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Sports and Recreation

PVA BASS TOURNAMENT RULES and REGULATIONS 2022-2023 Schedule of Events:

Tournament Stops	Location	Date
Mid-America PVA Okie Open	Lake Eufaula Eufaula, Oklahoma	September 16-18, 2022
Southeastern PVA Southeastern Challenge	Thurmond/ Clark Hill Lake Evans, Georgia	Sept. 30-Oct 2, 2022
Vaughan PVA Land of Lincoln	Rend Lake Mt Vernon, Ill	October 7-9, 2022
Florida Gulf Coast Citrus Slam	Lake TOHO Kissimmee, Florida	March 24-26, 2023
Kentucky/Indiana PVA Bluegrass Bass Bash	Kentucky/Barkley Lake Kuttawa, Kentucky	April 21-23, 2023
Mid-Atlantic PVA Old Dominion Brawl	James River 7 Appomattox River Hopewell, Virginia	June 2-4, 2023
PVA National Capital Clash	Potomac River Marbury, Maryland	June 9-11, 2023

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## **Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tournament Rules - 2022/2023**

The following rules apply to all participants and shall remain unchanged except for special events conducted by the PVA host chapters agreed to by the assigned PVA Bass Tournament Committee officials.

### **TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE**

Interpretation and enforcement of the tournament rules shall be made exclusively by the selected Tournament Committee for the event. The Tournament Committee will consist of the national PVA Sports and Recreation representative, PVA host chapter Tournament Director, and Angler Representative. In the event of rule violation, the tournament Committee may impose sanctions as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of points and prizes, and prohibition from participation in future PVA national fishing tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters. Failure to make rule changes or decisions without the Tournament Committee's full consent will breach the PVA's National Bass Tournament Series contract between the PVA host chapter and PVA national. A breach of the contract agreement may result in the participants' results being forfeited for inclusion in year-end standings.

The Tournament Director and host chapter will receive the opportunity to remedy any violations to maintain the event's integrity. A host chapter that continues to be non-compliant after being notified of their rule infractions will have their Tournament Director removed and replaced by a PVA sports and recreation national representative or Angler Representative. Suppose the PVA national representative or the Angler Representative is not available. In that case, the host chapter will pick an acting Tournament Director that will need to be approved by the Tournament Committee. If no reasonable replacement is available, the PVA national representative and the Angler representative can decide to cancel the remainder of the tournament. All points earned by participants will be forfeited, and the host chapter's violations will be reviewed by PVA national.

### **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

PVA's Bass Tournament Series representatives reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone. All PVA Bass Tour events shall be limited to those who meet the eligibility requirements of the competition in which they submit a properly completed application. All Participants must be 18 years or older to compete in PVA's Bass Tournament Series events.

All competitions will initially be open to anyone who meets registration/rules requirements, regardless of disability. Confirmation and verification of a qualified disability will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Committee, whose decision will be final. Medical evaluation forms may be required for all new anglers or anglers whose disability is in question or unknown. Each contestant must register online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). If you need assistance completing your application, PVA Sports and Recreation staff are available to assist. No paper registrations will be accepted.

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The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject an entry form and/or stop the acceptance of applications.

## **REGISTRATION**

Failure to comply with these rules may result in immediate disqualification, point deduction, or other penalties.

- a. Each Angler and Boat Partner must register in person with tournament staff at the time and place provided on the schedule of events (Partner Pairing).
- b. Each Angler and Boat Partner must be present at any mandatory participants' meetings unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Director.
- c. Tournament Director must inform the Tournament Committee of anyone not in attendance during any mandatory meetings.
- d. All partner pairing procedures must be followed for those not in attendance.
- e. Pairing will not be assigned by the Tournament Director or host PVA chapter.
- f. All participants are responsible for adhering to the schedule of events for registration time and location.
- g. Refund policy will be determined by the host PVA chapter and made available to all registered participants.

