

Single Series Official Rules & Regulations Effective November 1, 2026

Participation Agreement

- HAVING ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS, I HAVE READ & APPROVED THE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT AND COMPLETED THE ENTRY FORM BY THE DEADLINE DATES PROVIDED BY WISCO BASS.

- In signing this agreement, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, payment schedules, late fines and regulations.

- I expressly assume all risks associated with the WISCO BASS tournament series and I hereby release WISCO BASS LLC, its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, the hosts, sponsors and tournament series officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred by me in connection with my participation in this tournament series.

- If using a boat in this event, including official practice, I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the tournament's official practice, boat owners liability insurance (including coverage for third party property damage and bodily injury) with no "tournament exclusion," having a minimum limit of $300,000 per occurrence. The insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer rated A or better by A.M. Best and Company. Policy must include international waters, or a separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable WISCO BASS LLC events. At WISCO BASS LLC request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of that insurance.

- I hereby agree to waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the programs of the tournament in which I appear and consent to WISCO BASS LLC (and its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, its owners, directors, employees and agents and those acting under their permission or upon their authority), copyrighting, distributing,

televising, publishing and using in any way the audio and visual portions of any television videotape, film and photographs or pictures of me or of interviews, scenes or other sequences in which I may be included, and any reproduction thereof, anywhere at any time through any medium or media for advertising, promotion, trade, television programming or other lawful purpose whatsoever; and I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

- CONTENT RIGHTS: WISCO BASS LLC holds the content rights to the tournaments it owns and operates. However, WISCO BASS LLC grants certain exceptions, including the following content rights, to tournament participants:
    - During tournaments, WISCO BASS LLC may ask to mount a GoPro or similar camera in a competitor's boat (the footage may be used in WISCO BASS's web or TV coverage).
    - A competitor is required to comply, even if he already has a personal camera mounted in his boat. Refusing to comply may result in a penalty.
    - Still photos taken by an angler during a tournament may be posted to social media and the angler's website. WISCO BASS also encourages anglers to send photos, videos and updates to wiscobassllc@gmail.com for exposure on wiscobass.com and our social media pages.
    - WISCO BASS reserves the right to revoke these exceptions, and the angler must remove the tournament related content, if WISCO BASS LLC in its discretion believes the content is inappropriate or in any way violates other WISCO BASS LLC rules.
    - WISCO BASS LLC wants to help promote both your brand and the sport of bass fishing through its multimedia assets. If there are stories written about you or by you appearing on www.wiscobass.com, WISCO BASS LLC grants permission to link to these stories, and any others on our website, from your website or social media pages. Please credit www.wiscobass.com.

- CONTINGENCY PROGRAMS: Contingency programs are sponsor-funded programs developed to reward competitors based on a predefined set of criteria. Participation in contingency programs is at the anglers' discretion.

- ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS: I further understand and agree that the Tournament Director reserves the right to reject my application for any reason.

- ADDITIONAL AGREEMENTS: I further understand and agree that WISCO BASS LLC reserves the right to change any event dates, location, or tournament format for any unforeseen circumstance.

1) **RULES AND PENALTIES:**

a) The following rules shall apply to all WISCO BASS LLC events:

i) Rules for special tournaments may differ from those contained herein and these rules may be changed by WISCO BASS LLC immediately upon notice by WISCO BASS LLC to its members, which notice may be published on the WISCO BASS internet site at www.wiscobass.com.

ii) Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director or his/her designee at a tournament.

iii) In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director or a rules committee may impose such sanctions as deemed appropriate by them, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.

iv) Subject to the appeal process set forth in rule 3, below, the decision of the Tournament Director, his/her designee, or the rules committee shall be final in all matters. Except for very serious rules violations, as determined by WISCO BASS LLC, and any rules that might lead to disqualification of an angler from participation in WISCO BASS LLC tournaments, rules violations must be reported to tournament officials within 45 minutes or final awards presentation of the final flight check in on the day of the alleged violation. Penalties for rules violations may include the following:

(1) Reduction of competition hours as determined by the Tournament Director.

