



CONNECTICUT B.A.S.S. NATION 2025 TOURNAMENT TRAIL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. **RULE CHANGES:** Rule changes are applicable to all CBN Tournaments. Changes may be implemented by a majority vote of the CBN Tournament Committee (TC) and subsequent approval by the CBN Board of Directors. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director (TD) and committee members. Their decision shall be final in all matters unless specifically noted otherwise.
2. **MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS:** The favorable public reputation of B.A.S.S. as a sanctioning organization in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for B.A.S.S. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers or the B.A.S.S. organization. Competitors are encouraged to express themselves and have the right to question the rules officials. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with B.A.S.S. and CBN policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S./CBN, B.A.S.S.S./CBN officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming a professional and will result in disciplinary action.
3. **EVENT CANCELLATION:** The CBN Executive Board and the CBN Tournament Director reserve the right to cancel any event if they believe that participation could; jeopardize the health and/or safety of CBN members, affect the financial stability of the CBN, result in liability claims against the CBN and/or its officers and directors or negatively impact the reputation of the CBN.
4. **REGISTRATION, PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in CBN Tournament Trail events is open to CBN members 16 years of age or older. **You must be a member in good standing with the CBN and B.A.S.S.**

(a) For all events, a properly completed and signed official application form along with the entry fee must be postmarked fifteen (15) days prior to tournament date as indicated on the tournament form. **Any application postmarked after the postmark date will be returned.** It is your responsibility to get your application and fees to the Tournament Director in time. The pairings will be held on Sunday (one week) prior to the event. Any applications received after the pairings will not be accepted. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

(b) When entering the first CBN tournament of the season; if you are competing as a Boater, you must **submit a copy** of your **boat insurance policy** (declaration page, showing effective & expiration dates with a minimum of **\$300,000** liability) and a copy of your **Connecticut Safe Boating Certificate**. These must be kept current and on file with the Tournament Director. Membership Eligibility with B.A.S.S. and CBN will be checked using the online roster system. All info will be kept in your personal tournament records for the year.

(c) **Non-Mothering Members** - If you are a member of another state's B.A.S.S. Nation, in order to fish with the CBN, you must declare which state you are Mothering with. (Which state is your primary

state organization?) This requirement has been set forth by CBN. To accomplish this, you must complete a Declaration Form. (See the Tournament Director prior to event or contact the CBN Secretary.)

Any member **NOT Mothering** in Connecticut, **is ineligible to qualify for the BASS National Championship (BNC) through the CBN Tournament Trail.**

5. **REFUNDS:** Refunds will be granted if the Tournament Director is notified at least **72 hours prior to the pairings for each event.** In case of an emergency, refunds will be handled at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

6. **PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:** For all tournament trail events, computerized pairings will be conducted on Sunday (one week) prior to tournament date. Each Co-Angler (non-boater) is responsible for contacting the Angler to discuss any details for the event. It is strongly recommended that the Angler and Co-Angler try to meet at an off-site location and ride together to reduce the number of vehicles at the ramp location.

7. **SAFETY:**
 - (a) Safe boat conduct must be observed always by competitors. During the competition, each competitor must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be a reason for disqualification. Inflatable PFDs are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that inflatable PFD's must be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFD's on board.

 - (b) It is suggested the Boater have a safety check with the Co-angler prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment.

 - (c) When boating in low visibility situations, i.e. fog, heavy rain, competitors must operate their boats at a safe speed and in a safe manner as determined by the Tournament Director.

 - (d) The Tournament Director has the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of the event because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

 - (f) **In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials.**

8. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in all C.B.N. Tournaments are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Any infraction of the state rules and regulations may be deemed as cause for disqualification. **"No Wake Zones"** and **"Speed Limits"** must be observed at all times. Drunkenness by any competitor during the tournament or at the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for immediate disqualification from this and all future tournaments. The use of illegal drugs or alcohol during the tournament (between "check in" in the morning and the closing of the scales in the afternoon) shall be considered cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a participant, which reflects unfavorably upon the C.B.N.'s effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

9. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** No more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch. No "live bait," "dead bait," or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork

strips or rinds. **Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed.** Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or buzz baits are allowed. Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait; only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms. The head on the main stem may be hinged. On these spinnerbaits or buzz baits, no more than two wires, with a maximum length of 6 inches, may extend off the main arm or body of the lure. The “head and hook” portion of the lure must trail behind the blade or blades. The Tournament Director has the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above.

Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (**10-foot** maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. A hung or snagged lure that is not in or on the water is not considered in use and may be set aside while another is in use. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod being used or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. He may NOT hook the line with another lure, rod and reel, or other device. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. With the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. **Trolling (using the gas or electric motor to move a lure or bait) is not allowed. The “LONG LINING” or “STROLLING” technique is NOT allowed and defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast.**

10. **HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in CBN tournament trail competition will be **250 HP**. Horsepower cannot exceed the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. When required, each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower-rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must **NOT** exceed the rating specified on this plate nor the horsepower maximum set by the CBN. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament, to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance of engines is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor’s engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from CBN tournaments. Posted speed limits and those imposed by the CBN must be observed and all boats must be operated in a safe manner. Violations of speed limits may result in disqualification.

11. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** These restrictions apply during official competition. For the safety of all competitors, all boats must be equipped with an approved type of operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. Only one manufactured lanyard may be used, and it must be attached to the driver’s body any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear. Any time the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver’s seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats that are 16 feet or more in length may be used. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing, is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The strolling or long line technique is only allowed with the trolling motor. No exceptions. All bladder tanks, and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer, are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options, installed by a manufacturer’s authorized dealer, are permitted. Boats that do not have factory-installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline, in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. No portable gas tanks, or containers capable of holding gasoline, can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No “barges” or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with “stick steering” shall be permitted to be used by any competitor. “Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament Director. Jet drive engines are not allowed during competition.

12. **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** During competition, every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment and a functional bilge pump. During competition, every boat must have live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive, a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat. The CBN recommends live wells be maintained at full level and aerators/re-circulators on manual. The Tournament Director and members of the Tournament Committee shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. Boaters must make a back seat available for co-anglers.
13. **BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat will be given, prior to the start, a numbered flag, card or paddle which must remain with your boat until turned in at the weigh-in. This flag or card must be displayed upon the request of tournament officials and turned in at the weigh-in. Failure to return will result in disqualification.
14. **BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:**
- (a) The Boater is responsible for the entire operation and expenses of running the boat with the Pro/Am format.
- (b) Any competitor who, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified.
15. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director and the Tournament Committee subject to approval by the CBN Board of Directors. Each competitor must obtain this information from the CBN website or their club representative. Any water within these boundaries posted "Off-Limits" or "No Fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or the Tournament Director should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations. The Tournament Director and Committee reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.
16. **COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** During competition, competitors must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoints by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times, except in case of dire emergency, or with permission from the Tournament Director. Exceptions spelled out in rules 5, 14, and 17. In such an emergency, or with permission of the Tournament Director, competitors may be removed from their boat, either to a boat operated by other competitors, or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch, under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. In the event of a needed restroom break or refueling situation at a marina gas pump, contestants are allowed to leave the boat, at which time all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat. Towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.
- Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to retrieve a lure. All fishing by that competitor must cease until back in the boat before making another cast.
17. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:** All participants must have checked in at the check-in table one (1) hour prior to the start of each tournament day. There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning, and one official check-in point in the afternoon, these points shall be designated by the Tournament Director and spelled out on the official tournament agenda. Failure to go through boat check and check-out in the

morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point in the afternoon may result in disqualification. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformity with all the rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by means of the numbers described in Rule 12 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through the weigh-in process if both are weighing bass. Once bass are bagged for weigh-in, anglers that are not weighing bass do not need to accompany their partner through the weigh-in process.

18. **SCORING:** Tournament standings, contingency awards, and final winners shall be determined by the weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. Weights will be measured in 1/100 of pound increments. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five of the above species unless otherwise specified by the Tournament Director (example – hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events). At no time shall a competitor have in his or her possession more than the tournament limit. If a competitor determines they have over the limit they must immediately reduce his catch to the tournament limit with a live bass of their choice from their catch. Each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. In this case, competitors must attempt to notify tournament officials and if unsuccessful must notify officials at check in. Once a competitor checks in they must present all legal bass to tournament officials at the verification table. If competitors at the verification table have more than the tournament limit, the competitor will reduce with live bass to the tournament limit and each returned bass will result in a 2-pound penalty to be deducted from their daily score. If a competitor has his/her fish verified, weighed and upon returning to the boat discovers additional fish over the tournament limit that were not presented to officials; he then must notify tournament officials prior to the completion of the weigh in (closing of the scales) to receive a 2 lb. penalty for each bass discovered. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and listed on the tournament agenda. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass, which penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint they **MUST** present all LEGAL fish in their possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Depending on the event, **one courtesy measurement**, per competitor, **may** be granted by the Tournament Director and will be communicated through each official tournament agenda. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official, that competitor may not return to the boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. Culling tags or clips are allowed. Specially designed bags which increase the survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Director and must be used for the weigh-in.
19. **CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. to be deducted from their daily score. Competitors are allowed to ice a dead fish that is part of their daily catch. The Tournament Director, or his/her designees, shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. **Dead fish may not be weighed and/or considered for a lunker pool entry.** In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however, they are not allowed to receive ice from non-contestants. **SMALL DIP NETS FOR CULLING PURPOSES ARE ENCOURAGED.** It is recommended competitors keep all bass in live wells during the culling process. Placing bass on the boat carpet during culling is not advised. **Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed.**
20. **LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in **Rule 16** at the appointed time shall be penalized one pound from their total weight for every minute they are late. This will include any weight to be counted toward a "lunker award". Any competitor more than fifteen minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case, shall a

competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the checkpoint, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After commencement of a tournament, fishing is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced.

21. **A. TIES IN AN INDIVIDUAL EVENT:** Ties in an individual event will be broken;
1. By weight of the largest fish.
 2. By total number of fish.
 3. By a flip of a coin.
- B. TIES IN ANGLER OF THE YEAR STANDINGS:** Ties in the AOY standings will be broken:
1. By the angler's total weight for the year.
 2. By the angler's total number of fish for the year.
 3. By flip of a coin.
22. **PROTEST PROCEDURE:** Protests must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Director or their designated representative prior to completion of the weigh-in (CLOSING OF THE SCALES) on the day of the event. Upon receiving a protest, the Tournament Director or their designated representative will establish a ruling committee consisting of three to five CBN members, excluding the individual who filed the protest and the individual who is being protested. This committee will investigate the allegations made and determine if a rule violation has occurred. **In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose disciplinary action up to and including disqualification.** In addition, depending on the severity of the violation, the CBN Executive Board may rule to suspend or terminate the rule violators' membership from the Connecticut BASS Nation.
23. **BOAT LAUNCHING:** All boats shall be in the water and ready to leave one-half hour prior to the start time of the tournament. Boats not in the water by the specified time will not be allowed to launch until the last boat has taken off. Official time and special rules (if any) will be at the check-in table. The tournament departure will be by boat number.

24. **TOURNAMENT TRAIL**

QUALIFIER EVENTS: Will consist of a five-tournament trail with a Boater/Non-boater (Pro/AM) format. The boater will pay a \$120.00 entry fee and the non-boater will pay a \$60.00 entry fee for each tournament. The sum of \$2.00 will be taken from each entry fee to cover tournament expenses and an additional **25%** from each entry fee will be utilized to offset costs borne by the **BASS National Championship (BNC)** qualifiers. There will be an optional lunker pool at each event. Contestants may or may not compete to qualify for the **BNC** or Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event**. All anglers who wish to compete to qualify for the **BNC** or Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event** must identify a linked angler from the opposite division on their tournament application for each of the five events. It is acceptable to have different "links" for each tournament. Entry fees for both competitors must accompany each tournament application. Linking will guarantee that linked anglers are paired to remain compliant with **BNC** qualification criteria. If an individual's linked angler is unable to participate in an event, the individual linked with that angler can pay a \$25 penalty fee and will be paired with a non-linked participant if available. This penalty fee must be paid at the registration table prior to the start of that day's competition. If a non-linked participant is unavailable, the fee is waived, and the anglers catch for that day will not count towards **BNC** Qualification. Non-linked competitors cannot qualify for the **BNC** through the CBN Tournament Trail. The standings will be based on the following points system; in each of the 5 CBN qualifier events, the individual competitor who finishes in first place will receive 300 points. For each place below first, the points will drop in 2-point increments down to the lowest weight. All contestants who do not catch a fish will receive 50 points less than the individual with the lowest recorded weight. **There will be one drop tournament, meaning, each contestant's lowest event score, throughout the 5 events, will not count towards the Angler of the Year standings.** All anglers must enter a blind draw and there will be no club pre-pairings allowed. Computerized pairings will be performed for each event. Open boats will be allowed if not paired. The non-boater is NOT required to reimburse the boater for fuel expenses.

