

## **Texas B.A.S.S. Nation 2023**

### **OVERVIEW**

2023 Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Championship is setup to give Texas kayak angler's the chance to make it to the Bassmaster Classic in March 2024. Texas B.A.S.S. has set up not only to send 10% off the angler's to the Bassmaster Classic , but also pay for their entry fee's and hotel accommodations.

### **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

- The Texas B.A.S.S. Nation is open to ALL anglers provided they meet the Requirements and honor all Rules and Regulations listed below.
- Angler's must be a member of Bassnation and Texas Bassnation to compete.
- Disabled or Special Medical Needs: Competitors will be allowed to use kayaks or canoes with trolling motors, or Kayak Manufacturer Motors just like everyone else.
- Tournament Director reserves right to seek verification such as a doctor's note (or a negative covid test result). Please contact the Tournament Director with ample time to make these arrangements. (SEE ADDENDUM ABOVE)
- Participants MUST view the Captain's Meeting. There is a live video at the announced time. You must verify that you are registered on TourneyX, identifiers will be issued at the Captian's Meeting that evening.

### **LIABILITY RELEASE/LICENSE REQUIREMENTS**

- ALL competitors must agree to a liability release prior to start of the event, this will be completed during your online registration.
- ALL competitors UNDER the age of 18 must notify the TD and provide a liability release signed by a parent or guardian before the start of the event. Parent or guardian must be present.
- ALL competitors MUST have a valid Texas Freshwater Fishing License or be exempt under TPWD regulations.
- For current regulations and information on fishing licenses visit:

<http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/business/licenses/index.phtml>

## **APPROVED WATERCRAFT**

- Competitors will be allowed to use kayaks or canoes with trolling motors.
- Kayaks, canoes, inflatable kayaks and paddleboards, stand up paddleboards are acceptable. Bluesky 360's are also allowed.
- NO gasoline powered boats, sail boats, airboats, float tubes, or poled boats maybe used.
- Only ONE paid entrant per vessel.
- NO pier/shoreline/wade/jug/trot line/hand line/cast or drag net/bow fishing allowed.

## **LAUNCH POINT**

- This tournament is designated as "Roadrunner" event:
- Boats may be launched at any legal and public launch site on the Main body of Possum Kingdom lake from Hwy16 to the dam.
- You are not allowed to fish from below the dam.
- You must view the virtual Captains Meeting, and you must adhere to normal Scoring and Weigh-in times.
- Transporting vessels/competitors via power driven boats (including towing) is strictly prohibited except in the case of an emergency as determined by the tournament director.

## **PERMITTED FISHING METHODS/BAIT/LURES**

- ONLY artificial baits/lures/flyes and hand-tied flies will be permitted.
- NO live or dead bait may be used.
- Rod and Reel and Fly Rods are the only devices acceptable.
- NO downriggers allowed, trolling under human power is acceptable.
- 1 rod/line in the water at anytime.

## **SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- PFD (lifejacket) MUST be worn at ALL times while on the water. NO exceptions. Violators will be immediately disqualified if spotted not wearing a PFD.
- Competitors must meet all TPWD regulations.
- <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/fishboat/boat/laws/>
- Competitors must meet all US Coast Guard Regulations.
- <http://www.uscgboating.org>
- Official spotters may be present during competitions.

## **GENERAL RULES**

- NO competitors are to be within 10 yards of each other during fish-time (unless both parties are agreed upon sharing space); except in the case of emergency when assistance is required.
- NO fish are to be kept on stringers.
- Any ONE fish can only be submitted ONCE per event. If fishing 2 separate events the fish can be submitted once each per event.
- Fishing in OFF-LIMITS areas will result in disqualification.
- Captain's Meeting attendance is not MANDATORY. But must be viewed online.

## **COMMUNICATION**

- Emergency calls are permitted, and the Tournament Director is to be notified.
- Emergency, family, and employment related calls are allowed.
- There is to be NO electronic communication between competing anglers, or communication regarding fishing or the tournament during the competition.
- This rule is in place to cancel out any "unfair advantages" and the sharing of information that may create an unfair competitive advantage during the competition.

## **QUALIFYING FISH**

- ALL fish must be caught within boundary waters during the tournament time.
- ONLY the following species will count towards your total.
- Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Spotted Bass and Guadalupe Bass shall all be counted for BASS.
- [http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/bkbass\\_diagrams.phtml](http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/pwdpubs/bkbass_diagrams.phtml)
- CPR: Catch, Photo, and Release alive only.

## **MEASURING DEVICE**

- Texas B.A.S.S. Nation is only allowing Ketch boards and measuring devices. You can use the Ketch Karbonate or metal Ketch boards.
- Competitors must use their own measuring device. If you lose yours, you will need to notify the td your situation before you use a borrow board.
- Your device may be checked by staff at any time.
- If the judge cannot clearly see the markings, that fish will not be scored. At a minimum ¼ inch increments need to be visible.
- Texas B.A.S.S. Nation is a mouth closed tournament. All pictures with open mouths will be deducted 1/4". If all 5 of your submissions are open mouth, you will be dq'd.

## **PRACTICE PERIOD/OFF LIMITS**

- There will not be an "Off Limits" time.

## **RESCHEDULING/CANCELLATION/NON-ATTENDANCE**

- INCLEMENT WEATHER: The Tournament Director may delay, reschedule, or cancel the event.
- The first option will be a delay to be determined by the tournament director.
- The reschedule date for any event is the following day (same time/place/launch).
- If both days are rescheduled, the following weekend will serve as make-up event.

