



## COMPETITIONS

The 2021 Bass Tournament Series consists of three competitions:

- Florida Gulf Coast Bass Tournament, Lake Harris, FL – March 26-28, 2021
- Kentucky-Indiana Bass Tournament, Lake Barkley, KY – June 11-13, 2021
- Mid-Atlantic Bass Tournament, James River, VA – June 18-20, 2021

### Open and Team Competitions:

The Open Competition anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military, is currently in a hospital with a military related injury, is a PVA member either walking or wheeling, or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included). The Open and Team Competitions pair an Angler with an able-bodied partner or another Angler, if necessary. Open Competition, with only the Angler competing and the partner serving as a **mentor/coach and/or navigator**, is held on one of the days. Scoring will be based on the total weight of bass caught with a limit of 5 fish. In some tournaments additional competitions may be decided by the host chapter but are not mandatory (E.g. trash fish, crappie competition, etc.)

The Team Competition, with both anglers and boat partners will compete together for total fish and weight. For the team competition, scoring will be based on the total weight of bass caught with a limit of 5 fish per team. The team competition is held on 2 day. Each host chapter will determine prizes and payouts for their tournament. Payouts will be sent as part of the confirmation package two weeks prior to each tournament. Director and

Chapter will disclose any changes to the payouts and prizes at mandatory Partner Pairing meeting.

### **Bank Division:**

The Bank Division anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria; Declared 100% disabled by the government/military, is currently in a hospital with a military related injury, is a PVA member either walking or wheeling, or has significant mobility impairment (civilians

included). Scoring for the Bank Competition is based on a total weight fish caught with a limit of 10 fish. A Bank Division angler may catch and weigh any species of fish 4 inches and longer. On day one, bank anglers will compete in an Individual event with scoring based on the anglers weight of heaviest 10 fish caught. Day two, will be Team Competition where anglers will be randomly paired in teams. Each angler will weigh in separately, but his or her day's catch will count together for a team score and team prizes (as will any penalties). Bank anglers may choose to fish only one competition or both competitions. Some prize restrictions may apply to be determined by the host chapter. The Tournament Director and Chapter lead will disclose any changes to the payouts and prizes at the mandatory Partner Pairing meeting.

### **Fishing License:**

A state fishing license is required unless an exemption has been issued for a particular tournament. It is the angler's responsibility to ensure they have the appropriate fishing license for the event they are attending.

### **Confirmation:**

A confirmation letter and other tournament information will be sent to all registered participants two weeks prior to the event. All event information can be accessed online at

[www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports).

**\*The current rules are designed for regular season tournaments. Due to the current COVID pandemic. Please check with the host chapter for current COVID rules and regulations. Each tournament has developed a COVID response based on the mandates of their federal, state and local mandates.**

### **Meals:**

All tournaments will include a continental breakfast and sack lunch with ice and drinks will be provided on both Saturday and Sunday. Please bring your own lunch if you have dietary concerns or restrictions. A Partner Appreciation Dinner will be provided Saturday afternoon following the day of fishing. In addition, meals should be provided for the bank division and any volunteers who are supporting the event during the day hours. A Sunday

meal should be supplied for anglers, volunteers, and families before they depart home. Dinners are based on number of participants, family members, volunteers, and sponsors. If you chose not to attend, please let the host chapter know when you register. This will help keep chapter costs down.

### **Mandatory Registration/Partner Pairing:**

Registration will take place from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on the Friday before the event. The random partner pairings will be announced at the mandatory meeting at 7:30 p.m. The selection of partners will be done through a random process, and no pre-pairing of partners will be allowed. If an angler is not able to attend the Friday night partner pairing meeting, the angler must contact the Tournament Director prior to the pairing. Any angler who is not able to attend the partner pairing meeting will have their partner selected for them as part of the pairing process. The Tournament Director or a representative from the host chapter will be responsible for a fair pairing and notifying any absent participants of their pairing.

### **Equipment:**

All participants are encouraged to bring their own tackle and necessary gear, as well as clothing for inclement weather. Anglers in the Team/Open Competition who wish to fish from their own boat must indicate this on the registration form. Boats must be 16 feet or longer and capable of safely holding two anglers and must be equipped with an operational live well and kill switch, including during official pre-fishing.

Boat partners are encouraged to bring extra equipment, including life vests and extra tackle, as some participants may have limited access to equipment.

If you would like to donate equipment for participants, please work with the Tournament Director and the local PVA chapter representatives.