The CBN "Angler of the Year" title for each division (Boater and Non-boater) will be determined from the total points accrued by an individual competitor upon completion of these five events. Points accrued at each CBN qualifier tournament will accumulate throughout the 5 CBN qualifier tournaments and will be utilized to determine the final "Angler of the Year" standings upon completion of CBN qualifier tournament 5. The **6 BNC** Qualification positions and **18** Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event** will be awarded upon completion of **CBN Tournament 5**. Awards (plaques or trophies) will be presented, for both divisions, to the top two anglers from each event and to the top three anglers from each division in the final "Angler of the Year" standings. These awards will be presented at the annual CBN banquet. **The top three anglers from each division in the final "Angler of the Year" standings will qualify for the BASS National Championship.** The **18** Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event** will be presented to the top finishing anglers in the final "Angler of the Year" standings beginning with the 4th place finisher in each division and are to be awarded evenly in both divisions, in ascending order, to those anglers in each division. The **6 BNC** qualifiers from the CBN Tournament Trail will receive financial assistance to offset the costs associated with participating in BASS National Championship. This financial assistance will be funded from 25% of each entry fee taken from the 5 CBN qualifier events. Anglers who are awarded Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event**, through the CBN tournament trail, are NOT eligible for financial assistance through tournament trail funds. All costs associated with participating in the **BNC Qualifier Event** shall be paid for by the competitor.

Bryan V. Kerchal Tournament of Club Champions (Mr. Bass): Will be a Pro/Am style event with a boater and a non-boater division. Each club or chapter is required to send two (2) boaters and two (2) non-boaters to this event. Failure to do so will render the club or chapter ineligible to participate. The club or chapter should cover the tournament entry fees. All competitors must be paired. Participants in this event will be determined by each individual club or chapter. It is strongly encouraged that the boaters be the club champion and second place finisher from the previous calendar year and the non-boaters be the non-boater champion or the second-place finisher from the previous year. The entry fee for this event will be \$120 for the boater and \$60 for the non-boater. The sum of \$2.00 will be taken from each entry fee to cover tournament expenses and an additional **25%** from each entry fee will be utilized to offset costs borne by the **BASS National Championship (BNC)** qualifiers from the 5 CBN qualifier events. A computerized pairing will be conducted for this event. The non-boater is NOT required to reimburse the boater for fuel expenses. The boater has control of the boat for the full duration of the tournament. Awards (plaques or trophies) will be presented to the first-place anglers from each division. The first-place finisher in each division will be awarded an Early Entry Code for the **BNC Qualifier Event**. Anglers who are awarded Early Entry Codes for the **BNC Qualifier Event** through this tournament are NOT eligible for financial assistance through tournament funds. All costs associated with participating in the BNC qualifier event shall be paid for by the competitor.

25. **WORKER FEES:** One person may be paid \$100 per event for the position of Trailer Hauler to cover fuel and wear and tear on their vehicle. This individual will be responsible for the safe delivery and return of the trailer during the above state events. One photographer may be paid up to \$50 per event.
26. **PAYOUTS:** 25% of the gross monies will be deducted from each division (Boater and Non-boater) and allocated to help offset the cost for the **6** BASS National Championship qualifiers. Tournament pay outs will be determined by a computer program so all applicable monies are distributed to 10% of the field in both the Boater and Non-boater divisions.
27. **COMMUNICATION DEVICES:** During the tournament, a competitor must NOT use a CB radio, a VHF marine band-radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating and/or catching fish. Cellular phones and other communication devices shall only be used in case of an emergency or to contact the tournament officials. Any competitor witnessed using a communication device for reasons other than those stated above may be subject to disqualification.

ANGLERS CHECK LIST

1. Applications must be post marked 15 days prior to the event. Refer to Rule #3
2. Pairings list with the contact information will be posted on the Message Board. If you have not registered for the Message Board, you will need to do so. Or you can obtain view only access by contacting your CBN meeting Rep or one of the Tournament Officials.
3. **Non-boater** – responsible for contacting the Boater once pairings are posted, prior to the day of the event. The morning of the event is not the time to be making first contact with your partner. Refer to Rule #5
4. **Non-boater** – must bring a Coast Guard approved Life Jacket. Refer to Rule #6
5. **Boater** – must provide a seat for Non-boater. Refer to Rule #11
6. **Boater** – must ensure all equipment is in good working condition. (live wells, running lights, pumps, kill switch, etc...) Refer to Rule #6 & #11
7. **Boater and Non-Boater** – must be checked in with Tournament Officials one (1) hour prior to the start of the tournament. All boats must be in the water and ready to go 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Refer to Rule #16 & #22.

Boats that are not in the water 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament will not be allowed to launch until the last boat has taken off. Official time and special rules (if any) will be at the check-in table. Tournament departure will be by boat number. Refer to Rule #22.