- If canceled or rescheduled, entrants can be refunded or have fee applied to next event.
- Refunds will be given with advance notice.

### **PHOTO RELEASE**

- Contestants grant Mariner Sails and the sponsors the unconditional right to use their name, voice, photographic likeness and biographical information in connection with Mariner Sails tournaments, production, promotion, and/or articles and press releases, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

### **IMPAIRMENT**

- DRUG and or ALCOHOL use during the tournament is strictly PROHIBITED.
- ANY competitor found to be under the influence will be disqualified and will receive a score of ZERO.

### **RULES INTERPRETATION and PROTESTS**

- All rules are decided and interpreted by the Tournament Director.
- Any protests should be registered with the tournament director immediately after the results being posted.
- The Tournament Director retains the right to make any changes at ANY time, and the FINAL decision.
- Not having read the rules is NOT an exception.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

- This competition is intended and will be a competitive and professional event. It is also designed to be lots of fun. That being said, ALL anglers are encouraged to be good sportsmen throughout the series. Any disorderly conduct, violation of rules, or illegal activity may result in your disqualification.
- During practice and competition, anglers are not allowed to make changes to the waterway, and it must be utilized how it's naturally presented. This includes but is not limited to adding, cutting, or removing trees/ brush, digging/ filling ditches, adding or removing rocks and purposely adding or removing vegetation

- Any report of cheating will be investigated. Any cheating reported with proof will result in immediate disqualification. KNOW THE RULES!

### **ENTRY FEES**

- ALL participants MUST have paid entry fee and registered on TourneyX prior to fishing.
- Entry Fee for this Mariner Sails Event is as follows:
- Online Registration will end on the Thursday night prior to Tournament
- \$85 entry paid through CashApp, Zelle, or Venmo and \$5 TourneyX Fee.

### **PAYOUT**

- This tournament is a 90% payback, and 10% is used to pay for Stripe and TourneyX fees.
- Competitor with biggest bass wins entire prize. Ties are determined by standard tie criteria.
- There will be various other prizes accordingly.

### **PHOTO CRITERIA/SUBMISSION/JUDGING**

#### **APPROVED CAMERAS**

- We will be using TourneyX to judge all submissions for this tournament.
- All contestants are to submit their catch through TourneyX App on their smart phone.
- If you do not have cell service or are using a digital camera, you will need to plan accordingly and come find the Tournament Director before the deadline to submit your catch.
- While we have a universal card reader, it is highly recommended that you bring a USB cord that is compatible with your camera. It is YOUR responsibility to make sure we can download your pictures.

#### **PHOTO CRITERIA**

- See the info graphic on proper CPR process:
- Each fish photo MUST include ALL of the following criteria:
- The whole fish, tip to tail.
- Laying with the tip of the lip at beginning of measuring device.
- Mouth Open or Closed to Furthest Tip of Tail
- Fish MUST be left side UP.

- Measurement markings must be clearly visible
- Assigned unique identifier must be visible
- Nothing other than your hand can be used to hold the fish down to the measuring device.
- Angler cannot use any object to hold fish's mouth to the measuring device.
- ONE OVERHEAD PHOTO SHOT FRAME (not at an angle)
- Fish must be clear of any devices. Fins/tail/head/eyes cannot be obstructed in photo.
- ALL criteria must be met or photo will not be scored.
- If you do not have cell service at the time, you can take the pics and submit it later when you are in an area that has cell service. (it is the angler's responsibility to make sure you have your fish submitted!)

### **WEIGH IN**

- ONLY the Tournament Director and designated staff will be involved in the judging process.
- Since this will mostly be an online submitted tournament, there will be no late submittals. If you know you do not have cell service out on the lake or are using a digital camera, it is YOUR responsibility to get back early so you can submit it in person.

### **JUDGING**

- Competitor photos will be reviewed and scored by Tournament Director and designated staff.
- Photos that do not meet the requirements as provided will be rejected and you will have the option to resubmit a better picture if you have it.
- The Tournament Director and designated staff will be solely responsible and retain the right to declare any photo as "unacceptable".
- Winners will be declared and prizes/awards will be announced by the Tournament Director.
- The Tournament will then be declared complete.
- Tournament Director will make final decision on whether adjustment will be made and which effect that will have on any prizes given out in the event of an error.

### **SCORING/POINTS/TIES/AWARDS**

- EACH competitor will be provided an identifier and a Inspection Tag for the event.
- Your 5 (five) LONGEST verified lengths will be totaled for your score.
- Fish UNDER 12" will not be scored and should not be photographed or recorded.
- A 12" bass is legal; a 11.75 in bass is not legal, no rounding will apply.
- Rounding will be DOWN and to the nearest  $\frac{1}{4}$  (quarter) inch.
- Some permanent markers will be available (until supplies run out). You are responsible for bringing your own, or returning the one you borrowed.

## **TIES**

- In the event of a TIE, the following criteria will decide the winner:
  - Biggest Fish
  - 2nd Biggest Fish
  - 3rd Biggest Fish
  - And so on until there are no more fish to compare; then a coin toss.
  - Ties will be decided by a 4-hour FISH-OFF
  - Total length, no limit, 12" minimum
  - Time and place to be decided between involved competitors and Tournament Director.
  - The winner takes 1st place and the runner up will move to 2nd, pushing 2nd to 3rd and so on.

## **CONTACT**

You may contact Duc Tran for questions or concerns.

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