

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Official Tournament Rule Book

2026-2027 Season

Welcome

Welcome to Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth!

Our mission is to provide young anglers with opportunities to compete in a safe, fair, and enjoyable environment while developing character, leadership, sportsmanship, conservation, and a lifelong passion for the sport of bass fishing.

This Rule Book has been created to clearly explain the expectations and responsibilities of everyone participating in Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments. Whether you are an Angler, Boat Captain, Team Advisor, parent, volunteer, or spectator, every person plays an important role in creating a positive tournament experience.

The rules within this book are intended to protect the safety of our participants, ensure fair competition, and provide consistency across every Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth event. While no rule book can address every possible situation, the State Director and Regional Directors are committed to making decisions that uphold the integrity of the organization and the sport.

Thank you for being part of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth. We appreciate your commitment to our anglers, our families, and the future of competitive youth fishing.

We wish every team a safe and successful tournament season.

Table of Contents

Section 1 - Governance & Rule Enforcement

Organization leadership, rule interpretation, enforcement authority, disciplinary actions, and reporting rule violations.

Section 2 - Angler Eligibility

Eligibility requirements, memberships, school eligibility, registration documents, fishing licenses, boater education, and participation requirements.

Section 3 - Teams

Team composition, partner changes, solo anglers, sibling exceptions, team eligibility, and Boat Captain assignments.

Section 4 - Tournament Registration

Tournament registration procedures, deadlines, required documents, schools and clubs, official communications, registration changes, and Boat Captain of Record requirements.

Section 5 - Boat Captains

Boat Captain eligibility, responsibilities, conduct, competition restrictions, reimbursement, championship requirements, and safety responsibilities.

Section 6 - Boat & Safety Requirements

Boat requirements, required safety equipment, personal flotation devices, kill switch requirements, safe boat operation, inspections, insurance, and emergency procedures.

Section 7 - Practice & Competition Rules

Information rule, official practice, electronics, communication, legal fishing methods, tournament boundaries, courtesy, boat check, check-in procedures, late penalties, and emergencies.

Section 8 - Weigh-In, Scoring & Awards

Fish care, legal catch requirements, official measuring procedures, bump station, penalties, weigh-in procedures, Big Bass competition, scoring, tie breakers, and tournament awards.

Section 9 - Sportsmanship & Conduct

Sportsmanship expectations, participant conduct, social media standards, sponsorship guidelines, alcohol and tobacco policies, reporting violations, and disciplinary actions.

Section 10 - Season Standings & Championship Qualification

Angler of the Year standings, points, Regional Championship qualification, State Championship qualification, National Championship qualification, and eligibility requirements.

Section 11 - Administrative Policies

Media release, truth verification procedures, weather policy, electronic signatures, official documents, and Rule Book revisions.

Section 12 - Annual Fundraiser Requirement

Annual fundraiser participation requirements, completion standards, fundraiser schedule, buyout option, late registration procedures, championship eligibility, sibling participation, and verification requirements.

Section 1: General Administration

1.1 Purpose

These rules govern all Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments and officially sanctioned events, including regular season tournaments, Regional Championships, State Championship events, Official Practice, and any other event conducted by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

These rules are intended to:

- Provide a safe environment for all participants.
- Promote fair and honest competition.
- Protect the integrity of every tournament.
- Encourage good sportsmanship, conservation, and ethical angling.
- Create consistency in tournament administration throughout Texas.

Participation in any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth event constitutes acceptance of these rules.

1.2 Definitions

Angler
A registered student approved to compete in a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournament.

Team
One or two registered Anglers competing together in the same boat.

Boat Captain
The approved adult responsible for operating the tournament boat, supervising the Anglers, and ensuring all tournament and safety rules are followed.

Team Advisor
The approved adult responsible for organizing and managing a school or community club and serving as the primary contact with Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Regional Director
The Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth official responsible for administering tournaments and enforcing these rules within their assigned region.

State Director
The Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth official responsible for overseeing all Youth and College programs throughout Texas and administering the State Championship.

Official Practice
Any practice period designated by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth during which tournament rules are in effect.

1.3 Rule Interpretation & Enforcement

The Regional Director is responsible for interpreting and enforcing these rules during all regular season tournaments and Regional Championship events within their assigned region.

The State Director is responsible for interpreting and enforcing these rules during the State Championship and any event designated by the State Director.

The Regional Director and State Director have the authority to make decisions necessary to ensure the safety of participants, preserve fair competition, and protect the integrity of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments.

Decisions regarding rule interpretation, tournament operations, scoring, penalties, eligibility, and unforeseen circumstances are final.

All federal, state, and local laws, including all boating and fishing regulations, must be followed at all times.

1.4 Rule Violations

Every Angler, Boat Captain, Team Advisor, parent, volunteer, and spectator shares the responsibility of protecting the integrity of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth competition.

Anyone who witnesses or becomes aware of a possible rule violation should report it as soon as reasonably possible using the official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Rule Violation Report Form.

Reports should include all known facts and may include supporting photographs, videos, electronic communications, GPS data, witness statements, or any other relevant information.

Failure to report a known rule violation may result in disciplinary action.

Knowingly submitting false, misleading, or fabricated information during a rule violation investigation may result in disciplinary action.

1.5 Penalties

Violations of these rules may result in one or more of the following penalties depending upon the severity of the violation and the circumstances involved:

- Warning
- Weight deduction
- Loss of one or more fish
- Loss of tournament weight
- Point deduction
- Tournament disqualification
- Loss of Angler of the Year points
- Loss of Regional Championship eligibility
- Loss of State Championship eligibility
- Suspension from future Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth events

Penalties may be applied to an individual Angler, Boat Captain, Team, or, when appropriate, an entire club.

The severity of the penalty shall be determined by the Regional Director or State Director after reviewing the facts surrounding the violation.

1.6 Emergencies

In the event of an emergency, immediately call **911** if emergency medical assistance or law enforcement is required.

After emergency services have been contacted and the situation is stable, notify the Regional Director as soon as reasonably possible.

Boat Captains are expected to take any action necessary to protect the safety and well-being of their Anglers.

The safety of all participants will always take priority over tournament competition.

1.7 Right of Participation

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to refuse or revoke participation in any tournament or event when it determines that participation is not in the best interest of the organization, its participants, or the integrity of competition.

