



Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing

JUNIOR/HIGH SCHOOL TOURNAMENT FORMAT RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Florida B.A.S.S. High School Fishing Series Junior / High School (HS) Tournament format shall be Team vs. Team. This Format shall be effective in all Jr/HS Tournaments, including but not limited to Regional Qualifying Tournaments and the Jr/HS State Championship Tournament. Anglers participating in this Tournament Series will be required to be current with State and National B.A.S.S. dues and in good standing with Florida B.A.S.S. Nation.

The Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing Qualifier Events will determine the Team(s) we will advance to the B.A.S.S. National High School Championship Tournament. One High School team will be eligible to advance to the B.A.S.S. National High School Championship, for every 50 High School teams that participate during each of the series. The FIRST team to advance will always be the team with the most combined points in 3 of their best 4 qualifiers for that particular series or trail plus their participation points. If 2 teams are able to advance then the winning team of the 2 day State Championship will advance to Nationals. If 3 or more teams are able to advance then we revert back to the point system and send teams according to their point standings in order from 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and beyond. If a team that wins or places in our series also wins or advances through fishing any other avenue such as any of our other Regional Qualifying events or National qualifying events then we will advance the next eligible team that qualifies by same as above most points in their best 3 of the 4 Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School qualifiers. The same 2 anglers must have fished at least 2 of the 3 qualifying tournaments together. Anglers must have fished at least 2 Florida Bass Nation qualifiers to fish the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation State Championship.

REGIONAL / STATE QUALIFIERS

Each region will host 2 events per year being one in the fall and one in the spring. Points will be totaled for the 2 events and 1 High School National berth will be awarded for each region as long as the number of anglers is met by hosting the events. The 2 events in the N.W. Region will be combined with the 2 events in the N.E. Regional to create a series called the Northern Florida Qualifier Series. The 2 events in the Central Region will be combined with the 2 events in the Southern Region to create a series called The Central & Southern Florida Qualifier Series. This will allow High School anglers to Qualify for the Bassmaster National Championships through their regions. All teams fishing in regional events must fish in at least one state ran Florida B.A.S.S. event in order to maintain their berth to Nationals. Any team in the State of Florida may fish any or all of the regional Qualifiers regardless if they are in that region or not. Please keep in mind that all anglers must fish the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation qualifiers to qualify for Nationals and the State Championship. Also please understand that junior teams have to qualify for state and nationals through Florida B.A.S.S. Nation events as well. All Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Events will be 2 day separate events. Saturday will be named Bassmaster Florida High School Fishing Series and Sunday will be the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation Series Qualifiers. So all state ran events will be 2 day double qualifiers giving more opportunity for High School teams to qualify for the National Championship. All High School teams will now have 4 different series to fish and qualify for Nationals as well as the State Championship.

Tie-Breaker for a series best total points in 3 of the 4 qualifying events:

1. Total # of Tournaments fished of the series or trail.
2. Total # of "live bass weighed in".
3. Total weight of all fished weighed in from all qualifying tournaments in the series.
4. Biggest bass weighed in for series.
5. If still a tie, then both teams have a fish off on an undisclosed lake.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

Anglers MUST USE THE SAME CAPTAIN for BOTH days of the State Championship.

JR/HS ENTRY RULES AND REGISTRATION

All entries must be submitted on the official WEB SITE at bassmasterfloridahighschoolfishing.com by the Monday before each event. Entries cannot be mailed, faxed or emailed and must be done via the web site. There will be a \$25.00 late entry fee for any entry received after Monday night at 11:59 pm. Proof of what high school they attend (i.e. report card) and a copy of the current boat insurance, which the anglers will be fishing from during the tournament will be require to be on hand at each event. The entry fees for all Qualifying Jr/HS Tournaments will be \$50.00 *per Team, per day*. Tournament Officials reserve the right to suspend the acceptance of Official Tournament Entry Forms prior to established deadline, as well as the right to extend the acceptance date deadline. It is mandatory members pre-register for all Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing Qualifier Tournaments by the deadline above. Registration for all tournaments will close at 11:59 pm the Monday before each event (unless posted different) There will be NO registrations accepted the morning of the tournament.

