

To protect the integrity of Bass Champs and our anglers, all winners will be subject to a polygraph exam before the prizes are distributed at each event. Contestants must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money, awards, and points for the event. The Tournament Director reserves the right to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph exam, in his sole and absolute discretion.

Official 2025 Bass Champs Championship Rules: Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director in his sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight for that particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future Bass Champs events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the Tournament Director in his sole discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales at each tournament.

1. Participation and Eligibility: Participation is open to current members of Bass Champs who are qualified to fish in the 2025 Bass Champs Championship and are 18 years old and older; provided that a team may consist of one participant who is 18 years old or older and one participant under the age of 18 including junior teams. Any person entering the Bass Champs Championship under the age of 18 years must also have the signature of their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the official entry form and written consent from a parent or legal guardian specifically permitting such contestant under the age of 18 to participate in the event with the contestant who is 18 years old or older.

- Bass Champs Championship is open to all anglers except professional anglers. A professional angler is defined as:
 - Any angler competing in the Bassmaster Elite Series or the Bass Pro Tour in the immediately preceding six months prior to the date of the Bass Champs Championship.
 - Any angler that has guided for Bass (as defined in Rule 13 below) on tournament waters within **30** days of the official event for any method of compensation.
- **All Contestants must have a valid Texoma license or a Texas and Oklahoma fishing license.**

2. Teams: The 2025 Bass Champs Championship is a team event. A team shall consist of no more than two anglers; although a Contestant (and official observer, if required by Bass Champs) may fish alone as a single person team (in such event Bass Champs reserves the right to place an observer in Contestant's boat for the tournament day). Only registered Contestants may be in the boat during official practice and tournament days. If either partner enters tournament waters during the official off-limits period (September 22nd, 2025 through October 7th, 2025) such partner shall be ineligible for the 2025 Bass Champs Championship.

3. Information: During the off-limits period, official practice, and competition days, other than using publicly available information (e.g., newspaper reports and internet reports) competitors cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from non-competitors. All information must be accessed prior to the official off-limits period.

4. Tournament Waters:

Off-Limits: No Contestant may be on designated tournament waters for any reason during the official off-limits period which runs consecutively from September 22nd, 2025 through October 7th, 2025.

Official Practice Days: Official practice days are Wednesday, October 8th, 2025 through Friday, October 10th, 2025. No team may be on tournament waters after 6:00pm for the purpose of catching or locating bass on Friday, October 10th, 2025.

5. Safety: Safe boating must always be observed. Each Contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in severe weather, at which time no fishing may occur. **ALL BRIDGES ARE NO WAKE - IDLE ONLY !**

6. Permitted Fishing Methods: Only artificial lures may be used. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a Contestant leave the boat to land a fish, make the boat more accessible to fishing waters, or locate bass.

7. Sportsmanship and Conduct: All Contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Any previous conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation for a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime related to, arising out of, or involving any fishing tournament or event, except with full, prior written disclosure to the Tournament Director under oath and by affidavit of all facts and circumstances surrounding such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation at least ten (10) days before the Bass Champs event being entered, and thereafter subject to the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion that such conviction, charge, arrest, or investigation does not result in the Contestant's honesty, integrity, character or qualifications to enter the event being unreasonably questionable.
- Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.
- Chemical substance abuse or addiction.
- Disqualification from Bass Champs tournaments or other fishing organizations that resulted from unexplained rule violations that result in a Contestant's honesty, integrity, character, and qualifications for entry into a Bass Champs event being questionable in the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.

Upon review of the circumstances by Bass Champs and the Tournament Director, the Tournament Director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning the entry fee of a previously accepted application or disqualifying a Contestant. Bass Champs reserves the right to place an official observer in a Contestant's boat at any time during competition hours.

8. Assistance: During hours of competition, Contestants may not receive fishing information from non-competitors or participate in the practice of "hole sitting." The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify the Tournament Director at 817-439-3274.

9. Boat and Horsepower Regulation: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of Bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations will be cause for disqualification from the tournament. No Contestant may have a platform, raised deck, or ladder which is higher than the gunnel of the boat. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor will not be allowed in Bass Champs events. All boats must be propeller driven and must be equipped with wheel steering; no other steering device will be permitted. No air, jet drive, or surface drive boats will be permitted during official practice or competition days.

10. Permitted Fishing Locations: Any legal fishing area accessible by boat and connected to the main body of water on Lake Texoma is the permitted fishing area. Both Hagerman Wildlife Refuge and Tishomingo Wildlife refuge are off-limits for this event. (Maps of the off-limits areas are available on Basschamps.com and will be presented at official check-in) Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat and available to the public, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake at any time, whether during official practice days or competition days, is not permitted.

11. Additional Off-limits areas: Such areas will be established and announced at the registration for the 2025 Bass Champs Championship. Contestants may not fish inside the established "off-limits" area. Violation of the rule will result in immediate disqualification. Contestants' boats must remain in the tournament waters during the event.

12. Trailering IS ALLOWED: The 2025 Championship will be a trailering event. You may launch your boat prior to 6:15am, however, you may not leave your immediate launching or dockage area (with-in 50yds) until 6:15am on both competition days. Electronics may be used for navigational purposes only before 7:15am on competition both competition days. No Casting or Fishing may occur until 7:15am on both competition days. Only water accessible and navigable to the main reservoir may be launched in. Contestants must use Established Boat Ramps on Lake Texoma; no launching from banks, levees, causeways, or similar locations. Boat launches into areas of the reservoir which are not connected and accessible to the main reservoir by boat are not allowed.

13. Scoring: Will be determined by the pounds and ounces of each team's catch during the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted, or Smallmouth Bass (collectively, "bass") are accepted species. The limit will be FIVE (5) bass per team. Any Contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch for that day disqualified. The minimum official length limit for all species of bass for the 2025 Bass Champs Championship will be 14 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fails to measure the prescribed minimum length limit, will result in loss of that particular fish and ONE (1) pound penalty to the weight of the remaining fish. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in bass. Any artificially weighed, preserved, or altered bass will be disqualified and that contestant will be subject to prosecution under federal and state laws. The Pro-Rule Measuring Board is the official measuring board of Bass Champs. Bass will be measured with the mouth closed, tail compressed and swiped to achieve overall greatest length.

14. Live Fish: Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives made by Sure-Life, which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat, are recommended. A ONE (1) pound penalty will be deducted for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Any team that weighs in a dead fish for the Big Bass Award will receive a ONE (1) pound penalty from the total Big Bass Award weight. **Culling dead bass is prohibited.**

15. Ties: A tie for 1st and 2nd place in the 2025 Bass Champs Championship will be broken by a One (1) Hour Fish Off. All other ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money.