**BNVA ("B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia")**

**High School Tournament Series**

**High School and Junior State Championship**

**Joseph Thomson Memorial 6 Man Team State Championship**

**Official Rules and Regulations (Revised 2020)**

ARTICLE 7. ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS
7.1 TOURNAMENT RULES

7.1.1 BASS TOURNAMENT DEFINED. Bass tournament shall be defined as a competitive event in which the practices collectively known as fishing are skillfully applied by participants to catch bass and present them for scoring by weight, length or other criteria to determine a winner or winners who receive certain awards and/or other recognition.

7.1.2 PURPOSE OF TOURNAMENT RULES. Youth Tournament rules are adopted for the express purposes of providing equal opportunity for all participants to successfully apply their fishing skills and abilities, of improving the safety of both participant and non-participant users of the tournament area resources, and of providing for proper handling of the fish.

7.1.3 AMENDMENTS AND INTERPRETATIONS. Only the Youth Program or Tournament Committee of the B.A.S.S. Nation of Virginia Inc shall amend the Youth Tournament rules. They are subject to interpretation only by the Youth Program or Tournament Committee, under the coordination and supervision of the Chairman. Decisions of the committee approved by the chairman shall be final. All Youth tournament rules will be recommended to the Board for their approval or disapproval.

7.1.4 BASS DEFINED. Bass shall be defined as any of the species known as large-mouth bass (Micropterus Salmoides), smallmouth bass (Micropterus Dolomieu), spotted bass (Micropterus Punctulatus), suwannee bass (Micropterus Notius), redeye bass (Micropterus Coosae), and guadalupe bass (Micropterus Treculi), all of which are of the genus, Micropterus, in the family, Centrarchidae, the fresh water sunfish.

7.1.5 ENTRY FEES. Applications from otherwise qualified youth members; clubs/chapters of regions to enter and compete in tournaments shall be acceptable only when accompanied by the fee established by the Youth Program with approval of the Board. Fees shall not be refundable to individual, team or club applicants once the fees have been accepted by the Nation except in extenuating circumstances approved by the board. Membership fee including the state and national dues shall be $20.00. Each member must have an active B.A.S.S. High School or Adult Membership. ($10 HS or $15 Adult) The fee for the High School and/or Junior Tournament Series will be $40.00 per team.

7.1.6 ELIGIBILITY

A. HIGH SCHOOL - Participation in this tournament series is by invitation only. You must be a student currently enrolled in high school, in good academic standard, and a member of your institution's fishing team. Certain schools allow 8th grade students to compete. If your institution

allows 8th grade students to compete a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. 7th grade students are not allowed to compete in Bassmaster High School tournaments. Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria has been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. **This is a team event. You must have a partner and coach to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to B.A.S.S**. in writing for approval. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to accept or deny such request. This tournament is open only to current members of official High School Clubs, recognized by said High School or an official Community Club.

B. JUNIOR – Age 7 or 2nd Grade thru 7th grade.

Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). **Boat Captains must be of the age that would place them out of High School.** Each tournament contestants will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed.
*If in 8th grade he/she may fish as a Junior. However, if you fish in the High School Division; you must fish the High School Division the full season.
*If in 9th grade he/she will be considered a High School member,
**If the member is 19 years old, he must be enrolled in the High School as a full-time student.
***B.A.S.S. Nation of VA by-laws suggests that a student not having a club at his school find 2 members and form a district, or community club to serve his need.
Any member whose name is not present on the official roster submitted to the Nation Board will not be allowed to participate on that club's team. A high School Team may add members to their roster throughout the school session. It is suggested that any new member has fished 3 club events prior to fishing in a state qualifying tournament. Members 16 years of age and older may also fish in the B.A.S.S. Nation Virginia Adult Tournament Series.
Any contestant that has "Special Needs' in such a manner as to hinder him/her during competition, or endanger the safety and well-being of his/her partner, boat captain shall notify the State Youth Director. Such notification will be handled on a case by case basis.

7.1.7 REGISTRATION.
All dues, new member registration form and release forms must be submitted to the B.A.S.S. Nation of VA State Secretary. Copies of a team's rosters which includes contact information (including email address and phone number), birth date and release forms must be submitted to the State Secretary.

