

Wild West Bass Youth Series
OFFICIAL RULES OF COMPETITION

The following rules shall apply to all Wild West Bass Youth Series (WWBYS) events. Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein. These rules may be changed by WWBYS immediately upon notice to its members. Notice may be published on the WWBYS Internet site at <https://www.wwbyouthseries.com>. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament. The rules outlined below will serve as the base rule set for all WWBYS events. Prior to each tournament verify there were no changes, amendments, or specific guidance for the scheduled event.

1 TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR SANCTIONS: The Tournament Director may impose actions or rulings deemed appropriate by them, which may include the following without limitation. The Tournament Director may seek the advisement of the Advisory Board or Rules Committee:

- Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.
- Loss of catch for the day of the violation.
- Disqualification from the current tournament.
- Forfeiture of prizes and entry fee.
- Disqualification from future WWBYS events, which may be a specific number of events, a specific period, or lifetime disqualification.
- Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year Points.

The decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee shall be final in all matters. In all cases the Tournament Director and WWBYS have the sole discretion to determine whether they or the Advisory Board, and/or Rules Committee shall be responsible for adjudicating any given issue or dispute.

WWBYS contestants are required to police themselves each competition day. If contestants have a concern regarding their catch, they should not present their catch. They must consult with tournament director immediately.

2 FISHING HOURS: Fishing hours will be posted on the Tournament Information Page or announced at the tournament briefing.

3 PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is open only to student currently enrolled in school, in good academic standing, and a member of WWBYS, **except** for Open Qualifier. Junior members must be 8 years of age by January 1st of the current season and must not be attending High School prior to the West Coast Championship Tournament. Highschool Members must be in the 9th Grade prior to January 1st of the current season and not be over the age of 19 or beginning college prior to the National Championship. Anyone fishing in the WWBYS West Coast Championship will need to have an active membership prior to the Championship. Participants will need an eligible partner and have a captain prior to registering for any event.

- Both youth anglers must be in good standing.
- If a partner is unable to participate in a tournament, the remaining partner may fish solo in a tournament but must be accompanied by a non-related observer/marshal on the boat during the tournament.
- Trolling motor time must be shared by anglers unless one angler concedes their time, and it is noted by the captain.
- During the official competition days of the tournament, competitors or captains may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors can call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes, WWBYS updates, etc., and social media as permitted by the Tournament Director and captains, however using smart phones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs is prohibited.
- Each angler/captain agrees to **report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules.** Failure to report violations, suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms may be cause for disqualification or other disciplinary action.

Captain Requirements and Restrictions:

- Be 21 years of age and older.
- Must comply with all local regulations and may be required to have a Boat Captain ID in the State of California.
- Must not be a guide on the tournament waters prior to 6 months of the tournament unless the captain is the parent of the youth angler.

- If a substitute is needed, request and approval must be requested through the Tournament Director.
- Be subject to a background check, at the tournament official's discretion.
- Boat Captains/Coaches/Parents will serve as "officials" in the event and will not be allowed to: fish, cast, set hooks, or reel fish for any competitor, to do so will disqualify the angler from the tournament. Repeated offenses may disqualify the angler from all WWBYS tournaments and events as decided by WWBYS officials.
- They may ASSIST Youth Anglers in a manner as to coach or mentor them ONLY.
- They may suggest fishing areas or techniques, baits, etc., but the final decision, if safety is not a factor, on where to fish or fishing methods will rest with Youth Anglers.
- They may use the dip net if they so choose.
- **Boat Captains always have complete control of the boat and outboard engine.**
- Youth Anglers may not drive the boat, except in the case of an emergency. Youth Anglers can/should run the trolling motor; however, the Boat Captain has the right to take control of the trolling motor at any time if safety or equipment is at risk.
- Boat captains are subject to the same rules as the anglers, and penalties if any can be applied to the team in your boat. Repeated offenses may disqualify the angler or captain from all WWBYS tournaments and events as decided by WWBYS officials. A completed event waiver must also be submitted by the Boat Captain/Coaches.

