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| KENTUCKY B.A.S.S. NATION |
| 2018 OFFICIAL RULES AND REGULATIONS |
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| 1. RULES CHANGES: 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 deems appropriate. Including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. The 2017 KBN Season will utilize the Boater/Non-Boater format. |
| 2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is open only to members of the KBN who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of a B.A.S.S. affiliated club. 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 POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE. KBN ENTRY DEADLINE DATE FOR EACH TOURNAMENT SHALL BE PRIOR TO THE START OF THE PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING. Contestants of a KBN event must be a member of good standing with B.A.S.S. and Kentucky Bass Nation. Current dues are as follows: B.A.S.S. $30.00; KBN $0.00. All dues and entry fees are required to be paid prior to participating in a KBN event! |
| 3. PRE TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: No off limits practice period. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS SIGNATURE ON THE ENTRY FORM, 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 is required to submit an official entry form prior to the tournament. Competitors are required to attend the pre-tournament meeting. If you cannot attend the pre-tournament meeting, you must have a representative, who is competing in the tournament, in your behalf to attend. NO EXCEPTIONS. Pre-tournament meeting will be at 7:00pm local time, at the tournament pre-designated meeting point, the evening prior to the competition tournament day. Pre-tournament check-in will be from 5:00pm to 6:45pm local time at the same location. |
| 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 during tournament hours. 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 KBN 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, pre-tournament meeting or in the weigh-in area will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future KBN 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 KBN’s effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) shall be allowed in the boats during competition days or in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the KBN’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 official competition days of 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. Competitors are permitted to transmit by radio or cellular phone only in the event of an emergency, for employment related activities, contacting lockmasters or marinas for refueling purposes. If so equipped, competitors 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 strips, rinds, etc. 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. All other types prohibited. 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. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish on spawning beds will have their day’s 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 being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited. |
| 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 or the horsepower maximum set by KBN Each competitor and boat captain agrees to submit, by his/her 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 more than 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 KBN tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by KBN must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification. |
| 9. BOAT AND MOTOR: 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 anytime the combustion engine is operating. When 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 15 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot he higher than the gunnel of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. 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 and installed by a manufacturer’s authorized dealer are legal. 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 tasks must be properly secured or strapped in a 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. |
| 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. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether the aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate”. Running lights must be operational and remain on until after takeoff. |
| 11. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat MUST be given prior to each day’s start, an inspection check by a tournament official, and a number which MUST remain in your boat until turned in each day at the check-in. This number must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials. |
| 12. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: In boater/non-boater type events, boaters will fish from the front deck, non-boaters from the rear deck, no exceptions. Non-boaters are only allowed to drive the boat in emergency situations in competition with the exception of loading and unloading from trailers. Any boater, who, 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. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-boater partner share, at minimum, the cost of gas and oil for the competition day. In EOBS events where an observer replaced a non-boater as an official rider, the observer cannot assist the boater in any way. Observers are not required to pay for gas and oil expenses. |
| 13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters will be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 50 yards of another competitors boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position. 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 water within 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 tournament 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. Buying or Bartering of fishing locations from any person for use during any competition day is strictly prohibited. Penalty for such occurrence shall be Disqualification from all Regional Qualifying Events during the upcoming year and that event. |
| 14. 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 official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in 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. 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. If a competitor must violate 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 or another contestant in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the 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. |
| 15. 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 numbers and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together and numbers must be turned in at check-in. |
