



SETX Region B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Procedures/Tips



- **Entry Fees** - As stated in Rule 16 of the [tournament rules](#), all registrations must be postmarked by Friday of the week prior to the tournament date. Entry fees may be paid on line via [active.com](#) up until midnight the Wednesday before the tournament. Registration will be taken at the Region Tournament Trailer from 4:00-6:00PM the day before the event. Boat numbers are assigned in the order they are received. **NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THE MORNING OF THE TOURNAMENT.**
- **Tournament Day Launch** – Please be courteous and use good judgment in your pre-launch routine. Turn your headlights off when near the ramp and when backing down as to not blind others. Have your trailer safety gear off (transom saver & straps) and lights in BEFORE you are at the ramp. If this requires more time, please pull to the side as to not block others. You should be ready to go when you are being launched. As a courtesy, assisting region clubs provide volunteers to help with launch and parking up until 15 minutes before early-out launch. It is strongly recommended that you have a pre-launch plan and arrive early to ensure that you get launched **on time.**
- **Pre-Take Off Courtesy** – The Director will announce "safe light" take off time prior to the tournament (weather permitting) as well as the take-off/boat check location. As stated above, plan accordingly and be on the water well in advance of this time. Know your boat and flight numbers as assigned during registrations. Those that have higher boat numbers and flights should not be within 50 yards of the boat check location. Check with other boaters around you during pre-stage and find boaters with close numbers and get in line. It is encouraged that you use your trolling motor to navigate so that other boaters can hear announcements. The take off direction will be toward the most open part of the cove toward the main lake; do not block this area. **DO NOT CROWD THE BOAT CHECK DOCK IF YOU HAVE LATE BOAT NUMBERS!**
- **Take Off Procedures** – Prior to take off we will have a Prayer and National Anthem. Please have your motors off during this time out of respect. Immediately after completion of the Anthem, early out participants will go through boat check and may leave. There will be a 10 minute delay after the last "early out" leaves. Competitor boat numbers will be called in sequence. If you do not respond after the 3rd call, you will be sent to the back of the order. Have your live wells open with pump(s) running, lights on, and PFD on with kill switch lanyard attached as you go through boat check. Official tournament time will be announced periodically throughout take off. **Do not blast off in designated tournament staging areas.**
- **On The Water Fish Care** – It is our goal to maintain our reputation as leaders in organization and conservation. Fish care on the water is your responsibility and starts the moment the fish enters your boat. Make sure your live wells are in working order and that preventive measurements are maintained, especially in warm weather (ice, oxygenators, livewell additives). A good guide to tournament fish care is provided by B.A.S.S. – [Keeping Bass Alive Handbook](#).
- **Check-In Procedures** – "Early Outs" – 2:45 PM. Flight 1 – 3:00 PM. Flight 2 – 3:15 PM. Flight 3 – 3:30 PM. Flight 4 – 3:45 PM. There will be a tournament official wearing a safety vest at the end of the dock (where take-off occurred) conducting check-in. Please remember your boat number to help with efficient check-in. If you leave the tournament early please sign your name at the tournament trailer. Failing to check in will disqualify you from the tournament and all participation points will be forfeited for that event. You may beach your boat or load it. Keep in mind not all tournament sites have adequate docking/beaching availability, so please be courteous to other boaters and use these areas efficiently. **Make sure live well care is being maintained during the tournament and especially between boat docking and weigh in.**

- **Staging Tank/Cull Certification Procedures - Conservation and low mortality is our priority!** There will be no use of personal/outside weigh bags. Fish brought to the scales in bags other than the official tournament bags will not be accepted at the cull station or weighed. There will be a "bag line" where a limited number of bags will be issued. After placing your fish in your bag, go to the staging line as quickly as possible. Add additional water as needed and place holding tank aeration stones in bags as available. After being certified by the Cull Master you will immediately go to the pre-weigh in staging tank next to the stage.
- **Weigh-In Stage Procedures** - One fish, of your choice, will be allowed to be weighed for "Big Bass". The qualifying fish must be weighed **BEFORE** your full creel is weighed. Please know which big fish you will want weighed before coming to scales. **No Big Bass weight will be qualified if weighed in after your creel.** Once your creel is weighed and certified, you will be provided a weigh-slip to be signed and a copy for yourself. Failure to sign your weigh slip will exempt you from filing any protest. After you have completed your signature, you are officially released from the tournament and free to leave. If you wish to have personal pictures made with your catch, please notify the weigh master so that your fish can be held in a tank. If you have a fish that appears to be struggling, please notify the weigh master so that the fish is pulled and placed in our "hospital tank" for revitalization.

***** Per tournament rules, big bass weights are used in tie breakers. If a participant ties and one angler does not weigh his big bass and the other participant does, the tie breaker will go to the participant with the weighed big bass.**

- **"Club-Only" Participants** – Members of SETX B.A.S.S. Nation clubs may participate in region tournaments at the discretion of their clubs. These participants must take off after all Nation Region participants. CO can also weigh in along with nation tournament anglers and must adhere to the Region weigh-in rules and procedures. Notify the Weigh Master that you are "club only". Official weight will be handwritten on receipt paper to turn in to your club unless a weigh slip is provided by the CO Angler or their club. See the Tournament Director with any questions in regard to this privilege.

All weighed fish become property of the SETX B.A.S.S. Nation after certified. All tournament decisions made by the assigned Tournament Director are FINAL.

These procedures and suggestions are put in place so that our Tournament Trail is ran efficiently and effectively while maintaining quality fish care. We are ALL volunteers in this process and appreciate your participation.

Thank You,

Your SETX B.A.S.S. Nation Directors