### **Fuel/Oil Charges:**

**Chapters or anglers (as determined and communicated by the chapter before the event) will be required to pay the fuel and oil charges for the boat captains on Open Competition day and HALF the fuel and oil charges for the boat captains on Team Competition day.** It is important, and highly recommended, to discuss this with the boat owner and agree upon the conditions of payment prior to the commencement of the tournament. Non-boating able-bodied partners fishing with a mobility impaired angler that brings his or her own boat will not be required to pay for ANY fuel or oil charges.

### **1099 Tax Form:**

The host PVA chapter will be responsible for supplying a 1099 Tax Form to all participants whose cash and prizes are valued at \$600 or more.

## **2020/2021 Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tournament Rules**

The following rules apply to all participants and shall remain unchanged except for special events conducted by the PVA Bass Tournament officials. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee will consist of the PVA National representative of Sports and Recreation, a host PVA chapter representative (Tournament Director), and an angler representative. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, points, forfeiture of prizes, and prohibition from participation in subsequent events. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final in all matters.

### **1. Rules Violations:**

During the tournament, a competitor may not use a radio, a cell phone, or any other communication device for the purpose of locating or catching bass. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Committee any violation or infraction of these tournament rules. The failure to immediately report any rules violations shall be grounds for disqualification from the tournament. Each competitor further agrees by his or her entry into this tournament to be bound by these rules, and to submit to a polygraph test should he or she be asked to for any reason.

Random polygraphs will be given. The administration and interpretation of the test shall solely be the responsibility of the Tournament Committee and their agents and shall be used or not used at their discretion. The Tournament Committee shall, without limitation, select the polygrapher, date, time, location, scope of questions to be asked, etc. The participant shall be available, at his or her own expense, at the location selected. Any infractions of these rules could be grounds for disqualification from this and future PVA-sponsored tournaments. Video evidence may be used to enforce these rules and regulations. **All participants are required to sign a code of ethics.**

### **2. Participation and Eligibility:**

PVA Bass Tour reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone. All PVA Bass Tour events shall be limited to those who meet the eligibility requirements of the competition in which they submit a properly completed application. Participants must be 18 years or older to fish an event.

a) The Open Competition anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria; Declared 100% disabled by the government/military, is currently in a hospital with a military related injury, is a PVA member either walking or wheeling, or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included). If necessary, two Open Competition participants may be paired. The Team Competition shall be open to any able-bodied partner, herein after referred to as "boat partner." If necessary, two Open Competition participants may be paired.

b) The Bank Competition anglers are required to meet one or more of the following criteria: Declared 100% disabled by the government/military, is currently in a hospital with a military related injury, is a PVA member either walking or wheeling, or has significant mobility impairment (civilians included).

All competitions will initially be open to anyone who meets registration/rules requirements, regardless of disability. Confirmation and verification of a qualified disability will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Committee, whose decision will be final. Medical evaluation forms may be required for all new anglers or anglers whose disability is in question or unknown. Each contestant must register online [at www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). If you need assistance completing your application, PVA Sports and Recreation staff are available to assist. The PVA Bass Tour or the host PVA chapter must receive a properly completed official entry form, and the required entry fees.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject an entry form and/or stop the acceptance of applications.

### **3. Pre-Tournament Practice:**

There will be three official practice days immediately preceding the first day of the tournament.

There shall be no off-limits period. All rules will apply on official practice days. Two weeks (14 days) prior to, as well as during the official practice days and during the tournament, a competitor may not buy or barter a fishing location, including the hiring of guides. The tournaments' off limits live release area will be identified and announced during the mandatory pre-tournament meeting.

### **4. Registration:**

Each Angler must register in person with tour staff at the time and place described on the schedule of events. Each Angler must also be present at any mandatory participants' meetings.

Failure to comply with this rule may result in immediate disqualification, points, or penalties. It shall be each competitor's responsibility to check the schedule of events for registration time and location or obtain times and location from the tour staff. Refunds will be determined by the host PVA chapter.

### **5. Safety:**

Safety for all participants in the PVA Bass Tournament series is paramount and a priority to deliver a quality event. The Tournament Committee will enforce all safety rules and they are non-negotiable. Any individual not adhering to the safety guidelines will be removed from the tournament and face further sanctioning from the Tournament Committee.

- a) Safe boating conduct and caution must always be observed by all tournament participants. Each participant is required to wear a Coast Guard–approved type III or greater life preserver. The preserver must be worn any time the combustion engine is in operation.
- b) During the official practice days and during the tournament hours the preserver must be strapped, zippered, snapped, or buckled securely and maintained in that position until the combustion engine is shut off.
- c) The interior of the boat must be in good condition to avoid causing bodily harm to the angler.
- d) The Tournament Committee has the authority to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of factors that may endanger the safety of participants.

