landing nets is at the boater's discretion. During practice and competition only artificial or biodegradable artificial lures may be used. All State and local regulations apply for umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time. All state regulations apply concerning the number of lures and hooks and **contestants are responsible for understanding those rules and regulations**. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

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

No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass. Anyone guilty of intentionally snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, it must be hooked inside the mouth. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

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 B.A.S.S. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from WSBA tournaments.

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. 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 along with Tunnel Hull modifications 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.

11. BOAT INSPECTION:

Prior to each day's start, each boat **must** be given an inspection check by a tournament official. Competitors arriving late must be inspected by a WSBA Competitor and notify the Tournament Director of completed inspection prior to fishing.

12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

During WSBA Competition; Boaters fish from the front deck and Non-Boaters fish from the back deck. The Non-Boater may fish from the front only when the Boater has caught his or her limit and/or stopped fishing. During both official practice and competition, Non-Boaters are only allowed to operate the Boater's boat (outboard motor) in emergency situations with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Non-Boater partner shall be disqualified. At no time may a Boater competitor request that the Non-Boater competitor not fish. **The cost of gas and oil for the competition days must be settled between the boater and the non-boater prior to the tournament day. Non Boater will pay ALL Launch fees** In WSBA events. Where

observers replace anglers as the official rider, observers cannot assist the competing angler in any way. Observers are not required to help with gas and oil expenses.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Any water within these boundaries posted “Off-Limits” or “No Fishing” by state or federal agencies as well as the area within 100 yards of the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

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

Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both anglers must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions are spelled out in rules 5, 15, and 18. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be allowed to leave their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other’s catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a **restart** will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as

determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

15.OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS: There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the TD. 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:

- i. Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound-and-ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The Boater limit shall be 5, Non-Boater limit shall be 5, of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his/her catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. A one pound penalty will be assessed to the catch upon check in. Competitors are allowed a curtsey check with the official bump board prior to turning their catch over. Competitors will present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 1 pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. .
- ii. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on a FLAT board shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length (measured with mouth closed, the tail may be pinched or swiped if state law allows), 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 with non-piercing being **mandatory**.

- iii. All members that enter a club tournament, but fail to catch a legal size fish, will be given 5 participation points towards AOY. Tournament participation points will be given to both a Boater and Non-Boater should an unexpected event (i.e.: boat or vehicle breakdown) occurs on the day of the tournament that prohibits them from fishing. Tournament participation points will also be awarded to any Non-Boater whose Boater partner pulls out of a given tournament and a replacement boater is not available. Tournament Finishes: All members that enter a club tournament and weigh-in at least 1 legal size fish, will be given points based on their tournament finish plus the averaged weight of their catch based on the legal limit of fish for that tournament. Points will be rounded to the nearest tenth of a pound. The Boater and Non-Boater AOY's shall receive a \$250 gift card as a prize for their accomplishment.

Example: 1st place will be awarded 25 points plus 3.2 pts (15.84lbs/5 fish) = 28.2 points.

2nd place will be awarded 24 points plus 2.5 pts (12.48lbs/5 fish) = 26.5 points.

3rd place will be awarded 23 points plus 2.2 pts (10.84lbs) = 25.2 points.

d. 1st = 25	9th = 17	17th = 9
e. 2nd = 24	10th = 16	18th = 8
f. 3rd = 23	11th = 15	19th = 7
g. 4th = 22	12th = 14	Participation = 5
h. 5th = 21	13th = 13	
i. 6th = 20	14th = 12	
j. 7th = 19	15th = 11	
k. 8th = 18	16th = 10	

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 8 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised. Non penetrable culling clips are recommended. Fish clips are encouraged over the fizzing technique but Fizzing is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices please contact the Conservation Director.

18.LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 16, at the appointed time according to the Tournament Director's clock), shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any

weight to be counted toward a “big bass award”. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch. Unavoidable delays caused by official safety or game warden checks should be anticipated and are not allowed reasons for late arrival. Allow time for unexpected events, inspections and inclement weather conditions. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time.” After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is each competitor’s responsibility to confirm check-in times for each day.

19. TAKE OFF ORDER:

A Take Off Order shall be determined by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the tournament. Competitors that violate this order shall be penalized 2 lbs. from their total daily catch. The Tournament Director shall determine if a violation of the Take Off Order has occurred.

20. TIES:

All ties will be broken by 1)-total fish weighed, 2)-total live fish weighed, 3)-big fish weighed. If still unresolved, a flip of a coin will decide placement.

21. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS:

Boaters will be paired with a different Non-boater at the monthly meeting prior to the each event. It is the Boaters responsibility to notify the Tournament Director in advance if he or she cannot attend the meeting and they wish to fish. Boaters without partners may have family members or guest ride with them as observers however they may receive no assistance from the observer. It will be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location, with sufficient time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. When there are mechanical breakdowns or other legitimate reasons, the Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point. When two competitors check out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other’s catch, throughout the day, until the weigh-in is completed, except in case of dire emergency or exceptions (see Rule 15, 16 &18). A competitor must not allow any bass caught by them to be counted on the score of another competitor (sharing bass). In such a case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by WSBA.

22. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

An appeals committee will be established by the WSBA President, which shall be comprised of the President, and two anglers who are not competitors in the event in question. Appeals of penalties assessed under Rule 1(b), (c), (d), (e) & (f) must be presented in writing 48 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final.

Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal. Final standings will not be official until all appeals hearings are final and ruled upon. However, all standings above that of any appealing angler, as well as any adjusted final standings may be declared official. Standings, including points and monetary awards, may be adjusted after appeals final ruling and all affected anglers shall comply with all details of the final ruling.

23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:

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

24. TOURNAMENT PAYOUT AND TAXES:

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

Payouts will be based on the total entries/participation for Boaters & Non-Boaters whereby 80% of entry fees will be paid out and 20% will be designated to the Club funds. These payouts will be distributed via an Even Distribution as approved by the Club at the February 7, 2024 meeting. There shall be an Adjusted rate for the Fixed pay cut as approved by the Club at the February 7, 2024 meeting. Tournaments with 3 or fewer participants shall be Winner Take All.

25. WAIVER AND RELEASE:

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

RELEASE OF LIABILITY -- READ BEFORE SIGNING

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in Western Suburban Bass Anglers events, and activities, I,

[Boater ("Pro")] _____

[Non-boater ("Am")] _____

the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skills, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary 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 attention of the Company immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE Western Suburban Bass Anglers, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for the activity ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

x _____ Age: ___ Date Signed: _____
BOATER ("PRO") SIGNATURE

x _____ Age: ___ Date Signed: _____
NONBOATER ("AM") SIGNATURE