(2) Loss of one or more fish caught in a potential violation of rules or regulations. All bass under question must be marked and verified by tournament officials. If not verified, the entire catch may be disqualified.

(3) Loss of catch for the day of the violation.

(4) Disqualification from the tournament in question.

(5) Disqualification from future WISCO BASS LLC events, which may be for a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or a lifetime disqualification.

(6) Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director, including but not limited to monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of the Year points.

2) PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

a) This tournament is open only to current members of WISCO BASS LLC who are 16 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitors.

b) During the official practice and competition days of any WISCO BASS LLC tournament, no boater competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of $300,000, per occurrence, boat owners' liability insurance covering the boat being used in the tournament. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in that boat. Random checks will be conducted, and any competitor who does not have proof of in-force insurance with $300,000 coverage may be disqualified. Each policy must show an effective start and expiration date. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet WISCO BASS LLC requirements.

c) A properly completed and signed official entry form must be completed on www.wiscobass.com, received by WISCO BASS LLC on or before the application deadline date. Entry deadline date for each tournament shall be midnight 7 Days prior to the first competition day of each tournament. Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE.

d) Each calendar year prior to competing in a WISCO BASS LLC event, all competitors must complete a W-9 when required and when required a FORM 590, or W-8 BEN provided by WISCO BASS LLC. If tax status or address changes occur, new forms must be submitted to WISCO BASS LLC.

e) The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to the deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date.

3) PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

a) There will be no off-limits period for any tournament unless specified by the Tournament Director.
b) There will be an official practice period immediately prior to the first day of competition for regular-season events.
c) Practice will be allowed from dawn to 6:00pm during official practice.
d) Flying over tournament waters, other than a ticketed commercial airline, is prohibited during official practice and competition unless approved by the tournament director.
e) The use of drones, ladders, platforms, or any apparatus above the gunwale of the boat for the purposes of locating or catching fish or to gain a competitive advantage is prohibited in both official practice and competition.
f) During the official practice, competitors are not allowed to live well or keep any bass unless they have permission from tournament officials.
g) No practicing at night, defined as beginning at 30 minutes after local sunset and ending 30 minutes before local sunrise, to include running to and from a fishing location. In practice and competition, when running in low light conditions, running lights should be in operation.
h) Tournament waters are off limits the day prior to the championship WISCO CROWN event. Official practice will be one day prior to the off limits day.
i) Competitors renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to slip location.
j) Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with permission from the Tournament Director. NO EXCEPTIONS.
k) During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not snorkel, “skin dive” or “scuba dive” in the tournament waters.
l) No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.
m) Once tournament officials determine daily cuts, competitors not making the cut are no longer considered in the tournament. Competitors making the cut may not receive information from prior competitors not making the cut.
n) During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor shall not use cell phones for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergencies. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes.
o) A designated tournament official must be granted access to the competitor’s boat at any time during the official practice or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in immediate disqualification.
p) Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director immediately any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations, or

suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms, may be cause for disqualification.

q) OFFICIAL PROTESTS MUST BE FILED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 1. ALL PARTIES OF INTEREST WILL BE PROVIDED A COPY.

- **i)** An Appeals Processing Fee of $200 must be paid to WISCO BASS LLC. WISCO BASS LLC officials will submit its findings and recommendations, whose decisions are final.
- **ii)** By his/her signature on the official tournament entry form, each competitor agrees to submit to a truth verification test and abide by its conclusion should he/she be accused of any rule violation.
- **iii)** The WISCO BASS LLC tournament director, rules committee, or such person designated by the tournament director, shall have the discretion to determine the need for a truth verification test.
- **iv)** Failure of a truth verification examination is not appealable.
- **v)** The WISCO BASS LLC tournament director or his/her designee shall be responsible for selecting an independent expert to administer and interpret the results and establishing, in consultation with the expert administrator, the scope of the questions which may be asked during the test. The WISCO BASS LLC tournament director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest WISCO BASS LLC headquarters with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost.
- **vi)** The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the tournament director and shall cooperate in all respects with such test.
- **vii)** Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for all costs incurred.
- **viii)** Random truth verification tests may be administered on-site during the course of a WISCO BASS Event.

