



## **NBAA Bass Angling Tournament Objectives, Rules and Regulations**

Bass angling in Namibia is a “best competitor” orientated competition, held with good sportsmanship in mind, at all tournaments, and at all times, when associated with the sport and / or the association, directly or by means of endorsement.

### **1. Anglers Participating in NBAA Tournaments**

1.1 Only registered members of the NBAA, in good standing with the association, may take part in all tournaments. To participate all members must complete and forward a signed NBAA Application Form (Annexure 1), NBAA General Indemnity (Annexure 3), a signed NBAA Code of Conduct form (Annexure 4) and NFFA safety equipment checklist (Annexure 20).

1.2 Any angler who is a country member or not a member of the association may participate in the national tournaments, as a guest angler. A guest angler may however not participate in more than two (2) national tournaments per annum. A guest angler will be subject to the same rules and regulations as all other NBAA members. A signed NBAA General Indemnity (Annexure 3) and a signed NBAA Code of Conduct form (Annexure 4) must be forwarded to the Tournament Director before any Guest Angler may participate. The cost of participation for a guest angler per tournament will be determined at the Annual General Meeting.

1.3 The maximum allowed number of participants per boat is three (3) during national tournaments and one (1) during national championships, national trials and the B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event.

1.4 Interpretation and enforcement of rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director.

1.5 Every Angler must have a valid national freshwater fishing permit and must be able to present this to the tournament director upon request.

1.6 Every Angler must have a valid national freshwater boat permit and must be able to present this to the tournament director upon request.

1.7 Every boat / vessel with a combustion engine must be registered at the offices of the Namibia Federation for Freshwater Anglers (NFFA). Registration stickers must be displayed as per NFFA requirements.

### **2. Practice and Off-limits Cut-off Times**

2.1. The practice and off limits cut-off times for national tournaments will be Sunday evening at 20:00 on the Sunday evening, preceding the national tournaments scheduled for the following weekend (preferably) Saturday. Practice and cut-off times can be changed by the executive management council depending on factors such as a drought, severe weather, etc.

2.2. The practice and off limits cut of times for national trials and / or national championships and / or regional tournaments will be 19:00 on the day preceding the national trials and / or national championships and / or regional tournaments. Practice and cut-off times can be changed by the executive management council depending on factors such as a drought, severe weather, etc.

### **3. Launching Procedure, Registration and Captains Meeting**

3.1. The tournament director will advise all competitors about the launching procedure, launching times and or any special regulations, for the next tournament venue, at least 24 hours before the start of the tournament.

3.2. All tournaments will be preceded by a registration process.

3.2.1. All association member anglers will register at the weigh-in station by taking their assigned tag numbers off the tag board.

3.2.2. Guest anglers are to report to the weigh-in station. A signed NBAA General Indemnity (Annexure 3) and a signed NBAA Code of Conduct form (Annexure 4) as well as the funds for participation, must be forwarded to the Tournament Director before a Guest Angler may participate.

3.2.3. The captains meeting will then take place according to Annexure 5.

### **4. Tournament Procedures**

4.1. The tournament director will advise on the official start/finish line (or gate), on possible no-wake and no-fishing areas, as well as possible venue-determined danger or no-go areas.

4.2. The tournament director will advise on the duration of each tournament i.e. start time, take off time and cut-off or check-in time. The tournament director will determine the starting and end time of all angling tournaments two (2) weeks prior to any competition and all anglers will be notified of times. All factors including safe travel to and from a venue will be taken into account when determining the times. The changes will be beneficial considering that we have seasonal time changes in Namibia.

4.3. At check-in, all anglers must have crossed the gate-line before the weigh-master sounds the horn to mark the official end time of the tournament. Tags are then to be brought back to the weigh-master and returned to the tag board. Lost tags are subject to N\$ 200.00 replacement fee.

