

DIVISIONAL TOURNAMENT RULES & REGULATION

1. Membership:

Membership into USA BASSIN is \$30.00 per person. All members under the age of 19 before September 1, 2023, shall be considered a “Youth” and receive a free membership. A USA BASSIN membership gives you the right to fish any USA BASSIN Tournament anywhere in the country. Tournaments are open to all boat makes, models and motor sizes. Anglers fishing the Elite Series of B.A.S.S., the FLW Tour Events as a Boater or the MFL, during the 2022 or 2023 seasons, are not eligible to participate in any 2023 USA BASSIN Tournaments. Co-anglers of the FLW Tour Events are eligible to participate in USA BASSIN Tournament Trails. The Tournament Director and other tournament officials are permitted to fish all U.S.A. BASSIN events. The 2023 season run from Sept.1 2022-Aug.31, 2023.

2. Tournament Entry Fees:

Entry fee for a 5-Tournament Divisions is \$60.00 or 75.00 per boat per tournament, entry includes the Big Bass Pot. Entry fee into a 10-Tournament Divisions is \$30.00 per boat per tournament, entry includes the Big Bass Pot. The tournament director may adjust entry fee on tournament locations that require a lake usage fee or sales tax.

3. Scoring:

5-Tournament Divisions= 100-point scoring system: Sample Scoring 1st place team –100 point; 2nd place—99 points 3rd Place –98 points and so on. All teams that didn’t weigh in a fish receive 50 participation points. 10-Tournament Divisions= 50 points scoring system: All Teams not weighing in a fish receive 25 participation points. Divisional Champions will be determined by the team that has the highest final total points in said division. If a Team splits up, all points will remain with Partner #1. Teams acquire points by fishing any USA BASSIN tournament. The points your team receives from each tournament will be automatically added to the standings of the division you fished and to “National Points Standings” located on the home page of the USA BASSIN Web Site.

4. USA BASSIN Teams:

Teams may consist of one person or a maximum of two persons. All teams that finish the season with 250 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish a U.S.A. BASSIN Regional Tournament of their choice and may fish in more than one Regional Tournament. If you are fishing more than one division and qualified for a USA BASSIN Regional Tournament using two different partners, you may choose which partner you wish to take to the Regional Tournament. The other partner may fish a U.S.A. BASSIN Regional Tournament solo or you may fish in another Regional using that partner.

5. The Next Generation Teams:

Next Generation Teams may consist of either an adult and a youth or two youths (one of the youth's must be at least 16 years of age or older). All Next Generation teams that finish the season with 150 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in The Next Generation Classic event. Teams that finish the Season with 250 points or more shall be eligible to fish both the Next Generation Classic and the Regional event of their choice.

6. The Co-Ed Teams:

Teams consisting of a male/female participant will be a Co-Ed. Team All Co-Ed teams that finish the season with 150 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in The Co-Ed Classic event. Teams that finish the Season with 250 points or more shall be eligible to fish both the Co-Ed Classic and a Regional event of their choice.

7. Substitutes:

A USA BASSIN member or a family member may serve as a substitute in a divisional tournament at any time and all points will be retained by partner #1. A family member is classified as Grandparents, Parent, Spouse, Sibling, Child, Grandchild, Uncles, Cousins, or in-laws of the same. A team may use a substitute only two times during a division's season. A participant may fish any division solo or declare a partner prior to the start of the third Tournament within a Division.

Next Generation Divisional Subs: An adult may not fish alone in a Next Generation Division. You can substitute only with a youth when fishing a Next Generation Division. Normal substitute rules apply when not fish in a Next Generation Division.

The Co-Ed Divisional Subs: Co-Ed Teams may only substitute with the same sex as the member that is absent when fishing a Co-Ed Division. Normal substitute rules apply when not fish in a Co-Ed Division.

Regional or Classic Tournament Subs: You can only fish a Regional or the Classic tournament with your declared partner. If your declared partner cannot fish a Regional event or a Classic event with you may still fish it solo. You cannot fish solo in the Next Generation Classic or the Co-Ed Classic Tournaments.

8. The Land Big Fish Tournament of Champions:

The Land Big Fish Tournament of Champions will be held on Lake Chickamauga during the USA BASSIN Classic Week. The Land Big Fish Tournament of Champions is valued at \$15,000 with First Place being a guaranteed \$10,000 in Cash. The top 10 teams in this event will receive a cash payback. There is seven ways to qualify for this event.

- a. Be the Divisional Champion of any USA BASSIN Division.
- b. Catch the Biggest Bass in your Division.
- c. Finish the season with 1000 points or finish the season in the top 200 in the National Points.
- d. Finish in the top 3 at a Regional event
- e. Catch the Biggest Bass in a Regional Event.
- f. Finish in the top 3 (USA BASSIN Teams Only) at a Land Big Fish Open Event.
- g. Catch the Biggest Bass (USA BASSIN Teams Only) at a Land Big Fish Open Event.

The Land Big Fish Tournament of Champions has only a \$60.00 entry fee!!

This is our way of saying thank you for fishing our tournaments and purchasing product from Land Big Fish.

9. 9. Ties:

Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Divisional Champions will be broken by the team that has the heaviest total weight for the season. Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Regional & National Champions, Regional & National Points Champions and all place finishes will be broken by Big Bass.