This includes, but is not limited to, situations involving safety concerns, eligibility issues, disciplinary matters, failure to comply with these rules, or conduct that reflects negatively on Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

1.8 Rule Book Administration

These rules are intended to address the majority of situations that may occur during tournament competition. However, no rule book can anticipate every possible circumstance.

Situations not specifically covered within this Rule Book shall be decided by the Regional Director or State Director in a manner that best preserves safety, fairness, sportsmanship, and the integrity of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth competition.

These decisions are final.

Section 2: Angler Eligibility

2.1 Eligibility Requirements

Participation in Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments is open to students in grades 2 through 12.

A student who is in the 12th grade remains eligible provided they do not turn nineteen (19) years of age before September 1 of their senior year.

All Anglers must remain academically eligible and in good standing with their school, homeschool program, or educational institution. Academic eligibility shall follow the eligibility standards established by the student's educational program for participation in extracurricular activities.

Tournament officials reserve the right to request eligibility verification from the Team Advisor at any time during the season.

2.2 Membership Requirements

Before participating in any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournament, every Angler must maintain current membership in:

- B.A.S.S.
- B.A.S.S. Nation
- Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Regional membership fees and tournament entry fees shall be established annually by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Anglers may compete in multiple regions provided they satisfy the membership requirements for each region entered.

2.3 School & Team Eligibility

Anglers are expected to compete for the school they currently attend.

If an Angler's school does not have an approved fishing team, the Angler may compete with an approved community club or another approved school that accepts students outside its attendance boundaries, subject to approval by the Regional Director.

There is no limit to the number of Teams that may represent a school or community club.

If an Angler changes schools during the tournament season, the change must be reported to the Regional Director as soon as possible.

Eligibility and team placement will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

2.4 Required Registration Documents

Before participating in their first tournament of the season, every Angler must have all required registration documents submitted, reviewed, and approved.

Required documents include:

- Completed Tournament Registration
- Signed Liability Waiver
- Current IRS Form W-9
- Proof of current B.A.S.S. Membership
- Proof of a valid fishing license when required by law
- Boater Education Certificate if the Angler will legally operate a boat equipped with a combustion engine
- Any additional documentation required by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Incomplete registrations may result in an Angler being declared ineligible until all required documentation has been received and approved.

2.5 Fishing License Requirements

Every Angler who is required by law to possess a fishing license must maintain a valid fishing license throughout the tournament season.

Boat Captains must also maintain any fishing license required by law.

Failure to possess a valid fishing license when required may result in disqualification.

2.6 Boater Education Requirements

Any Angler or Boat Captain who will legally operate a boat equipped with a combustion engine during tournament activities must possess one of the following:

- A valid Texas Boater Education Certificate; or
- A valid United States Coast Guard Captain's License.

Required documentation must be submitted before participation.

Failure to meet this requirement will make that individual ineligible to operate the boat during tournament activities.

2.7 Special Eligibility Determinations

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth recognizes that circumstances occasionally arise that are not specifically addressed within this Rule Book.

Questions involving eligibility, school attendance, residency, exceptional circumstances, or other unique situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the State Director.

Eligibility decisions made by the State Director are final.

2.8 Right of Participation

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to approve or deny any tournament registration or participation when it determines doing so is in the best interest of participant safety, fair competition, or the integrity of the organization.

Providing false, incomplete, or misleading registration information may result in denial of participation, removal from competition, or additional disciplinary action.

Section 3: Teams

3.1 Team Composition

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth encourages Teams to consist of two (2) Anglers competing together in the same boat.

A Team may consist of:

- Two (2) eligible Anglers; or
- One (1) eligible Angler competing as a Solo Team.

Each Team must be assigned one (1) approved Boat Captain for each tournament.

There is no limit to the number of Teams that may represent a school or approved community club.

3.2 Team Partners

Teams are expected to remain together throughout the tournament season.

A Team consists of the Angler(s) registered at the time tournament registration is completed.

If a Team changes partners after the season begins, the newly formed Team will be considered a new Team for Angler of the Year and Team points.

All previously earned Team points shall be forfeited and the new Team will begin the season with zero (0) Team points.

Individual participation history remains with each Angler for qualification purposes where applicable.

3.3 Solo Anglers

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth permits Solo Anglers to compete when a second Angler is unavailable.

Solo Anglers compete under the same tournament rules, scoring procedures, and safety requirements as two-person Teams.

Solo Anglers are eligible for tournament awards, Angler of the Year points, Regional Championship qualification, and State Championship qualification provided all eligibility requirements have been met.

Qualification for the Bassmaster National Championship shall follow all current B.A.S.S. rules and procedures governing Solo Anglers.

3.4 Sibling Exception

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth recognizes that special circumstances may exist for siblings who wish to compete together.

A Team consisting of one (1) Junior Division Angler and one (1) High School Division Angler may be approved by the State Director on a case-by-case basis.

Approved sibling Teams will be designated as **Ineligible (I)** within tournament standings.

Ineligible Teams may:

- Participate in qualifying tournaments.
- Earn tournament awards.
- Earn Angler of the Year points.
- Regional Championships

Ineligible Teams are **not eligible** to advance to:

- State Championship
- Bassmaster National Championship

unless otherwise authorized under future Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth policies.

3.5 Team Eligibility

To remain eligible throughout the tournament season, every Team must:

- Maintain all required memberships.
- Meet all registration requirements.
- Maintain academic eligibility.
- Maintain all required licenses and certifications.
- Comply with this Rule Book.
- Meet all applicable Regional Championship and State Championship qualification requirements.

Failure to maintain eligibility may result in the Team being declared ineligible until the deficiency has been corrected.

3.6 Boat Captain Assignment

Every Team must have one (1) approved Boat Captain assigned before tournament competition begins.

The assigned Boat Captain must complete all registration requirements and meet all eligibility requirements contained within this Rule Book.

Changes to the registered Boat Captain after tournament registration require prior approval from the Regional Director before tournament launch.

For Regional Championship and State Championship tournaments consisting of multiple competition days, Teams may utilize different approved Boat Captains on separate competition days.

Each Boat Captain must:

- Meet all Boat Captain eligibility requirements.
- Complete all required registration documents.
- Have previously served as an approved Boat Captain during at least one (1) Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth qualifying tournament during the current season, regardless of region.

