



2011 Oklahoma B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (OBFN) Divisional Qualifier Rules

The following rules can only be changed at the end of the Calendar Year State Board meeting, with a motion and second being made at a previously held regular board meeting. Or written notice of a motion and a second, being made to EVERY club in the Federation, written notice must be made a minimum of 30 days in advance, but not later than Nov.1. The rules set forth at the end of the Year State Board meeting shall remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the O.B.F.N. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Committee and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open only to members in good standing of the O.B.F.N., who are 16 years of age or older and active members of a State Federated club. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitor. All contestants must participate in one (1) State sanctioned youth event prior to registration. (New Federation Nation members as of February 15, 2009 will be exempt) **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY O.B.F.N. EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A POLICY IN FORCE WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable.** Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible. **A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY O.B.F.N. BEFORE THE EVENT(S).** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. As a participant in an O.B.F.N. Tournament you agree, if you qualify and are invited to be a member of the "STATE TEAM", to be bound by and adhere to, all conditions set out in the "STATE TEAM CONTRACT". And to use while representing the O.B.F.N. any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by O.B.F.N.

2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be two official practice days immediately proceeding the first day of the tournament. There shall be three days of off limits period immediately proceeding the first practice day. The exact dates and times of the official practice period \ off-limits must be obtained from the O.B.F.N. The competitor must know and observe these dates. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE, AND DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A COMPETITOR MAY NOT HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE OF ANYONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LOCATING OR CATCHING BASS, NOR ENTER THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITH ANYONE WHO IS DEEMED AN "EXPERT" ON THE TOURNAEMNT WATERS BY TOURNAEMNT OFFICIALS, UNLESS HE/SHE IS A CONTESTANT IN THIS TOURNAMENT or A DIRECT FAMILY MEMBER.** During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. 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 info. EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES OR FALSE VERIFICATION OF WEIGH-IN FORMS WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Committee 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 their expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

3. REGISTRATION: Each competitor is encouraged to PRE-REGISTER, complete entries, (completed entry form and entry fee's) must be postmarked two weeks prior to the first tournament day. Any incomplete, inaccurate or late entries, (postmarked after the deadline or paid at the ramp), will pay a \$25.00 late fee, no exceptions. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to obtain from the O.B.F.N. registration times and location. Entry fee is \$200 for all six (6) DQT qualifying tournaments. In the event that an entrant has notified O.B.F.N. before the first event day that he/she is unable to fish all tournaments due to circumstances beyond his/her control, a refund of the entry fee may be made. Each contestant must register in person at the designated site during the official registration hours. It is mandatory that all contestants register and declare their boater status between 6:00 and 7:00pm local time the day before the tournament, immediately after the registration period the pre-tournament meeting will be held. Members who cannot attend the pre-tournament meeting will be allowed to send someone who is 16 years of age or older to represent them at registration. This representative must attend the pre-tournament meeting to record flights, takeoff time, check-in time, off-limits areas, size and creel limits, etc. This representative must also attend the partner draw immediately following the pre-tournament meeting to receive the absent competitors boat number, meet their partner, record their partner's lodging information and phone number.

4. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest- type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the boat is on plane. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have 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. In the event of an emergency, competitors should contact emergency personnel by dialing 911 and then notify a member of the tournament committee, contact numbers will be provided at the pre-tournament meeting.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in an O.B.F.N. tournament 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 official practice or during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future O.B.F.N. 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 efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition days. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other 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 for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. only ONE casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (8- foot maximum length from butt of the 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 the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time.

7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U.S. COAST GUARD or NMMA RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, 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 of your motor 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 motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from O.B.F.N. Tournaments.

8. 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. Anytime 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 in length or longer. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be 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 an 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 tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR. The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament A competitor answering affirmatively the question "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat available and will be paired with one who does when possible. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use, and the basis for sharing expenses. If partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Committee shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all the 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 FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official, Also a boat marker, which MUST remain on the boat in plain view.

11. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE: A full discussion MUST be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to the schedule of boat operations. This schedule MUST permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor, so as to afford each partner the opportunity to fish his selected waters an equal number of hours. Distance traveled to fishing locations must be considered in order not to deprive either partner fishing time while traveling to and from fishing waters. If a contestant waives the above rights, he shall retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half the tournament day. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the tournament officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner shall be disqualified. In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is required that the non-owner partner pay, as a minimum, 1/2 the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the O.B.F.N. Fishing on 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 boat has a responsibility to inform other competitor's boats when they have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him. 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 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 Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

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 official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both 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 counted. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official. If a tournament official is unavailable the contestants catch can be verified by any competitor participating in the event. In order for a contestants catch to be counted in the tournament the competitors must make a reasonable attempt to contact a tournament official first. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left 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 the Tournament Officials.

14. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout 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 proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area and place number chit in receptacle located at the weigh-in trailer. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in. YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.

15. SCORING: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced by the Board of Directors. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct

checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by the Tournament committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the LONGEST State limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. All bass will be measured on a Golden Rule measuring board. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one 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 has been measured, counted or 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. This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. It has been determined that stringering decreases the chances of a bass's survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

16. CATCH & RELEASE: For each legally dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized one pound of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. The Tournament Committee shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. At no time shall a competitor cull a dead fish for a live fish.

17. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 15 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitors 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 will 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 stop 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.

18. TIES: In case of a tie for first place, the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal Live fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual with the heaviest single fish during competition; 4.) The individual with the second heaviest single fish during competition. In the unlikely event that teams or individuals remain tied after these four tiebreakers are employed; then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the points and money, if any will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the tournament committee.

19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Whenever possible two contestants will be assigned to each boat. When an odd number of contestants, an observer (if available) will be assigned to ride with the single angler. If no observer is available, the single angler will be given the option of fishing alone or withdrawing from the competition. Whenever possible, two competitors shall not fish together more than one day in any single weekend event. Announcement of your first day's partner shall be made at the Friday Night tournament briefing, subsequent days partners shall be announced after each day's weigh-in. Both of which must be attended by each competitor or their representative. 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. Once you are paired by the draw you must inform tournament officials if you decided not to fish or fines and penalties will apply. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding lost partners. The tournament committee may reassign partners at any time prior to take-off. It is suggested that 30 minutes, minimum, is required for preparation to depart the check out point. When two contestants check out in the morning they must stay together and in sight of each other and each other catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is completed except in cases of dire emergency (See rule 14). A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this and all future tournaments conducted by the Oklahoma State Bass Federation Nation. A boater whose entry arrives by the priority entry deadline and provides a non-

boater with their BASS membership number and name (whose entry arrives by the priority entry deadline) will receive entry priority and, if accepted into the tournament, will be drawn with a non-boater. A non-boater whose entry arrives by the priority entry deadline and provides a boater with their BASS membership number and name (whose entry arrives by the priority entry deadline) will receive entry priority. All others will be taken in order date and may be subjected to boater on boater draw. Guaranteed status is given at the time both the boater and the co-angler are entered in the event and have listed each other's names and membership numbers. Linked entries will not be granted after the priority entry date. **Guaranteed status is contingent on both anglers competing in each event in their respective class.**

20. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: O.B.F.N. encourages the use of patches, logo and other signage to promote sponsors. Realizing we are entering into a television media\sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of such signage, etc. that promote or advertise products, O.B.F.N. reserves the right to RESTRICT THE USE OF SUCH SIGNAGE, with as much advance notice as possible.

Note: All competitors will need to bring a valid fishing license and all competitors who will use their boat in official practice or during the tournament will need to have a copy of their insurance at registration on November 19 2011.

2011 Divisional Qualifying Tournaments

Competition Dates

November 20-21 Eufaula

March TBD

April TBD

Directors Meeting Friday Nov 19th 5:00 PM

Registration 6:00-7:00pm

Pairings draw 7:00pm

