2019/2020 Deep East Texas BASS High School Fishing Series Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations

v081519 supersedes any previous Rules and Regulations

The Deep East Texas BASS High School Fishing Series expect strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. Safety is our first priority. We expect all participants and boat captains to know and apply all boating safety rules and best practices. Courtesy on the water is another priority for our fishing series. it is important that our student anglers learn and display courtesy to everyone encountered. Without judgment or blame it is our practice to disqualify all participants in any display of poor sportsmanship or altercation while fishing a DETX tournament. Anyone reporting inappropriate, unsafe, illegal or breaking of DETX rules will not be disqualified. Unsportsman like behavior or student anglers, parents and coaches that use abusive language towards officials, volunteers or other participants will not be tolerated and may cause disqualification from the tournament. After the first offense, the team may be subject to disqualification from the DETX tournament series. **In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director Brittney Denton 281-622-0923 any time prior to the tournament or 346-261-9655 for the night before and day of tournament.**

DETX is committed to creating a safe and positive environment for its participant's physical, emotional, and social development and to ensure that it promotes an environment free from abuse and misconduct. As part of this commitment, DETX will be requiring all captains, advisors, and volunteers to complete abuse prevention training.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT • These rules will remain during 2018/2019 school year but may be updated to address needed changes or clarifications at any time. The version number will be the 6 digit numerical date when the new version took effect and will supersede any previous version. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant and coach agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish disqualification), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification from the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future Deep East Texas High School Fishing tournaments. Protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day. The term boat coach or captain has the same meaning in this document.

2. PARTICIPATION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRIZE PAYOUT• Participation for the DETX series is open to, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th grade (ages 10 through 14) in the Youth Division and 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade in the high school division providing that the 12th grade student does not turn 19 before September 1st of their senior year. **The DETX is a high school team series and must have two student anglers per team. Youth division can be fished solo or team**. If both team members are in the 8th grade and age eligible they can choose to fish in the HS Division at the time they become B.A.S.S. members they must sign up as high school. All student anglers must be a Deep East member and all Clubs must to be registered with B.A.S.S. for all tournaments except OPENS, pay $25 per angler per year (September 2019 through August 2020). The entry fee for each qualifier is $60 a team with no more than two student anglers per team. Contestants must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the liability form and a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Contestants must be adequately insured (Minimum 300,000.00 liability) to participate in tournament fishing events and may also have additional coverage through B.A.S.S. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any

violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament. Each highschool team will consist of r two eligible contestants and one boat captain. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to fish for any reason whatsoever. We will honor any clubs pass to play decisions for their student anglers, however we do not inspect nor will we ask individual anglers to produce proof of grades for our DETX series. All student anglers who advance to state, regional or national events will be required to provide proof of grades based upon their individual guidelines. The tournament director will make all final decision about eligibility or special circumstances as they arise.

Student anglers can only fish with one DETX affiliated team per year. If the school you attend currently has a team that competes within the DETX, you must fish for that team. If the student angler is homeschooled they MUST join the nearest high school or community team that will allow them to participate.

PRIZE PAYOUTS • We will have prizes and trophies/medals for participants and boat captains during the tournament season. Qualifying tournament payout will be 50% of entry fees paid with checks issued to the registered clubs only. **NO CHECKS WILL BE WRITTEN TO AN INDIVIDUAL**. The remaining 50% will be split approximately 10% for prizes and the remaining 40% will be added to the Championship Awards Fund. Most prizes will be distributed by random draw of the participants. Prizes may also be awarded to tournament winners or skills competition winners at the final weigh in of a tournament. 100% of all cash made from membership and tournament fee profit along with any donations received will be held and paid out at the Championship in the form of educational award checks to the registered club.
Payouts for all tournaments will be based on one out of every seven boats. Big bass will be paid out at 5% of the payout pot.

3. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION • The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services or a paid coach is not permitted by contestants or coaches within 30 days of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. There may be random polygraphs given to address this.

4. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION • There is no practice period or off-limits period. You may be on tournament waters anytime until dark the day before the tournament. Once competition is under way, contestants and coaches may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants and coaches confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources). On competition day, teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

5. REGISTRATION • Registration deadline will be the Friday 3:00 pm, 1 day prior to the tournament when all online registration will closed. All registrations will be recorded and boat numbers determined by random selection to be announced as teams check in the morning of the tournament. **REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE FRIDAY 3PM DEADLINE UNTIL THE OFFICIAL LAUNCH TIME WITH A $25 PENALTY. Late Registration will also result in being the last boat released.**

6. SAFETY • Under the SafeSport Act, in the event a team is represented by a single angler where the parent of the student angler is not the boat captain, individual schools must place an Official Observer in the boat appointed by individual school's team advisor.