Failure to obtain approval for a Boat Captain change before tournament competition begins may result in disqualification.

Section 4: Tournament Registration

4.1 Tournament Registration

All Anglers and Boat Captains must complete the official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth registration process before participating in any tournament.

Tournament registration shall be completed using the official registration platform designated by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

A registration is not considered complete until:

- All required registration information has been submitted.
- All required documents have been received and approved.
- All applicable fees have been paid.

Incomplete registrations are not eligible for tournament participation.

4.2 Registration Deadlines

Tournament registration closes at **12:00 PM (Noon) Central Time** two (2) days before the scheduled tournament unless otherwise announced by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

The official registration system timestamp shall determine the official order in which registrations are received.

Late registrations will not be accepted unless approved by the State Director.

4.3 Required Registration Documents

Before participating in the first tournament of each season, participants must submit all required documentation.

Anglers

- Tournament Registration
- Liability Waiver
- IRS Form W-9
- Proof of current B.A.S.S. Membership
- Proof of a valid fishing license (if required by law)
- Boater Education Certificate (if operating a boat)
- Any additional documents required by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Boat Captains

- Captain Registration
- Valid Driver's License
- Proof of current Boat Liability Insurance
- Proof of a valid fishing license (if required by law)
- Boater Education Certificate or U.S. Coast Guard Captain's License (if operating a boat)
- Any additional documents required by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Participants are responsible for ensuring all required documents remain current throughout the tournament season.

Failure to maintain required documentation may result in ineligibility.

4.4 Schools & Clubs

Schools and community clubs must be registered and approved by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth before they may participate in tournament competition.

Only approved schools and community clubs will be activated within Fishing Chaos.

Each Team must be affiliated with an approved school or community club.

Team Advisors are responsible for ensuring their school or club information remains accurate and current.

4.5 Official Communications

By registering for Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments, all participants agree to receive official tournament communications through approved Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth communication platforms.

Official communication methods include, but are not limited to:

- Fishing Chaos
- Email
- Text Messaging
- Official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth social media platforms
- Other communication methods approved by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth

Participants are responsible for maintaining current contact information and reviewing official communications in a timely manner.

Failure to receive or read communications due to outdated contact information does not relieve participants from complying with tournament rules, deadlines, or announcements.

4.6 Changes After Registration

Any change involving an Angler, Boat Captain, Team name, school affiliation, or other registration information after registration has been submitted must be approved before tournament competition begins.

Changes involving Team partners are governed by Section 3 of this Rule Book.

4.7 Boat Captain of Record

Each Team shall have one registered Boat Captain assigned before tournament launch.

The registered Boat Captain is considered the **Boat Captain of Record** for that tournament.

If circumstances require a Boat Captain change after registration, the replacement Boat Captain must:

- Meet all Boat Captain eligibility requirements.
- Complete all required registration requirements.
- Receive approval from the Regional Director before tournament launch.

If an unapproved Boat Captain participates in tournament competition, the Team may be disqualified and any fish weighed for that tournament day may be forfeited.

4.8 Registration Accuracy

All registration information submitted to Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth must be complete, accurate, and truthful.

Knowingly providing false, incomplete, or misleading information during registration may result in:

- Denial of tournament participation.

- Tournament disqualification.
- Loss of eligibility.
- Additional disciplinary action as determined by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Section 5: Boat Captains

5.1 Purpose

Boat Captains play a critical role in the success of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

In addition to safely operating the boat, Boat Captains serve as mentors, role models, and adult supervisors for the Anglers in their care.

The primary responsibility of every Boat Captain is the safety and well-being of their Anglers.

5.2 Boat Captain Eligibility

To serve as a Boat Captain, an individual must:

- Be at least twenty-one (21) years of age.
- Complete all required Boat Captain registration requirements.
- Successfully complete any required background screening.
- Meet all Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth eligibility requirements.
- Be approved by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Boat Captains may be:

- A parent or legal guardian.
- A grandparent.
- An adult sibling.
- An aunt or uncle.
- A faculty or staff member of the Angler's school.
- An approved Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth volunteer.

Any exception must receive prior approval from the State Director.

5.3 Boat Captain Responsibilities

Boat Captains are responsible for:

- The safe operation of the boat.
- The safety of everyone onboard.
- Following all federal, state, and local boating laws.
- Ensuring all required safety equipment is onboard and operational.
- Supervising Anglers throughout Official Practice and tournament competition.

- Maintaining good sportsmanship and professionalism.
- Serving as a positive role model for youth anglers.

Boat Captains are expected to place safety above tournament competition, at all times.

5.4 Boat Captain Conduct

Boat Captains shall not:

- Fish during tournament competition.
- Cast or retrieve a lure for fishing purposes.
- Receive or provide fishing information in violation of tournament rules.
- Consume alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament activities.
- Be impaired by alcohol, illegal drugs, or any substance that affects their ability to safely operate the boat.
- Engage in conduct that reflects negatively on Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

If a Boat Captain leaves the boat for any reason, all fishing must immediately stop until the Boat Captain returns.

5.5 Assistance During Competition

High School Division

During active fishing, Boat Captains may **NOT**:

- Cast or retrieve a fishing lure.
- Net fish.
- Land fish.
- Remove hooks from fish.
- Tie knots.
- Rig tackle.
- Remove backlashes.
- Free hung lures.
- Operate the trolling motor.
- Operate electronic steering systems.
- Operate electronic anchoring systems.
- Operate remote trolling motor controls.
- Operate any other electronic boat control system.

Boat Captains may assist with culling fish.

If an emergency or safety concern requires the Boat Captain to operate the trolling motor or boat controls, both Anglers must immediately stop fishing until control has been returned to the Anglers.

Junior Division

Boat Captains may:

- Operate the trolling motor.
- Net fish.
- Assist in landing fish.
- Assist with fish care.
- Assist with culling fish.

Boat Captains may **NOT**:

- Fish.
- Cast or retrieve a lure.
- Catch fish on behalf of an Angler.

5.6 Boat Captain Presence

Boat Captains must remain in the boat with their assigned Team throughout Official Practice and tournament competition.

If the Boat Captain leaves the boat for any reason, including restroom breaks, emergencies, or personal needs, all fishing must immediately stop until the Boat Captain returns to the boat.

