

GEORGIA B.A.S.S. FEDERATION NATION



“Georgia State Classic” Rules

“THIS ROAD LEADS TO THE CLASSIC”

**GEORGIA B.A.S.S FEDERATION NATION
TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS
2007 GEORGIA STATE CLASSIC**

April 13, 14 &15, 2007

1. **Rules:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The rules of this tournament are not subject to protest or change. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee and Board of Directors of the Georgia B.A.S.S. Federation Nation [GBFN] and their decision shall be final in all matters.

2. **Participants and Eligibility:** Participation in this Tournament is open only to members of the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society [B.A.S.S.] who are at least 16 years of age and members of a Chapter/Club, with a minimum of **SIX** members, in the Georgia B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of prospective competitors. Each participant is required to present at registration a valid Georgia fishing license, a current B.A.S.S. Card, a B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Membership card, and if furnishing a boat, her/his boat registration and proof of \$300,000 of Watercraft Liability Insurance [WLI] or \$100,000 of WLI backed by a \$1 million “Umbrella” Liability Policy covering the boat and the designated operator. Only properly designated alternates shall be eligible to take the place of a participant during the tournament. To enter the tournament, the chapter must be a member in good standing of the GBFN. To enter the “Georgia State Classic” the chapter should then complete an Entry Form [attached] and forward it to the tournament committee with the entry fee [\$450]. The tournament committee reserves the right to discontinue accepting entries prior to the deadline or to extend the acceptance date. Refund of the entry fee will be made only if proper notification is made to the tournament committee prior to the deadline. **Dead line for entry fee’s April 6th.**

3. **Registration and Drawing:** Registration is to be accomplished by teams.

Presidents or representative meeting 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Phase I [Documentation Presentation] will be Friday beginning at 4:30 p.m. thru 5:30 p.m. Friday evening. During Phase I the team will need to appear as a group and the team captain will need to represent the team documentation. When the team representative presents the documents, they must be clear readable photocopies, properly highlighted, if not the original documents.

Phase II of registration shall be conducted between 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Friday at Highland Marina. During Phase II of registration, it is required that the Chapter Officers and the Team Captain meet with the tournament director. This meeting will be followed by a Federation Meeting with all competitors in attendance. The drawing for flight order then the drawing for partners, by flights for both days will be conducted immediately following with no break. At the completion of day one pairings, the day two pairings will be posted on the bulletin board. All contestants are required to be present for the meeting. Exceptions are granted on a case-by-case basis by the Tournament Committee

4. **Sportsmanship**: Competitors in all Georgia B. A.S.S. Federation Nation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages or a “drunken” condition exhibited by any competitor due to previous consumption of drugs or alcoholic beverages during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future GBGN tournaments, Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who are on the tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon the GBFN effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and sportsmanship shall be reason for immediate disqualification.
5. **Pairing of Contestants**: Two contestants will be assigned to each boat. No contestants from the same chapter shall be paired. Announcement of your fishing partner shall be made at the drawing. The second day’s partner will be posted on the bulletin board. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location in time to check out through the official check point/inspection station and be started from the release point on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes be allowed for preparation, boat and equipment inspection and departure to the check-out/start point.
6. **Safety**: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver (PFD). This Personal Floatation Device must be worn **any** time the combustion engine is operating. The PFD must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches her/his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. The boat operator must have the “kill” switch attached to her/his person when the combustion engine is running. Boats shall be operated in safe and sane manner. The non-boater partner has the right to demand safe and sane boat operation. Violations of this rule shall be reason for immediate disqualification.
7. **Running lights** will be installed and operating at time of take off.
8. **Pre-Tournament Practice**: The tournament lake has **NO OFF LIMITS** days in this tournament. During the one day official practice (Friday), a contestant will be allowed to fish only with another contestant, alternate, member of her/his family, except a guide, or you may fish alone.
9. **Tackle and Equipment**: Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait will be permitted with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spin casting or spinning rods, not in excess of 8 feet in length, with appropriate reels may be used. All other types are prohibited. Only one rod and reel is permitted in use at any given time, however, other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready for use. Nets may be used to land fish but **NOT** gaffs or “grippers”. Underwater TV cameras may **NOT** be used during competition.

10. **Boat and Motor:** All boats offered for use in a GBGN Tournament must meet the standards of the US Coast Guard and the state of Georgia. All boats must be equipped with some type of Ignition “kill” switch. All tournament boats must be 16 feet or more in length. Horsepower of the principal power source shall be within the USCG rating as designated on the manufacturer’s rating plate and shall not be less than 75 horsepower and a **maximum of 250hp**. Boats with “Stick Steering”, “barges” or similar cumbersome crafts shall not be permitted in the tournament. Gas must be stored only in factory-installed tanks. An electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. A competitor furnishing a boat and motor shall be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by him/herself and his/her daily partner. Competitors not furnishing a boat and motor shall be paired with those who are. Tournament boats must be equipped with a chair type seat on the rear deck and a large empty compartment for use of the non-boater partner.

11. **Basic Boat Equipment:** Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both fishermen using the boat. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether the aeration and capacity are “proper and adequate”.

12. **Boat Identification:** Each boat shall have a numbered post cards located in the boat during the tournament. “Post card will identify boat number and flight number”

13. **Boat Inspection:** The non-boater partner will assure her/himself that the boat meets USCG and Georgia safety requirements, knows the location of the fire extinguisher and the bilge pump switch. The tournament committee shall inspect each boat for functional navigation lights, aeration/live well system and an ignition “kill” switch. The partners must be wearing USCG chest type PDF’s that fits and are properly fastened.