4) REGISTRATION & BOAT NUMBERS:

- **a)** Each competitor must complete the online registration form at www.wiscobass.com & pay for a $40 yearly membership.
- **b)** Each competitor must complete the event registration online at www.wiscobass.com & pay for each event.
- **c)** Each competitor registers and pays online for each event. Anglers registering will be assigned their boat number in sequential order as they register, all transactions are time-stamped. **NO REFUNDS.**
- **d)** Each competitor must register in person with official WISCO BASS LLC staff at each event to receive their boat number. Registration will open 2 hours before take-off on the day of each event, and you will have the option of registering for the big bass pot at the time of registration.
- **e)** Any competitor who has not contacted the WISCO BASS LLC tournament staff 15 minutes prior to the closing of the posted on-site registration period may be disqualified from participating in the tournament. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to either check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times from WISCO BASS officials.

5) SAFETY:

- **a)** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors.
- **b)** During the official practice and competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off.
- **c)** Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be a reason for disqualification.
- **d)** Inflatable PFDs are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that inflatable PFDs be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard-approved PFDs on board.
- **e)** It is recommended that each contestant successfully complete a boating safety course.
- **f)** Boating safety certification, or a “grandfathered” exception, may be required in certain states. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.
- **g)** When boating in low visibility situations i.e. fog, heavy rain, during both practice and competition, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by tournament officials.
- **h)** Radar units permanently mounted in the boat, subject to approval by WISCO BASS, may be approved for competition.
- **i)** Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel any part of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.
- **j)** Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.
- **k)** WISCO BASS LLC reserves the right to impose boat speed limits during any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit, and/or the actual speed limit imposed, shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.
- **l)** IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, COMPETITORS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND THEN NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
- **m)** COMPETITORS ARE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THE BOAT AND SEEK SAFE SHELTER IN BAD WEATHER WHERE DANGER MAY BE IMMINENT.

6) SPORTSMANSHIP:

a) Competitors in WISCO BASS LLC tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

b) Use of alcohol or the use of drugs (other than those drugs purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor, during the official practice or during the tournament, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future WISCO BASS LLC tournaments.

c) No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days.

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, may be reason for disqualification.

e) All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

7) ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:

a) Anglers participating in any WISCO BASS LLC event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating.

b) Anglers and family members of anglers, shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on WISCO BASS LLC, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors.

c) Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport.

d) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in WISCO BASS LLC events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.

- **i)** Heated public disagreements with WISCO BASS LLC officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.
- **ii)** Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of WISCO BASS LLC rules or officials.
- **iii)** Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of WISCO BASS LLC, WISCO BASS LLC officials or its sponsors
- **iv)** Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition or the event, where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.
- **v)** Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.
- **vi)** Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a WISCO BASS LLC event.
- **vii)** Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- **viii)** Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.
- **ix)** Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a WISCO BASS LLC tournament.

e) Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or crimes involving moral turpitude, may be grounds for disqualification from competition and for rejecting any application for participation.

f) Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, and suspension from competing in individual WISCO BASS LLC events, permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by WISCO BASS LLC.

8) TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

a) Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition.

b) During practice and competition, no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single man made device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single man made lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules.

c) No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, with the exception of pork strips or rinds.

d) Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is allowed per WI State fishing laws.

e) Twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On twin arm spinnerbaits, underspins and buzzbaits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure at the head or line tie point. The bend of the main hook must be even or trail behind where the blades attach to the wires.

f) WISCO BASS LLC officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is acceptable as defined above.

g) Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time.

h) A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use.

i) Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.

j) If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal.

k) He or she may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. The use of braid or other line to attach one stinger hook (single or treble) is allowed but cannot be over two inches in length.

l) No competitor may intentionally snag or foul hook a bass to be counted in their daily catch. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have his or her catch disqualified.

m) When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth.

n) Competitors, including those who have been “cut” from competition in an event, are allowed to share bait and tackle with one another at any time.

9) HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

a) Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard.
b) When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer.
c) The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this plate.
d) Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating.
e) Normal maintenance of engines is allowed.
f) Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification.
g) Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from WISCO BASS LLC tournaments.
h) Posted speed limits and those imposed by WISCO BASS LLC shall be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner.
i) Violations of speed limits shall result in loss of competition hours and not limited to disqualification.