5.7 Boat Captain Reimbursement

Boat Captains may receive reimbursement for actual, documented tournament-related expenses, including:

- Fuel
- Oil
- Towing
- Launch fees
- Lodging
- Travel
- Other reasonable boat operating expenses

Boat Captains may not receive compensation for coaching services, guiding services, or participation in tournament competition.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to review reimbursement records upon request to ensure compliance with youth eligibility standards.

5.8 Championship Boat Captains

Regional Championship and State Championship tournaments consisting of multiple competition days may utilize different approved Boat Captains on separate competition days.

Each Boat Captain must:

- Meet all Boat Captain eligibility requirements.
- Complete all required registration requirements.
- Have served as an approved Boat Captain during at least one (1) Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth qualifying tournament during the current season, regardless of region.

5.9 Boat Captain Restrictions

To preserve the integrity of youth competition, a Boat Captain may not:

- Be an active professional fishing guide on tournament waters.
- Be a current collegiate bass fishing competitor.
- Be a professional touring angler without prior approval from the State Director.

Any exception must receive prior approval from the State Director before tournament participation.

5.10 Duty to Protect Anglers

Boat Captains are expected to exercise sound judgment at all times.

If weather, water conditions, equipment failure, medical emergencies, or any other situation creates an unsafe condition, the Boat Captain shall take whatever action is necessary to protect the safety of their Anglers.

The safety of the Anglers always takes priority over tournament competition.

Section 6: Boat & Safety Requirements

6.1 Safety First

The safety of all participants is the highest priority of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Boat Captains are responsible for operating their boats in a safe and prudent manner at all times.

No tournament competition or fishing opportunity shall take precedence over the safety of any participant.

6.2 Boat Requirements

All tournament boats must:

- Be a minimum of sixteen (16) feet in length.
- Be propeller driven.
- Be equipped with a properly functioning aerated livewell capable of maintaining a healthy limit of bass.
- Meet all applicable U.S. Coast Guard and Texas Parks & Wildlife safety requirements.
- Have a maximum outboard horsepower that does not exceed the manufacturer's maximum horsepower rating or 250 horsepower, whichever is less.

Each boat must display the manufacturer's maximum horsepower capacity plate.

Altering or falsifying horsepower ratings or capacity information is prohibited and may result in disqualification.

Tournament officials may inspect any boat or motor before, during, or after tournament competition.

6.3 Required Safety Equipment

Every tournament boat must carry all safety equipment required by federal and state law, including:

- U.S. Coast Guard-approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs)
- Emergency ignition kill switch
- Fire extinguisher

- Navigation lights
- Sound-producing device
- Any additional equipment required by law

All required safety equipment must be in good working condition.

6.4 Personal Flotation Devices

Whenever the combustion engine is operating, every person in the boat must:

- Wear a properly secured U.S. Coast Guard-approved chest-type Personal Flotation Device.
- Wear the Personal Flotation Device from launch until the boat is completely off plane and safely stopped.

PFDs must remain properly fastened while the combustion engine is operating.

6.5 Emergency Ignition Kill Switch

Whenever the combustion engine is operating, the driver must properly attach and use the emergency ignition kill switch.

Failure to use the kill switch may result in penalties up to and including disqualification.

6.6 Safe Boat Operation

Boat Captains shall operate their boats safely and in accordance with all applicable laws.

Whenever the combustion engine is operating:

- All occupants must remain seated in manufacturer-designated seating locations.
- Sitting on front or rear casting decks is prohibited.
- Standing while the boat is on plane is prohibited.
- Moving about the boat while the boat is on plane is prohibited.

Safe boating practices shall be observed at all times.

6.7 Operation of the Boat

Boat Captains shall operate the combustion engine at all times during tournament competition.

Anglers may not operate the combustion engine during tournament competition except when launching or loading the boat, provided:

- The Angler is legally permitted to operate the boat.
- The Angler possesses a valid Boater Education Certificate.
- A properly secured Personal Flotation Device is worn.

6.8 Fuel Systems

Fuel may only be carried in:

- Factory-installed fuel tanks; or
- Approved auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely fastened to the boat.

Any additional fuel obtained during tournament competition must be purchased from a retail fuel facility open to the public.

Fuel must be dispensed using a standard fuel pump and nozzle.

6.9 Insurance

Every tournament boat must maintain a minimum of **$300,000** in liability insurance.

Proof of insurance must:

- Be submitted during Boat Captain registration.
- Be carried in the boat during tournament competition.
- Be presented immediately upon request by tournament officials.

Failure to provide proof of insurance may result in disqualification.

6.10 Emergency Situations

Boat Captains are expected to exercise sound judgment whenever emergency situations arise.

If weather, mechanical failure, medical emergencies, equipment failure, or other unsafe conditions occur, Boat Captains shall immediately take whatever action is necessary to protect the safety of their Anglers.

Emergency situations should be reported to the Regional Director as soon as reasonably possible after the situation has stabilized.

6.11 Boat Inspections

Tournament officials may inspect any boat, motor, trailer, livewell, required safety equipment, registration documents, or insurance documentation before, during, or after tournament competition.

Refusal to cooperate with an inspection may result in disqualification.

6.12 Responsibility

Every Boat Captain and Angler shares responsibility for maintaining a safe tournament environment.

Failure to comply with safety requirements may result in penalties up to and including disqualification.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to remove any participant from competition whenever safety is compromised.

Section 7: Practice & Competition Rules

7.1 Information Rule

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments are intended to test the preparation, skill, and decision-making of each Team.

Beginning fifteen (15) days before a scheduled tournament, Anglers and Boat Captains may not purchase, barter for, solicit, or intentionally receive information regarding the location or catching of fish on Tournament Waters.

Prohibited information includes, but is not limited to:

- GPS coordinates or waypoints.
- Fishing locations or "spots."
- Fishing patterns.
- Current fish activity.
- Techniques specific to Tournament Waters.
- Any information intended to provide a competitive advantage.

During the fifteen (15) day information restriction period, Anglers and Boat Captains may not:

- Hire or fish with a guide on Tournament Waters.
- Purchase fishing information.
- Barter or trade fishing information.
- Request fishing information from another individual.
- Receive private fishing information from another individual.