## **MANDATORY REGISTRATION/PARTNER PAIRING**

Registration will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday before the event. All pairings will be completed at the partner pairing banquet after all anglers and boat captains are checked in. The random partner pairings will be announced at the mandatory meeting at 7:30 p.m. The partners will be selected through a random process, and no pre-pairing of partners will be allowed. If an angler cannot attend the Friday night partner pairing meeting, the angler must contact the Tournament Director before the pairing. Any angler unable to participate in the partner pairing meeting will have their partner selected for them as part of the pairing process. The Tournament Director or a representative from the host chapter will be responsible for a fair pairing and notifying any absent participants of their pairing. Any Tournament Director or chapter representative not in compliance with these rules will result in the PVA National Representative and the Angler Representative closing the current pairing and completing a new pairing that adheres to the guidelines. The PVA National Representative can remove the Tournament Director for noncompliance with these rules as it could result in unfair pairing, cheating, loss of points, and interfere with the tournament series B.A.S.S. sanction. Additionally, any failure by the Tournament Director or host chapter to follow these rules is a breach of the PVA National BASS Tournament Series contract between the host chapter and PVA National. Breach of contract could result in the chapter not receiving their grant and their tournament being omitted from year-end standings.

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## **OPEN COMPETITION**

Anglers wishing to enter one or more tournament events may begin registration online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). The entry fee for Open Competition Angler is \$135 per event, which includes \$10 for the “Big Bass” pot. Full entry fees of \$135 per event registered must be paid in full, for each tournament, to the host chapter. The host chapter will determine the deadline for payment. If you are unable to register online, you may use the paper form to register by mail.

## **BANK COMPETITION**

Anglers may choose to fish only one competition or both competitions. Some prize restrictions may apply, as determined by the PVA host chapter. The Tournament Director will disclose any changes to the payouts and prizes at the mandatory partner pairing meeting. Host chapters can make changes to the Bank Division as long as the Tournament Committee agrees to the changes. All bank anglers will be notified of the changes two weeks prior of the tournament.

You may enter any tournament online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). Boat partner entry fees remain at \$50 all meals (Friday night reception/Partner-Pairing dinner, Saturday night Partner Appreciation Dinner, as well as breakfast, lunch and beverages on Saturday and Sunday).

**Any fee not paid in full by the deadline will result in the participant being dropped from the event unless otherwise determined by the host PVA chapter.**

## **REGISTRATION CONFIRMATION**

A confirmation letter and other tournament information will be sent to all registered participants two weeks prior to the event. All event information can be accessed online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports).

## **EVENT VOLUNTEERS**

All volunteers must be 18 years or older to volunteer.

- a. PVA host chapters that would like to waive the volunteer age restriction must secure their own sports insurance coverage for their event. Any changes to this restriction will be reviewed by PVA’s General Counsel to ensure that the insurance policy selected meets all the necessary requirements for hosting an event.
- b. PVA National will not provide insurance coverage for an event that includes volunteers or participants under 18 years of age.
- c. The parent or guardian of any volunteer under 18 years of age must execute a waiver and release on behalf of the minor volunteer.

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### **OPEN DIVISION - DAY 1 COMPETITION (Individual)**

The Open competition is designed to pair anglers with a disability with able-bodied partners to fish the tournament. In their role, the able-bodied partner provides **mentorship, coaching, and navigational assistance** for the angler.

- a. Open Competition anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military; is currently rehabbing in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (military), or civilian hospital; is a PVA member or PVA Associate Member either walking or wheeling or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included).
- b. If necessary, two Open Competition participants may be paired. The Team Competition shall be open to any able-bodied partner, herein after referred to as “boat partner.”
- c. No additional persons may be in the boat unless approved by the Tournament Committee.
- d. Scoring will be based on the total weight of bass caught with a limit of 5 fish. In some tournaments additional competitions decided by the host chapter but are not mandatory (E.g., trash fish, crappie competition, etc.)
- e. Able-bodied partners are not allowed to fish for participants and will be disqualified from the competition if found in violation of this rule.
- f. Able-bodied partners may assist anglers in securing their catch if the angler’s disability prohibits this action from taking place.

### **TEAM DIVISION - DAY 2 COMPETITION (Partner)**

Both anglers and boat partners will compete together for total fish and weight.

- a. Team Competition anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military; currently rehabbing in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (military), or civilian hospital; is a PVA member or PVA Associate Member either walking or wheeling or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included).
- b. No additional persons may be in the boat unless approved by the Tournament Committee.
- c. Scoring will be based on the total weight of bass caught with a limit of 5 fish per team.
- d. Able-bodied partners are allowed to fish for participants as long as it supports the injury of the angler.
- e. Able-bodied partners may assist anglers in securing their catch if the angler’s disability prohibits this action from taking place.

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Two weeks prior to the event, the Tournament Director will disclose any changes to the payouts and prizes as part of the confirmation letter sent to participants. All changes will also be communicated during the partner pairing meeting.

