

Official Tournament Rules

Ohio BASS Federation Nation, Inc.

Effective January 1, 2011

These rules apply to all the OBFN, Inc. Tournament Events. They may be changed at anytime that the OBFN, Inc. Board of Directors deems necessary. The most recent version of these rules will be posted at www.ohiobassfederationnation.com. Membership will be updated on changes through notification to the individual club presidents. Understanding these rules is the responsibility of all OBFN members. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director, and attending members of the OBFN, Inc. Board of Directors. Any violation or protest must be made in writing and turned in to the Tournament Director 15 minutes prior to the closing of the scales.

Polygraph: By signing the official entry form or **completing the online transaction**, contestants agree to submit to a polygraph/voice test examination should he/she be accused of any rule violation. OBFN may also conduct random polygraph/voice test examination throughout the year. Any person convicted of violating tournament rules or failing to successfully pass a polygraph/voice test in this or any other tournament will not be allowed membership or entry into any OBFN event. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph/voice test shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the tournament director. Without limiting the foregoing, the OBFN shall have sole discretion to select the location, at which such polygraph/voice test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph/voice test, and the scope of the questions that may be asked during such test. Failure to take and pass the polygraph/voice test examination, if required, will result in immediate disqualification without recourse. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director may disqualify, hold prize money, trophies, and points until further review of the OBFN, Inc. Board of Directors

Invitational Tournament trail Regular Season

- a) The trail will consist of (4) Four regular season points events that will award (10) Ten OBFN State team positions, and (1) Alternate position. Events will be (4) Four, One day events with prior Two days before each event to serve as official Practice days.
- b) Will consist of (4) four events with two separate divisions Angler and Co-Angler. Prize Money, Points, and plaques will be awarded within each division.
- c) The angler division will be awarded (7) Seven positions on the OBFN state team to the top Points anglers at the conclusion of the (4) season events. The First Five in Points will make up the boaters for the OBFN state team (Position 1-5). Position Six is Classic Boater Award. Position seven and eight make up the first two Co-Angler spots on the OBFN state team.
- d) The top (3) Co-Anglers in points will be awarded Three OBFN state team positions at the end of the season (Positions 9 -11). The (12) twelfth position is awarded at the OBFN Classic.
- e) The Co- angler who finished (4) Fourth in points in the four regular season events will make up (position 13) the (1st) First alternate. The (2nd) Second alternate (position 14) is the OBFN Board Official Ohio Representative also serving as Ohio Youth Boat Captain. (** In the event we need to promote state team members beyond the two alternate spots, the OBFN will take from Angler tournament trail points.)

OBFN Classic

- a) This Classic is a (2) two day event to be held "somewhere" in Ohio, and will award the final (2) two state team positions. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources will draw and permit a lake from a list provided by the OBFN where this event will be fished. No OBFN Board Member or otherwise will know where this event is going to be held until it is announced at the final regular season points event.
- b) This event will be a (2) two day event, with all of the other tournament rules in effect. (Official practice days, cost, divisions. and so on.)
- c) The event will Award the Highest Non Already qualified Boater the final Boater position on the OBFN state team(position six), as well as the Highest Non qualified Co-Angler to the OBFN state team(position 12).
- d) In order to qualify for the OBFN Classic anglers and co/anglers must have registered or fished ALL FOUR regular season events.

Eligibility of Participants

- a) All tournaments will be open only to current BASS and OBFN members.
- b) Competitors must be at least 16 years of age and if under the age of 18 must have a waiver and parental consent form signed, and approval from the Youth Director before competing.
- c) During competition days, no competitor shall operate a boat unless the competitor has documented proof of at least \$300,000 per occurrence boating liability. Such documented proof must be in the boat at all times and random checks will be done at each event. Random checks will be chosen by assigned boat numbers at each event and these numbers will be changed for each event.
- d) Online Entry forms must be completed, no later than the MONDAY MIDNIGHT prior to the event. All refund requests must be done through the Tournament Director no later than 3 days prior to each event. There will be a \$20 processing fee charged for all refunds.

Tournament Entry and Registration

- a) Online payment option is the only accepted method of Tournament Entry.
- b) Anglers may register for one event at a time, or the entire season.
- c) Anglers/Co-Anglers and Observers must complete their Registration with a contact number that will be posted on the pairings information sheet.
- d) **Phone in registration will not be accepted.**

Pairings

- a) Daily pairings are done computerized and are random.
- b) Two-day events, the second day's pairings will be posted on the tournament trailer during the first day's weigh-in.
- c) Daily partners must remain together until the day's catch has been verified by one of the tournament officials. Except in the case of an emergency.
- d) The pairings will be posted in Two locations on the Tournament Trailer, and via the website 6:00pm the night before the event.. Competitors must make all the necessary arrangements to meet with their partner prior to the first day of the event.
- e) **Do not call tournament officials for pairing information.**

Personal Conduct

- a) All OBFN, Inc. competitors are encouraged to express their opinions. Such expressions can be made at any time in disagreement of rules, violation of rules, or disagreement of disciplinary action. Any unfavorable public attacks towards the OBFN, Inc., BASS or state and national sponsors will not be tolerated. Competitors must display the utmost respect towards the organization, tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors and fellow competitors at all times. Any attack deemed unprofessional by the OBFN, Inc. may result in disciplinary action.