10) BOAT AND MOTOR:

- **a)** These restrictions apply during official practice and competition.
- **b)** For the safety of all competitors, all boats shall be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard.
- **c)** Only one manufactured lanyard may be used and it must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear.
- **d)** Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat.
- **e)** Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used.
- **f)** Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat.
- **g)** Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing is not allowed.
- **h)** An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The "LONG LINING" or "STROLLING" technique is NOT allowed in both official practice and competition and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. No exceptions.
- **i)** Only gas tanks that are installed by the boat manufacturer are allowed. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor.
- **j)** Any boat/hull designs other than standard mass produced units are only allowed at the discretion of tournament officials.
- **k)** No jet powered boats are allowed in any WISCO BASS events. All engines must be equipped with a propeller. No jet propulsion lower units allowed.
- **l)** BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:
  - **i)** During official practice and competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump.
  - **ii)** During official competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass. WISCO BASS LLC recommends livewells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual.
  - **iii)** Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate.

11) BOAT INSPECTION:

a) Prior to take off each morning there will be a mandatory full boat inspection; an inspection location will be designated by tournament officials. It is each angler's full responsibility to have their boat inspected prior to take off, each angler will be given a colored ribbon to indicate completed inspection. Failure to complete boat inspection will be a forfeiture of your take off position.

12) PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- **a)** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament.
- **b)** Each competitor must obtain this information from WISCO BASS LLC.
- **c)** Any water within these boundaries posted “Off-Limits” or “No Fishing” by state or federal agencies as well as the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.
- **d)** Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters.
- **e)** Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall.
- **f)** No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing.
- **g)** All angling must be done from the boat.
- **h)** In states where landowners have the legal authority to claim private property, these areas must be posted or they will be considered tournament waters unless instructed otherwise by tournament officials at any time during the event. If forced to leave, a competitor must report the incident to tournament officials as soon as possible.
- **i)** Any water to which a competitor is barred access becomes off-limits to all competitors.
- **j)** Prior to the tournament registration, any questionable areas must be brought to the attention of tournament officials to be considered tournament waters and may be announced in the briefing for all to hear unless determined otherwise by tournament officials.
- **k)** Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.
- **l)** Competitors are not allowed to cut, remove, displace, or engage in any type structure removal from private property (dry land) during off limits, official practice or competition. Moving structure to include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water is only allowed if laws permit. No competitor may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

13) COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

- **a)** During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
- **b)** Competitors may not shift a majority of their weight outside the boat and onto a dock or other object outside the boat for the purpose of landing a bass or accessing a fishing spot.
- **c)** A bass that cannot be landed without the angler leaving the boat or shifting his weight outside the boat must be released immediately.
- **d)** While keeping the majority of weight in the boat anglers are allowed for boat protection to push or shove off objects while landing a fish to be counted as legal.
- **e)** Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until the competitor is back in the boat. Only then may another cast be made.
- **f)** Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days.
- **g)** Competitors must leave from and return to official checkpoints by boat.
- **h)** Anglers must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5 and 13.
- **i)** In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director.
- **j)** In breakdown situations and with a tournament official's permission, anglers may transfer their boat's fish to another competitor's boat and ride to check in.
- **k)** Any angler whose boat is disabled and rides with another competitor or rescue boat to weigh in is not allowed to fish.
- **l)** In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease.
- **m)** If a competitor violates any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means, or to report an emergency or breakdown), competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament.
- **n)** If, after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials, and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed, the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations as determined by the Tournament Director or his/her designee.
- **o)** Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.

14) OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

- **a)** There shall be only one official checkpoint for checkout in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, which points shall be designated at the tournament briefing.
- **b)** Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification.
- **c)** At the time of checkout, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director.
- **d)** At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 4 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area.
- **e)** Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass need to check in with tournament officials stating they are not weighing any bass.