### **PARTICIPANTS MUST REMAIN IN THE BOAT**

All fishing in the Open/Team Competitions must be done from the boat. Participants must not depart the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Both participants must stay in the boat and together in the sight of each other, except in a dire emergency. In such an event, participants may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by another competitor, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Committee. In the Open Competition, the angler with the disability must be removed under the condition stated herein. Both partners must be removed from the boat in the Team Competition to take the team's catch to weigh in. If a contestant violates any of the conditions for any reason (except for a dire emergency), their catch for the day shall not be counted. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except at the direction of the Tournament Committee. No additional persons may be on the ship unless the Tournament Committee approves. Persons considered will only be authorized for medical reasons.

### **B.A.S.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Any voting member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America in the Open Competition, who wants their points or finish to count toward the year-end points total for qualification to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship, per the B.A.S.S. sanction requirements, is required to be a member of B.A.S.S. and a member of a B.A.S.S. Nation Club before competing in a tour event for which they wish those points or finish to count. Proof of membership is required. Contact the PVA Bass Tour for instructions on joining a B.A.S.S. Nation Club.

### **BANK DIVISION**

#### **DAY 1 COMPETITION (Individual)**

The bank division provides an opportunity for anglers with disabilities who may not be comfortable on a boat or are unable to fish from a boat to fish from a dock. Bank Division anglers wishing to enter any or all tour events may register online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). Full entry fees of \$40 for a single day or \$80 for both competition days (which includes the "Big Fish" pot) must be paid in full at time of registration. If you are unable to register online, please contact PVA's Sports and Recreation Department for help. You may register in person Friday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., however, early registration is highly recommended.

- a. Bank anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military; currently rehabbing in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA),

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- Department of Defense (military), or civilian hospital; is a PVA member or PVA Associate Member either walking or wheeling or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included).
- b. Scoring for the Bank Competition is based on a total weight fish caught with a limit of 10 fish. A Bank Division angler may catch and weigh any species of fish 4 in. and longer.
  - c. While minimal assistance is allowed in the Bank Competition, it shall be limited to those tasks that anglers are not able to complete on their own.

### **DAY 2 COMPETITION (Partner)**

- a. Bank anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military; currently rehabbing in a Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (military), or civilian hospital; is a PVA member or PVA Associate Member either walking or wheeling or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included).
- b. Anglers will be randomly paired in teams.
- c. Each angler will weigh in separately, but his or her day's catch will count together for a team score and team prizes (as will any penalties).
- d. While minimal assistance is allowed in the Bank Competition, it shall be limited to those tasks that anglers are not able to complete on their own.
- e. In the case of uneven teams, the angler with the highest weight, on the team, will weigh in with both partners, allowing them the opportunity to double place. Additionally, any member on the team can fish by themselves as their own team. If two or more participants would like to fish as their own team, the committee must be notified, and vote must occur.

### **FOLLOWING RULES APPLY ONLY to the BANK DIVISION RODS AND REELS**

There are no restrictions on the types/length of poles, rods, and reels that can be used as long as safety is not an issue. One rod and reel with a maximum of two hooks or one artificial lure, factory built, with more than two hooks, can be used per person. If a lure is deemed questionable, the Tournament Director, Angler Representative and the PVA national representative will decide if the lure is legal to use. State laws will apply.

### **LENGTH OF FISH**

Except for unique events, the minimum length for fish of all species is four inches. All species of fish will be weighed. Anglers are encouraged to weigh in all fish caught longer than four inches. Only each angler's heaviest 10 fish per day will be counted in the team or individual standings. Federal, state, and local laws will apply.

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## **BAIT**

Artificial, live bait, and prepared bait are allowed in the Bank Competition. Chumming will not be allowed by individual anglers, teams, or others in the Bank Competition area. Chumming may only be done by a tournament official for the benefit of all.

## **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

Fishing is permitted anywhere except within a designated circle that the Bank Division director will determine. The angler is responsible for informing other competitors when they have entered the designated circle claimed by them. No competitor shall permit selected competitors to fish within the designated circle claimed by them to the exclusion of any other competitor. No competitor shall have a third party sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot for any reason. A competitor must take all lines out of the water and stop fishing if more than 10 feet away from the rod being used.