4.4. The executive council secretary will determine the starting order for one (1) and two (2) day tournaments by means of a computerised random generator. All registered and fully paid NBAA member names and tag numbers will be loaded onto the random generator. The starting order will be announced via e-mail and on Facebook on the Monday prior to the following week's tournament. The final starting order will then be finalised on the morning of the tournament based on attendance.

The starting order for two (2) day events will be determined, by the executive council secretary by means of a separate computerised random generator comprised of only the anglers that have qualified for the event. The starting order for day 1 will be announced via e-mail and on Facebook on the Monday prior to the following week's event. The starting order for day two (2) will be determined by the angler's points attained from the previous day.

4.5. The Tournament days may not commence before clear daylight and must be completed at least one hour before sunset with a minimum of 8 hour per tournament day. The Tournament Director may delay the start of a Tournament day, if mist or fog prevails, if the conditions are deemed unsafe (due to high winds etc.) (See point 7 hereunder).

### **5. Angling Waters**

5.1. No angler may "skin dive" or "scuba dive" on the tournament waters, during the tournament.

5.2. All anglers are to stay on their boats at all times. Exceptions are a call of nature, an emergency situation and / or assistance of fellow anglers in an emergency situation.

5.3. The tournament director will explain the tournament area, identifying danger areas, no-fishing areas and or off-limits areas.

## **6. Safety**

6.1. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. In the event of any competitor driving their boat in such a manner as to endanger other competitor's property or lives, the affected competitor may lodge a complaint, with the tournament director as per the complaints procedure described.

6.2. During the Tournament, each competitor is required to wear an authorized, chest type life preserver or personal flotation device (PFD). This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for a complaint to be forwarded to the tournament director.

6.3. The tournament director has the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

6.4. Tournament waters may be restricted and tournament days may be cut short at any time because of a sudden, emerging bad weather. In such a case, the tournament director will contact the anglers, who will in turn spread the word amongst fellow competitors, to suspend the tournament day or cancel the rest of a tournament day and be back at the start/finish line (gate) at a time to be determined by the tournament director.

6.5. All boats taking part in all tournaments are obliged to have operable ignition kill-switches fitted. This kill-switch device must be attached to the driver's body or life preserver at all times, when the main combustion engine is running.

6.6. At any time when the combustion engine is operating, the driver must be in the driver's seat and must be in full control of the boat. The possible passenger(s) (co-anglers) must be seated in his / her / their seat.

6.7. Standard safety rules pertaining to local waters, including the "rule of the road" (shore on right hand side, resulting in counter-clockwise movement) will be observed at all times.

6.8. In narrow channels, every boat shall keep to their right of the middle of the channel. When boats approach ahead, they shall pass with the other boat to the left (port rule) at a distance and speed so that the wake of neither will endanger the other.

6.9. Overtaking in the same direction shall be executed with discretion and the overtaken boat shall maintain its course until well clear of overtaken boat(s).

6.10. Generally, the overtaking boat should keep to the deep-water side of the other, without endangering boats approaching head-on.

6.11. Entering or exiting a narrow channel, backwater area, in the back of a tributary arm of a river or a secondary arm for example shall only be done at idle-speed so that no wake is created. This narrow water area is an area where it is possible to cast to both banks, from the middle if the arm or channel.

6.12. Idle-speed is defined at no-wake travelling at 1,200 rpm's. The Tournament Director will identify no-wake or idle zones, at the opening of the Tournament.

6.13. These narrow-water areas, may not be blocked off by a boat or a marker-buoy and competitors must be allowed to pass. In such a case, the competing boat (boat that arrived second on the scene) may not infringe on the first boat's angling waters.

6.14. Boats on trolling motor use may pass each other, however each has to observe a 40 meter courtesy distance. Moving boats must pass behind (behind the fishing direction of the other competitor's) the stationary boat.

6.15. When two boats are fishing (both moving) towards each other then the boat that is closest to the bank will stay against the bank and the other shall give a reasonable berth (40 meter courtesy distance) around the boat on the bank.

