

# Arizona Bass Federation 2025/2026 Tournament Rules and Regulations

Advisory Board will be comprised of but not limited to, People in and out of the industry,  
Anglers, and Directors of the Arizona Bass Federation.

**1) All Anglers must Acknowledge and understand rules for the Tournaments. Infractions of any rules listed are grounds for disqualification unless stated otherwise. All decisions and rules may be reviewed by the board. The board reserves the right to update rules throughout the season and has the responsibility to inform club members in a timely and appropriate manner.**

**2) RULES:** These rules shall remain unchanged throughout the season. Interpretation and enforcement of Arizona Bass Federation rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament directors' discretion at each event. Federal, state, local, lake laws and rules must always be obeyed and shall supersede Arizona Bass Federation rules when in conflict.

**3) SAFETY:** Boating safety must always be observed at all times during practice and competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver (PFD) Type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened any time the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch must be attached to the driver with a lanyard no longer than forty-eight (48) inches. All boats must be equipped with the minimum recommended USCG safety devices.

These requirements can be viewed online at,

[WWW.AZGFD/BOATING/REGULATIONS/](http://WWW.AZGFD/BOATING/REGULATIONS/)

[WWW.AZGFD.COM/BOATING/LAWENFORCEMENT/](http://WWW.AZGFD.COM/BOATING/LAWENFORCEMENT/)

[WWW.USCGBOATING.ORG](http://WWW.USCGBOATING.ORG)

**4) INSURANCE AND LIABILITY:** It is the sole responsibility of all Anglers competing in Arizona Bass Federation events or Opens to carry and maintain the mandated, state required minimum liability coverage for themselves and their passengers. Contestants also need to be aware that not all insurance policies cover tournament participation, therefore all parties involved with the Arizona Bass Federations must consult with their insurance company prior to competing

in any Arizona Bass Federation tournament event to insure you meet the required state and local laws for Insurance requirements.

5) **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All anglers are expected to act and conduct themselves in a professional manner. Displaying poor sportsmanship, willful violation of rules and Local, State or Federal laws, and bringing unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing shall be grounds for disqualification. If one team member is disqualified, the team shall be disqualified. Arizona Bass Federation reserves the right to revoke membership at any time without remuneration. Arizona Bass Federation also reserves the right to refuse service to any angler seeking to participate in sanctioned events. Arizona Bass Federation participants are required to cooperate with tournament officials for the purposes of boat inspection, photography, sponsor, and media requests.

6) **ALCOHOL & DRUGS:** Alcoholic beverages, narcotic drugs, illegal drugs, or any other substances that may put yourself or other anglers' safety at risk will NOT be consumed or allowed in the boat before and during the tournament. The operator must always be coherent.

7) **REGISTRATION:** All tournaments will require a payment of entry fees in advance of the tournament. Registration and entry payments for each tournament will close the **Sunday** before each event to allow board members the time to fill in any open spots. Registration after this deadline will be considered by the board. Payments for money and super options will be due the **Wednesday** before each tournament. No Exceptions. This only applies to Qualifiers and Regional State Events. Because we operate as a pro-am circuit, the board reserves the right to decline and refund anglers if necessary. Entries will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. While every effort will be made to pair boaters with co-anglers, we have made the decision that no boaters will be turned away. In the event of an imbalance, board members will step in and fish solo if needed. If co-anglers must be turned away, priority will be given to those who registered and paid the \$70 entry fee earliest. This is the responsibility of the secretary. All decisions made by the board are final.

Note: Open tournaments will allow payments at the ramp

8) **START OF TOURNAMENT:** A random draw will be done prior to the event to determine boat position for each day of an event. Morning check-ins will be conducted at the ramp at a specified, predetermined time and will close about 15 minutes before take-off to allow board members to launch their boats in a timely fashion. If an angler is late to check-in, a half pound penalty will be deducted from total weight at weigh-in.