7.1.7.1 JSQ
Each club/chapters Youth Advisor must register his/her team through the State Secretary and State Youth Director prior to the event. There is no practice day. Each Club/Team Youth Advisor must pre-register the teams through the State Youth Director and State Secretary at a deadline established prior to the event. On the day of the event all youth and boat captains must check in with the youth tournament staff. On the day of the event all youth and boat captains must check in 1 hour prior to the stated "start time" of the event with the youth tournament staff.

7.1.7.2 JSC
The JSC is by invitation only and all participants will be required to register through the State Secretary at a deadline established prior to the event.
Criteria
The top 32 teams (16 from the north and 16 from the south), High School (8th – 12th) who have caught fish in the 4 state tournament series as stated above will be invited to the State Championship.

It will be to the discretion of the High Schools' advisor to pair these anglers and provide them with a boat captain of the advisor's choice or one chosen by the pair when possible. In the case of an odd number of anglers from a specific school within this top 32 – it will be the discretion of the State Youth advisor to fill that spot with the next in standings from that high school.
The top two teams for the two-day tournament will advance to the National High School Championship. Therefore, the state will allow the top two High School teams according to the combined weight of the individuals making up that team and their boat captain, have the option to advance to the National High School Championship.

Junior Teams Qualifying for JSC:
The top 3 teams from each of the 4 JSQ will be invited to attend the JSC two-day event. The top two teams winning the JSC will advance to the National Junior Championship.

7.1.8 ETHICS SPORTSMANSHIP AND PERSONAL CONDUCT. All participants shall observe a high standard of ethics, sportsmanship and personal conduct. They shall obey all of the laws, and the authorities having jurisdiction in the tournament area. They shall keep themselves informed and aware of the rules, laws and conditions applicable to the tournament. They shall yield to all other recreational users of the Tournament resource, sufficient distance or other courtesy to avoid interference with their activities. For example, duck blinds, which are occupied, on lawful duck hunting days, shall be given sufficient clearance to avoid interference with ducks approaching the blind in flight and to avoid danger from shot. Where a blind is situated in a narrow passage, boats shall move past them at no wake speed without stopping to fish. Intoxication during the practice, the competition and/or the scoring activities will be cause for immediate disqualification. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs shall be permitted in competition boats during competition hours. Participants shall yield to inspection by tournament officials at any time during the tournament. *Failure to abide by ALL rules could result in disqualification from the event.*

*Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in B.A.S.S. Nation of VA events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document.*

- *Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other competitors and fans and volunteers during an event.*
- *Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials.*
- *Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors*
- *Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present.*
- *Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels.*
- *Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event.*
- *Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.*
- *Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification.*

7.1.9 PRACTICE DAYS AND COMPETITION. Tournament waters are open at all times to all competitors. However, prior or during any B.A.S.S. Nation of VA sponsored tournament no competitor may hire, buy or barter a fishing location from any other competitor for use during any competition day. Failure to comply with the rules will result in disqualification from the tournament.
*THE EXCEPTION* will be the JSC which will have an **off-limits** period imposed from the Sunday at dark prior to the practice day of the tournament. Off limits will be Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

7.1.10 TOURNAMENT WATERS. Tournament waters shall be defined as all public waters which are accessible by boat from the tournament headquarters with the exception of such off-limits areas as may be designated and announced at the Tournament by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. All fishing by participants shall be done from a boat on tournament waters and all participants and competition boats shall remain on tournament waters throughout the competition hours. Violators shall be disqualified for that day's competition. Exceptions: Bath room break or emergency first aid i.e. hook removed, or one or both members of the team falls in the water.

7.1.11 COMPETITION HOURS. Competition hours shall be determined by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee and announced at Tournament. The hours will generally be from safe light to 2:00PM. Safe light will be determined on site at the Tournament. The hours may be changed by the Youth Director/Advisors as necessary because of changing conditions and with reasonable notice to participants during the tournament. Late arrival at the check-in point at the end of competition hours shall not be excused. No make-up time shall be granted for any reason to any participant who has been unable to compete during any part of the tournament.

7.1.12 WEATHER CONDITIONS. Tournaments shall proceed as scheduled regardless of weather conditions, except that competition may be suspended or terminated by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee whenever it finds weather conditions to be hazardous. Competitors shall not fish during periods of suspension or after termination of competition. They may decline to compete without penalty only after the Youth Director/Advisors have accepted their notice, given prior to withdrawing, that they believe weather conditions to be hazardous.

