

# New York - The Bass Federation (NYTBF)



## 2016 TOURNAMENT RULES

This trail has been formulated for the grass-roots weekend angler and for those anglers just starting in the sport. Entry fees and payouts (see Entry Fees and Payouts) are divided into two divisions - Boater and Co- Angler. When registering for the tournament season or just one NYTBF event, each angler will need to select the division they wish to compete in and once selected the angler must stay in that division (Boater or Co-Angler) for the remainder of the tournament season. The two distinct divisions allow for the beginning angler and those anglers without a boat to compete equally and fairly. Boaters who lose their boat due to mechanical reasons may request co-angler status pending approval of the NYTBF Tournament Director or their designated representative.

### **TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION:**

Participation in the NYTBF tournaments and in the Two-Day State Championship qualification process is open to all members of the NYTBF. If you are not a member of a NYTBF affiliated club then you can join the "NYTBF NONE" Club and participate in any of the NYTBF tournaments/events.

Each angler is required to fill out and sign an application for each tournament. PayPal entries are considered signed when submitted, but tournament registration forms must still be submitted either Email or by mail and must be received 6 days prior to the tournament. Entry fees must be post-marked no later than 6 days prior to tournament date; any deviation from this must be coordinated and approved by the NYTBF Tournament Director or President.

**REFUNDS:** Refund requests for Entry Fee may be granted at the discretion of the Tournament Director or their designated representative.

**TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS:** There will be a random drawing to determine Boater/Co-Angler pairings by the Tournament Director or designated individuals. For Two-Day tournaments, there will be separate random drawing to determine pairings for each day of the event. The pairings shall be published four (4) days in advance of each tournament. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign

partners prior to takeoff. If there is not an adequate number of Co-Anglers to pair with Boaters, Boaters in the order of the draw will fish alone unless they have registered after the cutoff date. In this case, the late registrant will be paired with a Co-Angler from the existing Co-Angler field at the ramp.

If there are more Co-Anglers than Boaters; priority will be given in the following order:

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Exceptions for payment timeline will be only granted through the NYTBF Secretary.

1. First paid – first in
2. Date of payment post-mark
3. Date of entry
4. Time of entry

All Co-Anglers that do not get paired will have priority in the next NYTBF event.

**MEDICAL CONDITION/HANDICAPPED:** The Board of Directors has the authority to consider deviations from the random draw pairings if an Angler's medical condition dictates.

**TOURNAMENT HOURS:** At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other.

**BOAT EQUIPMENT:** All boats must be in full compliance with state laws and US Coast Guard regulations. All boats must have working kill switches (which must be affixed at all times when the internal combustion motor is running). All boats must have a working mechanically aerated live well capable of holding and sustaining two limits of fish (Bass). Boats must be a minimum of 17 feet in length and will not exceed the manufactures horse power rating. All boats must be equipped with a seat for the Co-Angler partner.

**SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Life jackets shall be worn by both competitors at all times when the combustion motor is running. The engine kill switch shall be affixed to the driver at all times when the combustion motor is in gear. All competitors shall comply with state laws at all times. When boating and fishing near other boats and people, maximum courtesy should be extended to all. Anglers in the same boat shall not intentionally fish or handle the boat in a method which will put the other angler at a disadvantage. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament competition hours, will result in immediate disqualification. Drunkenness and/or any un-sportsmanlike conduct at any tournament will be cause for disqualification and may result in disqualification from future tournaments. Every effort should be made to handle and return fish to the water with as little harm as possible. Intentional damage or poor handling of fish until they are safely back in the water could result in disqualification.

**BOAT INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Each boater MUST have a copy of his/her current boat insurance showing a minimum \$300,000 liability at each tournament. Failure to produce proof of insurance upon request by tournament officials will result in immediate disqualification

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fishing shall be with artificial baits only. Prepared baits (real shiners, crayfish etc.) are not allowed. Rods over 8 foot (96") long are not allowed. Spinning, Bait-casting and Spin-casting are all allowable fishing techniques. Fly fishing is not!! Anglers are allowed to have a number of rods rigged and available for use but only one "wet-line" is allowed (being actively fished). Trolling (hands-free fishing using only a motor to move the bait) is not allowed in any tournament. All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner as per state guidelines. All bass caught while site-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to the Boater or Co-Angler for verification.

**CELL PHONES:** The use of cell phones and/or other communication devices are expressly forbidden to include texting during tournament hours except in emergency situations. Any variations of this rule must be coordinated through the tournament director prior to launch. If found in violation of this rule; you will be disqualified for that day's catch.

**PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing is allowed anywhere on the tournament lake other than designated off limits areas, except within 50 feet of another competitor who: has trolling motor is up and is anchored in position. Anglers who feel that another boat is encroaching on the 50 foot rule must warn the offending anglers at that time. Anglers who allow one other person (tournament participant) to fish within the 50 foot zone are then obligated to allow any other boat or angler the same courtesy. No angler or boat may stop others from passing on navigable waters. Anglers may not leave the boat for the purpose of catching a fish or fishing an area which is otherwise inaccessible by boat. Leaving the boat for dire circumstances (as determined by the Tournament Director) is acceptable, but whenever possible the anglers should remain within sight of each other. All tournament boats must remain on the tournament water throughout the tournament day and all contestants must depart from and return to the check in point by boat (no trailering from other launch sites).