OFFICIAL OBSERVERS • All Official Observers must comply with these rules: a. Must be 21 years of age. b. Must be SafeSport certified. c. May not fish during the competition. d. Cannot give any information of any kind, including fishing locations and GPS locations. e. Cannot give any information of any kind, including what baits/lures to use. f. Cannot assist in any way of netting any fish, removing hooks from fish or culling of fish. g. Official Observers are only there to observe only, nothing else. h. Official Observers are subject to a polygraph examination.

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant and coach is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved and state approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation is not permitted. Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants and coaches. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. **At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament may allow trailering or the tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions**. Boat captains are encouraged to teach the student anglers how to safely and efficiently operate from the front of the boat using the trolling motor.

7. SPORTSMANSHIP • All contestants and coaches are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, our sponsors, the school being represented, the sport of fishing, and a credit to the Deep East TX High School Fishing Series in efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of or failure to comply with any of the rules for the 2019/2020 High School Fishing season.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pretournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.

• Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
• Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of paragraph 7.
In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete or to disqualify a contestant.

8. BOAT OPERATION • Captains must supply and drive boats for their teams. To qualify as a boat captain, the person accompanying a team must be **at least 21 years** old, **have not guided for bass** on the tournament waters in past 30 days and complete . The contestants in HS Division may operate the trolling motor at the discretion of the boat captain. For safety reasons the boat captain may operate the trolling motor until they feel confident in the student anglers ability, however the boat captain is responsible for teaching each of the student anglers to operate the front of the boat. Advanced B.A.S.S. tournaments require operation by student anglers during their tournament at all times. Captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, and are permitted to fish, but fish caught by the captain cannot be added to the team's fish weight and must be released immediately. The use of mobile communication devices may only be used by the boat captains but not for the purposes of sharing fishing information during the tournament. Boat captains must be in the boat with the students at all times. If a boat captain needs to use the bathroom, take a break for health reasons, or needs to be absent from the boat for any reason whatsoever, all fishing by the student anglers must cease. Student anglers are prohibited from fishing and/or running the trolling motor while the boat captain is not in the boat. Violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the team.
Students may only assist in unloading and loading of the boat.
9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION • All boats should be covered by adequate competitive fishing tournament liability insurance.(Minimum 300,000.00) All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length unless approved by the tournament director. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards is not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that

are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS • Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the lure in the water. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only ONE fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Students must initiate and complete every cast in order for a catch to be considered legal. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to the boat coach for verification.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES • Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries that is available to the public and accessible by boat, except are as designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by tournament officials, local, state or federal officials, or **within 100 feet of another anglers boat without their permission or to cast in their direction inside this 100 ft. zone**. **Without judgment or blame it is our practice to disqualify all participants in any display of poor sportsmanship or altercation while fishing a DETX tournament. Anyone reporting inappropriate, unsafe, illegal or breaking of DETX rules will not be disqualified for doing so**. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Teams must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are three permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both contestants remaining in their boat and being towed by water, (2) by one contestant entering the boat of another team or (3) both contestants entering a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director. Under these three conditions the team's catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Teams that elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any team returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of teams to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Teams must remain together at all times and within sight of their coach until check-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

12. CHECKPOINTS •
There will be only one checkpoint for check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and or failure to check in at the check-in point at designated time will result in disqualification. All fishing ceases at check in.

13. LATE PENALTY • Teams that are not at the designated afternoon checkpoint at the appointed time will be disqualified

14. FISH CARE • Every effort must be made to keep bass alive and healthy through the use of a properly aerated live well. Eight ounces (.50 lb) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. According to state law, dead fish cannot be culled. Each team's catch must be presented in a good quality weigh-in bag supplied by each team. One team member must check in with boat number tag handed to the check in official. The team member will be given one of a limited number of mesh bags to control the number of fish we can safely have in line at a time. The team must keep their fish in the live well until a mesh bag becomes available. Once received the fish will be placed from the live well into the official tournament mesh bag and then placed into the teams weigh bag filled with enough water to keep all fish submerged. When the fish are presented to the bump tank official they are reviewed for health and length. The mesh bag is placed into

the oxygenated tanks as the angler waits in line to weigh in. The fish are brought on stage and immediately weighed and pictures taken. Mesh bag is placed in a salt dip tank on the stage that helps to clean the fish of hand bacteria and restores their natural slime and should not be handled again. Fish are taken off stage where they put into the teams weigh bag filled with enough water to submerge them and the mesh bag goes to the next waiting team.