## **Casting**

Casting must be completed in a straight pattern. All anglers or volunteers can cast at 11:00, 12:00, or 1:00. Due to weather conditions, the cast may flow in various directions. If the cast continues to flow in the direction of another participant, the bank representative will adjust the locations of the anglers accordingly. Anglers must adhere to the location change.

## **EVENT SAFETY**

Safety for all participants in the PVA Bass Tournament series is paramount and a priority to deliver a quality event. The Tournament Committee will enforce all safety rules, and they are non-negotiable. Any individual not adhering to the safety guidelines will be removed from the tournament and face further sanctioning from the Tournament Committee. All tournament participants must always observe safe boating conduct and caution.

- a. Each participant is required to wear a Coast Guard–approved type III or greater life preserver. The preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in operation.
- b. During the official practice days and during the tournament hours the life preserver must be strapped, zippered, snapped, or buckled securely and maintained in that position until the combustion engine is shut off.
- c. The interior of the boat must be in good condition to avoid causing bodily harm to the angler.
- d. The Tournament Committee has the authority to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of factors that may endanger the safety of participants.
- e. Tournament waters, event schedule, or format may also be altered at any time for any reason to ensure event is safe for participants.



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- f. Participants who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, operate the boat in such a manner as to endanger themselves or others will be disqualified.

General federal, state, and local statutes and regulations will bind all participants. If weather prevents day one competition, day two will host both Open and Team events. The Angler will be allowed three legal bass, and the able-bodied boat partner will be allowed two legal basses for a total of five basses. Flight orders will remain the same as on the canceled day of competition.

### **EVENT SAFETY PLAN**

All host chapters and Tournament Directors must have a safety plan that includes communication to anglers and boat partners during inclement weather, boat break down emergency numbers and procedures (in partner packet), any medical emergency procedures, locations of nearest medical facilities and any important emergency plans. These plans must be approved by the PVA National Representative one month prior to the tournament.

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

Participants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship. Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, including refraining from the use of profane language. Any act that reflects unfavorably on PVA, its chapters, sponsors, or one's efforts to promote conservation, disability awareness, and clean waters shall be the reason for disqualification from this and/or all future tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants, depressants, or other illegal or dangerous drugs shall be allowed in a competitor's boat at any time.

### **PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE**

- There will be three official practice days immediately preceding the first day of the tournament.
- a. There shall be no off-limits period.
  - b. All rules will apply on official practice days.
  - c. Two weeks (14 days) prior to, as well as during the official practice days and during the tournament, a competitor may not buy or barter a fishing location, including the hiring of guides.
  - d. The tournaments' off-limits live release area will be identified and announced during the mandatory pre-tournament meeting.

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## **FISHING LICENSE**

A state fishing license is required unless an exemption has been issued for a particular tournament. The angler's responsibility is to ensure they have the appropriate fishing license for the event they attend. The host chapter must notify the participants of the state fishing license requirement within two weeks of the tournament.

## **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

Only artificial lures may be used; no "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted in the Team/Open Competitions. Only one casting, flipping, spin casting, or spinning rod and reel, 8 feet maximum length tip to butt, may be used at any time. All other types of rods/reels are prohibited. Other rods, as specified above, may be in the boat ready to use; however, only one is permitted at any given time. A "hung up" rod will be considered as not in use. Adaptive equipment designed to assist competitors in withholding or manipulating their rods and reels is allowed. Trolling is prohibited. All bass must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging fish on spawning will have the day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by your partner before being unhooked to be considered legal.

During the Open Competition, a fish caught by the partner must be immediately released and is potentially one less bass that the Open Competition participants might catch. **The partner's assistance shall be limited to helping to select the fishing location, lure selection and installation, and assistance with landing a fish.** Landing nets are permitted. The partners are prohibited from casting the bait or setting the hook, passing the rod to the angler, or giving fish they caught to any participant.

## **Equipment:**

All participants are encouraged to bring their tackle, necessary gear, and clothing for inclement weather. Anglers in the Team/Open Competition who wish to fish from their boat must indicate this on the registration form. Boats must be 16 feet or longer, capable of safely holding two anglers, and equipped with an operational live well and kill switch, including during official pre-fishing. The live well and kill switch will be checked each morning of the competition before launch. Any failure of the Tournament Director or host chapter to comply with this rule will delay the launch. Noncompliance with these checks may cause severe injury or death to participants and the fish. If it is determined that these checks were not completed, the PVA National representative and the Angler Representative will conduct a live well and kill switch check. Any boat not complying with these rules will be immediately removed from the competition. The Tournament Director and host chapter will receive a warning. Suppose the Tournament Director and host chapter are non-compliant on day two. In that case, the Tournament Director will be removed from the event, and the PVA Representative or the Angler Representative will replace them for the remainder of the tournament. Suppose neither the PVA Representative nor the angler representative is available. In that case, the host chapter will pick an acting Tournament Director that will need to be approved by the Tournament Committee. If no reasonable replacement is available, the committee can decide to cancel the remainder of the tournament.