Upon signing up for the Tournaments, each competitor and the boat captain is acknowledging that they have read and understand all rules and regulations set forth by Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing and agrees to submit to a polygraph examination for verification of tournament results or inquiries, if deemed necessary by Tournament Officials. The administration of the polygraph examination shall be the responsibility of the tournament director, and it shall be administered at their discretion by a credible firm. The date, time, location, and the scope of the questions to be asked during the polygraph examination, will be determined by the tournament director. Any competitor summoned to take a polygraph examination agrees to be available for the examination at the selected date and time. Failure of the competitor to cooperate completely in this matter is grounds for immediate disqualification, forfeiture of all Tournament winnings, and/or other sanctions or penalties determined by the tournament director.

PROTEST OF RULE INFRACTIONS

Any and all rule infractions should be immediately brought to the attention of the Tournament Director or Tournament Officials. If you wish to file a formal protest against a team, angler or boat captain this must be done in writing before the scales close. You must write out the infraction of the rule that was broken along with a description to include day, time and place. Please include any video, pictures or audio to support your claim. Please however keep in mind that all rule violations are not grounds for disqualification of a team, angler or captain. Grounds for disqualification must include or exhibit a clear advantage that enhanced the angler, or team to catch fish, acts of un-sportsman like conduct or a blatant disregard for the rules of the tournament. The final decision on any disqualification of a day's weight or total disqualification from a tournament is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director or Tournament Officials and is not up for appeal.

RULE INFRACTION PENALTIES

All rules are set forth to insure the integrity and safety of our sport. All rule violations however are not an immediate disqualification. Penalties can vary from a verbal warning, a possible time out at the next take off of a tournament, loss of a fish's weight, one day's weight disqualified or both days weight disqualified or total ban or suspension from future B.A.S.S. events. The severity of the rule infraction will determine the severity of the penalty which is at the sole discretion of the tournament director. The tournament director has the final say and the decision is not up for appeal.

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

All competitor boat captains operating a boat on tournament waters during the actual competition days of a Jr/HS Tournament must submit a current copy of their boat insurance policy as proof of insurance to the Tournament Officials at any time upon request. The policy must contain coverage of at least \$300,000 combined limited liability boating insurance, specifically name the boat owner/driver as an "insured user", and have the expiration date printed on the policy. If entering more than one tournament, a copy of the valid insurance policy must be on file with Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing.

JR/HS TOURNAMENT RULES

GENERAL

1. The following Team Tournament Rules shall apply to all Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing Qualifier Events.
2. The interpretation and enforcement of these rules is the responsibility of the Jr/HS State Tournament Director and the tournament staff (hereinafter referred to as "Tournament Officials"), which may impose appropriate sanctions for rules violations that may include but are not limited to disqualification, forfeiture of prizes or days catch weight or suspension from participation in future Jr/HS Tournaments. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal.
3. A team shall consist of 2 anglers that must be a member of the same High School. Special exceptions made for Home Schools and county wide clubs or other affiliation in the HS Division.
4. Anglers may fish the one-day qualifiers with different partners during the trail to qualify for the National B.A.S.S. High School Championship Tournament. Anglers will only be permitted to advance to the National B.A.S.S. High School Championship if 2 of their best tournaments were fished with the same partner except in the 2 day State Championship.
5. Competitors are expected to obey all applicable Florida Boating or Fishing and Wildlife Statutes and Rules. Violation of such statutes or rules may result in your disqualification from tournaments and being banned from future participation in Jr/HS Tournaments. All local, state, and federal laws supersede Jr/HS Tournament Rules should there be a conflict.
6. It is the duty and responsibility of every competitor in a Jr/HS Tournament to report any violations or infractions of these Team Tournament Rules to the Tournament Officials. All rule infractions are not however means for disqualification.
7. Boat Captains are responsible for understanding and obeying all tournament rules.
8. Falsifying any official weigh-in form or any other official Jr/HS Tournament document will be cause for disqualification.
9. Tournament waters are off limits accept during tournament hours once the tournament has begun. The tournament officially begins at the time of the pre-tournament meeting either the morning of or the day before. Pre-tournament meetings vary depending on each tournament. This rule is for anglers, captains and their boat or any other contributing member of the team. Captains must notify and check with Tournament Officials before launching their boat after hours for any reason.
10. The decision of the Tournament Officials/Director shall be final in these and all tournament related matters.
11. Competitors Must Remain In Boat: During competition hours anglers must not depart the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Exceptions to this rule may be if an emergency situation should arise, restroom visit, or refueling of boat. If an angler or captain leaves the boat all fishing must stop until all parties are back in boat.
12. Anglers and Captains must remain together from start to finish. This includes checking in, the bump tanks and on stage weigh in. Yes!!! We want the captains on stage with their anglers.

