

# 2019 New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation STQT Tournament Rules

## 1. Rules Changes:

Great effort, study, and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he/she deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

## 2. Participants and Eligibility:

Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open to members of the New Hampshire B.A.S.S. Nation, MALE OR FEMALE, who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of B.A.S.S. affiliated chapters and have participated in the appropriate chapter qualifying tournaments. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential competitor. Contestants of the NH B.A.S.S. Nation State Team Qualifying Tournament must provide documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000.00 boating liability insurance to NH B.A.S.S. Nation tournament officials prior to the first competition day. This documented proof must show effective date and expiration date. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner or endanger the safety and well being of his partner or himself shall not be eligible. A properly completed and signed official entry form must be received by the published deadline. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance and also extend acceptance of applications after the deadline date. Additionally, all members of the State Team understand that they are required to sign a contract to be a member of the State Team. This contract will be available for member review prior to registering for the STQT.

## 3. Off Limits:

The tournament waters shall be off limits to all competitors starting:

- a) Monday midnight prior to the first competition day.
- b) For STQT's held outside the state of New Hampshire, there will be NO off-limits.

The off-limit dates can be obtained from your Chapter Rep. or by calling any B.A.S.S. Nation Board member. The competitor must know and observe these dates. DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A COMPETITOR MAY NOT HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE OF ANYONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LOCATION BASS, NOR, ENTER THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITH ANYONE WHO HAS BEEN ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS DURING THE OFF-LIMIT PERIOD. A PROFESSIONAL GUIDE, STATE OF FEDERAL WILDLIFE AGENCY EMPLOYEE, OR ANY OTHER PERSON DEEMED A "LOCAL EXPERT" ON THESE TOURNAMENT WATERS BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR, UNLESS HE IS A CONTESTANT IN THE TOURNAMENT. During the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules will be cause for disqualification. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

## 4. Registration:

Each competitor must check in with tournament officials on each morning of competition.

## **5. Safety:**

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. The Tournament Director has the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

## **6. Sportsmanship:**

Competitors in NH B.A.S.S. Nation 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. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future NH B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the Society's efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boat during the competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorable upon the Society's efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A COMPETITOR MAY NOT USE A CB RADIO, A VHF MARINE BAND RADIO, A CELLULAR PHONE OR ANY OTHER TYPE OF COMMUNICATION DEVICE FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOCATING OR CATCHING FISH. CONTESTANTS ARE PERMITTED TO TRANSMIT BY RADIO OR TELEPHONE ONLY IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY. IF SO EQUIPPED, CONTESTANTS MAY LISTEN TO THE MARINE BAND WEATHER INFORMATION.

## **7. Tackle and Equipment:**

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strip, rinds, etc. Only ONE casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod (10 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may used at any one time. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of catching a fish by means of snagging from spawning beds will have their days catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside of the mouth and must be verified by your partner before unhooking to be counted as a legal fish. One landing net and one dip net will be permitted in the boat and said nets will be allowed to be used in boating and culling of bass during the tournament. The use of gaffs or grippers in landing bass is strictly prohibited.

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. Twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and 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 twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the head or line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires. B.A.S.S. officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

## **8. Horsepower Regulations:**

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL BE DETERMINED BY THE B.I.A. RATING OF THE BOAT, not to exceed horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of Nov. 1, 1972. 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 rating plate. Any boat manufactured prior to Nov. 1, 1972

must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by his 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 any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts on your motor **TO INCREASE THE HORSEPOWER OVER THE FACTORY HORSEPOWER IS FORBIDDEN**, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from NH B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

#### **9. Boat and Motor:**

For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH**. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. 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 may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform decks cannot be higher than the gunnel 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 "LONG LINING" or "STROLLING" technique is **NOT** allowed in both official practice and competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions.

Boats without factory installed gas tanks must use Coast Guard approved gas tanks. Additional gas tanks may be in the boat in Coast Guard approved tanks with quick connect/disconnect hoses. **THERE SHALL BE NO MANUAL TRANSFER OF GAS**. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in the boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. **NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR**. The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines and tunnel hull boats are not allowed during competition.

#### **10. Basic Boat Equipment:**

Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMEN USING THE BOAT**. Additionally, any STQT boater will be required to provide a stable rear deck seat for their co-angler. The tournament director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether basic boat equipment is "proper and adequate".

#### **11. Boat Operations and Expense:**

The boater has full control of the boat for the day. The boater will fish from the front of the boat all day and will fish where and when they want all day. The co-angler must fish from the back of the boat all day and has no say in where and when to fish. The co-angler may go to the front of the boat to net fish and to run the trolling motor. However, during this time the co-angler may not have a fishing rod in their hands. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the co-angler share part of the **REASONABLE** cost of gas and oil for the competition day. Boaters must have successfully completed a boater safety course. Additionally, co-anglers that use the trolling motor outlined above must have successfully completed a boater safety course.

