

American Bass Anglers, Inc.

American Fishing Tour 2017 Season Rules

Effective: 10/1/2017

The following rules shall apply to all American Bass Anglers, Inc. American Fishing Tour tournaments during the 2017 season. These rules may be changed by American Bass Anglers (ABA) at any time upon notification to its members, which will be published on the ABA web site at www.americanbassanglers.com. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director.

1. RULES VIOLATION:

In the event of a rule violation, ABA may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and/or entry fee, probation and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the ABA shall be final in all matters. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any Tournament Rules. Failure to report violations, or suggestions to another competitor that they violated these rules will be cause for disqualification. Rules violations must be reported to the Tournament Director on site in writing within 15 minutes after the announcement "The scales are closed".

2. SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT: SPORTSMANSHIP/CODE OF CONDUCT:

Anglers participating in ABA sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which he/she is participating. Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming ABA anglers and their actions will not reflect unfavorably on ABA, its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. To this end, anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of bass fishing. Any angler who violates any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct will be subject to fines, forfeiture of tournament winnings, probation, suspension from competing in ABA sanctioned events, permanently banned from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by ABA. Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.

a. The use, possession or consumption of illegal drugs by any competitor during official practice, tournament hours or during pre and post tournament activities will be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future tournaments.

(Exception; medication prescribed to the angler by a licensed physician). Anglers under the influence of, or testing positive for, illegal drugs will be automatically disqualified from current and all future ABA tournaments. The consumption or possession of alcohol during tournament hours is prohibited. Tournament hours are defined as check-out in the morning through weighing of fish in the afternoon.

b. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling near non-competitors. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote water safety, fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, will be reason for disqualification.

c. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the state within which the tournament is being held.

d. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, crimes involving moral turpitude, conviction of a felony not specifically exempted by ABA, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or for disqualification. Any disqualification, suspension from or disciplinary action imposed by fishing organization will be grounds for rejecting any application for participation in a tournament and/or disqualification from a tournament after circumstances are reviewed by the Tournament Director.

3. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

a. Participation is open to current members of American Bass Anglers, Inc., who are 14 years of age or older. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the competitor.

b. Competitors must have a valid fishing license for the body of water the event is being held on.

c. During official practice and competition days of an ABA tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has current documented proof of a minimum of \$100,000 boating liability insurance on the boat being used. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitor using the boat. Random checks will be conducted.

d. Anglers must sign the Release of Liability form at the event and if not pre-registered with headquarters must present their entry fee to the tournament director prior to the tournament. Tournament officials reserve the right to refund any membership and/or entry fee, if they shall choose for any reason not to accept the application for entrance.

e. Any person entering a tournament that is under 18 years of age must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the Liability Release form.

