



# 2017/2018 Deep East Texas BASS High School Fishing Series

## Rules, Guidelines, and Expectations

**v010118 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. In the event of an emergency, please call 911 first and then notify the tournament director.

**1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT** • These rules will remain unchanged during 2017/2018 school year. 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 penalty), 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 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 HS is open to, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade school students providing that the 12<sup>th</sup> grade student does not turn 19 before September 1<sup>st</sup> of their senior year. Youth Division is open to ages 7 through 14. If you are in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade you can fish in the HS Division. Must be a Deep East member and Clubs must to be registered with BASS for all tournaments except OPENS, pay \$25 per angler per year (September 2017 through August 2018). The entry fee for each tournament is \$50 a boat with no more than two team members. 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 either 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 team will consist of one or two eligible contestants and one boat captain. Two person teams must be declared by the third tournament (December, 2017). 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 inspect nor ask individual anglers to produce proof of grades for our DETX series. All student anglers who advance to nationally sanctioned 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.

**PRIZE PAYOUTS** • We will have prizes and trophies/medals for participants and boat captains at each tournament. 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 10% for prizes and the remaining 40% will be added to the Championship Scholarship fund. Prizes will be distributed to tournament winners, skills competition winners and or random draw of the participants at the final weigh in of each 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 scholarship checks to the registered club. Payouts for qualifying tournaments will be based on one out of every ten boats.

**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 the start of the pretournament check in. 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 close. All registrations will be recorded and boat numbers determined by random selection to be announced as teams check in the morning of the tournament. **NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER FRIDAY 3PM DEADLINE. ALL REGISTRATION MUST BE ON LINE.**

**6. SAFETY** • 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. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

**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 2017/2018 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 19 years** old, **have not guided for bass** on the tournament waters in past 30 days. The contestants in HS Division must operate the trolling motor. (For safety reason the boat captain may operate the trolling motor) 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. Students may assist in unloading and loading boats.

**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 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard or the 250-horsepower maximum set by these rules. By signing the entry form, contestants and captains agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future High School Fishing tournaments. 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 your 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 50 yards of a contestant's boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. 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 penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight. Teams more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

**14. FISH CARE/SHORT FISH** • 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. When the fish are presented to the bump tank official they are transferred to a mesh bag that is used as the angler waits in line for weigh in keeping fish in tournament water tanks at all times. The fish are brought on stage and immediately weighed. Mesh bag is placed in a salt dip tank that helps to clean the fish of hand bacteria and restores their natural slime. 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 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. 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. When bass are presented for weigh-in spotted bass that are less than 14 inches will be removed from the limit and the remaining fish will be weighed. Largemouth bass that fail to measure the prescribed 14 inch length limit will disqualify the teams entire catch and could result in a citation by the Texas Game Warden.** 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.

**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** • Will be based on total points from best 5 tournaments. Points awarded 150 plus weight for 1<sup>st</sup> place and decreases by 1 point per place. The teams competing and not weighing fish will be awarded 10 points less than last place with fish. (ie. 1<sup>st</sup> = 150, 2<sup>nd</sup> 149, 3<sup>rd</sup> 148 and so on)

**22. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION CRITERIA** • Will be determined by the High school anglers not the boat captain. To qualify for the championship, a team will **count their best 4 performances from the 7 qualifying tournaments or announced wildcard tournaments** or win one of the 7 qualifying tournaments and fish a total of at least 4 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.

**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. MEMBERSHIP, ENTRY FEES AND DONATIONS.** All money from memberships, entry fees and donations will be managed by Outdoor Freedom Network, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) public charity. Profit not used for prizes or scholarships or other approved expenses i.e. advertising and promotional materials, payouts and other expenses as directed by the Deep East Texas High School Fishing Series Board of Directors will be donated back to each club for distribution to local at- risk children within their local area during the Christmas season. Individual club members are expected to participate in the buying, wrapping and distribution of packages or helping with other worthy causes within their community. The December Sam Rayburn Qualifier will be a fund raiser for our Project Christmas Angel.

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