

ERIE SPRING WALLEY BASH

(Under Authority of NORTH COAST BASS ANGLERS LLC)

GENERAL RULES

Participants in N.C.B.A. tournaments are responsible for the safe operation of tow vehicles, trailers and watercraft.

Under no circumstances is the N.C.B.A. any affiliated organization, and their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, contractors, sponsors and representatives responsible for unsafe or irresponsible operation of tow vehicles, trailers or watercraft during tournament days. As a participant I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives now have, or may have in the future, for injury, death, or property damage, related to (i) my participation in these activities, (ii) the negligence or other acts, whether directly connected to these activities or not, and however caused, by any Releasee, or (iii) the condition of the premises where these activities occur, whether or not I am then participating in the activities. I also agree that I, my assignees, heirs, distributees, guardians, next of kin, spouse and legal representatives will not make a claim against, sue, or attach the property of any Releasee in connection with any of the activities of the N.C.B.A. Understanding these rules is the responsibility of all participants of N.C.B.A. sanctioned events and N.C.B.A. members.

Entering a Tournament

- a. A properly completed pre-printed and signed official entry form must be provided to the N.C.B.A. Tournament Director or staff representative prior to competition. Tournament entry fees must be received by N.C.B.A on or before the beginning of the tournament. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue or extend acceptance of applications prior to the deadline.***
- b. Entry Fees are non-refundable and non-transferable regardless of the date of cancellation. c. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to***

the Tournament Director(s) d. All mailed entries must be received with sufficient time for checks to clear financial institutions.

Disputes

Any violation or protest must be made in writing and turned in to the Tournament Director(s) prior to the closing of the scales. The Tournament Director will attempt to resolve any and all disputes prior to the closing of the scales on any tournament day. By signing the official entry form contestants agree to submit to a truth verification examination should he/she be accused of any rule violation. N.C.B.A. may also conduct random truth verification examinations throughout the year. Any person convicted of violating tournament rules or failing to successfully pass truth verification in this or any other tournament denied membership or entry into any future N.C.B.A. event(s). The administration and interpretation of the truth verification shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the tournament director. Without limiting the foregoing, the N.C.B.A. shall have sole discretion to select the location, at which such truth verification shall be administered, the individual who administers such truth verification, and the scope of the questions that may be asked during such test. Failure to take and pass the truth verification examination, if required, will result in immediate disqualification without recourse. Tournament Director or his/her designee shall have sole responsibility selecting the location, date, and time of the test nearest and available location with respect to all concerned parties schedule and travel cost. The competitor shall make himself/herself available at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such a test. Anglers taking a truth verification test may be responsible for any and all costs incurred. In the event of a rule violation the Tournament Director(s) may disqualify, hold prize money, awards, etc.

Practice and Competition

a. During the official competition days a competitor may use a CB Radio, a VHF Marine band radio, or cell phone on. Using such devices to help catch or locate fish is prohibited.

b. The Tournament Director(s) or Appointed Official(s) have the right to enter any registered boat for inspection as long as the owner occupies the boat. Permission should be requested.

c. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. d. competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various

states in which they fish. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

MEDIA

a. From time to time local media may be present during any phase of the tournament(s). Participants should be cognizant that their likeness may appear in various media forms and may be used in promotion activities of the N.C.B.A.

Boater Safety

a. Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. b. Tournament waters may be restricted at any time in case of bad weather. c. All Federal, State and local regulations and requirements will be observed at all times. In the case of any special regulations, the Tournament Director will post or announce any such regulations.

Sportsmanship

a. Competitors in any N.C.B.A. sanctioned events are expected to use a high standard of sportsmanship at all times b. Any infraction of such sportsmanship may be grounds for disqualification. c. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future N.C.B.A. Tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official competition days, or when in the weigh-in areas. d. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification.

Boat and Motor and Horsepower Regulations

a. Horsepower cannot exceed the US Coast Guard regulations or the manufacture rating plate. b. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a competitor's engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating, is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms, or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the engine, is also cause for immediate disqualification from N.C.B.A

tournaments. (for H.P. restricted waters) c. All motorized vessels will have operable navigation lights that may be inspected prior to the start of each tournament.

Fishing Locations

a. Tournament waters will be designated by the Tournament Director(s) and will be announced or posted prior to each event. b. All competitors must abide by all Local, State and Federal regulations at all times. c. Tournament Director(s) has the right to make off limit areas. d. Only waters accessible to the public are open. e. An angler may not leave their boat to access a fishing area.

Competitors Must Remain in the Boat

a. A competitor may not leave their boat to land a fish or to help access an area of the lake. An angler may however leave their boat to help retreat from an area. b. In case of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first then notify the Tournament Director(s) or other Tournament Official(s). c. In case of a rescue situation, the Tournament Director(s) must be contacted, and then an angler may ask for assistance from another competitor to help with returning to the weigh-in area.

d. The N.C.B.A. will not ask a competitor to abandon their boat. One competitor can stay with the vessel while the other returns to the weigh-in area. In the case of transporting the day's catch, the Tournament Director(s) must previously verify the number of fish for each competitor and the catch must be tagged for separation purposes. e. In the case that an angler receives permission from the Tournament Director(s) to leave their boat, their partner, if a team tournament, must cease fishing until their return. f. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat to seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger is imminent.