



Bass Tour

Paralyzed Veterans of America

COMPETITIONS

Tour events consist of five competitions:

Open and Team Competitions: The Open Competition is open to all anglers with any of the following; 100% disabled by the government/military, if you are in a hospital with a military related injury, if you are a PVA member, walking or wheeling, and last, if you have a significant mobility impairment, including civilians, who wish to fish from a boat on the water. The Open and Team Competitions pair a disabled angler with an able-bodied partner or another disabled angler, if necessary. Open Competition, with only the disabled 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 total stringer weight for some tournaments and hourly big bass for some tournaments. The Team Competition, with both anglers fishing together for first prize to be awarded to the team with the heaviest combined stringer weight, is held on the other day. Cash and prizes are paid to half the field on Saturday and top spots on Sunday based on a 10 +1 payout schedule.* For every 10 boats we pay out a place plus one.

Bank and Bank Team Competitions:

These competitions will be limited to any anglers with any of the following; 100% disabled by the government/military, if you are in a hospital with a military related injury, if you are a PVA member, walking or wheeling, and last, if you have a significant mobility impairment, civilians included, who wish to fish from the bank. Scoring for the Bank Competition is based on a total stringer weight of each angler's 10 heaviest fish each day. A Bank Competition 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 angler with the heaviest 10 fish stringer. 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, as in the Open/Team Competition). Bank anglers have a choice to fish Saturday only or both Saturday and Sunday.

FISHING LICENSE

A state fishing license is required unless an exemption has been issued for a particular tournament. Regardless, it is the angler's responsibility to secure a fishing license.

CONFIRMATION

A confirmation letter and other tournament information will be sent to you approximately two weeks prior to the event. Event information can be located online at www.pvabasstour.com or by calling 800.424.8200.

MEALS

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. A Partner Appreciation Dinner will be held Saturday afternoon following the day of fishing. Dinners are based on number of participants and family members, volunteers, and

sponsors and are very costly. It is highly encouraged to participate to reduce waste of food.

ON-SITE REGISTRATION/CHECK-IN

Registration will be from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Friday before the event. Random partner pairings will be announced at the mandatory Friday evening meeting at 7:30 p.m. No pre-pairing of partners will be allowed. If unable to attend Friday night the angler must contact the tournament director prior to the pairing.

EQUIPMENT

All participants are encouraged to bring their own tackle and necessary gear, including foul-weather clothing. 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 livewell and kill switch, including during official pre-fishing. Boat partners are also encouraged to bring extra equipment, including life vest and extra tackle, if possible as some mobility impaired anglers are coming from the hospital with limited access to equipment. In addition, the PVA Bass Tour is always looking for equipment donations to loan out at events. Please bring new and used equipment to the tournament if possible.

FUEL CHARGE

Mobility impaired anglers will be required to pay ALL the fuel and oil charges for the boat on Open Competition day and HALF the fuel and oil charges for the boat on Team Competition day. It is imperative to discuss this with the boat owner and agree upon the conditions prior to fishing. 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.

*A 1099 Tax Form will be issued with all cash and prizes valued at \$600 or more.

2018/19 TOUR RULES

RULES: The following rules apply to all contestants and shall remain unchanged except for special events conducted by the PVA Bass Tour. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. The Tournament Committee will consist of the PVA associate director of Sports and Recreation, a host PVA chapter representative 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. Angler Representative will have vote on rule violations and input only on all other matters.

1. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY: Participation in this tournament is by invitation only; PVA Bass Tour reserves the right to refuse entry to anyone for any reason. 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 16 years or older to fish an event.

- The Open Competition shall be open to all anglers with any of the following; 100% disabled by the government/military, if you are in a hospital with a military

related injury, if you are a PVA member, walking or wheeling, and last, if you have a significant mobility impairment, including civilians. If necessary, two Open Competition contestants 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 contestants may be paired.
- The Bank and Team Competitions shall be limited to any anglers with any of the following; 100% disabled by the government/military, if you are in a hospital with a military related injury, if you are a PVA member, walking or wheeling, and last, if you have a 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.pvabasstour.com or by mail within the time period specified in the tournament application. The PVA Bass Tour or its designee must receive a properly completed official entry form and the required entry fees postmarked no later than the official deadline date. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to accept or reject an entry form and/or stop the acceptance of applications prior to this deadline.

2. PRETOURNAMENT 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 and during the official practice days and during the tournament a competitor may not buy or barter a fishing location. This includes the hiring of guides. There will be a live release area off limits announced at the pretournament meeting.