Information obtained from publicly available sources is permitted.

Examples of publicly available sources include:

- Public websites.
- Public fishing reports.
- Magazine articles.
- Television programs.
- Publicly available videos.
- Public social media posts.

The following are **not** considered public information and are prohibited:

- Private messages.
- Text messages.
- Emails.
- Private social media groups.

- Paid fishing reports.
- Subscription-only fishing groups.
- Private mapping or waypoint sharing.
- Fishing applications or online communities used to privately exchange fishing information.

On Official Practice and tournament competition days, Anglers and Boat Captains may not obtain fishing information from anyone other than another Team that is officially competing in that same tournament.

Communication regarding fishing information between competing Teams must occur in person.

Electronic communication for the purpose of exchanging fishing information is prohibited.

7.2 Off-Limits & Official Practice

Unless otherwise announced, there is no official off-limits period before the fifteen (15) day information restriction begins.

If an Official Practice period is designated by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth, all tournament rules apply during Official Practice.

The Boat Captain participating during Official Practice must also serve as the Boat Captain during tournament competition unless an approved substitution has been authorized.

During Official Practice and tournament competition, Teams may not:

- Fish with anyone not registered for the tournament.
- Follow non-participant boats to locate fish.
- Receive assistance from non-participants.
- Participate in hole sitting.
- Allow non-participants to place markers or otherwise assist in locating fish.

Violation of this section may result in penalties up to and including disqualification.

7.3 Electronics & Communication

Electronics used for navigation, sonar, mapping, weather monitoring, and boat operation are permitted unless otherwise prohibited by this Rule Book.

Boat Captains may use mobile communication devices for:

- Emergency situations.
- Safety purposes.
- Official tournament communications.
- Personal communications unrelated to tournament fishing.

Boat Captains may not use any communication device to obtain or provide fishing information during Official Practice or tournament competition.

Anglers may possess mobile devices but may not use them to obtain, receive, or communicate fishing information during Official Practice or tournament competition.

7.4 Competition Hours

Tournament competition begins at the official launch time designated by tournament officials.

Competition ends immediately when:

- The Team checks in at the official check-in location; or
- The official check-in deadline expires.

Immediately upon check-in, all fishing must cease.

7.5 Legal Fishing Methods

Fishing is defined as using a rod and reel with an attached artificial lure in the water.

Only one (1) fishing rod may be used by each Angler at any one time.

Only artificial lures may be used except for pork trailers or biodegradable soft baits.

Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

The Angler must initiate the cast and complete the retrieve for a fish to be considered legally caught.

If a Boat Captain touches the fishing rod during the cast, that cast is immediately considered dead and any fish caught from that cast must be immediately released and shall not be weighed.

Bass caught while sight fishing must be legally hooked inside the mouth.

If a Boat Captain assists an Angler by removing a backlash, freeing a snagged lure, untangling line, or performing similar equipment assistance, that Angler must immediately stop fishing until the assistance has been completed.

7.6 Tournament Waters & Fishing Boundaries

Teams may fish anywhere within Tournament Waters that is legally accessible by boat unless specifically designated as:

- Off-Limits
- No Boats
- No Fishing
- Restricted Area
- Keep Out Area
- No Trespassing
- Any other area closed by tournament officials or government agencies.

Fishing is prohibited within two hundred (200) yards of the official boat ramp or any additional off-limits area designated during the pretournament meeting.

7.7 Courtesy & Sportsmanship on the Water

Courtesy and respect between competitors are expected at all times.

A Team may not fish within fifty (50) yards of another Team whose boat is first anchored.

For purposes of this Rule Book, an anchored boat is one secured by:

- A traditional anchor.
- A Power-Pole.
- Any similar shallow-water anchoring system.

An anchored boat is considered anchored only when the trolling motor is in the stowed position.

Competitors may fish closer than fifty (50) yards only with the permission of the Team that first established the location.

7.8 Leaving the Boat

All fishing must be conducted from inside the tournament boat.

Anglers may not leave the boat to:

- Land a fish.
- Improve access to fishing water.
- Retrieve equipment.
- Gain a competitive advantage.

The use of ropes, cables, chains, winches, block-and-tackle systems, or similar equipment to maneuver a boat into otherwise inaccessible fishing areas is prohibited.

Teams must remain together and within sight of one another until check-in.

Temporary separation for restroom breaks is permitted provided all fishing has ceased.

7.9 Boat Check & Check-In

Every Team must complete the official morning boat check before beginning tournament competition.

Failure to complete boat check may result in disqualification.

Every Team must report to the designated afternoon check-in location, regardless of whether fish are being weighed.

Teams that fail to check in may receive:

- Zero (0) tournament points.
- Additional penalties.
- Loss of eligibility for the next tournament as determined by the Regional Director.

7.10 Late Penalties

The official tournament clock maintained by tournament officials shall be the official time.

It is the responsibility of each Team to allow sufficient travel time to arrive before the published check-in deadline.

Traffic, boat ramp congestion, weather conditions, mechanical delays, or other foreseeable circumstances do not extend the official check-in deadline.

Teams arriving after the official check-in time will receive a penalty of one (1) pound per minute late.

Teams arriving more than fifteen (15) minutes late will forfeit that day's catch.

For trailering tournaments, Teams are responsible for allowing sufficient time to reach the designated check-in location before the published deadline.

7.11 Mechanical Breakdown & Emergencies

If a Team experiences a mechanical failure, medical emergency, or other unexpected situation during tournament competition, the Boat Captain shall notify the Regional Director as soon as reasonably possible after the situation has been stabilized.

Tournament officials may provide instructions or authorize reasonable accommodations when appropriate.

Nothing in this Rule Book relieves the Boat Captain of the responsibility to safely return the Team to check-in whenever possible.

The safety of all participants always takes priority over tournament competition.

Section 8: Weigh-In, Scoring & Awards

8.1 Fish Care

Every reasonable effort must be made to keep all fish alive throughout tournament competition.

Each tournament boat must have a properly functioning aerated livewell capable of maintaining a healthy limit of bass.

Dead fish may not be culled at any time in accordance with Texas law.

Teams are encouraged to properly care for their catch throughout the tournament to promote conservation and fish survival.