4 MINORS: Contestants under the age of 18 may enter with signed approval from their legal guardian. Proof of age to the tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential contestant. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is impaired in such a manner as to endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or themselves may not be eligible.

5 MEMBERSHIP: WWBYS membership is required to fish all WWBYS events, with the exception of Open Qualifiers. Failure to have an active/paid membership is grounds for disqualification for events that require membership. WWBYS reserves the right to refuse and/or revoke memberships without cause, reason and/or explanation and without recourse at our own discretion. Membership does not guarantee the ability to enter a tournament. Memberships are valid for tournament calendar year.

Note: A tournament calendar year may start in the fall prior. The membership fee is \$50.00 per contestant per year.

6 LIABILITY INSURANCE: During the open practice and competition days of any WWBYS tournament, no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 per occurrence boat owner's liability insurance (see participation agreement for full details) 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 may be conducted and any contestant who does not have proof of valid insurance with \$300,000 coverage will not be allowed to participate, and all entry fees forfeited.

7 FIRST ENTRY DEADLINE: First Entry deadline via mail/phone is 5:00pm local time or online/APP entries until 11:59 PM Tuesday prior to the event to be paid in full. Any entries after COB on this date will incur a \$35 late fee. Check the WWBYS website for all deadline dates. WWBYS ENCOURAGES CONTESTANTS TO UTILIZE ONLINE METHODS TO SUBMIT PAYMENTS. Checks will be accepted; however, it is the responsibility of each contestant to follow up with WWBYS if they have submitted an entry via USPS mail. All USPS entries must be received by the WWBYS office by the published deadline date. Contestants are encouraged to pre-sign for events giving them priority entry and greatly helping the tournament organization with preparation details.

*** WWBYS may reserve sponsor exemption spots in each qualifying tournament.

Any entry balances not received by the FINAL ENTRY DEADLINE will lose their priority entry position and forfeit any partial payments for that event.

8 WAIVER AND RELEASE: As a condition of participation in each tournament, each contestant must execute a waiver and release of liability and a name and likeness release.

9 PRIZES: Prizes will be awarded after the tournament. Contestants must be present and able to hear their names called at the official weigh-in to be eligible for contingency prizes.

10 OFF LIMITS PRACTICE:

SEE WWBYS WEBSITE FOR OFFICIAL DATES AND OFF LIMITS FOR EACH EVENT.

OPEN QUALIFYING EVENTS: Verify all rules and restrictions for each qualifying event.

CHAMPIONSHIP – Tournament waters shall be off-limits to all contestants at 12:01 AM local time 10 days prior to the first open practice date in all WWBYS Championship events unless otherwise notified by WWBYS. No contestants will be allowed on Tournament waters after registration until the first day of competition. Unless otherwise specified, all official times are specific to local host community. The contestant must know and observe these dates. During both the open practice and the tournament, a contestant may not have the assistance or advice of anyone other than another confirmed contestant for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period including, but not limited to, a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an “expert“ on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless they are a contestant in the tournament. Flying over tournament waters or the use of drones during the off-limits period, open practice and competition is not allowed.

11 NO INFO RULE: WWBYS TEAMS HAVE A NO INFO RULE AND A STRICT OFF-LIMITS PERIOD. REGARDLESS OF WHEN A CONTESTANT ENTERED THE EVENT, THEY MUST HAVE ADHERED TO THE OFF-LIMITS PERIOD AND THE NO INFORMATION RULE. BY SIGNING THE WAIVER AND ENTRY FORM EACH CONTESTANT IS ATTESTING TO ADHERING TO THE NO INFO AND OFF-LIMITS RULE. Other than using publicly available information (e.g., newspaper and internet reports) contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters other than from another confirmed contestant. All information must be accessed prior to official off limits periods. THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS. During open practice (CHAMPIONSHIP) and competition day(s) contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information from anyone other than another confirmed contestant in the tournament. In the event of unsolicited information being offered in any fashion constants must cease and /or discontinue such information by informing the person you are off limits for a WWBYS event.