Releasing fish must be done with care. Fish must be released in the area at the back of the Jackson Hill boat slips. **Anyone who is caught releasing fish from the shoreline or in a manner that is not in the best interest of the fish as determined by the tournament director will be penalized .5 lb for the tournament**. **FISH MUST BE RELEASED IMMEDIATELY AFTER EXITING THE STAGE. FISH ARE SALT DIPPED ON STAGE AND MUST NOT BE HANDLED AGAIN FOR ANY REASON. THE WEIGH IN BAG SHOULD BE TURNED OVER NEAR THE WATERS SURFACE ALLOWING THE FISH TO BE RELEASED WITHOUT TOUCHING THEM. THIS GIVES THEM THE VERY BEST OPPORTUNITY TO SURVIVE THEIR ABDUCTION BY ALIENS AND TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY. A SHORT FISH WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY THE TOURNAMENT WEIGH MASTER AND WILL RESULT IN THE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE TEAMS ENTIRE CATCH.**

15. SCORING • Scoring is determined by the final weight of each team's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth and spotted bass are accepted at Deep East tournaments. The tournament limit is five bass per team. Any team possessing more than 5 fish at weigh in will be disqualified immediately. **The minimum length limit for bass is 14 inches for all Deep East Texas tournaments**. Any short fish which does not meet length regulations of 14 inches will not be weighed and a one-pound penalty will be assessed to the contestant's total weight. Participants may ask for a courtesy bump, however, once fish are presented to the "Bump Official" they are the property of the DETX and are being presented as a team's intended creel for weigh-in. The tournament director has final say pertaining to the legal size of a fish. The official measuring board is the "Check-It Stik."

16. TIES • A tie will be broken by a flip of the coin or split equally among participants if desired.

17. LOGO DISPLAY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE • Contestants and captains may wear their own shirts or jerseys during meetings, competition and weigh ins. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant or captain's shirt or jersey found to be offensive. All decisions are in Deep East Texas High School Fishing Series director's sole discretion.
ALL BASS TEAMS ARE RQUIRED TO HAVE THE OFFICIAL BASS LOGO VISIBLE ON THE FRONT OF THE JERSEY

18. ALCOHOL, ILLEGAL DRUGS AND TOBACCO • Contestants may not smoke, use illegal drugs or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in at any event. Students caught in violation of these rules will be disqualified immediately. During all days of competition, any and all alcohol, illegal drug and tobacco related graphics or logos are prohibited to be worn or displayed.

19. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST • Each contestant and coach agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. These will be given randomly without notice. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within 15 minutes of the close of the weigh-in. Anyone protesting the tournament results must be willing to sign a sworn statement regarding their protest and if a polygraph is required will pay a $300 fee that will be refunded if the protest is upheld and forfeited if it is not.

20. INSURANCE • Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all boats used in High School Fishing tournaments. Minimum 300,000.00 liability. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

21. CUMULATIVE SEASON POINTS • DETX will be based on total points and weight from the team's best 5 tournaments. Points awarded 150 1st place and decreases by 1 point per place. The teams competing and not weighing fish will be awarded 1 point less than last place with fish. (ie. 1st = 150, 2nd 149, 3rd 148 and so on).

22. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA • To qualify for the DETX championship, a team will **count their best 5 performances (points plus weight) from the 7 qualifying tournaments** or win one of the 7 qualifying tournaments and fish a total of at least 5 tournaments. The top 25% of all qualified teams will be eligible for the championship (based on average tournament entries). A team member may fish without their teammate as long as the other is not fishing the event with someone else. This allows for the team as a whole to collect points for that tournament. Teams that split up for any reason will lose points accumulated. Boat captains can be changed as required by teams. A wild card will be drawn for teams competing in at least 6 events. One wildcard team drawn per 25 teams fishing 6 or more qualifiers. **Teams will qualify for the B.A.S.S. national championship based on one position for every 25 B.A.S.S. registered teams in the series.**

23. **RIGHT OF REFUSAL** • The Deep East Texas High School Fishing Series reserves the right to refuse entry into our tournaments to anyone. **The tournament director has final say** in all matters concerning rules interpretation or any extenuating or unforeseen circumstances which may arise during any tournament hosted by the Deep East Texas High School Fishing Series.

24. CAPTIONS • The bold captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or used in the overall interpretation of this set of rules.

25. PHOTOGRAPHS AND PROMOTION All DETX participants agree to the use of photographs, quotes and articles for publication and promotion of DETX and BASS taken during DETX events.