8.2 Eligible Species & Daily Limit

Only the following species of bass are eligible for weigh-in:

- Largemouth Bass
- Smallmouth Bass
- Spotted Bass
- Redeye Bass

The tournament limit is five (5) bass per Team unless state or lake regulations establish a smaller legal limit.

A Team's tournament limit is equal to one legal daily limit, not a combined limit for each Angler.

8.3 Official Measuring Method

The official measuring board for Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournaments shall be the **Check-It-Stick**.

Unless state or lake regulations establish a greater minimum length, all bass must measure at least fourteen (14) inches to be eligible for weigh-in.

Fish shall be measured using the official B.A.S.S. measuring method.

The tail may be swiped, but may not be pinched, to obtain the official measurement.

The decision of tournament officials regarding fish length is final.

8.4 Official Bump Station

An official bump station will be available before weigh-in.

It is the responsibility of each Team to verify any questionable fish before entering the weigh-in line.

Tournament personnel are not required to assist Teams at the bump station.

Once a Team leaves the official bump station and enters the weigh-in staging area, no additional fish may be measured unless directed by tournament officials.

8.5 Short Fish Penalty

Any Team presenting a bass that does not meet the minimum length requirement will:

- Lose the weight of the short fish.
- Receive a one (1) pound penalty deducted from the Team's total weight.

8.6 Dead Fish Penalty

A penalty of one-half (0.50) pound shall be deducted for each dead fish presented at weigh-in.

Dead fish are not eligible for Big Bass awards.

8.7 Over-Limit Penalty

A Team presenting more than the legal tournament limit shall immediately remove fish until the legal limit is reached.

The Team may select which fish will be removed.

A two (2) pound penalty shall then be deducted from the Team's total tournament weight.

8.8 Official Weigh-In Procedure

Each Team must present all fish in the official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth weigh bag provided by tournament staff.

Personal weigh bags may not be used on the official tournament scales unless specifically authorized by tournament officials.

All fish counting toward the Team's tournament weight shall be presented together in one (1) official weigh bag.

Once the Team's fish have been placed on the official tournament scale and the weight has been locked:

- The official weight is final.
- No re-weighs will be permitted.

The official weight will be announced by the Master of Ceremonies and verified by tournament scoring personnel before becoming the Team's official tournament weight.

8.9 Big Bass Competition

Each Team may enter one (1) fish into the Big Bass competition.

To be eligible, the Team must declare its intention to compete for Big Bass at the official bump station before leaving for the weigh-in staging area.

Only one (1) fish may be presented for Big Bass by each Team.

Big Bass shall be presented separately from the Team's tournament catch and weighed in its own weigh bag.

Once the Big Bass has been placed on the official tournament scale and the weight has been locked:

- The official weight is final.
- No re-weighs will be permitted.

After the official Big Bass weight has been recorded, the fish shall be returned to the Team's official weigh bag and included in the Team's tournament weight.

For Regional Championship and State Championship tournaments consisting of multiple competition days, one (1) Big Bass award will be presented for each competition day.

Teams may enter one (1) Big Bass each competition day.

Dead fish are not eligible for the Big Bass award.

8.10 Official Tournament Scoring

Tournament standings are determined by the greatest total weight of a legal catch.

No foreign object, added weight, or alteration of any fish or weigh bag is permitted.

Violation of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification and may result in additional disciplinary action.

8.11 Tie Breakers

Ties for first place shall be broken in the following order:

1. Fewest penalties assessed.
2. Greatest number of legal fish weighed.
3. Coin toss.

Prize ties for all other positions shall be handled according to the official tournament payout schedule.

8.12 Tournament Awards

Tournament awards shall be presented as determined by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth for each event.

Unless otherwise announced:

- Awards shall be presented to the highest-finishing Teams.
- One (1) Big Bass award shall be presented for each division.
- Additional awards may be presented at the discretion of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Awards should be claimed at the conclusion of the tournament.

Participants unable to remain for the awards presentation are responsible for making arrangements to have awards or prizes collected on their behalf.

Prize checks not claimed or deposited within thirty (30) days of issuance may be considered forfeited unless prior arrangements have been approved by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Section 9: Sportsmanship & Conduct

9.1 Sportsmanship

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth is committed to providing a positive, safe, and respectful environment for every participant.

All Anglers, Boat Captains, Team Advisors, parents, volunteers, and spectators are expected to demonstrate honesty, integrity, courtesy, respect, and good sportsmanship at all times.

Every participant represents not only themselves, but also their family, school, community, sponsors, and Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner that reflects positively on the sport of bass fishing and youth athletics.

9.2 Participant Conduct

The following conduct is prohibited during any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth activity or event:

- Cheating or attempting to gain an unfair competitive advantage.
- Violating any rule contained within this Rule Book.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct.
- Harassment, bullying, intimidation, or threats.
- Fighting or disorderly conduct.
- Defamatory or knowingly false statements.
- Failure to follow instructions from tournament officials.
- Intentional damage to property.
- Any conduct that compromises the safety, fairness, or integrity of tournament competition.
- Any conduct that reflects negatively upon Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth or the sport of competitive fishing.

Violations may result in disciplinary action as outlined in Section 1 of this Rule Book.

9.3 Social Media & Electronic Conduct

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth recognizes that social media is an important way to communicate and share tournament experiences.

Participants are expected to use social media responsibly and respectfully.

The following conduct is prohibited on any electronic platform, including social media, text messaging, email, forums, or other online communications:

- Harassment or bullying.
- Threats or intimidation.
- Defamatory statements.
- Knowingly false statements.
- Targeted public attacks.
- Intentionally harmful electronic communications directed toward:
    - Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.
    - Tournament officials.
    - Volunteers.
    - Sponsors.
    - Anglers.
    - Boat Captains.
    - Team Advisors.
    - Parents.
    - Schools or community clubs.
    - Event hosts.

Constructive questions, respectful discussion, and positive feedback are encouraged.

9.4 Sponsorship & Apparel Standards

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to prohibit any sponsorship, logo, advertisement, apparel, wrap, or promotional material that is inconsistent with the mission of youth competition.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Alcohol
- Tobacco
- Nicotine products
- Marijuana or controlled substances
- Gambling
- Adult-oriented products or services
- Sexually explicit material
- Offensive language or imagery
- Any content deemed inappropriate for youth events

Tournament officials may require prohibited material to be removed or covered before participation.