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Boat partners are encouraged to bring extra equipment, including life vests and extra tackle, as some participants may have limited access to equipment.

If you would like to donate equipment for participants, please work with the Tournament Director and the local PVA chapter representatives.

### **USE of ELECTRONIC DEVICES:**

A competitor who uses a radio, a cell phone, or any other communication device for the purpose of locating or catching bass is prohibiting the angler from catching fish and possibly effecting their chance to win and point standings. Although we will not prohibit the use of electronic devices, we ask that all participants be considerate of their partners and use electronic devices only for emergencies or for tournament information purposes. If a participant files a protest against their partner for using an electronic device to support other participants and it is found to have been excessive, the committee may vote to remove the partner from the tournament.)

No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day.

Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Committee any violation or infraction of these tournament rules. The failure to immediately report any rules violations shall be grounds for disqualification from the tournament. Each competitor further agrees by his or her entry into this tournament to be bound by these rules, and to submit to a polygraph test should he or she be asked to for any reason.

Random polygraphs will be given. The administration and interpretation of the test shall solely be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee and their agents and decisions to use the test will be made at their discretion. The Tournament Committee shall, without limitation, select the polygrapher, date, time, location, scope of questions to be asked, etc. The participant shall be available, at his or her own expense, at the location selected. Any infractions of these rules could be grounds for disqualification from this and future PVA-sponsored tournaments. Video evidence may be used to enforce these rules and regulations.

### **TOURNAMENT BOATS**

#### **Horsepower Regulations**

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No boat with a horsepower engine higher than 250hp will be allowed in the tournament. In addition, the engine horsepower cannot be higher than is specified on the manufacturer's BIA rating plate. Rating plate must be attached to the boat where required.

### **Boat and Motor**

No boat shorter than 16 feet in length will be permitted, measuring from bow to stern. All boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine operates. No "barges," "pontoon boats,"

or other cumbersome crafts will be permitted unless an Angler uses it as an adaptive device. This alternative must be cleared through the Tournament Committee within 48 hours of competition. No boat equipped with stick steering shall be permitted to be used during the tournament. A small motor, gas or electric, may be used for slow maneuvering. Any competitor who answers "yes" to "Will you be bringing and using your boat (boater)?" will be put in the draw as such. Any competitor who answers "no" to the same will be entered as a non-boater and paired with someone with a boat when possible. Any competitor who joins as a non-boater may not use their boat during tournament days unless so requested by tour officials. Any competitor who enters as a non-boater and answers "yes" to the question, "Will you have a legal tournament boat available for tournament use if needed?" will be required to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and a daily partner, if so, requested by tournament officials. Suppose an Angler's ship encounters a mechanical failure during official practice days and wishes to go as a non-boater. In that case, you will need to get a representative from the Tournament Committee to confirm mechanical failure.

### **Basic Boat Equipment**

Every boat must have all required Coast Guard equipment. In addition, each boat must have a functional bilge pump, and adequate live well space, properly aerated to keep alive a limit catch of bass. The Tournament Committee shall have sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity of the live well are proper and adequate.

### **Boat Identification**

Each boat MUST receive, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official and a boat marker, which must remain on the boat in plain view.

### **Boat Operation**

A full discussion must be held between the Angler and the able body boat partner prior to the morning departure as to the schedule and boat operations.

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## **FUEL/OIL CHARGES**

**Chapters or anglers (as determined and communicated by the chapter before the event) will be required to pay the fuel and oil charges for the boat captains on Open competition day and a HALF the fuel and oil charges for the boat captains on Team competition day.** It is essential and highly recommended to discuss this with the boat owner and agree upon the payment conditions before the tournament's commencement. Non-boating able-bodied partners fishing with a mobility impaired dangler that brings their own boat will be required to pay for ANY fuel or oil charges. The exception to this rule is if the host chapter replaces a non-boating partner during the partner pairing or competition. The chapter will be responsible for fuel or oil charges.