**BOAT IDENTIFICATION AND CHECKPOINTS:** Boat numbers will be drawn and will be issued at the ramp. These boat numbers are to remain with the boat throughout the day. Prior to the start of each tournament, there is a mandatory check-in for all anglers. All boats shall be in the water 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Boats will line up on the water and leave the launch site in numerical order. The last boater drawn will be the take-off martial, he/she will ensure boats leave in the proper order and the take-off at a safe distance apart. At the end of the day; all boats must check-in and return their boat number regardless of whether they caught any fish. In the event that a boat has to leave the water prior to the end of the tournament day, anglers are required to notify the Tournament Director of their intent and return the boat number.

**SCORING AND PENALTIES:** Tournament winners shall be determined by the total weight of each anglers catch during the tournament. Only Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass in compliance with state size limits may be weighed in. If an angler presents a short fish to the weigh-in, the fish will be disallowed and a 1-pound penalty will be assessed. If this is a multiple day event, the negative balance (if any) will be carried over to the next competition day. There will be a five fish limit for each angler, in the event that an angler has more than the prescribed limit in their possession at any time, the angler will be disqualified. Any fish, which appears to have been intentionally altered to give the appearance of being longer than the minimum legal length will be cause for disqualification. Any angler that presents a dead fish for weigh-in will receive an 8-ounce deduction from the total weight for each dead fish. All fish weighed in by any angler must be caught during tournament hours on the official tournament waters, any deviation from the above will result in immediate disqualification and removal from TBF. Any angler who returns to the weigh in site late will receive a penalty of 1 pound for each minute that they are late. Anglers who are fifteen or more minutes late will have their total catch disqualified.

**TIES:** In the event of a tie between two or more angler, the winner will be determined by:

1. Total number of fish.
2. Total number of fish live.
3. Big fish. (Lunker entries must be live fish only)
4. Coin flip.

**ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY) POINTS:** Will be awarded 1st Place - 100 points, 2nd place - 99 points, 3rd place - 98 points, and so on. Failure to weigh-in a fish will result in no AOY points awarded. The Boater and Co-Angler with the most points at the end of our regular tournament season (four point events) EXCLUDING the end of season Two-Day State Championship, will be crowned Angler of the Year earning a designated spot in the TBF National Semi-Final Tournament and their NYTBF annual membership dues and all points tournament entry fees paid for the next tournament season.

**ENTRY FEES AND PAYOUTS:** Regular Points Tournaments and Team Tournaments: Boater entry fees \$100.00 and Co-Angler entry fees \$60.00, both divisions will payout 80% of fees received. For the State Championship all participants will pay a \$150.00 entry fee, with \$100.00 used towards angler payouts at that event. All remaining proceeds will go to fund the NYTBF and our TBF National Contenders.

**BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:** For qualifying tournaments, the boater will have complete control of the boat during tournament hours. Co-Anglers are responsible to pay the boater thirty dollars (\$30.00) to help offset some of the expenses of running the boat for regular season events and share the fuel cost daily for the State Championship Tournament. Any damage to the boat caused by the Co-Angler shall be the responsibility of the Co-Angler to reimburse the boater. All disputes over boat damage must be announced in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the scales closing.

**TWO-DAY STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:** Boaters and Co-Anglers must fish a minimum of three (3) of the four (4) points tournaments or three (3) team tournaments to qualify to fish the end of season Two-Day State Championship. Also the winners of the each tournament (points or team) will automatically qualify for the end of season Two-Day State Championship. Team Trail participants attempting to qualify for the end of season Two-Day State Championship must be members of NYTBF before their first cast of the season. Military (Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard) must fish a minimum of one event and present deployment orders justifying why they missed the other qualifying events and they'll be allowed entry.

**QUALIFICATION and PARTICIPATION IN THE TBF NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL TOURNAMENT:** The NYTBF Boater Angler of the Year (AOY) and the Co-Angler AOY will automatically advance to the TBF National Semi- Final tournament. The NYTBF Two-Day State Championship will qualify additional anglers for the TBF National Semi-Final tournament; the top five (5) Boaters and top five (5) Co-Anglers for a minimum of 12 NYTBF anglers advancing. Additional NYTBF anglers may advance to the TBF National Semi-Final tournament based on the total number of anglers that fish all NYTBF events preceding the TBF National Semi-Final (12 NYTBF members advance or 10% of the total participating field... whichever is greater).

In addition our NYTBF subordinate affiliate clubs are authorized to send one (1) Boater and one (1) Co-Angler (it must be a boater & co-angler together in order to balance the tournament field) to the TBF National Semi-Final, as long the individuals have competed in two points tournaments and supported at least one (1) youth or one (1) collegiate event during the same calendar year as the TBF Semi-Final tournament or they've competed in one (1) points tournament and supported two (2) youth or two (2) collegiate events as verified by the NYTBF Board of Directors. In short they must support a combination of no less than three (3) NYTBF events (points tournament, youth or collegiate) in order to participate in the TBF National Semi-Final tournament.

Anglers are responsible for their individual tournament entry fee as determined by the TBF and host state.

**PROTESTS:** All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director in writing prior to the closing of the scales. When a protest is filed the Tournament Director, he/she will then listen to all sides and make a determination as to the outcome. If the complaint involves the Tournament Director, the VP/President will act as the determining official. The interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

**RULES VIOLATIONS:** Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations (angler or co-angler) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss

(late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament or ineligibility to participate in future TBF tournaments.

NYTBF reserves the right to change these rules at any time if required.

As of 03/16/2016