12 FISHABLE WATERS: Fishing within 50 feet of an operating gas pump/dock or within **50 feet of a competitor’s boat**, which is first anchored, is prohibited (Trolling motors must be in up position, anchor rope visible, or shallow water

anchoring system deployed to be considered anchored). A safe and courteous distance (50 feet) should be maintained when trolling motors are in use. Boats may fish anywhere except areas designated as “off limits” or “no fishing” by Local, State or Federal officials or as posted on the Tournament Information page or announced by Tournament Director. 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 will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Contestants may not cut, dig, or remove obstructions requiring the use of any tools once the off-limits period begins all the way through the conclusion of the event to access any water. Contestants may not have a non-contestant cut, dig, or remove any obstructions once the off-limits period begins all the way through the conclusion of the event to access any water. Contestants may not have the assistance of another boat, person, or apparatus (push poles are allowed) to access any water. Contestant’s boats must access fishable water under its own power and only with the assistance of the anglers assigned to that boat. All angling must be done from the boat. 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. Contestants must fish in an area that is accessible by WWBYS staff, media, and camera personnel as deemed by the tournament director. As a general rule WWBYS views this as a 20-foot fiberglass bass boat with the motor trimmed down under its own power. If contestants have any questions, they must approach the tournament director. Any violation of off-limits water will result in disqualification. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

13 SHARED WEIGHT FORMAT: Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, and Redeye bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials. As soon as a contestant has caught one more fish than their tournament limit, they must cull a fish immediately to reduce their catch to the tournament limit. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him/her to be counted on the score of another team. In such a case, all contestants involved shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by WWBYS.

14 COMPETITION DAYS: (Qualifying events) will span one (1) day with the full field.

15 CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION DAYS: WWBYS will span two (2) competition days.

16 OTHER EQUIPMENT/RESTRICTIONS:

- Any other special rule as deemed by the tournament director and announced prior to blastoff.
- WWBYS is allowing nets.
- No floggers, underwater cameras, or similar devices will be allowed in practice or during the events days.
- No spotlights or similar devices will be allowed in practice or during the events days to located fishing locations or fish.
- Binoculars are not allowed in the boat at any time.
- Contestants must have a valid fishing license for all tournament waters.
- No contestant may buy or barter a fishing location from anyone for use during any competition day.
- Contestants renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location.
- Testing of engines during off-limits period is not permitted on tournament waters.
- Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director.
- Scouting, pre-fishing, or other “practice” related activities prior to or after weigh-in is not allowed once the tournament has begun.
- During the open practice and during the tournament, a contestant may not enter or dive in tournament waters also known as skin or scuba diving.
- During the official competition days of the tournament, a contestant 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.
- Contestants are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only.
- In all cases where communications are initiated by a contestant, the Tournament Director must be called prior. A voicemail or text message may constitute such communication.
- A designated tournament official must be granted access to the contestant’s boat at any time during the open practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.

- Nothing can be placed into the water to attract baitfish, any type of forage. This includes but not limited to: structure, dog food, fish habitat, bait balls or any substance that would enhance or hold fish in a particular area once the off-limits period begins and all the way through the conclusion of the event.

17 VIOLATION OR INFRACTION: EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR IMMEDIATELY ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF ANY TOURNAMENT RULES.

18 PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE: ALL PROTESTS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS ATTENTION VIA VERBAL NOTIFICATION AND THEN SUBMIT A WRITTEN PROTEST **WITHIN THIRTY (30) MINUTES OF THE LAST FLIGHT CHECK-IN TO THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR OR DESIGNATED TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL**. THE PROTESTOR ALSO AGREES THAT IF THERE IS A QUESTION WITH REGARDS TO VERIFYING THE PROTEST, THEY MAY BE SUBJECT TO A POLYGRAPH EXAM AND AGREE TO TESTIFY IN A COURT OF LAW IF NECESSARY.