SPORTSMANSHIP

1. Competitors in Jr/HS Tournaments are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infractions of these basic and fundamental sporting principles may be cause for disqualification,
2. The use of alcohol or illicit drugs by a competitor or boat captain during a Jr/HS Tournament will not be tolerated and will be cause for automatic disqualification from the current tournament and future Jr/HS Tournaments.
3. It is the duty and responsibility of all Jr/HS Tournament competitors to show extreme courtesy toward non-competitors who may be angling or boating on the tournament waters. Any actions of tournament competitors that may reflect unfavorably on the efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, courtesy and safety may be grounds for disqualification from the tournament.
4. Smoking, chewing, dipping and vaping are not permitted by participating anglers at any time during the tournament or on site of the tournament location. This is to include on the boat while fishing tournament waters.
5. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of any felony, crimes involving moral turpitude, or any other conduct that may reflect unfavorably upon the tournament and its efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair and healthy competition, or inhibit compliance with these tournament rules will be grounds for rejection of an application for participation in a tournament or disqualification.

ANGLER/ CAPTAIN/ PARENT CODE OF CONDUCT

Anglers, captains, and family members are in the eye of the public and should conduct themselves in a manner becoming of a professional angler that will not reflect unfavorably on themselves, B.A.S.S., its members, affiliates and sponsors. This is to include heated disagreements, public attacks through social media, publicly questioning or criticizing tournament staff or officials, abuse or physical contact of another angler, captain, parent or tournament official, offensive or slanderous comments or intentionally interfering with an angler or team's ability to fish and compete. Any Angler, captain, or family member that violates this code of conduct or conducts themselves in a disruptive manner may be subject to the participating angler or team being penalized or disqualified.

SAFETY

1. Safe boat operation is the responsibility of all tournament competitors during any Jr/HS Tournament.
2. All competitors are required to wear a Coast Guard approved "chest-type" life jacket anytime the boat's combustion engine is operating. The life jacket must remain securely fastened until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off.
3. Tournament Officials may delay or cancel the start of any Jr/HS Team Tournament for inclement weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Additionally, tournament waters may be restricted because of inclement weather or other safety reasons during the event.

ACCIDENT / INCIDENT

If an accident / incident occurs, you MUST IMMEDIATELY come back to the take off point / launch site and allow a Tournament Official to fill out an accident / incident report and allow proper authorities to be contact, if necessary. Safety for our kids is our number one priority.

PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

1. Participation in Jr/HS Tournaments is by Team (Team is defined as 2 anglers) and is open to "members in good standing" and be an active members of a B.A.S.S. / FBN affiliated Junior or High School club.
2. Anglers are required to be members of the same HS club to participate in the HS Tournament format.
 - a. For those anglers that are home schooled, they may do one of the following:
 - i. Create their own charter club so long as the requirements for starting a club are satisfied; or
 - ii. Join the high school club which they are required to attend/participate/zoned through by the local school district;
 - iii. Should a club not exist in the local school or the local school district does not support the high school fishing club concept, the angler may join another charter club that already exists in the area but must still fish with anglers from the school they are zone to attend.
 - b. To participate in the High School division, the angler must have enrolled and started 9th grade.(exceptions made for 8th grade students at the directors discretion upon review of circumstances)
 - c. To participate in the Junior Division, the angler must be seven (7) year of age or older.
3. Any angler entering any Jr/HS Tournament who is under 18 years of age also must have a signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the Liability Release form.
4. A candidate for competition in a Team Tournament who, in the judgment of the Tournament Officials is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder or endanger the safety and well-being of other competitors shall not be eligible to participate.
5. Disqualification, suspension or any other disciplinary action taken against an angler by any other fishing organization shall be grounds for rejection of an application for participation in any Jr/HS Tournament.