10. Short Fish Penalties:

All fish brought to weigh-in must be of legal size determined by state law for that body of water fished. Short fish will be culled from your sack and your largest fish will also be culled from the remaining fish. A courtesy measuring board will be available to be used teams.

11. No Live Bait:

Only artificial lures can be used in U.S.A. BASSIN tournaments. The use of pork trailers is permitted.

12. Trolling:

Trolling with the use of a combustible engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. A team found to be doing this would be disqualified for that tournament and put on probation for the remaining season tournaments

13. Boat and Motor:

Boats must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and must have a motor within rating limits.

14. Limits:

This is a 5-fish limit (per team or when fishing alone) at each tournament. Exceptions: State laws prevail when fishing on any body of water (size and limits). Anyone bringing in more than a 5-fish will have their sack culled to the 5-fish limit starting with their big fish first. All culling must be done on the water – Not on the bank.

15. Dead Fish Penalty:

For each dead fish a ½ pound penalty will be deducted from your total weight. A dead fish will not be weighed-in as big fish. Tournament director will make final decision if fish is dead or not. Fish that appears altered or mangled shall be the tournament director's decision to weigh or not to weigh the fish.

16. Late to weigh-in:

There will be a deduction of 1 lb. per minute of your total weight for every minute late to weigh-in. After 15 minutes past weigh-in teams are disqualified. (Rule maybe different at some divisions. Please contact your director to verify)

17. Registration:

There will be registration at the tournament site starting an hour and a half or more before the start of the tournament. All teams are required to be at the ramp 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Registration will close 30 minutes before the start of the tournament. Paying entries fees after the tournament registration time will be accepted only at the tournament Director's discretion. Tournament Directors will only accept cash at registration (NO Checks Please). All teams may pre-register by mail for a tournament. If pre-registering, entry forms must be post marked 10 days before the tournament you desire to fish. Entry fee may be refunded or rolled over to the next tournament if the director is contacted before the start of the tournament. Failure to contact tournament director for a refund or roll over will result in a forfeit of entry fee and contestants will receive only half of the show up points. Send all entries to the tournament Director of the tournament you desire to fish. There will not be a late registration fee for registering at the ramp. Tournament take off positions will be determined by when the tournament director receives your entry or by draw at registration (please contact the director for take-off procedures). There will be a pre-tournament meeting 30-minutes prior DURING the 30 minutes before the start of each tournament. Divisions (due to state law) that have a limited number of participates will take entries on a first come first serve basis.

18. Weigh-in procedures:

All contestants will be instructed at the pre-tournament meeting on weigh-in procedures. Each team must present his or her own catch to the weigh-in official. No other person shall then handle the fish except a weigh-in official. No person other than weigh-in officials may touch the scales; weigh-in basket or any part of the weigh-in equipment.

19. Life Preserver:

During all U.S.A. BASSIN Tournaments, contestants not wearing their life jackets zipped and secured when the combustion engine is running and in gear will have that day's weight disqualified from the tournament.

20. Sportsmanship:

All contestants are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. The following shall be cause for immediate disqualification with no appeal available. 1.) Drunkenness. 2.) Use of illegal substances. 3.) Physical or verbal abuse of USA BASSIN personnel or other contestants. 4.) Possession of alcohol or illegal substances in the boat or on your person during hours of the tournament, including weigh-in.

21. Off-Limits:

The tournament director will announce the off-limits areas at each pre-tournament meeting. Any team fishing in the off-limits areas will be disqualified from the tournament. Teams may not fish closer than 50 yards to another competitor who is anchored with the trolling motor up unless given permission. If permission is given to one, then all may fish same water. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall be cause for disqualification. All U.S.A. BASSIN Divisional, Regional & Classic Tournament locations will NOT be closed to pre-fishing

22. Leaving Your Boat:

Competitors must always remain with their partners in the boat during the tournament. Except in the event of sickness or brief excursions for "nature calling", a severe storm or other such hazards. If for any reason a team decides to leave the tournament waters early, competitors must try to contact the director, prior to leaving the tournament. If you have boat trouble, one member must remain with the disabled boat. The other team member may board another competitor's boat with that day's catch and bring fish to weigh-in. Please contact the tournament director prior to doing so.

23. Cheating:

Anyone caught cheating in any tournament event will be immediately barred from fishing in any U.S.A. BASSIN event. We reserve the right to have a random truth verification test performed at any time. You may not use a cell phone to gain an advantage over the rest of the competitors. All protest must be submitted in writing to the Classic director before the close of weigh-in. Verbal protest will not be accepted.

24. Insurance:

All members will carry liability insurance on any boat they might use during any of U.S.A. BASSIN Tournaments. Failure to do so or reporting of false information will result in disqualification.

25. Refusal of Membership:

We reserve the right to refuse membership or entry into any of U.S.A. BASSIN Tournament Trail Events.

26. Tournament Rules

All rules and regulations for all tournaments are subject to change at any time until the start of a tournament. Information given orally or printed on any publications, including but not limited to information on USA BASSIN'S website and flyers may not accurately represent the rules that will be used at the tournament and are merely indications of what USA BASSIN expects the rules to be. For the most current version of the rules, visit the USA BASSIN website or call the tournament director.

[Click here to become an USA BASSIN Member!!!](#)

Contact USA BASSIN at kyeary@ymail.com for details on becoming a director!!