19 REGISTRATION: Each contestant must register/check in, in person with official WWBYS staff at the time and place designated in the schedule of events. Any contestant who has not contacted the WWBYS Tournament Director 15 minutes after the closing of the posted on site registration, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament and his/her entry fee forfeited. It shall be each contestant's responsibility to check the schedule of events or registration time and location or obtain times from the WWBYS tournament department.

20 SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must always be observed by contestants. During competition, each boat passenger must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Teams are encouraged wear/carry Three Coast Guard approved chest type life preservers per boat. All children 12 years of age and younger must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved Type I, II, or III life jacket (PFD) while on any vessel. The life jacket (PFD)

must be fastened according to the manufacturer's recommended use and must fit the child properly. All anglers and captains must comply with the laws of the state in which the events are held.

Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the contestants. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Weather delays on competition days resulting in half of the tournament day being lost (first flight take-off and check-in) may result in cancellation. WWBYS reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, CONTESTANTS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE, NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. CONTESTANTS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

- **It is suggested the Boater have a safety check with their partner prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.**
- **It is recommended that each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course. Boating safety certification, or a "grandfathered" exception, may be required in certain states/tournaments. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.**

21 ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT AND SPORTSMANSHIP: Contestants/Coaches participating in any WWBYS event shall abide by this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the event in which they are participating. Contestants and Coaches shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a professional that will not reflect unfavorably on WWBYS, its members, sponsors, events, or representatives. The favorable public reputation of WWBYS as an

organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for WWBYS. It is an obligation of contestants to refrain from public comments that unreasonably attacks or disparages the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow contestants or the WWBYS organization. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of WWBYS, WWBYS officials or sponsors shall be considered unacceptable conduct and may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, permanent removal from all WWBYS events. Contestants will refrain from arguing, yelling, demeaning, using profanity, or challenging any tournament official. Anglers will be notified of any known rules infractions at the moment they are discovered or as soon as they are ruled upon by the tournament director. Contestants shall demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler who violates any portion of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctions including but not limited to permanent disqualification.

To this end, anglers, parents, coaches, faculty members, friends, and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, parents, and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual WWBYS sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by WWBYS.

Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models; 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 WWBYS events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- Heated public disagreements with WWBYS officials, other competitors, fans, and volunteers during an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of WWBYS rules or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of WWBYS 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 official or official decision, ruling, or penalty except through the proper channels.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening, or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a WWBYS event including comments on social media.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel, or fellow anglers.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete

22 PUBLIC CONDUCT, SPORTSMANSHIP AND COMPETITIVE INTEGRITY:

Contestants in WWBYS tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Contestant agrees that the integrity and competitive honesty of fishing contests is paramount to any bass fishing tournament circuit's continued existence and success. Contestants compete in WWBYS contests at the sole discretion of WWBYS. The WWBYS reserves the right to refuse service to any potential contestant and enforce its tournament rules, including but not limited to this Rule and the Angler Code of Conduct and Sportsmanship Rule, at its sole discretion.

23 ALCOHOL OR DRUGS: Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any contestant or coach during the open practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WWBYS tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants,

prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the open practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Any contestant(s) deemed under the influence by the tournament director may be disqualified. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

24 TOBACCO PRODUCTS: The use of any tobacco products or smoking prior/during takeoff, from check-in through weigh-in, and while cameras are present is prohibited. It is strongly encouraged to minimize the exposure of contestants to tobacco products and smoking.

25 MAXIMUM COURTESY: must always be practiced, especially regarding boating and angling in the vicinity of non-contestants who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a contestant which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All contestants are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Contestants are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

26 DISQUALIFICATION SUSPENSION: Any disqualification suspension from or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a WWBYS tournament and/or disqualification from a WWBYS tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director. A written statement may be accepted by the tournament director from any contestant in question.