9) **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait permitted except for pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod may be used at any one time by each angler. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. The use of underwater cameras is not allowed during competition. Nets may not have a handle more than eight (8) feet in length.

10) **BOAT & LIVEWELLS CHECK:** It is the responsibility of the anglers to have their boat and live wells checked by an Arizona Bass Federation appointed official or staff member immediately prior to competition. A RIBBON will be placed on your trolling motor once your boat has been checked. You will NOT be able to weigh in your fish without the ribbon on the trolling motor or you will be disqualified. Live well Responsibility can be found here.

<http://bassfederation.com/wpcontent/uploads/2018/08/Angler-Responsibilities.pdf>

11) **LICENSES:** Each contestant must have in possession a valid and current fishing license with appropriate stamps governing the fishable waters of the event. Penalty for such an offense is disqualification of the day's catch.

12) **Guides:** Guides may not be used on official practice days, such as the State Traveling teams. Guides can participate however cannot guide a trip for 1 week prior to Arizona Bass Federation events.

13) **SPEED-RESTRICTED AREAS:** No boat may pass another contestant's boat in a restricted speed zone, in an effort to gain an advantage. Speeding in a 5-mph zone is grounds for disqualification if you are protested.

14) **PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** No fishing is allowed inside the host marina unless lake specific rules allow for such. If fishing is allowed within the marina, no boats may fish within 100 feet of the launch ramp. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with a trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boat's permission. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Unless otherwise directed by the tournament authority, only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Having anyone hole-sit for anyone shall be grounds for disqualification. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish or gain access to a fishing area. Restricting natural movement of fish by any means is automatic disqualification. Navigable waters are the only waters to be fished during a tournament and restricting boating access to an area by any means shall be grounds for disqualification.

15) **RESERVED AREAS:** No person may "hold" or "reserve" a fishing area for a contestant at any time. Infraction of this rule will result in disqualification of all parties involved.

16) **OFFICIAL BOATS:** Officials may be on the lake during contest hours and can approach or observe any contestant's boat. Each contestant is required to cooperate with all reasonable requests from media representatives or officials. Official boats may not be used as contestant replacement boats.

17) **LIMIT and WEIGH-IN:** During all Arizona Bass Federation, teams will only weigh in five (5) fish per angler (5 Fish per Boater and 5 fish per CoAngler). fish for the days catch measuring Thirteen inches (13" Inches flatmouth closed, tail pinched) for Any Colorado chain River or Lakes. (12" inches flat mouth closed, tail pinched) for all other lakes and river systems. State and local waterways supersede the minimum requirements regarding limit of Fish per angler as well as Slot limits. Any angler weighing in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will not be allowed to weigh in the short fish. Any team bringing more than five (5) per angler to the scales

will be disqualified. A ½ lb penalty will be given per dead fish weighed in. Any angler asking for a re-weigh will be given one; however, no matter the outcome the angler will take the re-weigh weight for their official weight.

Note: In the event of a tie in total weight, the angler with the largest single fish (Big Fish: see note in section 19) will be declared the winner. If neither angler weighs a big fish, the tie will stand and both will receive the same points. For example, if two anglers tie for 2nd place (T2), each will receive the points for 2nd place, and the next angler will receive the points for 4th place. For payout situations (e.g., T2 for second place), the prize amounts for the tied positions (such as 2nd and 3rd place) will be combined and split evenly between the tied anglers. This approach ensures fairness and will be applied consistently for all tie situations. Due to checks being written beforehand, please allow the board a week's time to rewrite the checks and send them to you.

18) **CULLING FISH:** It is the responsibility of each team to not have more than the local laws allow fish in a live well. If more than what local laws allow are present in the live well during the event you will be subject to disqualification. Also, an angler is not allowed to make a cast with six (6) or more fish in the livewell. Fish must be culled first before a cast is made. If a fish dies while in the possession of an angler, that fish may NOT be culled and must count as part of your limit. A team may not possess more than a five (5) fish limit per angler once inside the host marina. No culling is allowed in the host marina.

