



2026 PVA Bass Tournament Series Rules

The following rules apply to all participants and shall remain unchanged except for special events conducted by PVA host chapters agreed to by the assigned PVA Bass Tournament Committee officials. These events include, but are not limited to, weather delays, natural emergencies, lack of attendance, etc.

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, the PVA host chapter Tournament Director, and the 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 have 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 its rule infractions will have its 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 who 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. Entry to all PVA Bass Tour events is limited to those who meet the competition's eligibility requirements by submitting a properly completed application. Participants must be 18 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. If you need help completing your application, PVA Sports and Recreation staff are available to help. No paper registrations will be accepted.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject an entry form and/or stop accepting 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 attend any mandatory participants' meetings unless otherwise approved by the Tournament Director.
- C. The Tournament Director must inform the Tournament Committee of anyone absent during mandatory meetings.
- D. For those not in attendance, all partner-pairing procedures must be followed. The Tournament Director or the host PVA chapter will not assign pairings.
- E. All participants are responsible for adhering to the schedule of events for registration time and location.
- F. The refund policy will be determined by the host PVA chapter and made available to all registered participants.
- G. Anglers wishing to enter one or more tour events may begin registration online at www.pva.org/sports. The entry fee for Open Competition Angler is \$135 per

event. The full entry fee of \$135 for the open division or \$80 for the bank division, per event, must be paid to the PVA host chapter for each tournament.

- H. Boat partner entry fees are \$50, and they include all meals (Friday night reception/Partner-Pairing dinner, Saturday night Partner Appreciation Dinner, as well as breakfast, lunch, and beverages on Saturday and Sunday).
- I. The PVA host chapter will set the payment deadline. If you are unable to register online, please contact the PVA national representative. Anglers can choose to fish on one or both days of the competition.
- J. Any unpaid fee will result in the participant's removal from the event, unless otherwise determined by the host PVA chapter.

Registration Confirmation

All registered participants will receive a registration confirmation letter and tournament details two weeks before the event. All event details are available online at www.pva.org/sports.

Mandatory Registration & Partner Pairing

Registration will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on 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 randomly, 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 complying 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 interference 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.

The 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 them. All bank anglers will be notified of the changes two weeks before the tournament.

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

- A. All volunteers must be 18 years or older to volunteer.
- B. PVA host chapters that want to waive the volunteer age restriction must secure their own sports insurance for their event. PVA's General Counsel will review any changes to ensure the selected insurance policy meets all event hosting requirements.
- C. PVA National will not provide insurance coverage for an event that includes volunteers or participants under 18 years of age.
- D. Any parent or guardian of a minor volunteer must execute the waiver and release forms.

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.

- 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 or mental impairment (civilians included) are welcome to participate in the PVA Bass Tournament Series.
- 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 is based on the total weight of bass caught, with a limit of 5 fish. In select tournaments, the host chapter may add non-scoring competitions like trash fish or crappie competitions, etc.
- E. Able-bodied partners may assist anglers in securing their catch if the angler's disability prohibits this action; however, they are not allowed to fish for

participants and will be disqualified from the competition if found in violation of this rule.

- F. During the Open Competition, a fish caught by the partner must be immediately released. 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.

TEAM DIVISION - Day 2 Competition (Partner)

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

- A. Team Competition anglers must 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, or is a PVA member or PVA Associate Member.
- B. No additional persons may be in the boat unless approved by the Tournament Committee
- C. Team competition scoring will be based on the total weight of the bass caught, with a limit of five (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.

Two weeks prior to the event, the Tournament Director will disclose any changes to the payouts and prizes in the confirmation letter sent to participants two weeks before the event. Any 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 by 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.

In the team competition, both partners must be removed from the boat 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 will be forfeited. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited except at the direction of the Tournament Committee. No additional persons may be on the boat unless the Tournament Committee approves. Persons considered will only be authorized for medical reasons.

***Participants are not allowed on the deck when the motor is running. Any participant seen on the deck will be disqualified. ***

B.A.S.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Any voting member of Paralyzed Veterans of America competing in the Open Competition who completes five of the seven PVA Bass Tournaments (subject to changes due to circumstances or cancellations) and wants their points or finishes to count toward the year-end totals for B.A.S.S. Nation Championship qualification must be a member of B.A.S.S. and a B.A.S.S. Nation Club before competing in a tour event. Proof of membership is required. Contact PVA Bass Tour representatives for instructions on joining a B.A.S.S. Nation Club.

BANK DIVISION

The bank division provides an opportunity for anglers with disabilities who may not be comfortable on a boat or who are unable to fish from a boat to fish from a dock. Bank Division anglers wishing to enter tour events may register online at 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 the time of registration. If you cannot register online, please contact the PVA's Sports and Recreation Department for help. You may register in person on Friday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. However, early registration is highly recommended.

Day 1 Competition (Individual):

- A. Bank anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% by the government/military; currently rehabbing in a Department of

Veterans Affairs (VA), Department of Defense (military), or civilian hospital, or is a PVA member or Associate Member.

- B. Scoring for the Bank Competition is determined by the total weight of fish caught, with a limit of 10 fish. A Bank Division angler may catch and weigh any fish species four inches or longer.
- C. While minimal assistance is allowed in the Bank Competition, it shall be limited to tasks that anglers are unable 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, or are a PVA member or PVA Associate Member.
- B. Anglers will be randomly paired into teams for competition.
- C. Each angler will weigh in separately, but their day's catch will be combined 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 tasks that anglers are not able to independently complete.
- E. In the case of uneven teams, the angler with the highest weight on the team will weigh in with both partners, allowing them 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 a vote must occur.