Practice and Competition

- a) Off limits and official practice will be posted at www.ohiobassfederationnation.com. **All OBFN Trail tournament waters will be off-limits beginning Sunday at 11:00pm until Friday at 5:00am prior to the event.** The tournament water will also be off limits beginning at 6:00pm Saturday immediately following the tournament registration.
- b) The OBFN Classic Official Practice will be Thursday 5:00am till 6:00pm Friday evening prior to the event.
- c) Official practice may be fished with ANY OBFN member, including an OBFN youth. In addition Immediate Family members and "significant" other **will be allowed in the boat during official practice days.** Competitors may only receive information or "help" from other members competing in the event.
- d) Although the Co-Anglers are competing separately from the Anglers, a Co-Angler may offer assistance to their daily partner and vise versa.
- e) During the official competition days a competitor may use a CB Radio, a VHF Marine band radio, or cell phone only in a case of emergencies. Using such devices to help catch or locate fish is prohibited. The Tournament Director, Appointed official, or attending OBFN, inc. Board Members have the right to enter any registered boat for inspection as long as the owner occupies the boat. Permission should be requested.
- f) Competitors must report any rule infraction or violation to the Tournament Director or attending OBFN, Inc. Board Member. Not reporting such infractions may lead to disqualification.

Boater Safety

- a) Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Competitors must wear a US Coast Guard approved chest type vest at all times when the combustible engine is running. This vest must be zipped, snapped or strapped on securely. The boat driver must have the kill switch attached anytime the engine is in gear.
- b) Tournament officials have the right to cancel, delay or shorten competition at any time. Tournament waters may also be restricted at anytime in case of bad weather.
- c) All state regulations and requirements will be observed at all times. In the case of any special regulations, the Tournament Director will post or announce any such regulations.

Sportsmanship

- a) Competitors in any OBFN/BASS sanctioned event are expected to use a high standard of sportsmanship at all times.
- b) Any infraction of such sportsmanship may be grounds for disqualification
- c) Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future OBFN tournaments.
- d) 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.

Tackle and Equipment

- a) Only artificial or biodegradable baits are to be used during competition days. No live bait or prepared baits are allowed with the exception of bottled pork.
- b) Rods must not exceed 8 feet in length.
- c) Competitors may only use one rod at a time. Other lines that may have an opportunity to catch a fish must be out of the water before another cast is made.

Horsepower Regulations

- a) The maximum horsepower allowed in all OBFN, Inc. events will not exceed 300 hp.
- b) Horsepower cannot exceed the US Coast Guard regulations or the manufacture rating plate.
- c) Upon registration, each angler agrees to an inspection of their outboard if requested by the tournament staff.

Boat and Motor

- a) During competition days, all boats must have an operable kill switch with a lanyard not exceeding 2 feet in length.
- b) Boats less than 16 feet in length are prohibited.
- c) Additional gas tanks other than the ones installed by the manufacture are prohibited.
- d) Stick steering is prohibited and shall be defined by the Tournament Director.
- e) All boats must have an operating live well that will be inspected prior to the start of each tournament.
- f) All boats will have operable navigation lights that will be inspected prior to the start of each tournament.
- g) All Anglers must provide a seat for their Co-Angler if requested.

Boat Operation and Expense

- a) Events are Angler/Co-angler. Angler will have complete control of boat operations and fishing waters.
- b) Angler – Any person registered and designated by the Tournament Director as a boater for that event.
- c) Co-Angler - The person designated by the Tournament Director to Compete in the tournament with an Angler.
- d) Any Angler, who, in judgment of the officials, operates their boat in a manner that it impedes the Co-Angler's ability to catch fish, will be disqualified.
- e) The OBFN has the right to replace a Co-Angler with an observer anytime for the purpose of maintaining proper pairings.

Angler/Co-Angler Etiquette

- a) Boat positioning will control casting issues. Anglers will have first opportunity at any target or structure, unless otherwise stated by the Angler.
- b) A Co-Angler may compete from either side of the boat they wish.
- c) An Angler may invite the Co-Angler to the front deck to fish. This may be rescinded at anytime.
- d) Paralleling a bank. The boat must be kept at such an angle that each Competitor may be able to make their best and most comfortable cast for that particular style of angling. Although, during this style of presentation, a Co-Angler may have to change their lure choice or presentation to be able to adapt to the speed that the Angler is advancing their boat.