7.1.13 SAFETY AND INSPECTION. Safety shall be the concern of first priority to all participants. All competition equipment shall be presented for inspection before the beginning of competition and all participants shall yield to inspection upon the request of tournament officials during the entire tournament event including scoring, award ceremonies, the protest period and during the deliberation of any protests that may be registered by participants. Competition equipment found to be unsafe or unseaworthy by the Youth Program/ Tournament Committee shall not be used in the tournament.

7.1.14 SAFETY EQUIPMENT. Participants, throughout the official competition hours, shall wear a vest type personal floatation device, or life jacket, which is approved by the United States Coast Guard. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional device, known as a kill switch, which will terminate the operation of the primary propulsion engine when the operator leaves the controls. The kill switch shall be attached to the operator whenever the engine is in operation. Each tournament boat shall be equipped with a functional power operated pumping device, which will remove water from the boat effectively, and in a manner acceptable to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. **Anglers 15 years of age and younger **are not** allowed to wear suspender type PFD's. It is the responsibility of the coach/boat captain to check the inflatable life jacket's CO2 canister for reliability. If the canister is foul then a replacement jacket must be used. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition. Junior division Angler's are required to wear life jackets at all time during competition from launching the boat to returning to boat to land. High School Angler's are required to have life jackets on from the time the boat is being launched until arrival at first fishing spot. Anytime the primary propulsion engine is running, all angler's must be seated and have life jackets on and properly secured.

7.1.15A. BOAT CAPTAINS

Boat captains shall send a copy of their Basic Boater Safety Card, their Boat Captain Release Form and a document to verify the necessary insurance coverage of $300,000. It is expected that the boat captain will uphold all rules and regulations of the tournament. The boat captain shall abide by the "off limits" time periods pertaining to the lake and the "off limit" areas of the body of water during tournament time.

7.1.151A. Boat captains serve as the coach of the two youths assigned to his boat during the tournament. It is during this time that he may give suggestions, instructions, and enforce the "no fishing." Refer to the Boat Captain Rules for specific Do's and Don'ts. At no time may he confer with a professional guide for information regarding the tournament lake.

He may not during the tournament contact other boat captains for information regarding the location of fish, or lures that "are working."

7.1.15 B BOAT REQUIREMENTS. Competition boats shall be sixteen feet or more in length. The boat must also have an electric bow mounted trolling motor and sufficient live well capacity to maintain a limit of bass by both contestants in good condition during the tournament hours. No cumbersome craft, stick steering or motors of a horsepower that exceeds the manufacturers rating plate will be permitted. All boats must comply with all the applicable federal and state regulations. All boats that do not meet these requirements cannot be used in any of the state level tournaments conducted by the B.A.S.S. Nation of VA Inc. Boats built on or after November 1, 1972 shall display horsepower rating plates installed by the manufacturer. Boats built before November 1, 1972 shall display horsepower rating plates if plates were installed by the manufacturer. All tournament boats shall be powered within their rating plate specifications, or in the absence of rating plates they shall comply with the United States Coast Guard horsepower rating formula. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden. Any violation of these rules will result in immediate disqualification from that day's competition. **"All boats used in state and region events of the B.A.S.S. Nation of VA Inc. must have no less than $300,000.00/300,000 liability insurance on these boats**. In order to use a boat, proof must be provided for all events. Boat Captains and Jr. Angles must have signed waivers in the possession of the State Secretary or State Youth Director prior to participating. If you do not own the boat to be used in the event, a letter of permission to use the boat in that event must be provided by the owner (s) prior to use. **Youth Advisors will be responsible for ensuring that Boat Captains recruited for their anglers comply with these requirements. Each Boat Captain must have a signed release and proof of insurance documents filed with the State Secretary prior to participation.**

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION W ILL BE 250 HP.

Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Standing on the outboard or seats while fishing is not allowed. . No "barges" or similar craft will be permitted. Jet drive engines are not allowed during both official practice and competition. B.A.S.S. Nation of VA has the right to refuse any boat felt unsafe on tournament waters.

7.1.15 OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF BOAT AND SAFETY EQUIPMENT. Boats will be checked at tournament start for lights, life jackets, kill switch, bilge pump and live wells. Any non-operating equipment will send the boat to the end of the tournament launch line and must be corrected prior to release. Prior to being allowed to compete in a tournament each boat must be checked and approved by the Youth Director/Advisors. Each boat must meet all guidelines specified in Regulation #14 and Regulation #15. Boat inspections will be conducted at the ramp on tournament day. It is the responsibility of each Boat Captain to make sure that his boat has been registered and officially approved prior to beginning the tournament.

