USA Bassin Rules & Membership Form

1.Membership: USA Bassin Membership fee shall be $30.00 per person annually. All members 18 years of age or less on or before August 31st of the current year shall be considered a "Youth" and receive a free membership. A current USA BASSIN membership shall provide members the privilege to compete in all eligible USA Bassin tournaments. Anglers currently competing in any event(s) in which an entry fee of $2500 (USD) or more is charged, including, but not limited to, Major League Fishing (MLF) Tackle Warehouse Pro Circuit and the National Professional Fishing League (NPFL), shall not be permitted to compete in any divisional type tournaments during that USA Bassin season. However, those anglers shall be permitted to compete in Open and Megabucks type USA Bassin events. Those angler-teams who have obtained a current membership may earn points via those specific events in order to qualify for season-end Regionals, Tournament of Champions, and the USA Bassin Classic eligibility and will not be eligible to compete in the USA Bassin Silver Cup. B.A.S.S. Bassmaster Elite Series and the Major League Fishing (MLF) Bass Pro Tour anglers shall not be eligible to participate in any current or the immediate-year-following USA BASSIN Tournament season. Professional guides/U.S.C.G licensed captains shall not be permitted to compete on any fishery on which they are for hire. The USA Bassin season shall be from September 1 through August 31 of the following calendar year.

2. Tournament Entry Fees: Entry fees will vary by specific event. Refer to tournament information for specific entry fees. Ten (10) dollars of each entry shall go to that tournament's Big Bass pot. Specific tournament locations may require a lake usage fee or sales tax collected. Directors shall reserve the right to alter tournament entry fees on an event-by-event basis.

3. Scoring: Five Tournament format: Scoring 1st place –100 points; 2nd place-99 points 3rd place –98 points, etc. Teams not weighing fish shall receive fifty (50) points. Ten Tournament format: Scoring 1st place –50 points; 2nd place-49 points 3rd place –48 points, etc. Teams not weighing fish shall receive twenty-five (25) points. Divisional Champions shall be determined by the team with the highest final total points in the specific division. Should team members split/separate, all points will remain with Team Member 1. Teams shall accumulate points by competing in USA BASSIN tournaments. Team points earned will be automatically added to the standings of that division you fished as well as the National Points Standings located at usabassin.com.

4. USA BASSIN Teams: Teams shall consist of two anglers. Members may fish alone and be considered a team. All teams that finish the season with 250 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to compete in a USA BASSIN Regional Tournament of their choice. Teams may compete in more than one Regional Tournament. Members competing in more than one division who may be qualified for any USA BASSIN Regional Tournament using different partners may choose which partner they wish to compete in Regional Tournaments. The remaining partner may fish a USA BASSIN Regional Tournament alone or may fish another Regional(s) using that partner. Any team having previously won the USA Bassin Silver Cup shall only be eligible to qualify and compete in future USA Bassin Classics and will not be permitted to qualify for future USA Bassin Silver Cup events.

5. Next Generation Teams: Next Generation Teams may consist of either an adult and a youth or two youths. One team member must be at least 16 years of age. All Next Generation teams that finish the season with 100 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to compete in the Next Generation Classic. Teams that finish the season with 250 points or more shall be eligible to fish both the Next Generation Classic and regional event(s) of their choice. Next Generation teams intending to fish in regionals, Silver Cup Classic, and/or USA Bassin Classic will be regulated to two-member teams. Coaches/Guardians or other non-competing persons will not be permitted in the boat in post-season (regional, classic) events.

6. Senior & Co-Ed Teams: Senior teams shall consist of two (2) anglers age fifty(50) or older. Senior teams which finish the season with 250 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in the USA Bassin Senior Classic. Co-Ed teams shall consist of one male and one female member. Co-Ed teams which finish the season with 150 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in the USA Bassin Co-Ed Classic event. Senior & Co-Ed teams who finish the season with 250 points or more shall also be eligible to fish Regional event(s) of their choice.

7. Substitutions: Any current USA BASSIN member or a family member may serve as a substitute in a divisional tournament and team points will be retained. A family member is classified as grandparents, parent, spouse, sibling, child, grandchild, or in-laws of the same. A team may use a substitute only TWO (2) times during a specific division's season. Members may fish any division solo or must declare a partner prior to the start of the third (3rd) tournament within a specific division. An adult may not fish alone in a Next Generation Division and be considered a team. Teams may substitute only with another youth when fishing Next Generation events. Co-Ed Teams may only substitute with the same sex as the member that is absent when fishing a Co-Ed event. Members may not fish a Co-Ed event alone. Regional and Classic Tournaments: Members may only compete in Regional and Classic tournaments with their declared partner(s). If your declared partner cannot fish a Regional or Classic event, a member may compete alone. Two members of the same team may not compete in the same Regional or Classic under the same membership number. Team members shall not compete alone in a Next Generation or Co-Ed Classic.