LAUNCH ORDER

1. Launch order will be determined by random selection generated by the computer program for the tournament.
2. Once a boat leaves the launch area at the start of the tournament, the 2 anglers must stay together and within sight of each other, and each other's catch, throughout the day until weigh-in is completed, except for "natures call" or a credible emergency. A competitor will not allow any bass caught by him/her to be counted on the score (weight) of another competitor. In such case, both competitors shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments.

BOAT AND MOTOR

1. All boats must be equipped with all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. This is to include Navigational and anchor lights that **MUST** be operational at time of take-off.
2. The maximum horsepower rating for all outboard motors used in a Jr/HS Team Tournament competition shall not exceed 250 hp and be a minimum 40 hp. Additionally, the maximum horsepower of an outboard motor shall not exceed the rating set by the U.S. Coast Guard for the particular boat that is mounted on and listed on a "manufacturers" plate attached to the boat. At the start of an event all outboard and trolling motors must be in good operating conditions.
3. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972, must adhere to the rating set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Upon entering a Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing event all competitors agree to submit to a boat inspection and have the outboard motor checked by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower of the outboard motor exceeds the maximum rating (250 hp) or exceeds the listed boat manufacturer's plate attached to the boat.
4. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of an outboard motor is authorized, however, changing or altering standard factory parts of an outboard motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden.
5. For safety reasons, ALL boats must be equipped with an operable ignition "kill" switch that must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating.
6. Anytime a boat is "under way" with the combustion engine running, a driver/boat operator must be in the driver's seat and in full control of the craft.
7. Fishing boats seventeen feet or more in length may be used in a Jr/HS Team Tournament.
8. Boats with "Raised Platforms" higher than the "gunnels" of the boat will be allowed, however, at no time shall an angler or captain use, lean on or be in contact with such platform for any reason at any time.
9. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. The use of the electric controlling motor or the combustion engine for trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.
10. Bladder tanks and other types of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional "factory options" gasoline tanks that are installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are allowed. Boats that do not have factory installed gasoline tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in portable tanks, which must meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations, and must be properly secured in the boat.
11. No portable tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline may be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline, for use by tournament competitors during any Jr/HS Tournament.
12. Barges or similar cumbersome water crafts are not permitted for use in Jr/HS Tournaments. Tournament boats must be capable of reaching all tournament waters and return in a reasonable amount of time, so as not to handicap any contestant.
13. Boats equipped with "Stick Steering" or tiller motors shall not be permitted to be used by any competitor during any Jr/HS Tournament.
14. No air boats may be used to fish during a Jr/HS Tournament.
15. All boats must have a functional "bilge pump" and live-well, properly aerated to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass in the boat. The Tournament Officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate."
16. None of the aforementioned rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament Official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the actual Jr/HS Tournament competition for the purpose of inspecting the boat for violations of these rules. A Competitor who refuses to allow his/her boat to be inspected by a Jr/HS Tournament Official shall be disqualified from the tournament and all entry fees and prizes or prize money shall be forfeited. The Tournament Director, at his discretion, may impose additional sanctions regarding future Jr/HS Tournaments.

BOAT OPERATION

1. Competitors will **NOT** be permitted to operate the boat (main motor). They are only allowed to operate the trolling motor. (unless it is an emergency)
2. During tournament hours, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole-sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.
3. The use of mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to, cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB radios, etc., during tournament hours, is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, disabled boat, etc.) or to communicate with lockmasters or Tournament Officials.
4. Contestants are expected to remain on tournament waters and compete until the official end of the tournament, emergency situations notwithstanding. Failure to do so may result in ineligibility to compete in future Jr/HS Tournaments.
5. A competitor may not leave the boat to land a fish.
6. In a credible emergency situation, such as an inoperable boat, one or both competitors may transfer to another tournament boat, or a rescue boat, for immediate return to the weigh-in site after first notifying tournament officials.
7. A competitor who chooses to remain with the disabled boat to await rescue, waives the right to protest or challenge the official weight of his catch. All competitors involved in the rescue must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a Tournament Official in order to be counted in the official tournament weigh-in.
8. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the Tournament Officials and enough time is left for the anglers to resume fishing, a "restart" will be allowed and the competitors may continue fishing and their catch will be counted. The aforementioned procedure applies only to a credible emergency.
9. Failure of a competitor to render assistance to another competitor in a credible emergency situation, when requested, may be cause for immediate disqualification.
10. A boat must remain in tournament waters at all times during tournament hours. Contestants must leave and return to the official check-in point by boat, and both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in the case of "natures call" or a credible emergency.
11. No Trailing: Loading a boat onto a trailer and driving to a ramp other than the official tournament launch site, during tournament hours, is strictly prohibited, except under the express direction and authority of the Tournament Officials.