Tournament waters, event schedule, or format may also be altered at any time for any reason. Participants who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, operate the boat in such a manner as to endanger themselves or others will be disqualified. Prevailing federal, state, and local statutes and regulations will bind all participants. If weather prevents day one competition, day two will host both Open and Team events. The Angler will be allowed three legal bass, and the able-bodied boat partner will be allowed two legal bass for a total of five bass. Flight order will remain the same as the cancelled day of competition.

## **6. Sportsmanship:**

Participants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship. Maximum courtesy must be always practiced including refraining from the use of profane language. Any act that reflects unfavorably on PVA, its chapters, and sponsors, or on efforts to promote conservation, disability awareness, and clean waters shall be reason for disqualification from this and/or all future tournaments. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants, depressants, or other illegal or dangerous drugs shall be allowed in a competitor's boat at any time.

## **7. Tackle and Equipment:**

Only artificial lures may be used, no "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted in the Team/Open Competitions. Only one casting, flipping, spin casting, or spinning rod and reel, 7'6"

feet maximum length, tip to butt, may be used at any one time. All other types of rods/reels are prohibited. Other rods as specified above may be in the boat ready to use; however, only one is permitted in use at any given time. A "hung up" rod will be considered as not in use. Adaptive equipment designed to assist competitors with holding or manipulation of their rods and reels is allowed. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All bass must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging

fish on a spawning bed will have the day's catch disqualified. When visibly fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as legal.

During the Open Competition, a fish caught by the partner must be immediately released and is potentially one less bass that might be caught by the Open Competition participants. **The partner's assistance shall be limited to helping to select the fishing location, lure selection and installation, and assistance with landing a fish.** Landing nets are permitted. The partner is expressly prohibited from casting the bait or setting the hook and then passing the rod to the Angler or giving a fish he or she caught to any participant.

### **8. Horsepower Regulations:**

No boat with a horsepower engine higher than 250hp will be allowed in the tournament. In addition, the engine horsepower cannot be higher than is specified on the manufacturer's BIA rating plate. Rating plate must be attached to the boat where required.

### **9. Boat and Motor:**

No boat shorter than 16 feet in length will be permitted, measuring from bow to stern. All boats must be equipped with an operable ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. No "barges," "pontoon boats,"

or other cumbersome crafts will be permitted unless an Angler is using it as an adaptive device.

This alternative has to be cleared through the Tournament Committee within 48 hours of competition. No boat equipped with stick steering shall be permitted to be used during the tournament. A small motor, gas or electric, may be used for slow maneuvering. Any competitor who answers "yes" to "Will you be bringing and using your boat (boater)?" will be put in the draw as such. Any competitor who answers "no" to the same will be entered as a non-boater and will be paired with someone who has a boat when possible. Any competitor who enters as a non-boater may not use their boat during tournament days unless so requested by tour officials. Any competitor who enters as a non-boater and answers "yes" to the question, "Will you have a legal tournament boat available for tournament use if needed?" will be required to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and a daily partner, if so, requested by tournament officials. If an Angler's boat encounters a mechanical failure during official practice days and wish to go as a non-boater, you will need to get a representative from the Tournament Committee to confirm mechanical failure.

### **10. Basic Boat Equipment:**

Every boat must have all required Coast Guard equipment. In addition, each boat must have a functional bilge pump, and adequate live well space, properly aerated to keep alive a limit

catch of bass. The Tournament Committee shall have sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity of the live well are proper and adequate.

### **11. Boat Identification:**

Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection check by a tournament official and a boat marker, which must remain on the boat in plain view.

### **12. Boat Operation:**

A full discussion must be held between the Angler and the able body boat partner prior to the morning departure as to the schedule and boat operations.

### **13. Permitted Fishing Locations:**

Fishing on tour waters is permitted anywhere except within 25 yards of another competitor's boat that was anchored first or secured in a fixed location, with the trolling motor out of the water. The anchored boat has the responsibility to inform other competitors when they have entered the 50-yard circle, claimed by him. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him or her to the exclusion of any other competitor. No competitor shall have a non-competitor sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot for them. Off-limits areas are (1) any areas that may be designated by federal, state, or local governments; (2) any areas designated by tour officials; and (3) the live bass release area.