Failure to comply may result in disqualification.

9.5 Alcohol, Tobacco & Controlled Substances

The use or possession of alcohol, illegal drugs, tobacco products, nicotine products, electronic cigarettes, or vaping devices by Anglers during any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth activity is prohibited.

Boat Captains shall not consume alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament activities and shall not operate a tournament boat while impaired.

Any participant found to be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament activities may be immediately removed from competition.

9.6 Participant Eligibility Standards

The following circumstances may affect an individual's eligibility to participate in Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth events:

- Suspension, probation, or expulsion from another fishing organization for rules violations.
- Criminal convictions that prevent approval through the required background screening process.
- Failure to meet Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth eligibility requirements.
- Conduct determined by the State Director to be inconsistent with the mission and values of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Eligibility determinations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

The decision of the State Director is final.

9.7 Reporting Rule Violations

Anyone who believes a rule violation has occurred should submit an Official Rule Violation Report as soon as reasonably possible.

Reports should include all known facts and any available supporting evidence.

Tournament officials may investigate reported violations and request additional information from participants or witnesses.

Knowingly submitting false or misleading information during an investigation may result in disciplinary action.

9.8 Disciplinary Action

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth may impose disciplinary action whenever a participant's conduct is determined to be inconsistent with this Rule Book or the mission of the organization.

Disciplinary action may include:

- Warning
- Loss of tournament weight
- Point deductions
- Tournament disqualification
- Loss of eligibility
- Suspension from future events

Nothing in this section limits the authority granted under Section 1 of this Rule Book.

Section 10: Season Standings & Championship Qualification

10.1 Angler of the Year (AOY) Points

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth recognizes Team Angler of the Year (AOY) based on cumulative season points earned within each Region.

Points are awarded based on:

- Tournament finishing position.
- Official tournament weight.

The official points system is as follows:

All points are subject to change based on the number of teams participating in the tournament. Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth will utilize a point system based on a 200-boat field limit.

Example: 1st Place: 200 pts + 23.36 lbs. = 223.36 overall points
2nd Place: 199 pts + 22.19 lbs. = 221.19 overall points

Official AOY standings will be maintained through Fishing Chaos.

10.2 Points Corrections

Following each tournament, AOY standings will be published in Fishing Chaos.

It is the responsibility of each Team and Team Advisor to review posted standings for accuracy.

Any question regarding tournament points must be submitted to the Regional Director before the start of the next scheduled tournament within that Region.

Once the next tournament has begun, all previous tournament points become official and will not be adjusted except in cases of administrative error or disciplinary action.

10.3 Teams That Do Not Weigh Fish

Teams that check in but do not present a legal fish for weigh-in shall receive 50 points less than the last place team that weighs in fish.

Teams failing to report to the official check-in location will receive zero (0) points for that tournament and may be declared ineligible for the next scheduled tournament, subject to review by the Regional Director.

10.4 Regional Championship Qualification

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth is divided into four (4) Regions:

- Central
- Northeast
- Northwest
- Southeast

Teams may compete in one or more Regions provided all membership requirements have been satisfied.

High School Division

Teams qualify for their Regional Championship by either of the following methods:

Method One

- Finish within the top sixty-five percent (65%) of Team Angler of the Year standings, or the top fifty (50) Teams, whichever is greater, within their Region.

Method Two

- Win one (1) regular season qualifying tournament within their Region; and
- Compete in at least three (3) qualifying season tournaments within that Region.

Teams must also satisfy all eligibility requirements contained within this Rule Book.

Junior Division

Junior Teams qualify for the Regional Championship by:

- Competing in at least three (3) qualifying season tournaments within their Region; and
- Meeting all eligibility requirements.

10.5 State Championship Qualification

High School Division

Teams qualify for the State Championship by:

- Finishing within the top sixty-five percent (65%) of Teams competing in their Regional Championship; or
- Finishing within the top thirty (30) Teams, whichever is greater.

Junior Division

Junior Teams qualify by:

- Qualifying for and competing in their Regional Championship.
- Meeting all eligibility requirements.

If a Region has fewer Teams than the published qualification numbers, all eligible Teams may advance.

If a tie exists for the final qualifying position, all tied Teams shall advance.

10.6 Annual Fundraiser Eligibility Requirement

Participation in the official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Annual Fundraiser is a requirement for Regional Championship and State Championship eligibility.

All Teams must satisfy the Annual Fundraiser Requirement in accordance with the current Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Fundraiser Policy. The Fundraiser Policy establishes the official requirements, deadlines, approved fundraising campaign, buyout option (if offered), participation procedures, and any additional guidelines approved for that tournament season.

Failure to satisfy the Annual Fundraiser Requirement by the published deadline will result in the Team being ineligible to participate in the Regional Championship and State Championship unless otherwise approved by the State Director.

The Annual Fundraiser Requirement applies to all Teams seeking advancement, regardless of the Region in which they compete.

10.7 National Championship Qualification

Qualification for the Bassmaster High School National Championship and Bassmaster Junior National Championship shall follow the current B.A.S.S. national qualification rules.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth will certify eligible Teams based upon those requirements.

10.8 Championship Eligibility

To participate in a Regional Championship or State Championship, every Team must:

- Meet all membership requirements.
- Maintain academic eligibility.
- Complete all registration requirements.
- Meet all participation requirements.
- Satisfy the annual fundraiser requirement or approved buyout.
- Remain in good standing with Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Failure to maintain eligibility at any time before a Championship event may result in forfeiture of that qualification.

10.9 Tournament Awards

Tournament awards and payouts shall be determined annually by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Unless otherwise announced:

- Awards will be presented based upon tournament finish.
- One (1) Big Bass award will be presented in each division at each qualifying tournament.
- Regional Championship and State Championship events consisting of multiple competition days shall present one (1) Big Bass award for each competition day.

Awards should be claimed during the tournament awards presentation.

Checks not deposited or claimed within thirty (30) days may be considered forfeited unless prior arrangements have been approved.