BOAT CAPTAIN PARTICIPATION AND RESPONSIBILITY

1. It is the captain's responsibility to have read and understand all rules and regulations of the Florida B.A.S.S. Nation High School Fishing / Bassmasters Florida High School Fishing Tournament Series.
2. Captains agree and understand that they are in control of the boat at all times and make final decisions on boat operations pertaining to the safety of anglers.
3. **Captains in the High School Division** are only allowed to run and operate the main engine of the boat. High School Captains are **not** to be on the front upper deck part of the boat at all. Captains in the high school division are **not** permitted to operate the trolling motor, touch a fish, fishing rod or any other equipment, to assist in any way the anglers catch, culling, untangling, knot tying, or anything to give the team an unfair advantage.
4. **Captains in the Jr. Division** are allowed to assist by word of mouth, net fish and unhook fish as needed. They may also assist and teach how to untangle line, backlashes, tie knots or assist if angler is hung up. They at no time are allowed to fish at all and should only have a rod in hand if assisting with any of the above. They cannot assist with the landing of fish only the netting of the fish. If needed they may temporarily operate the trolling motor to assist and or teach the Jr. Angler.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

1. Competitors in a Jr/HS Tournament may use only artificial lures as bait. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc.
2. Multiple tackle rigs are allowed such as Alabama Rigs, however only one casting, spin-casting or spinning rod (maximum length eight feet) and one reel may be used by a competitor at a time. Other similar types of rigs may be in the boat, ready for use, however only one (1) rig is permitted to be used at a time.
3. All bass must be caught alive, and in a conventional sporting manner. A competitor who is guilty of "snatching" or "snagging" fish on spawning beds will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for "bedding bass", all bass must be hooked inside of the mouth to be counted as a legal fish.
4. The use of "grippers" to land a bass is prohibited. (nets only)
5. The boat captains are NOT ALLOWED TO FISH under any circumstances in the High School Division during tournament day. Doing so will result in the disqualification of the team.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

1. The Tournament Officials shall establish any boundaries on the tournament waters for all Jr/HS Tournaments. It is the responsibility of each competitor to obtain this information from the Tournament Officials prior to the tournaments.
2. Only that water open to all public fishing will be considered "Tournament Waters". Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except:
 - a. Within 50-yards of any marina gas pump.
 - b. Within 50-yards (150-feet) of another angler's boat which is first anchored or secured in a fix position. Competitors are not permitted to allow select competitors to fish within the 100-yard circle and exclude other anglers.
 - c. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "NO Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be off limits. This includes positioning boats outside areas posted "Off-Limits" or "NO Fishing" and casting into the posted areas. This action is strictly forbidden and any competitor violating this rule may be disqualified from the tournament.
 - d. The live bass release area established by Tournament Officials will be off limits and will be announced at the tournament briefing.
 - e. Any waters closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament anglers.
3. All fishing must be done from the boat.
4. During a Jr/HS Tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on tournament waters.
5. A competitor may not buy or barter for "fishing locations" from other competitors for use during a competition day.

OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT

1. The Official launch site and "check-in" points will be established by the Tournament Officials for each Jr/HS Tournament.
2. Blast off time will be posted on web site and usually will be at first safe light unless otherwise announced. Tournament hours are safe daylight until 2:00 p.m. Tournament hours can be increased or decreased by the Tournament Officials.
3. Prior to launch time, all competitors' boats will be inspected by a Tournament Official for compliance with tournament requirements.
4. Prior to the start of a Jr/HS Tournament, each boat operator will be assigned a boat/Team number. At the end of the tournament day, all competitors will "check-in" with this assigned boat/Team number before proceeding to the weigh-in area. This includes boats with no fish. Any boat that fails to "check-in" at the end of the tournament day by their assigned flight time may be subject to disqualification. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in disqualification from the tournament and all future Jr/HS Tournaments.
5. After proper recognition at the check-in point, all fishing must cease and competitors should immediately proceed to the weigh-in area as a team.
6. Upon the commencement of a 2 day Jr/HS Tournament, fishing or being on the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. This includes all anglers, tournament boats and captains.

