2026 W.A.B.F.A. TOURNAMENT RULES

1. PARTICIPATION: Must be a member of the WABFA. Pre-registered will draw numbers for takeoff positions. Pre-register is 8:00 p.m. Friday before the tournament. Non-pre-registered will take off after registering. You may choose to fish with 1 partner the whole year or choose to fish as an individual, Guest may fish if a member of Bass and is included on the clubs Bass Nation Roster. Guest will not able to fish in the classic. A one time per year 30 dollar Entry fees . Guest may fish up to five tournaments per year. A $100.00 per boat entry fee will be charged (partnered or individual) big fish included

2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: Tournament locations will be considered "off limits" from 11:59 pm the Wednesday before the scheduled tournament date until take-off the morning of the tournament.

3. SAFETY: during competition, each contestant is to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver any time the combustion engine is operated at above idle speed. All state and federal laws are to be followed, and any contestant (or boat) receiving a citation from law enforcement while fishing for the tournament is disqualified. (Both contestants will be disqualified.)

4. SPORTSMANSHIP: All contestants are to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation during tournament hours. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in boats during tournament hours. Extending until weigh-in is over. The use of portable communication devices to communicate or receive fishing advice during tournaments is prohibited.

5. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures are to be used with the exception of pork trailers. Only one rod may be used at a time. Trolling and "Jigger-Poling" as methods of fishing are not allowed.

Contestants may fish anywhere accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off Limits" by local, state, and federal officials. No fishing within 50 yards of another contestant boat that is anchored in place. All fishing must always take place from the boat with the contestants' feet below the gunnels of the boat.

At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The boat must remain in tournament water during tournament day except for emergency repairs (must notify tournament committee member as soon as possible). In the case of any emergency or equipment failure, contestants may return to the weigh-in site by either remaining in their boat and being towed or by boarding another contestant's boat. Locking through is not permitted.

6. SCORING: Scoring will be determined by the pounds and ounces for each boat during the tournament. (Boat total is the total weight regardless of number of fishermen in boat; each partner receives equal points per boat.) Only Largemouth, Spotted, Smallmouth, or Redeye Bass are accepted species. The limit shall be (5) five bass per boat. Any boat that possesses more than the tournament limit (5) will be disqualified MUST CULL UPON CATCHING 6TH FISH. The minimum length will be 12 inches unless the lake limit is more than 12 inches in which case the lake limit will prevail. Bass that fail to meet the minimum length requirement will be thrown out along with an equal number of the contestants' largest bass. No changes will be made after fish have been bagged. Each contestant will use a WABFA provided mesh weigh-in bag. Place fish in a mesh bag and mesh bag in your weigh-in bag with water. You may trailer your boat prior to weighing in if you wish. Tournament committee members will weigh in first. Points will be based on Big Stringer for each tournament. Big Stringer = 100 points. The percentage of each boat total will determine points for each boat (your weight / big stringer = your points). Also, everyone who participates will get 5 bonus points.

7. LIVE FISH: Every effort should be made to keep bass alive. Each dead bass presented at weigh-in will result in a .25 lb per fish penalty. This penalty will be taken off total weight at weighing in.

8. LATE PENALTY: Contestants WHO ARE NOT AT THE WEIGH-IN AREA AT THE OFFICIAL CHECK-IN TIME WILL BE DISQUALIFIED.

9. TIES: In the event of a tie, the money will be split from a combination of the place tied for and one place below or contestants will also have option of flipping a coin.

10. TOP TWENTY FISH OFF: The top twenty anglers will qualify for the fish off the top twenty will meet on Thursday prior to the fish off to vote on site from all sites that fished that year. There is no entry fee for fish off. A big fish pot is $10 per angler. This is a Team event. 5 fish per team.

11. WABFA will be allowing junior fisher under the age of 16 to fish as a yearly guest of a WABFA family member. There will be no club dues for the junior fishermen. The junior fisherman will accrue points just like a full member but will be considered a guest of the club for the year. Entry fees for tournament remain $100. WABFA will require the adult member to operate the outboard motor at all times; failure to follow this rule will result in disqualification. The operation of trolling motors will be subject to state law. State law states that anyone over the age of 12 must have a boater license to operate any mechanical

means to propel a vessel to include a trolling motor. Underage of 12 is allowed to operate a trolling motor