27 TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted during open practice and competition, except for pork strips or rinds. Only ONE (1) casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. Other rigs as

specified above may be in 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 on each day of competition.

28 PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail.

29 RECEIVING, ACCEPTING OR TAKING OF FISH FROM ANOTHER PERSON: during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. Stringers, ropes, caging, barrels or use of any other type of device to hold fish with the intent of catching or utilizing them to count for your or anyone else's daily catch is prohibited. Adding weight in any way to alter the natural state of any fish caught is prohibited. Moving or "stocking" fish from one location to another is prohibited.

30 VISIBLE FISH: Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked.

31 HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTOR BOATS USED IN OPEN TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION WILL not exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a contestant's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

32 BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all contestants during open practice and competition, ALL BOATS MUST BE MINIMUM OF 16 FEET IN LENGTH, PROPELLER DRIVEN AND EQUIPPED WITH AN APPROVED OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH AND LANYARD. No jet-propelled boats. No "barges" or similar craft will be

permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH “STICK STEERING” SHALL BE PERMITTED.
“Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament Director.

33 MANUFACTURER'S LANYARD/KILL SWITCH: 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.

34 NO RAISED PLATFORMS: decks, or other non-factory installed standing platform may be used in the boat. Standing on the outboard engine 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.

35 ALL BLADDER TANKS AND AUXILIARY GAS: Any other type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and 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 contestant. Gas must be purchased from a retail gas station.

36 BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: During open practice (Championship) and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump. During open competition, every boat must have LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS FOR TWO CONTESTANTS. WWBYS recommends live wells be maintained at full level and aerators/recirculators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

37 **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Prior to each day's start, each boat **MUST** be inspected by a tournament official. Teams will be assigned a boat number according to their take off position.

38 **CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** During the competition days; 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 from and return to official checkpoints by boat. Contestants must always remain in the boat except in case of dire emergency. There are then two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one or both anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Boats must be properly secured and stationary. Contestants must notify the tournament director as soon as possible.

Under these two conditions contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules).

39 **RESTROOM BREAK:** In the event of a needed restroom break partners can leave the boat. All fishing must cease until both team members and the captain return to the boat.

40 **REPORT AN EMERGENCY OR BREAKDOWN:** Contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown, contestants 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 is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the contestant to resume fishing, a **RESTART** may be allowed, and the contestant will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his designee.

41 **TOWING BOATS:** On trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials. When partners check out at the beginning of

the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and their catch throughout the day except in case of emergency.

42 OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon which will 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 contestants and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Operational navigation lights must be illuminated from takeoff to the first stop of each day. Contestants who do not display operational navigation lights will be moved to the end of the blast off line. Their check in time will remain the same.

43 SCORING: Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the total weight of each contestant's catch during the competition days of the tournament.

44 THE OFFICIAL LENGTH FOR BASS: Shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. THERE WILL BE NO MINIMUM LENGTH FOR BASS UNLESS A RESTRICTION IS SET BY LOCAL REGULATIONS. ALL BASS WILL BE MEASURED ON A FLAT BOARD WITH THE MOUTH CLOSED. ONLY BASS AS DESCRIBED ABOVE WHICH MEASURE THE OFFICIAL LENGTH OR MORE ON THE LONGEST STRAIGHT LINE WITH THE TAIL PINCHED OR SWISHED SHALL BE WEIGHED. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall result in loss of that bass and a penalty of one (1) pound for each such bass presented. Penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the contestant. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered may be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials.

45 BIG FISH: No dead bass will be eligible for Big Bass awards or prizes. Each contestant will automatically be entered into the big fish option.