6.16. All anglers may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Competitors must leave and return to the official check-in point by boat. All anglers are to stay on their boats at all times. Exceptions are a call of nature, an emergency situation and / or assistance of fellow anglers in an emergency situation.

## **7. Emergency, Distress or Breakdown**

Safety and security of all involved are of the utmost importance during any NBAA tournament.

7.1. In case of an emergency, distress or breakdown at a NBAA tournament, competitors may be removed from their boat to another competitor's boat or a rescue boat. In extreme cases competitors may abandon their boat.

7.2. In the case of an emergency, distress or breakdown at a tournament a competitor may flag down, or draw the attention of any fellow competitor, by making use of one of the emergency equipment (see 10. below).

7.3. The competitor seeing a fellow competitor seeking assistance, or seeing a fellow competitor in distress, may not pass and/or leave the competitor in distress, but must assist wherever possible, to the best of their ability without endangering their own safety. Failure to respond to a distress signal, yellow flag, mirror or flare will be forwarded to the tournament director.

7.4. All emergencies, distresses and / or breakdowns must be communicated to the tournament director as soon as possible.

7.5. In the event of an emergency or a breakdown an angler / anglers may transfer their catch in separate weigh bags to the rescue boat(s). Should a boat have to be abandoned in this procedure it is the angler's duty to secure the boat safely to shore or to a boat ramp, dock etc.

7.6. In the event that the rescue boat is a fellow angler's boat and as a result of the rescue (to include towing) they are late to weigh-in, the rescuer will not be subject to late penalties but the rescued will.

7.7. If a competitor or competitors must violate any of the association's competition objectives, rules & regulations, the angler(s) of the distressed boat, as well as the rescuing boat must cease fishing at this point. If after the emergency situation is resolved enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a restart will be allowed and the angler(s) will continue and their catch will be counted.

7.8. Boats must remain in the tournament waters during tournament hours. "Trailing" of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except with the permission of tournament director or weigh-master.

7.9. Misuse or misconduct of the emergency, distress or breakdown rules, by any participant of any tournament, will be brought forward to the tournament director.

## **8. Sportsmanship and Conduct**

8.1. All anglers are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infringement of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for the matter to be forwarded as a complaint, to the tournament director, by fellow competitors and may result in immediate disqualification.

8.2. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor that reflects

unfavourably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for a complaint to be forwarded to the tournament director.

8.3. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, shall be allowed in the boats during the association tournaments. No participant may consume any alcohol during tournaments or participate in competition sessions while under the influence of any intoxicating substance. Chemical-substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with the competition objectives, rules and regulations, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for further participation. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for further participation.

8.4. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by competitors. In the event of any competitor driving a boat in such a manner as to endanger other competitor's property or lives, that competitor may be reported to the tournament director without payment of the official complaint fee. The tournament director will then take the matter under review and involve the executive management committee, if deemed necessary.

## **9. Tackle, Equipment and Angling Rules**

9.1. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait, prepared bait or bait made from a natural substance may be used, with the exclusion of pork strips pork rinds etc.

9.2. Only one (1) casting, spinning or spin-casting rod (maximum 10 foot long from tip to but end) and a manual, mechanically operated reel may be used by a (1) angler at one time. All other rods are prohibited. A snagged rod or a rod that has a fish attached to it is considered in-use.

9.3. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified.

9.4. When visually fishing for bedding bass (sight fishing), all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your angling partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.

9.5. Only knotless, approved landing nets may be used to boat bass. No gaffs or grippers may be used to boat bass.

9.6. Competitors may not touch another competitor's rod; reel or line from the time a competitor has made a cast until the end of the retrieval.

9.7. A competitor's partner may land his partner's fish. It is acceptable for the "landing partner" to touch the line up to 1 meter from the fish to assist in landing that fish. If a line breaks during the playing or landing of a fish, only the competitor whose fish it is may retrieve the fish by hand. Any fish landed on a "broken line" in any other manner must be returned to the water.