#### **12. Permitted Fishing Locations:**

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. The off-limit areas of tournament waters will be declared by the Tournament Director. The actual tournament weigh-in-areas will be declared off limits by the Tournament Director prior to the start of the second day of the tournament. Each tournament (weigh-in-area) sight differs in lay out and may require larger or smaller off limit areas. Each competitor must obtain this information from their respective Chapter Rep. or by calling any Board member. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. The anchored boater must also declare that his/her boat is anchored. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50 yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any waters within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **OFF LIMITS**. Also, 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. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. 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.

### **13. Contestants Must Remain in Boat:**

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions they must contact a tournament official by phone or other means. 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 and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except by the direction of tournament officials.

In breakdown situations and with a tournament official's permission, competitors may transfer their fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in, and they may leave one person with the disabled boat. In such cases, one competitor must stay with their catch at all times and the assisting boat's partners should verify the catch. Any angler whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish.

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.

### **14. Official Checkpoint:**

There shall be only one official point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director, at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbered buttons and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area.

### **15. SCORING:**

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards, and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce of each competitor's catch during the days of the tournament. Only Largemouth and Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day for the angler and 3 for the co-angler, unless a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the special limit shall be the tournament limit. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the limits described above. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be 12 inches 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 in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of 1 pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. It has been determined that stringered decreases the chance of a bass' survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

## **16. Don't Kill Your Catch:**

Each Competitor is expected to keep his bass alive by use of a properly aerated livewell. The few bass which do not survive will be used for scientific study and for charity.

## **17. Penalty Points:**

For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 ounces of weight, to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. A dead fish cannot be culled.

## **18. Late Penalty:**

Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "lunker award", for each one (1) minute he/she is late. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for the 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 the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

## **19. Ties:**

In case of a tie for first place, the following tie breakers will be used in order;

- a.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition.
- b.) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition.
- c.) The individual with the heaviest single day's catch (total bag) during competition.
- d.) The individual with the second heaviest single day's catch (total bag) during the competition.
- e.) The individual with the heaviest fish for the event.

In the unlikely event that the championship remains tied after these four tie breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

## **20. Pairing of Contestants:**

Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. No contestant from the same chapter will be paired together nor shall two competitor's fish together more than one completion day. It shall 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. Pairing of Boaters/Co-anglers partners shall be made by a computer generated blind draw from a list of eligible contestants as submitted by individual chapters each year. Objections to fishing partners must be made known to the Tournament Director prior to the start of the partner drawing. Partner drawings will be final. The Tournament Director, at his 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. A CONTESTANT MUST NOT ALLOW ANY BASS CAUGHT BY HIM/HER TO BE COUNTED ON THE SCORE OF ANOTHER CONTESTANT. In such case, both contestants shall be disqualified from the tournament and from all future NH B.A.S.S. Nation Tournaments.

## **21. Patches and/or Signage:**

B.A.S.S. encourages the use of patches, logos, and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, BASS reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE in such tournaments with as much advance notice as possible to the contestants.

## **22. State Team Boats:**

Each twenty-person state team will designate ten boaters and ten co-anglers during the official tournament competition days. B.A.S.S. recommends that each team brings at least one extra boat the meets B.A.S.S. regulations.

## **23. State Team Alternates and Responsibilities:**

The NH B.A.S.S. Nation State Team will be allowed two alternate team members to replace an official team member if an official team member becomes ill or injured or has to leave the tournament due to personal business or tragedy. The alternates shall be the eleventh place finishers from the State Team Qualifying Tournament on the Boater and Co-Angler side and will be considered part of the State Team. In the event that a team member can not go on to the Regional Tournament, the alternate will fill his/her position and the twelfth place finisher from the corresponding Boater/Co-Angler will now be the alternate. This will hold true for each succeeding team member not going on to Regional Tournament. Furthermore, the NH B.A.S.S. Nation President will be considered a second Representative if he/she is not already a member of the State Team. Funding for this second representative must be the responsibility of that person.

B.A.S.S. Headquarters must receive a completed entry form from the alternate team members and the State B.A.S.S. Nation President on or before the tournament entry deadline date or the state will not be allowed alternate team members. The Tournament Director must approve the reason for leaving of the official team member before a replacement of the official team member with the alternate will be allowed. If the official tournament competition has begun, the team score will be determined by using the score of the official team member on the competition days which he/she participated and the score of the alternate on the competition days which he/she participated as a team member. The scores for the individual competition will be taken from each competitor's own scores. After an official team member has been replaced by an alternate, the official team member cannot return to the competition for any reason neither as a team member nor as an individual competitor.

## **24. Gifts and Prizes Awarded At The S.T.Q.T.:**

Those qualified participants belonging to the NH B.A.S.S. Nation who place in the top 10 spots at the S.T.Q.T. on the Boater and Co-angler side will be eligible to receive sponsor discounts. These top 10 spots will be determined after two days of competition. The total combined weight of the two days will determine the top 10 contestants for each division.

## **25. State Team Awards:**

Each of the twenty State Team members going on to the Regional Tournament will receive State Team Clothing and a State Team plaque.

Club	Signature
Back Bay	
Forge Pond	
Granite State	
Grass Roots	
Lakes Region Bass Chasers	
Merrimack Valley Bassmasters	
NEBA	
NH Basscasters	
NH Hawg Hunters	
NH Last Cast	
North Country	
Sail-em Bass	
Sunapee	
Upper Valley Weekend Warriors	