## **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

Fishing on tour waters is permitted anywhere except within 25 yards of another competitor's boat anchored first or secured in a fixed location. The anchored boat is responsible for informing other competitors when they have entered the 50-yard circle, as claimed by him. No such ship shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by them to the exclusion of any other competitor. No competitor shall have a non-competitor sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot. Off-limits areas are:

1. Any areas that may be designated by federal, state, or local governments
2. Any areas designated by tour officials.
3. The live bass release area

## **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT**

There shall be an official checkpoint for each tournament. At the time of checkout/in, all participants and boats shall be in full compliance with the rules set forth by the Tournament Committee. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves, as described by officials, at the official checkpoint and proceed as directed to the weigh-in area. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all legal fish in the possession to be counted, measured, and weighed. It is imperative that all boats check in regardless of their catch. On Open day only, there will be an official morning check-in location and time that will be determined at the partner-pairing meeting. Each Angler **MUST** check in before the set time or he/she will be the last boat out and due back in the first flight.

## **SCORING**

Tournament standings will be determined by the weight of each participant's or team's catch during the tournament day(s). In the Team/Open Competition, only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass, and shoal bass will be weighed. The limit for the Open Competition shall be a maximum of five basses per competitor. The limit

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for the Team Competition shall be a maximum of five basses per team. General federal, state, and local statutes and regulations on fish size and limitation will bind all participants. Participants may not cull dead fish. At no time will participants have more than the limit described above in their possession. Tournament officials will conduct checks for these violations. The Angler (s) must immediately cull down to the legal limit when more than a legal limit is caught. Failure to do so will remove the most significant fish from the legal limit.

Only bass that conforms to the minimum length assigned by state statute or the tour officials measured on a flat board with mouth closed along the longest straight line will be weighed. In no case shall the minimum length be less than 12 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in that fails to conform to a minimum size assigned will be disqualified, and a one-pound penalty will be assessed. The angler or able-body boat partner may request a “Courtesy Bump” prior to the official weigh-in. The maximum penalty is the total weight of the catch. Once a competitor’s catch has been presented to tournament officials, competitors may not add to, or touch said catch until after the official weigh-in. Changes in minimum length must be addressed at the rules and safety briefing. Each state has different, mandated minimum length requirements.

### **PENALTY POINTS**

It is incumbent upon each contestant to take utmost care of his or her catch. A penalty of four ounces will be assessed for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The determination of a live or dead fish will be the sole responsibility of the tour officials. Any penalty will be from the total score of the contestant. Dead fish may not be weighed to compete for Big Bass.

### **LATE PENALTY**

Participants who are not at the official checkpoint as described in rule 15 at the appointed time will be penalized at a rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight that day, including any “Lunker award,” up to 15 minutes, at which time their catch will be disqualified for the day. All fishing will cease upon arriving at the official checkpoint. After the tournament briefing begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.

Exceptions can be considered by the Tournament Committee in cases of emergency.

### **TIES**

In case of ties, standings will be determined by most fish weighed, most live fish weighed, largest fish caught if available, and if a tie still exists, a means selected by the Tournament Committee will break the tie.



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## **PAIRING PARTICIPANTS**

Boat numbers will be assigned to Anglers by random drawing. Anglers will be paired with their partners by random drawing. In conjunction with the host PVA chapter representative, Tour officials may reassign partners at any time during the tournament for reasons such as medical emergencies or lack of appropriate boat partners on a case-by-case basis. Tournament waters, event schedule, or format may also be altered at any time.

## **PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE**

PVA Bass Tour encourages the use of patches, logos, and other signage to promote sponsors.

Realizing we are entering into a television/media/sponsorship field that may sometimes restrict the use of such signage, etc., that promotes or advertises products, tour officials reserve the right to limit the use of such signage with as much advance notice as possible. Angler of the Year will be required to wear National PVA Sponsor jerseys at all National PVA invited events and will not be allowed to wear CONFLICTING sponsor paraphernalia (i.e., hats, t-shirts, jackets, jerseys, patches, etc.).

## **“ANGLER OF THE YEAR” OPEN & BANK COMPETITIONS: OPEN DIVISION VETERAN**

Angler of the Year and Angler of the Year Veteran will be determined by those who have accumulated the highest number of points for five of the seven Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tour events and have met all eligibility requirements. Points will be awarded to those competitors who weigh a fish, based on results (100 points—first place; 99—second place, etc.) No points are given during team competition. If a tie still exists, a means selected by the Tournament Committee, will break the tie.