SCORING AND FISH CARE DURING TOURNAMENTS

1. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eyes, Shoal and Suwannee Bass will be weighed at Jr/HS Tournaments.
2. The tournament limit for each Team shall be five (5) bass. A Team may not have more than the tournament limit of bass in the "live well" at any given time during the tournament. Any Team bringing in more than five (5) bass will be penalized that days catch.
3. The pound and ounce weight of each Team's catch during the tournament shall determine the tournament standings, auxiliary awards, points and final winners of all Jr/HS Tournaments.

4. The Official Tournament length for bass shall be fourteen (14) inches, unless the state limit is different, in which case the state limit will prevail. Only bass described above that measure 14 inches or more in length on an "Official Golden Rule" with mouth closed will be weighed. The exception to this rule occurs when "exemption" cards have been made available by the Tournament Official to each Team prior to the start of the tournament. A "short" fish brought to the scales for weigh-in shall result in the loss of that fish and the Team's big fish of that day's catch. Courtesy checks are given and available without penalty, but must be asked for before releasing your fish to the bump master. Courtesy measurements will be permitted at the weigh-in station.
5. Don't Kill Your Catch! A Team should make every effort to maintain the welfare of its catch throughout the day.
 - a. Each Team is expected to keep his bass alive by use of a properly aerated live well.
 - b. A bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered may, at the Tournament Officials discretion, not be weighed-in.
 - c. The culling of a "dead" fish is strictly prohibited.
6. Each Team must present their catch to the weigh-in official. Partners should stay together until their fish are weighed.
7. All fish will be weighed based on boat number order or launch order. Tournament Officials will announce the boat numbers being weighed and only those Teams with fish from those boats will be permitted to approach the scales. Anyone bringing fish to the scales before their boat number has been called will not be permitted to weigh their fish.
8. Penalty Points: Tournament Officials shall have the sole authority for assessing penalty points.
 - a. Dead fish will be determined at the scales by the Tournament Official. For the purpose of this rule only, a "Dead Fish" will be considered any fish that is not moving. For each legal dead fish presented at weigh-in, the Team will be penalized a quarter of a pound of weight (4 ounces).
 - b. Teams will be penalized 1 pound for each minute they are late checking in at the official check point designated by Tournament Officials. After 15 minutes, the Team's catch for that day will be disqualified.
9. The Tournament Officials may make available special weigh-in bags that are designed to help increase the survival rate of the bass. These bags will be available to all competitors in the weigh-in area. No other bags are to be used to bring fish to the weigh-in area when these bags are in use. These weigh-in bags are the property of the Bassmaster Florida High School Fishing and must be returned. Anyone caught with a Bassmaster Florida High School Fishing weigh-in bag in their possession after a tournament is over may be disqualified from future Jr/HS Tournaments.

Special Exception: If special weigh-in bags are not in use, competitors may bring their fish to the scales in their own bags and only when instructed by Tournament Officials.
10. Ties: In case of a tie during an individual tournament, the following measures should be employed in this order to break the tie.
 - a. The Team with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the competition.
 - b. The Team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the competition.
 - c. The Team with the heaviest single bass alive.
 - d. The Team with the second heaviest single day's catch during competition.
 - e. In the unlikely event that there is still a tie, a "coin toss" will be used to determine the winner, and the trophies/awards for tied places shall be evenly split between the two Teams.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE GO TO:

www.floridafederationnation.com/high-school.php
www.bassmasterfloridahighschoolfishing.com

OR YOU MAY CONTACT:

Martin Bozeman – State Youth Director: 863-640-8349

Glenn Cale – State Youth Tournament Director: 863-255-1324

Jamie Johns – N.W. Regional Youth Director: 850-528-2042

Daniel Tills – N.E. Regional Youth Director: 352-572-3148

Dale North – Central Regional Youth Director: 813-695-4200

Buck Rapp – Southern Regional Youth Director: 863-381-2379