### **14. Participants Must Remain in the Boat:**

All fishing in the Open/Team Competitions must be done from the boat. Participants must not depart the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Both participants must remain in the boat and together in sight of each other always except in case of dire emergency. In such an event, participants may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by another competitor or a rescue boat designated by the Tournament Committee. In the Open Competition, the angler with the disability must be removed under the condition stated herein. In the Team Competition, both partners must be removed from the boat to take the team's catch to weigh-in. If a contestant violates any of the conditions for any reason (except for dire emergency), his or her catch for the day shall not be counted. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except at the direction of the Tournament Committee.

### **15. Official Checkpoint:**

There shall be an official checkpoint for each tournament. At the time of checkout/in, all participants and boats shall be in full compliance with the rules set forth by the Tournament Committee. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves, as described by officials, at the official checkpoint and proceed as directed to the weigh-in area. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all legal fish in their



possession to be counted, measured, and weighed. It is imperative that all boats check in regardless of their catch. On Open day only, there will be an official morning check-in location and time that will be determined at the partner-pairing meeting. Each Angler MUST check in before the set time or he/she will be the last boat out and due back in the first flight.

#### **16. Scoring:**

Tournament standings will be determined by weight of each participant's or team's catch during the tournament day(s). In the Team/Open Competition, only largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass, and shoal bass will be weighed. For the Open Competition, the limit shall be a maximum five bass per competitor. For the Team Competition, the limit shall be a maximum five bass per team. Prevailing federal, state, and local statutes and regulations on fish size and limit will bind all participants. Participants may not cull dead fish. At no time will participants have in their possession more than the limit described above. Tournament officials will conduct checks for these violations. When more than a legal limit is caught, the angler(s) must immediately cull down to the legal limit. Failure to do so will result in removal of the largest fish down to the legal limit. Only bass that conform to the minimum length assigned by state statute or the tour officials measured on a flat board with mouth closed along the longest straight line will be weighed. In no case shall the minimum length be less than 12 inches. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to conform to a minimum length assigned will be disqualified and a one-pound penalty will be assessed. Either the Angler or able body boat partner may request a "Courtesy Bump" prior to the official weigh-in. Maximum penalty is the total weight of the catch. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to tournament officials, competitors may not add to or touch said catch until after official weigh-in.

#### **17. Penalty Points:**

It is incumbent upon each contestant to take utmost care of his or her catch. A penalty of four ounces will be assessed for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. The determination of a live or dead fish will be the sole responsibility of the tour officials. Any penalty will be from the total score of the contestant. Dead fish may not be weighed to compete for Big Bass.

#### **18. Late Penalty:**

Participants who are not at the official checkpoint as described in rule 15 at the appointed time will be penalized at a rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight that day, including any "Lunker award," up to 15 minutes, at which time their catch will be disqualified for the day. All fishing will cease upon arriving at the official checkpoint. After the tournament briefing begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.

Exceptions can be determined by the tournament committee in emergency cases.

## **19. Ties:**

In case of ties, standings will be determined by most fish weighed, most live fish weighed, largest fish caught if available, and if a tie still exists, a means selected by the Tournament Committee will break the tie.

## **20. Pairing of Participants:**

Boat numbers will be assigned to Anglers by random drawing. Anglers will be paired with their partners by random drawing. In conjunction with the host PVA chapter representative, Tour officials may reassign partners at any time during the tournament for reasons such as medical emergency or lack of appropriate boat partners on a case-by-case basis. Tournament waters, event schedule, or format may also be altered at any time for any reason.

## **21. Patches and/or Signage:**

PVA Bass Tour encourages the use of patches, logos, and other signage to promote sponsors.

Realizing we are entering into a television/media/sponsorship field that may sometimes restrict the use of such signage, etc., that promotes or advertises products, tour officials reserve the right to restrict the use of such signage with as much advance notice as possible. Angler of the Year will be required to wear National PVA Sponsor jerseys at all National PVA invited events and will not be allowed to wear CONFLICTING sponsor paraphernalia (i.e. hats, t-shirts, jackets, jersey, patches, and etc.).

**22. “Angler of the Year” Open & Bank Competitions:** Anglers of the Year will be decided by those who have accumulated the highest number of points for four of the five Paralyzed Veterans of America Bass Tour events and have met all eligibility requirements. Points will be awarded to those competitors who weigh a fish, based on final results (100 points—first place; 99—second place, etc.) In addition, each angler will receive 10

bonus points for each tournament he or she participates for a maximum 40 bonus points awarded at the end of the year. Bonus points will not count for dropped tournaments. In case of a tie for a cut position, point standings prior to the final event will break the tie. If a tie still exists, a means selected by the Tournament Committee will break the tie.