Bank Division: Points for Bank Angler of the Year will be counted only on the individual competition day (Day 1). No points will be given for team competition (Day 2).

## **PROTEST PROCEDURES**

Any dispute shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee. The PVA National representative of Sports and Recreation, in consultation with the host PVA chapter representative and the angler representative, shall have the authority to decide the dispute. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final. **An official protest can be made up to 30 minutes after the last boat weighs in.**

## **SERVICE ANIMALS**

Service animals are allowed on the boat or at the location of the Bank Division. Service animals must be trained and certified. All service animals must be taken care of by the participant during the tournament. This includes adequate water supply, food, shelter during hot temperatures, and any inclement weather gear necessary. We also

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require a life jacket to be available. The Boat Partner reserves the right to close competition for his participant if they deem the safety of the service animal is threatened or the security of the boat is compromised. Any unsafe or inappropriate behavior surrounding a service animal, as determined by the Tournament Committee, may result in an athlete being dropped from the competition

## **MEALS**

All tournaments will include a continental breakfast and sack lunch with ice and drinks will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. Please bring your own lunch if you have dietary concerns or restrictions. A Partner Appreciation Dinner will be provided Saturday afternoon following the day of fishing. In addition, meals should be provided for the bank division and any volunteers supporting the event during the day hours. A Sunday meal should be supplied for anglers, volunteers, and families before they depart home. Dinners are based on the number of participants, family members, volunteers, and sponsors. Please let the host chapter know when you register if you choose not to attend. Host chapters may consider gift cards in place of a meal for Sunday. This will help keep chapter costs down. The host chapter is responsible for informing participants of any changes to gatherings for meals. The host chapter must notify the Tournament Committee of changes to the meal plans within two weeks of the tournament.

## **1099 TAX FORM**

The host PVA chapter will be responsible for supplying a 1099 Tax Form to all participants whose cash and prizes are valued at \$600 or more. PVA National will require a copy of all 1099s from each tournament. Failure to comply will result in a breach of the PVA National Bass Tournament Series contract between the chapter and PVA National. Breach of contract could result in loss of bass grant their tournament being omitted from year-end standing.

## **Participant CODE OF CONDUCT:**

Anglers participating in any PVA, B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they participate.

Anglers shall, always, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor, and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff, and the public and does not reflect unfavorably on PVA and B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments, or sponsors.

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



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Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in PVA, B.A.S.S. sanctioned events that will cause penalties as outlined in this document.

By reviewing the CODE OF CONDUCT, you agree to adhere to them. Please review below:

1. Heated public disagreements with PVA National Representative, Tournament Committee, other competitors, fans, and volunteers during an event.
2. Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of PVA rules or officials.
3. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of PVA, B.A.S.S. or PVA officials, or its sponsors
4. Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to the fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators, and the media, are present.
5. Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling, or penalty except through the proper channels.
6. Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening, or defamatory) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors, or others connected with a PVA, B.A.S.S. sanctioned event, including comments on social media.
7. Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural, or sexual overtones regarding event officials, personnel, or fellow anglers.
8. Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete.

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 PVA, B.A.S.S. sanctioned tournament. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, the conviction of a felony, or crimes involving

moral turpitude may be grounds for disqualification from the competition and for rejecting any application for participation.

Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Sportsmanship Rules or the participant Code of Conduct may be subject to fines, reduction of points, forfeiture of tournament winnings, suspension from competing in individual PVA B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, a permanent ban from competition or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by PVA.

HAVING ACQUAINTED MYSELF WITH THE RULES AND REQUIREMENTS, I HAVE SUBMITTED MY REGISTRATION TO ACKNOWLEDGE MY COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS EXPECTED OF ME AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE PVA BASS TOURNAMENT SERIES SANCTIONED BY B.A.S.S... MY REGISTRATION IS NOT COMPLETE UNTIL PVA ACKNOWLEDGES RECEIPT AND ACCEPTANCE OF ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS. THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE AND CHAPTER RESERVE THE



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RIGHT TO REJECT MY APPLICATION FOR ANY REASON AND, UPON SUCH REJECTION, TO REFUND THE DEPOSIT OR ENTRY FEE.