46 **MUST PRESENT ALL LEGAL FISH:** after contestants 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. Contestants may not cull or discard any fish in their possession once they have checked in at the check-in point. Once a contestant's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.

47 **CULLING TAGS** or clips are allowed. Puncture type cull rings/tags are not allowed in competition. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.

48 **CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** No dead bass will be eligible for Big Bass awards or prizes. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the contestant shall be penalized 0.25 pounds per dead fish to be deducted from their daily score. Dead fish determinations will be made by WWBYS staff member(s) in charge of the bump tank. Contestants will not argue, yell, demean, use profanity, or be disrespectful in any way toward this ruling. The Tournament Director or his/her designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

49 **LATE PENALTY:** Contestants who are not at the official check-in point, as described at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) 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 contestant more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch to include point's credit. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a contestant be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, contestants 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 the angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day.

50 RULE OF TIME KEEPING: The official time is always kept by the Tournament Director once open practice has begun. For the rule of time keeping until the official clock reads the following minute, contestants are not considered late for that minute in question, i.e., 3:00:59 is not considered late. 3:01 is considered one minute late, etc.

51 Tie Breakers:

- INDIVIDUAL EVENTS/ OPEN QUALIFIERS: Will be determined by the big fish weight.
- CHAMPIONSHIP: In case of ties for the championship, the tiebreaker will be determined by the (1) largest single day's weight, (2) if the tie is not broken, largest number of legal fished weighed during competition, (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition, (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the biggest fish from either day. If the tie is not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie. Monetary prizes for each contestant will be awarded in equal amounts. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each contestant will be awarded equal points.

52 Big Fish- In the case where two contestants are tied with the weight of a big fish. WWBYS will combine the prizes of equal value for those places and divide them equally by the tied contestants.

53 CHAMPIONSHIP INVITATIONAL QUALIFICATION:

- The top Ten teams from each open qualifier will receive an invitation.
- The top 10% of Juniors and High schoolers from the Pilot Club will receive an invitation.
- WWBYS reserves the right to work down the qualifying list to ensure a full field at the Championship Invitational.
- WWBYS reserves the right to invite sponsor exemptions for the Championship Invitational.

54 RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE: An appeals committee will be established by WWBYS which shall be comprised of the tournament director and a minimum of 4 contestants from the advisory board in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed 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 contestants 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. Contestants may be allowed to compete under appeal. However, penalties assessed will remain until final ruling by Appeals Committee. Contestants may be allowed to compete under appeal for penalties assessed until final ruling by Appeals Committee. Appeals of non-competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review.

55 MEDIA: All official contestants of an event are required to cooperate with the media personnel that cover the event. Contestants do not have the option of not being filmed or interviewed during the official event days. WWBYS personnel must be granted access and be able to board any contestants boat at will. Any act deemed by WWBYS officials to have the intention of preventing media coverage will result in disqualification from the event. Contestants must fish in an area that is accessible by WWBYS staff, media, and camera personnel as deemed by the tournament director. As a general rule WWBYS views this as a 20-foot fiberglass bass boat with the motor trimmed down under its own power. If contestants have any questions, they must approach the tournament director.

56 LOGOS AND/OR SIGNAGE: Contestants are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. WWBYS may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. which are, in WWBYS' sole judgment, in poor taste. WWBYS will provide as much advance notice as possible to the contestants in such instances. Contestants are also encouraged to wear WWBYS' logo on their tournament jerseys.

57 **ADVISORY BOARD:** An Advisory Board will be established by WWBYS. WWBYS will look to this board for their input on various items regarding tournaments and the contestants. This Advisory Board may be asked to help resolve appeals/protests with regards to rules violations.

58 **PARTICIPANT WINNINGS:** Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes, execution of all tax forms and rules on both cash and merchandise awards. Various states require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates and contestants awarded merchandise certificates in these various states are responsible for remitting this tax to WWBYS. Failure to meet those obligations may result in fines and/or disqualification from all future WWBYS Events.