7.1.17 FISHING TACKLE. Competition tackle shall be limited to casting, spinning and spin-casting rods and reels, and artificial lures. Live baits or natural baits are prohibited and shall not be present in boats during

competition except that skin, feathers and hair of non-aquatic animals may be used as lure components subject to approval by the Youth Program. As many sets of tackle, which include rod, reel, line and lure, may be kept in competition boats as participants' desire. Only one such set may be in actual use at any one time.

7.1.18 FISHING METHODS. Trolling as a method of fishing shall be prohibited. Participants shall hook, play and land any fish they catch in competition, using no devices other than a landing net, tackle as provided in section 8.1.17, and that participant Jr. Anglers/High School anglers or Boat Captains may assist in landing and bringing them into the boat if requested. All fishing must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart from the boat to land the fish. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. W hen visually fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked. W ith the mouth closed naturally, you must not be able to see where the hook point enters the fish to be considered hooked inside the mouth. Competitors are allowed to share baits and tackle at all times including competitors who have been cut from competition. **Beginning in 2017 cull tags designed to penetrate a fish's mouth will not be allowed.**

7.1.19 PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except OFF LIMITS areas specified by the Youth Director/Advisors or any off-limit area on lake or body of water per state or DGIF or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored. Any such anchored boat shall have its trolling motor retracted from the water. No such anchored boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor. Violation will result in disqualification for that day's competition. It is the responsibility of the anchored boat to make other competitors aware that he is anchored.

7.1.20 FISHING PARTNERS REQUIRED. Participants shall fish with partners assigned. In the event an entrant has to exclude himself/herself from the competition they shall report immediately to their Youth Advisor and notify them of the situation. Upon the loss or absence of their duly assigned partner the entrant's partner shall terminate all activity and report directly to their Youth Advisor. The team's Youth Director/Advisors shall be responsible for pairing the entrant with another tournament entrant (alternate participant from the same club or team in the case of the JSC) or observer in the case of the JSQ if available.

7.1.21 BOAT OPERATION. Two Jr. Anglers/High School Anglers shall fish as a team with one Boat Captain/coach. Each Jr. Angler/High School Angler is entitled to all the rights and privileges of fishing from the boat entered in the competition. Providing a boat for competition is a voluntary option and Boat Captains are responsible for the operation and overall safety of their boats. Each competitor shall be permitted to fish from the front seat and in full control of the tournament boat (providing for safety considerations and that he/she is competent and comfortable with operation) and in fishing locations of his/her choice during half of each competition day, except that the Boat Captain will be the operator of the primary propulsion system, taking the boat to areas chosen by the Jr, Anglers/High School Anglers during the competition day. Failure to cooperate with a partner or Boat Captain will result in a protest to the Youth Director/Advisors and could result in disqualification of the non cooperating partner from competition. Waiver of any part of the required sharing shall not constitute a waiver of any of the remainder. Boat operation in manner, which unnecessarily handicaps a partner or any other competitor, shall be prohibited. The Boat Captain will assume all expenses incurred in the operation of the boat. ***It is encouraged that the Jr. Anglers/High School Anglers share in paying the expenses of the boats supplied by the Boat Captains.***

7.1.22 CONTACT WITH OTHER BOATS. No fishing shall be permitted within fifty yards of the anchored boat of another participant. Anchored boats shall not restrict navigation through narrow channels to or from other tournament waters. Participants shall not approach closer than necessary or otherwise make physical

contact with other boats or persons during competition hours for reasons other than emergencies. Any competitors' boats seen in physical contact on the lake without the existence of an emergency will be disqualified from that day's competition.