| 16. SCORING: Weigh-in will begin directly after check-in time of first flight. At the discretion of tournament director/acting tournament director holding tanks may be available for use prior to check-in time. Contestants will be notified of this at pre-tournament meeting. Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitors catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the Tournament Director, in which case the state limit, or 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, the Tournament Director shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing. In most cases it will be the LONGEST State limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line shall be weighed 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 the Tournament Director. 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. His catch must be certified by the signature of his partner of that day. Once a competitors 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. Weigh-in bags will be furnished by the Tournament Director, and only these bags may be used for the weigh-in. |
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| 17. CATCH AND RELEASE: CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants can purchase ice on the water; however, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. Upon mutual consent between both competitors paired together, for fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check-in time of the first flight. SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.  18. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 15, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of 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 competitor more than 15 minutes late  shall lose all credit for that day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time.” After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins,  fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. It is each angler’s responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings. PENALTY POINTS: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 0.50 of a pound (8 oz.) per dead fish, to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.  19. DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY KBN TOURNAMENT, NO COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR OR BOAT CAPTAIN HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF $300,000 PER OCCURRENCE BOAT OWNERS  LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER ALL PASSENGERS IN THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN- FORCE INSURANCE WITH $300,000 COVERAGE MAY BE DISQUALIFIED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW AN EFFECTIVE START AND EXPIRATION DATE. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet KBN, LLC requirements. |
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| 20. TIES: In case of a tie for top 12 qualifiers, State Champion or State Team members the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3) The individual with the heaviest single day’s catch during the competition; 4) The individual with the second heaviest single day’s catch during the competition. In the unlikely event that they remain tied after these four tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the money, if any, will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director. |
| 21. PAIRINGS OF CONTESTANTS: Pairings will be conducted at the Pre-Tournament Meeting. Two contestants will be assigned to each boat, whenever possible. No contestants from the same Club will be paired. Announcement of your fishing partner shall be made at the Pre-Tournament Meeting. 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. 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 checkout point. When two contestants 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 (see Rule 14). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted in the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments. |
| 22. NO-SHOW PENALTY: A no-show penalty will be applied to anyone who enters a Tournament, does not show up for the event and does not call the KBN to give such notification within 10 days of the Tournament. Penalty will be Rejection of entry into the next Qualifying Tournament applied for. (Exceptions may be given for emergencies). |
| 23. All protests must be submitted in writing prior to the closing of the Tournament Scales. |
| 23a. NO HOLE SITTING: The definition of Hole Sitting shall be at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. |
| 24. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament Official from approaching or boarding any competitor’s boat. |
| 25. SPECIAL NOTE: The KBN’s regional tournaments are “DRAW” tournaments. This may require that two registered “BOATER” entries be paired together--unless you have opted for the “GUARANTEED BOATER OPTION”. Please make plans or arrangements for your boat to be left unattended if necessary during tournament hours. |
| 26. KBN State Championship Eligibility: The KBN State Championship will host 30 boaters and 30 non-boaters. All contestants must be in good standing to B.A.S.S. and the KBN as required by Rule #2. Contestants will qualify AS A RESULT of 1 of 4 qualifiers (6 boaters & 6 non-boaters per qualifier for a subtotal of 24/24 each respectively or by the wildcard system (6 boaters & 6 non-boaters). The wildcard system will take the top 6 boaters and top 6 non-boaters, who did not qualify during one of the previous season qualifiers, based on highest amount of accumulated points. To be eligible for selection of the wildcard system either contestant (boater or non-boater) must have caught at least one fish during the regular qualifying season or must have fished all four qualifiers. If in the event of the year-end point system there is a tie, then Rule #20 will take effect. |
| 27. Qualifying for KBN State Team: The KBN will hold a 2-day state championship by which 30 boaters and 30 non-boaters will compete to become the 20 man KBN State Team (10 competing boaters and 10 competing non-boaters) to compete in the following year B.A.S.S. Central Regional. The 22 competing positions will be determined by each individual final results during the state championship respectively. The top 4 AOY positions will be awarded automatically to the state team, 4 boaters and 4 non-boaters. The only other state team member to compete on the team, if needed to compete, will be assigned to the Team Captain which will be the KBN President, KBN Vice-President or one of the Regional Directors or Officers. During the time frame from the end of the State Championship until the Central Regional competition, any state team member who cannot fulfill their obligation to the team will have the ability to step down and be replaced. If this removal takes place 90 days or more prior to the Central Regional tournament then the replacing angler will be the next in line from the State Championship results, either from the boater or non-boater based on who left the team. If in the event the removal takes place during the 90 days or less, then the Team Captain will be used, as boater or non-boater (whichever is needed) and there will be NO replacements to backfill the KBN State Team. KBN Point System: The point system is based on a 150 boat tournament.  1. 300 points to start 2. 1st thru 5th deduct 5 points per place 3. 6th thru 10th deduct 4 points per place 4. 11th thru 15th deduct 3 points per place 5. 16th thru 99th deduct 2 points per place 6. 100th thru balance of field, deduct 1 point per place. |
| NOTE: Anglers not weighing a legal fish will be awarded 5 show-up points. |
| Revised 12/5/16 |