Fishing Locations

- a) Tournament waters will be designated by the Tournament Director and will be announced or posted prior to each event. All competitors must abide by all lake regulations at all times. The Tournament Director has the right to make off limit areas for the purpose of live –release for (2) two-day events. Only waters accessible to the public are open. Tournament waters will be off-limits starting at 6:00pm the night before the event.

Competitors Must Remain in the Boat

- a) A competitor may not leave their boat to land a fish or to help access an area of the lake. An angler may however leave their boat to help retreat from an area.
- b) In case of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first then notify the Tournament Director or other Tournament Official
- c) In case of a rescue situation, the Tournament Director must be contacted, and then an angler may ask for assistance from another competitor to help with returning to the weigh-in area.
- d) The OBFN will not ask a competitor to strand their boat. One competitor can stay with the vessel while the other returns to the weigh-in area. In the case of transporting the days catch, the Tournament Director, or Tournament Official must previously verify the number of fish for each competitor and the catch must be tagged for separation purposes.
- e) In the event of a breakdown the Tournament Director or Tournament Officials may allow a boat to return to the weigh-in location on the trailer, once all other options have been exhausted. Anglers must still return and check-in with Tournament Officials at their prescribed time. Failure to do so will result in penalties prescribed in Section 17: Late Penalty.
- f) In the case that an angler receives permission from the Tournament Director to leave their boat, their partner must cease fishing until their return.
- g) Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger is imminent.

Tournament Scoring

- a) Pounds and ounces will determine all tournament winners and points awarded.
- b) Catch will be recorded by a (5) five fish limit with the lake size regulation in effect. All fish will be measured with the mouth closed, tail fanned or pinched to meet official length. Any bass that is presented to the official bump board that does not meet the lake requirement will be issued a (1) one-pound penalty.
- c) Only smallmouth, largemouth and spotted bass will be allowed.
- d) No culling of a dead fish. All fish released during the event must be verified alive by the daily partner.
- e) There will be an 8 oz. or a .5-pound penalty for a dead fish.

Late Penalty

- a) Competitors that are not at the official checkpoint designated by the Tournament Director at the described time will be penalized (1) one pound per minute. A competitor's catch, for that day only, will be disqualified after 15 minutes.

Points Systems

- a) All OBFN tournaments, both one and two days, award the winning anglers from the angler/co-angler division 200 points. Points will then decrease by (1) one point per place until all the tournament anglers that weighed fish have all been credited. Example: (1st-200, 2nd-199, 3rd-198). This system will be used for both the angler/co-angler divisions.
- b) Bonus Points. Bonus points will be awarded to the top 20 finishing competitors at each event. The winning competitor will receive 20 bonus points decreasing through the field by (1) one point. The 20th place competitor would receive 1 bonus point. This system will be used in both the Angler/Co-Angler divisions.
- c) The remaining competitors in the field who did not weigh fish would be awarded 50 points. Any Angler who used a "buy in" sign up will be awarded 1 point. This system will be used in both the Angler/Co-Angler divisions.

Angler of the Year

- a) The OBFN Angler and Co/Angler of the Year will be awarded to the top points Angler and Co/Angler from the (4) regular season events. The winning Angler will receive free entries into the next years trail events. The winning Co-Angler will also receive free entries into the next years trail events.

Tie Breakers

- b) The largest number of Live legal fish weighed in by a competitor will break all ties. The second tie will be broken by the largest number of legal fish weighed in by each competitor at that event. The largest fish weighed in by a competitor at that event will break the third tiebreaker. In the instance that neither competitor had weighed a fish for big bass, the fourth tiebreaker will be used automatically.
- c) In case of a fourth tiebreaker, that place and the preceding place will be combined and split between the competitors. A coin toss will be used to decide who is awarded the plaque.

Entry Fees and Payouts

- a) Entry fee on the Angler side of each event will be \$70.00 which includes Live Big Bass
- b) Entry fee on the Co-Angler side of an event will be \$50.00 which includes Live Big Bass
- c) Payouts on each side of the field will be 60% plus contingencies.
- d) Any angler may choose to pay an entry fee before the deadline of that event and not fish ("buy in") and will receive 1 point for that event. Only one "buy in" may be used per season. (Allows for scheduling conflicts and emergencies) When using the "buy in" the angler is responsible for following up with the OBFN officials, to make their intentions know.

Miscellaneous

- a) In the event that a situation arises that is not covered under the OBFN Tournament Rules the Tournament Officials will utilize the current B.A.S.S. Tournament Rules as a guide to assist in a decision.

OHIO BASS FEDERATION NATION

2011 OBFN Tournament Schedule

April 2-3 OBFN Club Championship Caesar Creek (Twin Creeks Defending Champions)

May 1 Mosquito Lake

June 12 East Fork

July 17 Indian Lake

Sept 18 Alum Creek

Oct 15-16 OBFN Classic (Lake to be **drawn** later and announced at Alum Creek event)