7.1.23 EMERGENCY CONDITIONS. Emergency conditions are defined as conditions which subject persons or property to imminent danger or conditions which are deemed by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee to be of emergency nature. Only under emergency conditions, or in cases where boats are disabled, may participants leave their boats. In cases of dire emergency or where safety is involved, both contestants must remain in the boat at all times. Under such conditions (dire emergency or safety), they may ride in other boats and bring their fish to the tournament headquarters for scoring subject to all requirements otherwise applicable. Otherwise, they shall remain in sight of each other at all times until their fish are turned over to tournament officials. In such cases, both partners or the non-boating partner alone may take their/his fish to the weigh-in in another contestant's or official's boat. The contestant or official providing the return ride becomes responsible for signing the weigh-in forms for the non-boater who returned without his original partner. The contestant who remained behind is disqualified as soon as his original partner leaves in the other boat. Except for this emergency situation partners must remain in sight of each other's catch for the catch to be scored. Violators are subject to the penalties provided in Regulation #30. **(Exception: youth anglers will be allowed to leave the boat for personal matters and the remaining youth angler and boat captain shall stay in sight of the dock until the other youth angler returns to the boat.)

7.1.24 HANDELING OF FISH DURING COMPETITION. **Culling Dead Fish Will Not Be Allowed.** Competition boats shall be equipped with a functional, adequately aerated fish holding device, known as a live well, sufficient to maintain live bass of average size. All fish caught and retained in possession of participants shall be segregated for identification and kept in a live well. No stringers, ropes, or other devices, which would injure fish or subject them to unnecessary stress, shall be used. Dead fish large enough for scoring shall be kept by participants and submitted for scoring. Fish too small for scoring shall be returned to the water. No more fish than may be scored may be held in captivity at any time during competition hours. Fish shall not be mutilated or otherwise intentionally injured or mistreated. A swallowed single hook shall be cut free of other tackle and left in place whether the fish is to be kept or released. Lures may be extracted in the least injurious manner available.

7.1.25 CHECK IN AND LATE PENALTY. Anglers shall check into the scales with their team or partners, boat captain regardless of whether they have fish to weigh in for interviews and accountability. All competitors must check in with tournament officials at the official check-in site by the previously announced finish time. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of 1 pound per minute or portion of a minute deducted from the competitor's total weight of catch for that day, including any weight to be counted toward a "Big Fish award". Any competitor who is more than 15 minutes late will lose all credits for that day's catch. There will be no acceptable excuses for tardiness and in no case shall a competitor be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site: however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. It is each angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

7.1.26 HANDLING OF FISH AT CHECK-IN AND DURING THE WEIGH-IN. All fish present in a competitor’s boat when he checks in at the check-in point become the property of the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. Discarding or transferring any fish will result in immediate disqualification. The practice of culling and measuring after check-in is prohibited. All fish shall be placed in containers supplied by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee for transport to the scoring area. The containers may be placed in landing nets for added strength. Water shall be added to reduce injury. All fish that are alive at the completion of the scoring procedure shall be returned to the water by tournament officials except that the requests of governmental, education and research agencies may be honored, and trophy fish may be returned to the participants who caught them when they request them for mounting and display. Fish not

judged by tournament officials to be alive shall be protected from spoilage, and disposed of as food, or otherwise in a manner, which complies with the law if; they are unfit for use as food.

7.1.27 TOURNAMENT CREEL AND SIZE LIMIT. At no time shall a competitor have more than five fish in the live well for the JSC and no more than 5 fish per team for the JSQ. Possession of more than five fish will result in disqualification. The minimum acceptable length of fish will be 12 inches or as stated by the youth director at the beginning of the tournament with the exception of those bodies of water with a slot limit or a 14/12 law of which the highest length limit will be used. Any fish which does not meet the minimum acceptable length will be removed from the competitors catch and the competitor will be assessed a one pound penalty for each short fish deducted from the total weight of his remaining legal fish. Any fish presented for weigh-in, which is judged to be dead will result in a four-ounce, (1/4 pound) penalty for each such fish, deducted from the total weight of fish.

7.1.28 SCORING. Each competitor's score will be the weight of the legal bass, minus penalties caught and kept during competition hours. The competitor or team with the greatest accumulated weight will be the winner. Total weights will be arranged in descending order for other places.

7.1.29 TIES All ties will be determined first by the number of fish caught and then by the largest fish then by the flip of a coin.