14. **Boat Operation and Expenses:** A full discussion must be held between the two partners prior to a morning departure as to schedule of boat operation and fishing locations. This schedule must permit each partner equal time to fish from the front of the boat and to operate the trolling motor. If a contestant waives these rights he/she shall nevertheless retain the right to select the fishing waters for one-half of that tournament day. Any contestant who in the judgment of the officials operates that boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his/her partner shall be disqualified. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or to a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. 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 the day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions due to emergency or any other reason, his/her catch of the day shall not be counted in the tournament. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited. In view of the expense of operating a tournament bass boat, it is suggested that the non-boater partner, as a minimum, assume the cost of gas and oil for competition day.

15. **Permitted Fishing Locations**: Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except in designated off-limits areas or within 50 yards of a marina or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. No anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within a 50 yard radius claimed by her/him to the exclusion of any other competitor. Maneuvering boats shall be followed no closer than 50 yards. All angling must be done from 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. Contestants must not leave the boat to land a fish. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.

NOTE: Off limits includes all of **Highland Marina** area from no wake buoy at mouth of slough to the back.

16. **Official Checkpoints**: **Morning** – Each contestant must be in the water with his/her partner 30 minutes prior to the scheduled inspection time for their flight. **Evening** – The boater pair must check in with the tournament committee check-in boat no later than the check-in time announced for their flight. After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will proceed to the weigh-in-site at a slow idle. Remain in your boat with the aerators running until you are handed an official Georgia State Classic weigh bag by a tournament official; then place your fish in the bag and proceed to the weigh-in station.

17. **Scoring**: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths of pound (or ounces) of weight of each competitor's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth's, Spotted, Red Eye, Shoal, or Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five total of the above species. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. The Tournament Director will announce the length limits prior the start of the tournament. At no time shall a competitor have in her/his possession more than the limit described above. **Culling of dead fish is NOT allowed.** In the event a competitor has more than five fish in his/her possession at weigh-in the tournament officials shall cull the largest bass first down to the limit described. Fish shall be measured on a flat board on the longest straight line. Fish which fail to measure the minimum length shall accrue a penalty of one pound and all such fish shall be disallowed. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Anyone attempting to alter a fish shall be subject to disqualification. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered shall be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the weigh-in officials. The weight of the catch must be certified by the signature of his/her partner of the day. Contestants must not allow bass they catch to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament. After the competitor has delivered his/her catch to the weigh master, he/she may not touch said catch until the weigh-in procedure is completed. The bass caught must not be on a stringer at any time. Individual identification markers are allowed. Competitors will transport their catch from the boat to the weigh-in line in a water filled plastic bag provided by the tournament committee. The fish shall then be placed in a basket for the remainder of the weigh-in process.

18. **Don't Kill Your Catch**: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of a properly-aerated live well. Do not clip fins or otherwise physically mark the fish for identification. The few bass that do not survive will be donated.

19. **Bonus Points**: For each legal bass weighed in alive the competitor shall be awarded one-tenth of a pound of weight to be scored as ordinary weight as set forth in rule 16. All live fish shall be returned to the fishing waters except for a trophy fish (minimum 8 lbs) which may be kept for mounting.
20. **Late Penalty**: Any competitor who is not at the official check-in point as described in rule 15 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute late to be deducted from the total weight of her/his catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “lunker” award. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for the day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make-up for “lost time”. All fishing must cease upon check-in.
21. **Ties**: In the case of a tie for any place, the contestant with the greatest number of fish, or if still ties, the greatest number of live fish shall win the place in question. If the tie is yet unbroken, the contestant with the largest, if known, fish will win the place. A cut of the cards will resolve any yet unbroken ties. The next place will go to the person so eliminated.
22. **Communication**: There will be no communications, visually vocally or electronically between contestants and non-contestants or electronically between contestants, during the competition hours concerning the fishing.
23. None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor’s boat at any time.
24. **Protests**: Any protest must be submitted to the tournament committee in writing no later than 30 minutes after the protester has weighted his/her fish.

GEORGIA STATE CLASSIC AWARDS

TEAM AWARD – There shall be a cash award and trophies presented to the top team entered in the Classic. These awards shall be determined by the Tournament Committee.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS – There shall be cash awards and trophies for the top **TWELVE** individuals.

BIG BASS – A trophy and cash award shall be presented to the individual catching the largest bass of the tournament.

STATE TEAM – The GBFN Team shall be comprised of the top twelve individuals based on their catch in the CLASSIC. These individuals shall represent Georgia in the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Southern Division Tournament.

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	<p>OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM</p> <p>"GEORGIA STATE CLASSIC"</p> <p>(PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION)</p>
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CHAPTER NAME _____

CHAPTER NR _____

CHAPTER ADDRESS _____

CHAPTER PRESIDENT _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE (HOME) _____

WORK _____

FLT	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE #	BASS CARD#
BOAT GRN				
BOAT GOLD				
BOAT RED				
NO BOAT GRN				
NO BOAT GOLD				
NO BOAT RED				
ALT 1				
ALT 2				

(BOTTOM PORTION TO BE COMPLETED BY TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE)

DATE REC'D _____ CK # _____ CK DATE _____ AMOUNT _____

ENTRY FEE _____ BIG FISH POT _____ HATS _____ GBFN DUES _____

REQUIREMENTS COMPLETED FROM LIST ON PAGE 14 OF GBFN HANDBOOK

PAGE 19 RECEIVED _____ GBFN DUES PAID _____ B.A.S.S. FEDERATION DUES _____

YOUTH PROJECT _____ CREEL CENSUS CARDS _____

(THE CHAPTER ENTRY FORM WILL BECOME OFFICIAL WHEN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET.)

Mail to: Doug Moore 515 Wylderose Ln. Locust Grove, GA 30248