RULES (Apply Only to the Bank Division)

Rods and Reels

There are no restrictions on the types/lengths 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 it 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 daily will be counted in the team or individual standings. Federal, state, and local laws will apply.

Bait

Artificial, live bait, and prepared bait are allowed in the Bank Competition. Chumming will not be permitted 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, which 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

Participant safety is the top priority in PVA's Bass Tournament Series. The Tournament Committee will enforce all safety rules, which are non-negotiable. Anyone who fails to follow these guidelines will be disqualified from the tournament and may face further sanctions. All tournament participants are expected to exercise safe boating practices and always maintain caution.

- A. Tournament participants are required to wear a Coast Guard-approved, type III or greater, life preserver any time the combustion engine is in operation.
- B. During official practice days and tournament hours, the life preserver must be strapped, zipped, 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 each event is safe for participants.
- 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 the 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 bass, for a total of five bass. Flight orders will remain the same as on the canceled day of competition.

Event Safety Plan

All host chapters and Tournament Directors are required to develop a detailed safety plan. This plan must include, but not be limited to, communication protocols for anglers and boat partners during inclement weather, emergency contacts and procedures for boat breakdowns (included in the partner packet), medical emergency procedures, and the locations of nearest medical facilities. All emergency plans must be reviewed and approved by PVA National's bass fishing program director at least 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.

FISHING LICENSE

All participants must have a valid state fishing license unless an exemption has been issued for that tournament. The angler is responsible for obtaining the appropriate fishing license for the event they attend. The host PVA chapter must notify all participants of the state licensing requirement no later than two weeks before the tournament.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

- A. Only artificial lures may be used; no "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted in the Team/Open Competitions.
- B. 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. Additional legal rods may be ready to use in the boat; however, only one can be used at any time.
- C. Adaptive equipment designed to assist competitors in holding or manipulating their rods and reels is allowed.
- D. Trolling is prohibited.
- E. 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.
- F. When fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and verified by your partner before being unhooked to be considered legal.
- G. All participants are encouraged to bring their tackle, necessary gear, and clothing for inclement weather.
- H. 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 before launch of the competition.

- I. 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.

Live Well and Kill Switch Checks

Any failure of the Tournament Director or host chapter to comply with the Live Well and Kill Switch check 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, PVA's 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 National 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 who 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.

USE of ELECTRONIC DEVICES

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

- D. 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

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. The 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 the competition. No boat equipped with stick steering shall be permitted to be used during the tournament. A small motor, gas or electric motor, may be used for slow maneuvering. Competitors bringing and using their own boat (boater) will be put in the draw as such.

Any competitor not using their own boat 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 and approved by event 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 and approved by tournament officials. Suppose an Angler's boat 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. Additionally, each boat must have a functional bilge pump and adequate live well space that is properly aerated to keep a limit of bass alive. The Tournament Committee shall have sole responsibility for determining whether the aeration and capacity of the live well are proper and adequate.

Boat Identification

Each boat, prior to the start of each tournament day, will go through an inspection check by a tournament official and a boat marker, which must remain on the boat in plain view.

Boat Operation

Before the morning departure, the angler and the able-bodied boat partner must agree on the schedule and boat operations.

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 costs for the boat captains on Open competition day, and half of the fuel and oil costs for the boat captains on Team competition day. Participants are encouraged 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 angler that brings their own boat will be required to pay for fuel or oil costs. An exception to this rule applies when the host chapter replaces a non-boating partner during partner pairing or competition. In such cases, requiring the host PVA chapter is responsible for covering fuel or oil costs.

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 the angler. No such boat 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 another competitor sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot.

Off-limit areas include:

- A. Areas designated by federal, state, or local governments;

- B. Any areas designated by tournament officials; and
- C. 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 fully comply 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 their possession to be counted, measured, and weighed. All boats are required to check in, regardless of whether they caught any fish. On Open day only, there will be an official morning check-in location and time that will be determined at the partner-pairing meeting. All anglers must check in before their assigned time. Those failing to do so will be assigned the last boat out and the first flight back in.

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 bass per competitor. The limit for the Team Competition shall be a maximum of five bass 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 the legal limit is caught. Failure to do so will result in the removal of the largest fish from the legal limit.

Only bass that conforms to the minimum length assigned by state statute or the tournament 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-bodied 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 in 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 their 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 tournament officials. Any penalty will be deducted from the total score of the contestant. Dead fish will not be weighed to compete for Big Bass.

LATE PENALTY

Participants who are not at the official checkpoint by 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 that 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. The Tournament Committee can consider exceptions in cases of emergency.

TIES

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

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, Tournament officials may reassign partners at any time during the tournament for reasons such as medical emergencies or a 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 SIGNAGE

PVA's 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 permitted to wear conflicting sponsor attire (i.e., hats, t-shirts, jackets, jerseys, patches, etc.).

ANGLER OF THE YEAR POINTS AND RULES

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 (this may change due to certain circumstances and tournament cancellations) 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). All anglers running for angler of the year in any category must be a member of a

B.A.S.S. Club and have a membership with BASSMASTER.

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 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 a participant 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 by the host chapter or PVA National for the bank division and any volunteers supporting the event during the day

hours. A Sunday meal should be supplied, by the host chapter or PVA National, 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 providing 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 and their tournament being omitted from year-end standing.

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.

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. Unprofessional 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.
9. 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.

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