9.8. A maximum of 2 lures may be tied to one line. Umbrella rigs, Alabama rigs or any similar rigs are not permitted, unless they have a maximum of 2 hooks attached. These may be a maximum of 4 treble hooks.

9.9. Casting distance shall be casting distance of the lure, rig and rod currently fished, or a maximum radius of 40 meters around the boat. No fellow or competing boat is allowed within this casting distance radius, except to lend assistance in a distress situation.

9.10. No areas may be claimed verbally by any competitor or boat. Anglers are permitted to use marker-buoys to demarcate a fishing area, but will remain within a casting distance of any marker buoy. In the event of a marker buoy being used, the radius of 40 meters shifts from a competitors boat to a radius around the marker-buoy being fished. Any marker-buoy falling outside of this casting distance, neglected by a competitor or not being fished by a competitor becomes null and void to the

above regulations; unless it is retrieved and re-set by the original competing angler. An approaching angler may claim a null and void marker-buoy for his / her own use.

9.11. Fishing tackle, lures may only be exchanged by anglers before the start of a tournament day. In the case of emergency assistance, an exception will be made.

## **10. Basic Boat Equipment**

10.1. All boats competing in the tournaments must be registered under the relevant local authority if such is applicable.

Every boat must have the following safety equipment:

- A set of paddles or electric trolling motor.
- A torch.
- A fire extinguisher.
- A piece of yellow material, one-square-meter (1m<sup>2</sup>), to be used as a distress flag (see section 7).
- A mirror, for reflecting sunlight and attracting attention. (A CD-ROM or highly reflective piece of aluminum is sufficed).
- One (1) life preserver per person, with at least two (2) life preservers on the boat.
- A rope no less than ten meters (10m) in length and of sufficient strength to tow a bass boat.
- A raised pole light in working order that sheds 360 degree of light. Pole light must be visible from both sides of the outboard motor (above the cowling).
- A baling-bucket of not less than five liters (5l) capacity. (May be lat-pack, fold-up type)
- A suitable anchor of sufficient strength to anchor a bass boat.
- A device able to make an audible noise, such as a hooter, whistle, etc.

10.2. In addition to the above a boat must have a functional bilge pump and live-well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of 5 bass. The tournament director and weigh-master shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

10.3. All boats will be made available for inspection by the tournament director and / or weigh-master at the start of each tournament. The tournament director and / or weigh-master reserve the right to re-inspect boats at any time and verify easy access to all safety equipment.

10.4. Pole lights must be switched on at the tournament, when boats are launched in the dark and may only be switched off and / or removed at full-day-light. Non-functioning lights will result in the matter being brought forward to the tournament director.

## **11. Weigh-in, Eligible Fish and Scoring**

11.1. The weigh-in at all tournaments will be done according to the weigh-in procedure as described in annexure 6 and will be documented onto a weigh-in sheet as described in annexure 14.

11.2. Anglers may opt to weigh in only a limited number of the fish in their possession, which may not exceed five (5) fish.

11.3. Only bass will be weighed. Only bass with a length of 300 mm and over will qualify to be weighed. Any dead bass less than 300 mm will attract a penalty equal to 1 point. Any dead qualifying (over 300mm) bass will attract a penalty of 0.5 points to be deducted from the daily score.

11.4. The appointed weight-master shall have sole authority of assessing these penalty points. Any bass (live or dead) less than 280mm will disqualify the entire bag for the day. The measurement of bass is done in a straight line from the tip of the closed mouth to the tip of the tail. Fanning of the tail will be permitted and competitors will be briefed on this issue. Any bass that appears to have

been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament director.

11.5. An angler is permitted to weigh in five (5) bass. They may not have more than five (5) bass in their live well at any time. The weigh-master and / or the tournament director may at any time conduct checks for violation of this provision. In the event a competitor having more than the above-described limit, anglers are forced to cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described.

11.6. 0.5 of a point (fish-point) is awarded for every legal fish weighed dead or alive – to a maximum of five (5) fish per participating angler. The five (5) fish limit of fish in your live-well shall take into account any fish that have been weighed; no “spare” fish shall be permitted at any time.