19) **BIG FISH:** The big fish award is an option at all Arizona Bass Federation events. You may not weigh in a DEAD fish to claim the big fish award or help in a tie-break situation, however, a dead big fish will be counted toward your overall weight with the dead fish penalty applied.

20) **BREAKDOWN-EMERGENCIES:** Anglers are not permitted to leave their boats nor touch another boat, except for an emergency or major equipment failure during the tournament. In this case, it is permitted to be towed either to safety or back to the weigh-in area by any safe means available. You may not transport fish by land if you choose to trailer back to the weigh-in area; however, you may have your fish transported to the weigh-in by another tournament boat participating in the same event. Transported fish must be held separate from another contestant's

fish. At least one person must always stay with your fish and neither angler is permitted to fish while under the assistance of another boat during the breakdown period.

21) **CHECK IN FOR OFFICIAL WEIGH IN:** It is the responsibility of each team to check in with the Arizona Bass Federation staff prior to weighing in their fish. Late check in is grounds for a 1-pound penalty per minute late (time keeping is based on phone devices for accuracy and fairness) for boat check in. After 15 Minutes full DQ for the day.

Note: If a TBF staff is not available for check-in, members will keep each other accountable

22) **SCORING:** Is determined by the total weight of each participant's catch for the overall event, minus any penalties or dead fish weighed in. There is no bonus for live fish. Points are awarded to each angler of the event on a declining scale starting at 100 points for first, 99 for second, 98 for third, etc...

23) **PROTEST:** All protests must be submitted in writing (digital allowed) within 15 minutes after the official closing of the scales. A Protest Fee of \$40 will be provided with your official statement. If your protest is deemed correct and results in penalties or disqualification your \$40 protest fee will be refunded.

23) **WINNINGS/MONEY:** Each division Boater and Co will compete only within their own division for points. Payback for all events will be in cash/check and will be based on a 1 in 5 format. (See About TBF for details)

24) **AOY and State Team Points:** State Team will comprise the 10 Boaters and CoAnglers with the most points at the end of the season with 2 dropped events. Angler of the Year will be given to the top Boater and CoAngler at the end of the season with no dropped events

25) **Ties in Season Points:**

If two (or more) anglers are tied in Angler of the Year (AOY) points at the end of the season, the tie will be broken by comparing each angler's best individual tournament finish during the season.

- Whoever has the highest single-event placement (e.g., 1st place beats 2nd place) wins the tiebreaker.
- If they're still tied (for example, both anglers' best finish was 1st place), then you keep comparing the next best finishes — 2nd-best, 3rd-best, etc. — going down the list until one angler has a better result in a single event than the other.
- If a tie still remains after this, the angler with the heaviest Big Fish caught during the season will be awarded the spot.
- If the tie still remains, the board will vote on a deciding factor without knowing which angler the outcome will favor. (The secretary will provide at least 2 options for the board to vote on and a vote will be conducted)

If two (or more) anglers are tied for the State Team after the 2 dropped events at the end of the season, the tiebreaker is decided by looking at their best of those “dropped” events — the ones that didn't count toward the final total.

- The angler who had the better result in their best “dropped” event wins the tiebreaker.
- If they're still tied (for example, both had the same placement in that event), they would move on to compare the other dropped event.
- If a tie still remains after this, the angler with the heaviest Big Fish caught during the season will be awarded the spot.
- If the tie still remains, the board will vote on a deciding factor without knowing which angler the outcome will favor. (The secretary will provide at least 2 options for the board to vote on and a vote will be conducted)

**26) Photograph and Video:** All photos and or video taken at a Arizona Bass Federation or Shared through the Group communication platforms are the property of the Arizona Bass Federation and may be used for promotional purposes.

**27) Polygraph:** All Contestants are subject to a polygraph Test. Failure to submit is grounds for automatic disqualification. Any Contestant who has failed a polygraph test in any bass tournament or Contest will not be allowed to compete in any Arizona Bass Federation tournament or Event.

