



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 <https://www.cognitofirms.com/TexasBASSNation/2023SERegionTournamentTrail> 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 **ONLY**. Boat numbers will be posted at 6:30 and broadcasted on the SE Region website. In the event of technical issues our backup posting will be the SE Region Facebook page, emailed to club Presidents and posted on the registration trailer.
- **Boat Checks** – Boat checks will be done with the 1st Place finisher and with random 4 finishers who finish in the money
- **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. The Tournament director will give you your boat number key-fob as you drive by. Secure this key-fob and return it to officially check-in. 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). At 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. Assisting club volunteers wearing orange vest will check anglers in when key-fob is returned. If you leave the tournament early please sign your name at the tournament trailer. Failing to check in/return your key-fob 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/ Weigh-In 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 **Bag Dump** or **Cull Station**.
- We have two stations. A Bag Dump and a Cull Station. Our weigh-in bags will be located at the Bag Dump. One of the club volunteers who will be working directly with the Cull Master will man this station.
- When you go to the Bag Dump. You will retrieve 1 plastic and 1 mesh bag. The mesh bag goes into the plastic bag. Fill with the appropriate amount of water. 1/3rd is normally sufficient. Add your days catch to the bag combo.
- Bring the combined bags to the Bag Dump. Place both bags into the Bag Dump basin. Open bag and remove the mesh bag with your catch. The club volunteer will dump the water as you take your catch to the holding tanks.
- Wait until you are called by the Cull Master to approach the Cull Station when called. Take the mesh bag with your catch and hand it to the Cull Master. He will visually inspect your catch and remove them from the mesh bag. He will then hand the bag back to you. Place the bag into the empty basin and hold it open while the Cull Master verifies your catch and returns them to the bag.
- Once verified you are next to weigh-in. You will be asked if you have a BIG fish to weigh. If so, **YOU** are to pick your **BIG** fish and hand it to the Weigh Master. The weight will be registered and announced. Add your big fish back into your bag and hand the whole bag to the Weigh Master. Once your weight is registered, sign your weigh slip.
- After your weigh slip is signed. If you want photos of your catch, you are to take them to the Hospital tank. Please take care of your catch while you are getting ready for photos and keep the fish in the aeriated tank. Once complete you are to locate the Fish Acquiring Release Technician who will take your mesh bag from you and release your catch into either a release tank or a location designated lakeside. The F.A.R.T. will have an orange vest for recognition.
- Return mesh bag to the Bag Dump.

"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 Director**