**\*For 2020/2021 season angler will accumulate points beginning with the first tournament. No tournaments will be dropped due to the shortened tournament series.**

## **23. Protest Procedures:**

Any dispute shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee. The PVA National representative of Sports and Recreation, in consultation with the host PVA chapter

representative and the angler representative, shall have the authority to decide the dispute. The decision of the Tournament Committee shall be final. **An official protest can be made up to 30 minutes** after the last boat weighs in.

In addition to the Official Tour Rules, the following rules apply only to the Bank Division:

### **1. Rods and Reels:**

There are no restrictions on the types/length of poles or rods and reels that can be used as long as safety is not an issue. One rod and reel with a maximum of two hooks can be used per person at a time. State laws will apply.

### **2. Assistance:**

While minimal assistance is allowed in the Bank Competition, it shall be limited to those tasks that anglers CANNOT do by themselves.

### **3. Scoring:**

Except for special events, the minimum length for fish of all species is four inches. All species of fish will be weighed. Anglers are encouraged to weigh in all fish caught longer than four inches.

However, only each angler's heaviest 10 fish per day will be counted in the team or individual standings. Federal, state, and local laws will apply.

### **4. Bait:**

Artificial, live bait, and prepared bait are allowed in the Bank Competition. Chumming will not be allowed by individual anglers, teams, or others in the Bank Competition area. Chumming may only be done by a tournament official for the benefit of all.

### **5. Permitted Fishing Locations:**

Fishing is permitted anywhere except within a designated circle that will be determined by the Bank Division director. The angler has the responsibility to inform other competitors when they have entered the designated circle, claimed by him/her. No competitor shall permit selected competitors to fish within the designated circle claimed by him or her to the exclusion of any other competitor. No competitor shall have a third party sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot for them for any reason. A competitor must take all lines out of the water and stop fishing if more than 10 feet away from rod being used.

### **6. Service Animals:**

Service animals are allowed on the boat or on location of the Bank Division. Service animals must be trained and certified. All service animals must be taken care of by the participant during the tournament. This includes adequate water supply, food, shelter during hot

temperatures, and any inclement weather gear necessary. We also require a life jacket to be available. The Boat Partner reserves the right to close competition for his participant if he or she deems the safety of the service animal is threatened or the safety of the boat is compromised. Any unsafe or inappropriate behavior surrounding a service animal, as determined by the Tournament Committee, may result in an athlete being pulled from competition.

## **PARALYZED VETERANS OF AMERICA BASS TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION**

### **Early Registration is encouraged.**

#### **ANGLERS WITH DISABILITIES, OPEN COMPETITION**

Open Competition anglers wishing to enter one or more tour event may begin registration online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). The entry fee for Open Competition Angler is \$135 per event, which includes \$10 for the "Big Bass" pot. Full entry fees of \$135 per event registered must be paid in full, for each tournament, to the host chapter. The host chapter will determine the deadline for payment. If you are unable to register online, you may use the paper form to register by mail.

Any fee not paid in full by the deadline will result in the participant being to be dropped from the event unless otherwise determined by the host chapter.

#### **B.A.S.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**

Any voting member of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, in the Open Competition, who wants his or her points or finish to count toward the year-end points total for qualification to the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship, per the B.A.S.S. sanction requirements, is required to be a member of B.A.S.S. and a member of a B.A.S.S. Nation Club before competing in a tour event for which he or she wishes those points or finish to count. Proof of membership is required. Contact the PVA Bass Tour for instructions on joining a B.A.S.S. Nation Club."

#### **ABLE BODIED PARTNERS**

You may enter any tournament online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). Boat partner entry fees remain at \$50, which includes your "Big Bass" pot and all meals (Friday night reception/Partner-Pairing dinner, Saturday night Partner Appreciation Dinner, as well as breakfast, lunch and beverages on Saturday and Sunday).

## **ANGLERS WITH DISABILITIES, BANK COMPETITION**

Bank Competition anglers wishing to enter any or all four events may register online at [www.pva.org/sports](http://www.pva.org/sports). Full entry fees of \$40 for a single day or \$80 for both competition days (which includes the "Big Fish" pot) must be paid in full at time of registration. If you are unable to register online, please contact PVA's Sports and Recreation Department for help. You may register in person Friday night from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., however, early registration is highly recommended.