7.1.30 VIOLATIONS. PROTESTS AND PENALTIES. Participants shall honor the letter and the intent of the Tournament Rules or they shall be judged to have violated them. All judgments are reserved to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee. Participants who suspect that the Tournament Rules have been violated may protest to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee at any time during the tournament or within 15 minutes after arrival at the tournament site followed with a written protest within 30 minutes after closing the scales. Protests shall be decided by the Youth Program/Tournament Committee through any means available within the Constitution and By-laws and Tournament Rules in consideration of the statements and other evidence presented by the concerned parties and witnesses. Polygraph examination, administered by a qualified examiner who is duly licensed by the Commonwealth of Virginia, shall be included among the methods available to the Youth Program/Tournament Committee for consideration in their deliberations. All participants shall be presumed to be familiar with the Tournament Rules and to have implied their consent and agreement to submit to polygraph examination when they affix their signatures to the official registration list. Polygraph examination may be requested only by the Chairman of the Tournament Committee and shall be provided under his supervision and at the expense of the Federation. Refusal to submit to such examination reasonably requested and provided may be considered during protest deliberations. Participants held by the Board of Directors to have violated the principles of fairness, sportsmanship and ethical conduct explicitly or implicitly included in the Tournament Rules may be declared ineligible to compete in present and future tournament events. Participants held by the Tournament Committee to be in violation of the Tournament Rules shall be penalized as specified in the rules. When a penalty is not specified for a violator the Tournament Committee has the discretion of determining what degree of penalty is appropriate for the violation.

7.1.31 COMMUNICATION. During competition days of the tournament, a competitor, nor a boat captain coach, may not use a cellular phone, a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. A Team is permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Violators will be disqualified for that day's competition. Starting 12:01 A.M. Monday prior to the practice day Saturday of any JSQ and continuing through the final weigh-in of the JSQ, competitors cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means with regard to locating or catching fish on Junior State Qualifier waters. NO EXCEPTIONS. To this end, anglers, parents and family members of anglers shall use their best efforts to demonstrate professionalism and integrity in support of the sport of professional fishing. Any angler, parents and family members of anglers who violate any of the provisions of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to

forfeiture of tournaments winnings, suspension from competing in individual B.A.S.S. sanctioned events, permanent ban from competition, or any combination thereof deemed appropriate by B.A.S.S.

7.1.32 PREMATURE WITHDRAWAL FROM TOURNAMENT. Any competitor or team that leaves a Virginia B.A.S.S. Nation sponsored tournament prior to notifying a tournament official will not be eligible to participate in any B.A.S.S. Nation sponsored tournaments in the remaining year of the violation nor in the following calendar year. Those individuals may appear before the Board of Directors in order to appeal their suspension to present their reasons for leaving the tournament not later that the next board meeting after the occurrence. The affected advisors will notify the respective anglers of the violation.
**ALL anglers must check in at weigh table or trailer prior to leaving tournament area, if no fish will be weighed. This verifies all anglers and boat captains are safe and off the water.**

7.1.33 None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the warm-up period or competition day.

7.1.34 ***COMMITTEE: An appeals committee will be established by The B.A.S.S. Nation of VA Board of Directors. Appeals for penalties assessed and addressed In Accordance With 7.1.30 must be presented in writing 72 hours from the time and date of ruling to the Tournament Director. Appeals hearings shall take place within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal and all parties must make themselves available at prescribed time of hearing. If competitors admit to a rules violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final. Competitors are allowed to compete under appeal however penalties assessed under PENALTIES (e) and (f) will remain until final ruling by Appeals Committee.***

## 7.1.35 **Joseph Thomson Memorial 6 Man Team State Championship**

The Joseph Thomson Memorial 6 Man Team State Championship is a special end of season tournament. It has a two-fold purpose, **1.** As a memorial for Joseph William Thomson, a youth angler who fished with Orange County High School, and then started a team at his own high school, Warren County High School. As well as Joseph was known around the state for being a very successful youth fisherman, in the BFL and Fishers of Men series. Joseph was a positive role model in many ways (personality, character, integrity, work ethic, leadership) for the youth. In 2007, he was attending college in Northern Virginia, when a tragic traffic accident took his life. **2.** Joseph wanted to have a tournament to recognize the "Elite Anglers" of each High School Club and for them to be able to compete as a High School Team, and to have "Bragging Rights" as the Best Angler Team in Virginia for that year. Winning Anglers will be presented a trophy for their school to hold until the next year's tournament. The Registration Fee will be added to the Joseph Thomson Memorial Scholarship Fund.

