

# 2023 Oklahoma Bass Federation Team Tournament Rules and Official Entry Form

## 2023 Oklahoma Bass Federation Official Team Tournament Entry Form and Rules Effective Feb 1, 2023

The following rules can only be changed at the end of the calendar Year at the State Board meeting, with a motion and second being made at a previously held regular board meeting. Or written notice of a motion and a second, being made by EVERY club in the Federation, written notice must be made a minimum of 30 days in advance, but not later than Nov.1. The rules set forth at the end of the Yearly State Board meeting shall remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the Oklahoma Bass Federation (OBF). Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. In the event of a rule's violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Committee and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

1. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. This tournament is open to teams consisting of no more than two contestants per boat. The operator of the boat must be at least 16 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitors. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY OKLAHOMA Bass FEDERATION EVENT OR OPEN EVENT, NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A POLICY IN FORCE WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE.** NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible. **A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY OBF BEFORE THE EVENT(S).** The

Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline.

2. **PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:** For OBF State events there will be 2 official practice days immediately preceding the first day of the tournament. The lake will be off-limits for a three-day period immediately preceding the first practice day. The exact dates and times of the official practice period \ off-limits must be obtained from the OBF. For single day OBF Open tournaments there will be no off-limits. The competitor must know and observe these dates. **DURING THE TOURNAMENT, A COMPETITOR MAY NOT HAVE THE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE OF ANYONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LOCATING OR CATCHING BASS, NOR ENTER THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITH ANYONE WHO IS DEEMED AN "EXPERT" ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS BY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, UNLESS HE/SHE IS A CONTESTANT IN THIS TOURNAMENT OR A DIRECT FAMILY MEMBER.** During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather info. **EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES IN WRITING WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE SCALES CLOSING FOR THAT DAY. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES OR FALSE VERIFICATION OF WEIGH-IN FORMS WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON.** The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Committee shall have sole discretion to select the place, at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions, which may be asked during such test. The participant shall be available, at their own expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

3. **REGISTRATION:** Each competitor is encouraged to PRE-REGISTER. Completed entries, **must be postmarked one week prior to the tournament day.** It shall be each competitor's responsibility to obtain from the OBF registration times and location. **Entry fees will set for the tournaments by the tournament committee.** In the event that an entrant has notified OBF before the event day that he/she is unable to fish the tournament due to circumstances beyond his/her control, a refund of the entry fee will be made. Boat numbers will be assigned according to the receipt of the Official Entry by the Tournament committee or at the pre-tournament rules meeting.

4. **SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. **Tournament officials have the right to delay 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.**

5. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** *Competitors in an OBF tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.* Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future OBF tournaments. 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. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral

turpitude, 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 for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

6. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time.

7. **HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER.** Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor 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 motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Oklahoma Bass Federation Tournaments.

8. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating

and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in length or longer. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All BLADDER tanks and any other type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by an authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regs. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. **NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR.** The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Committee. A competitor answering affirmatively the question "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so, requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat available and will be paired with one who does when possible. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use, and the basis for sharing expenses. If partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Committee shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.

**9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **LIVEWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH ANGLERS USING THE BOAT.** Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

**10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection by a tournament official. Live wells, lights and kill switch must be working prior to take off. If boat markers are issued, they must show upon request.

**11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the OBF Tournament

officials. Fishing on Tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position **WITH THE TROLLING MOTOR OUT OF THE WATER.** The anchored boat has a responsibility to inform other competitor's boats when they have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him/her. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

**12. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat unless the tournament is a trailering event. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: **A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT.** One of the partners may remain with the boat if so desired. The partners must stay together always, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above if they do not decide that one will stay with the boat for their catch of that day to be counted. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed, and the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. **Trailering of boats during tournament hours is permitted only by the direction of the Tournament Officials.**

**13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at

check-in all boats shall identify themselves and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

**14. SCORING:** Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth and announced by the Board of Directors. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by the Tournament committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the State limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint, he/she MUST present all LEGAL fish in his/her possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his/her boat until his/hers catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. This restriction includes live-well stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. It has been determined that stringing decreases the chances of a bass' survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in. Any bass brought to the scales that is not of legal length will result in a one pound penalty and loss of the fish.

**15. CATCH & RELEASE:** For each legally dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized **eight (8)** ounces of weight, to be deducted

from their daily score. The Tournament Committee shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

**16. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 13 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day; including any "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

**17. TIES:** In case of a tie the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The team with the heaviest single days catch during a two day or more competition day event; 4.) The team or individual with the second heaviest single days catch during competition. In the unlikely event that teams or individuals remain tied after these four tiebreakers are employed; then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the money, if any will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the tournament committee.

## SEND ENTRIES TO:

Jody Linder  
2804 Prairie View  
Ponca City, OK 74604  
580-761-0675

## **2023 Tournament Schedule**

**Broken Bow,  
March 18-19  
Carson Creek**

**Tenkiller,  
April 15-16  
Sisemore Landing**

**Eufaula Lake,  
May 20-21  
Northside Eufaula  
Cove**

**NSF  
Dardanelle, AR  
June 24-25**

**OBF Club  
Championship/Buddy  
Tournament  
Grand Lake  
Sept. 23-24  
Southwinds Marina**

### **Tournament Information and Emergency Phone Numbers**

<b>Don Linder</b>	<b>580-761-8094</b>
<b>Jody Linder</b>	<b>580-761-0675</b>
<b>Shawn Lewis</b>	<b>580-761-6377</b>

### **2023 Sponsors**

**BASS PRO SHOPS  
POWER POLE  
CABELA'S  
RANGER BOATS  
STRIKE KING  
MINNKOTA  
LEWS  
TBF  
MLF**

**Entry forms, rules and dates can be found and  
downloaded at our website.**

<http://www.okbass.org/>

## 2023 OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM (fill all Blanks)

**Return This Portion – by 10 days to the start of the tournament**

Name (Boater) \_\_\_\_\_  
Tournament \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone/Other: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Name (Partner) \_\_\_\_\_  
Sex: M \_\_\_ F \_\_\_ Birth Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ St. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell Phone/Other: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### (READ RULE NO.8 CAREFULLY)

What brand of trolling motor on your boat?

\_\_\_\_\_

What brand of electronics do you have on your boat?

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have Boating Liability Insurance? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

### (SEE RULE NO.1)

Have you had a boating accident(s) in the last five (5) years? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any physical impairments? Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

If yes, explain \_\_\_\_\_

Having acquainted myself with the rules, I have completed this application and am enclosing the required entry fees payable to the Oklahoma Bass Federation. In signing this application, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all Tournament rules and regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the Tournament and I hereby release Oklahoma Bass Federation Inc., TBF, LLC., its parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, the host, sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this Tournament. If I am using a boat during the official practice days or during the tournament, I certify that I now have or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having a limit of at least \$300,000.00. Said insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer and must cover the Oklahoma Bass Federation, its parent and affiliate companies, its licensees and affiliates, and all their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, and stockholders. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of that insurance. I hereby wave my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, video\audio productions and/or articles and press releases by OBF, its parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the Tournament Committee reserves the right to reject my application for any reason.

### Mail this entry to:

**Jody Linder  
2804 Prairie View  
Ponca City, OK 74604  
580-761-0675**

Signed (Boater) \_\_\_\_\_

Signed (Partner) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_