11.7. Points shall be calculated by adding the weight of the fish caught by the angler, plus the fish-points, less any penalty points applicable.

11.8. A separate weigh-in sheet will be maintained for each participating angler in all tournaments. Angler must sign the weigh-in sheet at the weigh-in station, at the end of a day’s angling or when he / she is leaving the tournament waters.

11.9. No information as to fish caught or weights caught by other anglers may be divulged by the weigh-master. The weigh-master must also ensure the confidentiality of the weigh-sheet information of all anglers until the end of the tournament, when all completed weigh-in sheets are handed over to the tournament director.

## **12. Complaints and Objections**

12.1. All tournament related complaints must be submitted within 24 hours, in writing to the tournament director, or within one (1) week to the executive management committee. A non-refundable amount of two hundred Namibian dollars (N\$ 200.00) payable to the association must be included with all tournament related complaints.

12.2. Failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules and Regulations, or false verification of weigh-in forms will also be cause for the matter to be forwarded to the tournament director and / or the executive management committee.

12.3. If a matter cannot be resolved by the tournament director, the tournament director will forward the matter to the executive management committee.

12.4. The decision of the tournament director and / or the executive management committee in regards to a tournament related complaint will be final and binding.

## **13. Determination of Achievements**

The following criteria shall determine the winners of tournaments, within the association:

13.1. National Tournament Results: are determined by accumulation of the most points per angler for that tournament day, amongst all national anglers present, at that given tournament.

13.2. Regional Tournament Results: are determined by accumulation of the most points per angler, per region, for that tournament day, amongst all region anglers present, at that given tournament.

13.3. National Championship Results: are determined by accumulation of the most points per angler, at a national championship event, amongst all anglers present at that national championship. Points per day of National Championships are determined by the accumulation of fish points, penalties and total weigh of the competitor’s bag per day. Points per day of National Championships are added up to determine the final result points.

13.4. B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier Event Results: are determined by accumulation of the most points per angler, at a B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event, amongst all anglers present at that B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event. Points per day of National Championships are determined by the accumulation of fish

points, penalties and total weigh of the competitor's bag per day. Points per day of National Championships are added up to determine the final result points.

13.5. Angler of the Year Results: are determined by the accumulation of the best four (4) out of six (6) national tournament point results, during an angling year, amongst all association members, who have participated during an angling year.

13.6. International Team Selection Results: are determined by the accumulation of 60% of the angler of the year point (best four (4) out of six (6) National Tournament Scores divided by four (4)) and 40% of the national Championships points. National Championships is conjunction with an angler's year point will determine the proposal for the next Namibia Bass Angling International Team, to represent Namibia.

13.7. B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Representing Angler Results: are determined by the accumulation of the angler of the year points and the National Championships points and the B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event points and will determine the one (1) angler who will represent the association at the B.A.S.S. Nation Championships held in the USA annually. The ratio will be 50% angler of the year points, 25% National Championships points and 25% B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier event points. The angler with the best points total using the above ratio will qualify as the 'boater' for the B.A.S.S. Nation Championships. The angler with the second best points total using the above ratio will qualify as the 'non-boater' for the B.A.S.S. Nation Championships.

13.8. Association Ladies Results: are determined by the accumulation of all tournaments participated in by a lady, during an angling year and is open to ladies of junior and senior status. Ladies angler of the year is determined by accumulating the best four (4) out of (6) national tournament points.

13.9. Association Junior Results: are determined by the accumulation of all tournaments participated in by a junior, during an angling year and is open to junior boys and girls. Junior angler of the year is determined by accumulating the best four (4) out of (6) national tournament points.

#### **14. General**

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the official competition days.

14.1 All competitors must acquaint themselves with the contents of these competition objectives, rules & regulations. Any violation of or deviation from these Rules due to ignorance will not be accepted as an excuse.