7.1.35 a. **ELIGIBILITY**; To be eligible for this tournament for each team is the decision of the High School Team Advisor / Coach. The team will consist of 6 members and it is suggested that 1 alternate be chosen. The suggested criteria is:

1. be a member of B.A.S.S. Nation Virginia High School Fishing Tournament Series
2. as a member has participated in at least one state qualifying tournament
3. as a member is in excellent standing with his/her high school team and school division
4. as a member has participated in non- tournament events i.e. conservation, public service, and B.A.S.S. Nation-VA. Promotional events.
5. as a member, within his/her club's point system is one of the top ten members of his/her team
6. Members may have been high school graduates of that school year.
7. The Team alternate may participate as a member of the team only as a replacement due to an emergency substitute for a previous team member.
8. Boat Captains may not be guides on the event waters, and should have been affiliated with the team during the tournament season.
9. A high school team may participate with less than 6 members.

7.1.35b. **EVENT DATE**: This event will be held as close the 1st weekend in August and will be the final event of the B.A.S.S. Nation – VA. High School Tournament Series. Ending the 4 Tournament Series.

7.1.35c. **Event Registration and Fees:** Team coaches/ advisors, will register their team by sending in the names of their team and boat captains on a tournament roster, at a date designated by the Youth Director, and fees to the State Secretary/Treasurer

The Fee will be established by the Youth Tournament Staff, and be applied to the Joseph Thomson Memorial Scholarship Fund. T**he fee will be $75.00 per 6 Man Tournament Team.** A Varsity (15- 19 years) and JV team (7-14) year old may be entered by each school

1. The team coach/advisor is responsible for all pairing of team members and acquiring boat captains For the 3 – 2 person teams.

7.1.35d. **Tournament Rules and Regulations:** All rules of the JSC events will be used for this event

1. The total weight of the 3 (2 person) teams will be totaled and the high school team with the largest total weight will be deemed the winners of the tournament. Ties will be determined by most fish caught, and/or by the team with the biggest fish.

Additions to the bylaws:

Special Awards:

**The John Crews' Elite team** will consist of the top 10 youth anglers according to their individual points accumulated during the 3 JSQ tournaments prior to the JSC. The winner of each receiving 200 pt, and those finishing below the winner receiving 1pt. less for their standing respectively. Those Anglers participating but not catching any fish will all receive identical points per tournament which will be 5 points below that of the last angler catching fish.

**The John Crews' All Academic Team** will consist of any angler who is in good standing with his High School Team who has maintained a B+ (3.3) GPA average for the school session ending after the Junior State Championship.

**The Joseph Thompson Memorial Scholarship**: see our website for the criteria for this award. Must be post marked by May 1st of each year.

**B.A.S.S. Nation- All American** – Annual award on the National level started in 2015 – BASS will send out a notification when the anglers can apply online at bassmaster.com.

**Team Trail**: Each High School team fishing in the JSQ's will receive points for each tournament participated in. For each tournament fished the winning team will receive 200 points and those finishing below the winning team shall receive 1point less for their standing respectively. Those Anglers participating but not weighing any fish will all receive identical points per tournament; which will be 5 points below that of the last angler weighing fish. At the end of the tournament season (JSQ#1, #2 and #3) All tournament results will be sent to B.A.S.S for verification. B.A.S.S. will match all anglers to the tournaments and verify the anglers/teams are in good standing with the Nation and B.A.S.S. dues are current. B.A.S.S. will then notify the Youth Director of how many teams will be invited to participate in the B.A.S.S. National High School Championship. This event is held during the summer between June, July or August of the tournament season, the date and location of the tournament is determined by B.A.S.S. The teams will be chosen from both the North and South Divisions. Example in 2017/2018 season 4 teams were qualified to attend the B.A.S.S. National Championship off of the total points for each of the three JSQ's; the top two teams from the North and the top two teams from the South were able to participate in the event. The number of teams that are invited by B.A.S.S to the event are based on the number of teams participating in each of the JSQ's and the total number of anglers registered with the Nation and B.A.S.S.

EXAMPLE Team Results:

Jones/Smith 5 fish 20.10lbs. Big Fish 5.33lbs. 200 points
Doe/Johnson 5 fish 15.10lbs. Big Fish 4.10lbs. 199 points

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Hill/South | 1 fish | 1.02lbs. | Big Fish | 1.02lbs. | 198 points |
| North/Thomas | 0 fish | 0.00lbs. | | | 193 points |
| Small/Hills | 0 fish | 0.00lbs. | | | 193 points |

The points will repeat in this fashion for each of the JSQ's. The team totals will then be calculated for the Year End Results to determine the teams that could be invited to the National Championship.