3. RULES VIOLATIONS: During the tournament days, 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. If a registered disabled angler does not notify National PVA within 48 hours that he/she will not be attending the event, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next two consecutive PVA Bass Tour events. In addition, if the disabled angler is a no-show on the second, Team, day of the tournament, he/she will not be allowed to participate in the next two consecutive PVA Bass Tour events.

4. **REGISTRATION:** Each disabled angler must register in person with tour staff at the time and place described on the schedule of events. Each disabled 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 not be given after 10 days prior to the start of the event.

5. **SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times by all tournament contestants. Caution and safety must be observed. Each contestant (or observer) 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. 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. Tour officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of factors that may endanger the safety of competitors. Tournament waters, event schedule, or format may also be altered at any time for any reason. Contestants who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, operate the boat in such a manner as to endanger themselves or others may be disqualified. Prevailing federal, state, and local statutes and regulations will bind all contestants. If weather prevents day one competition, day two will host both Open and Team events. The disabled angler will be allowed three legal fish, and the able-bodied boat partner will be allowed two legal fish for a total of five fish. Flight order will remain the same as the cancelled day of competition.

6. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Contestants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times 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, 8-foot 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 contestant. 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 disabled angler or giving a fish he or she caught to any contender.

8. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: No boat will be allowed in the tournament that has a higher horsepower engine of 250hp. In addition, the engine horsepower can not 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 a disabled angler is using it as an adaptive device. 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 a disabled 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 livewell 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 livewell 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 AND EXPENSES: A full discussion must be held between the disabled angler and the able body boat partner prior to the morning departure as to the schedule and boat operations. In view of the expenses involved in operating and maintaining a boat, it is REQUIRED that the disabled angler, at least, pay half the fuel/oil charges for the boat in Team Competition and ALL fuel/oil charges for the boat in Open Competition.

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. **CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN THE BOAT:** All fishing in the Open/Team Competitions must be done from the boat. Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. The boat must remain in tournament waters during the tournament day. Both contestants must remain in the boat and together in sight of each other at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an event, contestants 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. Trailing 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 contestants 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 disabled 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 contestant 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 contestants. Contestants may not cull dead fish. At no time will contestants 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 disabled 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: Contestants 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. There is no excuse for being late. 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.

19. TIES: In case of ties for all place, 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 CONTESTANTS: Boat numbers will be assigned to disabled anglers by random drawing. Disabled 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 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.

23. PROTEST PROCEDURES: Any dispute shall be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee. The PVA associate director 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 Competition.

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 area of the Bank Competition. Chumming may only be done by a tournament official for the benefit of all.

5. 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 noncompetitor sit on a fishing hole or hold a spot for them. A competitor must take all lines out of the water and stop fishing if more than 10 feet away from rod being used.

REGISTRATON

Information and Deadline Dates

Register early. No late registrations for the open competition will be accepted.

GENERAL REGISRATION,

Open Competition Anglers Only

Open Competition anglers wishing to enter one or more tour events may begin registration online at www.pvabasstour.com. The entry fee for the Open Competition anglers 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 at the time of registration for each tournament entered and before the event deadline. If you are unable to register online, you may use the attached form to register by mail. If you mail your registration, it must be postmarked by the event deadline date for that event (see entry deadlines for each tournament). Any fee not paid in full by the deadline will cause you to be dropped from the event.

DISABLED ANGLERS, Open Competition Only

Any voting Paralyzed Veterans member 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 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.

BOAT PARTNER REGISTRATION,

Team Competition Able-bodied Anglers Only

You may enter any tournament at any time online at www.pvabasstour.com up to one week prior to any event, by mail postmarked two weeks prior to any event, or by phone anytime after either of the above options. Boat partner entry fees remain at \$50, which includes your “Big Bass” pot and all meals, which include Friday night reception/partner-pairing meeting, breakfast, lunch and beverages Saturday and Sunday, and the Saturday afternoon Partner Appreciation Dinner.

GENERAL REGISTRATION, Bank Competition

Bank Competition anglers wishing to enter any or all tour events may register online at www.pvabasstour.com. Full entry fees of \$40 for Saturday Individual event or \$80 for both Saturday and Sunday per event registered (which includes the “Big Fish” pot) must be paid in full at time of registration. If you are unable to register online, you may use the attached form to register by mail with postmarked dates no later than two weeks prior to each event. Or you may register in person Friday night before the event from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Early registration is highly recommended.