Section 11: Administrative Policies

11.1 Media Release

By participating in any Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournament or sanctioned event, all Anglers, Boat Captains, Team Advisors, parents or legal guardians (on behalf of participating minors), volunteers, and other participants grant Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth and its authorized representatives the irrevocable right to photograph, record, and capture their name, image, likeness, voice, and performance during tournament activities.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth may use these photographs, video recordings, audio recordings, and other media for promotional, educational, marketing, fundraising, historical, and media purposes in any format now known or later developed, including but not limited to:

- Websites
- Social media
- Print publications
- Digital advertising
- Livestreams
- Television broadcasts
- Promotional videos
- Educational materials

Participation in a Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth event constitutes acknowledgment and acceptance of this Media Release.

Participants waive any right to inspect, approve, or receive compensation for the use of such media.

11.2 Truth Verification

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to conduct truth verification procedures whenever necessary to protect the integrity of tournament competition.

Truth verification procedures may include, but are not limited to:

- Polygraph examinations
- Voice stress analysis
- Boat inspections
- Vehicle inspections
- Livewell inspections
- Equipment inspections
- Electronic device inspections

- Review of electronic communications
- GPS or mapping device review
- Any other reasonable verification procedure determined necessary by the State Director or Regional Director

Boat Captains, Anglers, and other participants requested to participate in a truth verification procedure are expected to fully cooperate.

Failure to cooperate, interference with an investigation, refusal to provide requested information, or intentionally providing false or misleading information may result in disciplinary action up to and including disqualification, suspension, or loss of eligibility.

11.3 Weather Policy

The safety of all participants is the highest priority of Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Tournament schedules may be delayed, modified, suspended, postponed, shortened, relocated, or cancelled whenever weather or other unsafe conditions exist.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth utilizes its official Weather Policy when evaluating weather-related decisions.

The official weather source utilized by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth is **Weather Underground**, together with any additional weather resources deemed appropriate by tournament officials.

Boat Captains remain responsible for exercising sound judgment and taking any action necessary to protect the safety of their Anglers regardless of tournament status.

11.4 Electronic Signatures

Electronic signatures shall have the same force and legal effect as original handwritten signatures for all registration forms, waivers, releases, acknowledgments, and other documents submitted to Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth.

Electronic submission of required forms constitutes acknowledgment that the participant has read, understands, and agrees to comply with the current Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Official Tournament Rule Book and all applicable policies.

11.5 Rule Book Revisions

This Rule Book becomes effective on the first official day of the 2026–2027 Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth tournament season and remains in effect until superseded by a subsequent edition.

Unless otherwise announced, these rules shall remain in effect throughout the tournament season.

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to publish administrative procedures, forms, policies, and guidance documents that supplement this Rule Book, provided they do not conflict with these rules.

Participants are responsible for complying with all officially published Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth policies and procedures.

11.6 Official Documents

The following documents, as amended from time to time, are incorporated by reference into this Rule Book and are considered official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth policies:

- Annual Fundraiser Policy
- Weather Policy
- Boat Captain Registration Requirements
- Team Registration Requirements
- Tournament Registration Procedures
- Official Rule Violation Report Procedures
- Any additional official policies published by Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth prior to or during the tournament season.

Where a conflict exists between this Rule Book and an official policy, the provisions of this Rule Book shall govern unless otherwise specifically stated.

Section 12: Annual Fundraiser Requirement

12.1 Annual Fundraiser Requirement

Participation in the Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Annual Fundraiser is required for **every registered Angler**.

For the **2026-2027 tournament season**, the official fundraiser will be conducted through the **Raise365 / Adrenaline Fundraising Text Fundraiser Campaign**.

Completion of the Annual Fundraiser Requirement or the Fundraiser Buyout Option is required to remain eligible for Regional Championship and State Championship competition.

12.2 Fundraiser Completion Requirements

For the 2026-2027 tournament season, an Angler will be considered to have successfully completed the Annual Fundraiser when all of the following requirements have been met within the Raise365 / Adrenaline Fundraising platform:

- Upload a minimum of twenty-five (25) unique contacts.
- Complete a minimum of twenty-five (25) fundraiser shares.
- The fundraising platform displays the participant's fundraiser as **Completed** (Green Check Mark).

There is no minimum fundraising amount required.

An Angler is **not required to raise any money** to satisfy the Annual Fundraiser Requirement. Completion is based solely on successfully completing the required participation steps listed above.

12.3 Fundraiser Schedule

The official fundraiser schedule will be published at the beginning of the season.

All fundraiser participation requirements must be completed before the published deadline.

12.4 Fundraiser Buyout Option

Anglers who choose not to participate in the Annual Fundraiser may satisfy the requirement by selecting the official Fundraiser Buyout Option.

For the **2026-2027 tournament season**, the Buyout amount is **$250.00 per Angler**.

Buyout payments must:

- Be paid in full.
- Be submitted through the official Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Zeffy payment link.
- Be submitted under the Angler's legal name exactly as it appears on the Angler's Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth registration and Fishing Chaos account. Buyout payments submitted under any other name may delay or prevent proper credit from being applied.

The Buyout deadline for the 2026-2027 Season is:

Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 11:59 PM Central Time.

12.5 Late Registration

Beginning Sunday, November 8, 2026, all new Anglers registering for the 2026-2027 season will automatically have the $250.00 Annual Fundraiser Buyout added to their Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth registration.

The Buyout must be paid before the Angler is eligible to participate in tournament competition.

12.6 Championship Eligibility

Completion of either:

- The Annual Fundraiser; or
- The Fundraiser Buyout Option

is required for eligibility to compete in the:

- Regional Championship
- State Championship

Anglers who fail to complete either requirement by the published deadlines will be ineligible to participate in Championship competition.

12.7 Sibling Participation

Siblings residing in the same household may participate using one (1) shared Raise365 / Adrenaline Fundraising account.

The shared fundraiser account must clearly identify both siblings by their legal names exactly as they appear on their Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth registrations and Fishing Chaos accounts.

Once the shared fundraiser account has successfully completed all Annual Fundraiser Requirements, both registered siblings will receive credit for satisfying the Annual Fundraiser Requirement.

Once all Annual Fundraiser Completion Requirements have been satisfied, both siblings shall receive credit for completing the Annual Fundraiser Requirement.

12.8 Verification

Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth reserves the right to verify fundraiser participation, completion status, and Buyout payments at any time.

The fundraising platform and Texas B.A.S.S. Nation Youth records shall serve as the official record for determining compliance with the Annual Fundraiser Requirement.