15) SCORING:

- **a)** Tournament standings, contingency awards and final winners shall be determined by the decimal pounds weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament.
- **b)** Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, bass will be weighed.
- **c)** The Boater limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day, unless otherwise specified by tournament officials (example – hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events).
- **d)** At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit.
- **e)** If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a ***2 pound penalty*** to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in.
- **f)** Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table.
- **g)** If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a ***2 pound penalty***. Penalty to be deducted from their daily score.
- **h)** If a competitor has his fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials within one hour of final flight check in to receive a ***2 pound penalty*** for each bass discovered.
- **i)** Anglers who do not remove fin clips prior to verification will be assessed a ***0.25 lb. penalty per clip***.
- **j)** No man made or foreign object connected to a bass will be weighed and shall be removed by tournament officials.
- **k)** The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the Tournament Briefing (14" length w/mouth closed).
- **l)** In most cases, it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed.
- **m)** Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in disqualification of the entire catch that day, an angler can ask for a courtesy bump prior to weigh-in.
- **n)** Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials.
- **o)** After competitors check in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed.

p) Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded.
q) Bass shall not be stringered at any time during the tournament.
r) Specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.
s) Bass will be weighed in a decimal LBS format.
t) YTD AOY points will start at 150 for first place & subtract 1 point from that point down the leaderboard.
u) 10 points subtracted from last weight will be granted for an angler with no fish brought to the scales.
v) 100% payout is being attempted, paying 80% currency & the remaining 20% paying out sponsor product, sponsor prizes, sponsor media coverage.

16) CATCH AND RELEASE:

- **a)** CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.
- **b)** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized ***1 pound*** to be deducted from their daily score.
- **c)** Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch.
- **d)** The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.
- **e)** In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes.
- **f)** It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care.
- **g)** Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants.
- **h)** For fish care concerns, the verification table will open one hour prior to check in time of the first flight.
- **i)** SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED. It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process.
- **j)** Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised.
- **k)** Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed for use.
- **l)** Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed.
- **m)** Proper fizzing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzing practices, please contact tournament officials.

17) LATE PENALTY:

- **a)** Competitors who are not at the official check-in point, as described in Rule 14, at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of ***1 pound per minute*** late; to be deducted from the total weight of his/her catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “big bass award”.
- **b)** Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch.
- **c)** There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time.”
- **d)** After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in.
- **e)** After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.
- **f)** Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing.
- **g)** TIES: At any WISCO BASS LLC event, in case of a tie, each competitor's big bass that was weighed resolves the tie. It is encouraged that every angler weighs his/her big bass in case of a tie. If no big bass was weighed by each competitor a coin toss will determine tie breaker.

18) PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:

- **a)** Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing, which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors.
- **b)** WISCO BASS LLC may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in WISCO BASS LLC sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official WISCO BASS LLC sponsors, or which are, in WISCO BASS LLC sole judgment, in poor taste.
- **c)** WISCO BASS LLC will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances.
- **d)** By signing this document, each competitor agrees to adhere WISCO logo to their driver's windshield of the boat to be eligible for angler of the year points.
- **e)** WISCO logo will be provided with your yearly membership. If logo(s) are misplaced or lost, the angler must purchase additional logo(s) to be eligible for promotional products/sponsorship/angler of the year points that season.

19) AOY POINTS:

- **a)** Competitors that fish any event throughout the season will accumulate Angler of the Year Points. At the end of the regular season (Rounds 1-4) top 50 in AOY points will be invited to register for the WISCO CROWN, 2 day cumulative weight championship. All events are points events.

20) TAXES:

- **a)** Competitors are responsible for all applicable taxes on both cash and merchandise awards.
- **b)** Various States require withholding tax on merchandise be paid upon the awarding of certificates and anglers awarded merchandise certificates in these States are responsible for remitting their tax to WISCO BASS LLC.
- **c)** Failure to meet those obligations may result in reduction of Angler of Year Points, fines, and/or disqualification from all future WISCO BASS LLC events. Angler information will be gathered for competitors who earn checks/cash after each event.

21) WAIVER AND RELEASE:

- **a)** As a condition of participation in each tournament, each competitor must execute a waiver and release of liability, and a name and likeness release.

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