8. USA BASSIN Tournament of Champions: The USA BASSIN Tournament of Champions will be conducted during the USA BASSIN Classic Week. The Top 10 teams in this event will receive a cash payback. There shall be six (6) ways to qualify for this event: 1. Be the Divisional Champion of any USA BASSIN Division, 2. Catch the Biggest Bass in a Division, 3. Finish the season in the top 200 in the National Points, 4. Finish in the Top 3 in a Regional Event 5. Weigh the Biggest Bass in a Regional Event, 6. Finish in the Top 3 or weigh the largest bass at a USA BASSIN Open event; *NOTE- this option will only be available to current USA Bassin teams competing in the Open.

9. Ties: Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Divisional Champions will be broken by the team that has the heaviest total weight for the season. Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Regional & National Champions, Regional & National Points Champions and all place finishes will be broken by Big Bass.

10. Short Fish Penalties: All fish presented at weigh-in shall be legal size as determined by state regulations for that body of water. Short fish will be culled from a team's catch as well as the largest remaining bass. A courtesy measuring board shall be available.

11. Permitted Fishing Methods: Only ONE (1) fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine(s) and/or electric motor(s) to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve, i.e., "strolling". Only artificial lures may be used in USA BASSIN events. The use of pork trailers is permitted. All bass will be caught in a sporting manner to include the intentional snagging of a specific fish. The use of forward facing technology at USA Bassin events will be at the sole discretion of the individual tournament director. Forward facing technology and associated transducers are defined as any transducer that provides live (real-time) images.

12. Boat and Motor: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. All boats must be equipped with a functional live well featuring an aeration system. Falsifying information on any entry form and/or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard shall be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future USA Bassin tournaments. Boats not having factory-installed fuel tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of fuel in portable tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Fuel tanks must be properly secured or strapped in the boat. Prior to or during a tournament, no portable fuel tanks, or containers capable of holding fuel can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by a team. Directors shall have all teams demonstrate their engine's emergency cut-off/kill switch prior to official take-off.

13. Dead Fish Penalty: Eight ounces (.5 lb.) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Dead fish will not be weighed as big fish. Fish appearing altered/mangled shall not be weighed. A five-bass limit format will be used at tournaments. Exceptions may be made in accordance with specific guidelines of the fishery or at the discretion of the tournament director. Teams bringing more than five (5) bass to weigh-in will have their catch culled to five bass starting with their biggest bass. All culling shall occur on the water, and teams may not possess more than five bass without culling. No dead fish may be culled from a team's daily catch.

14. Late to weigh-in: There will be a one (1) pound per minute penalty for every minute late to check-in. After fifteen (15) minutes, teams shall be disqualified. Check in requirements may differ at events. Contact the tournament director for specific guidelines.

15. Registration: Registration at the tournament site shall begin no later than one and one-half hour before the start of the tournament. All teams are required to be at the ramp thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Registration will close thirty minutes before the start of the tournament. Entries fees after the tournament registration time will be accepted only at the director's discretion. Tournament directors will only accept cash at registration. Teams may

be permitted to pre-register for an event at the tournament director's discretion. Contact that director for specific instructions. Tournament takeoff positions will be determined by when the tournament director receives an entry or by a drawing at registration (please contact the director for take-off procedures). Pre-tournament meetings shall be conducted thirty (30) minutes prior to the start of each tournament.

16. Weigh-in procedures: All contestants will be instructed at the pre-tournament meeting on weigh-in procedures. Each team shall present their catch to the tournament official(s). Once presented, no other person shall handle the fish except tournament officials. No person other than a tournament official may manipulate the scales; weigh-in basket, or weigh-in equipment.

17. Livewell Inspection: Prior to the start of a tournament, the tournament director or their designee shall physically inspect all competitors' live wells. The use of live well additives to promote the health of the fish is encouraged.

18. Sportsmanship: All contestants are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and shall conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, USA Bassin, and USA Bassin Sponsors. The following shall be cause for immediate disqualification with no appeal available: 1. Intoxication, 2. Use of illegal substances, 3. Physical or verbal abuse of USA BASSIN officials and other members, 4. Possession of alcohol or illegal substances in the boat or on your person during hours of the tournament to include weigh-in procedures, 5. Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner. At the discretion of tournament official(s), tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Safe boating shall be observed. Each contestant shall be required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from launching until weigh-in on the day of the tournament.

19. Off-Limits: Tournament director shall announce any off-limits areas at the pre-tournament meeting. Teams fishing in the off-limits areas shall be disqualified from that tournament. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat except areas posted or otherwise designated as "No boats," "Restricted," "No trespassing" or "No fishing" by local, state, or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant's boat first anchored with the trolling motor up unless given permission. If permission is given to one, then all may fish in the same water. "Hole-sitting' by a non-competitor shall be cause for disqualification. All U.S.A. BASSIN Divisional, Regional & Classic Tournament locations will NOT be closed to pre-fishing unless otherwise noted.

20. Leaving the Boat: All competitors shall remain in the boat during a tournament. Exceptions shall be in the event of sickness, or brief excursions for "nature calling," a severe storm or other such hazards. If for any reason a team decides to leave the tournament waters early, competitors shall attempt to contact the director prior to departing. In the case of boat trouble, one member shall remain with the disabled boat. The remaining member may board a competitor's boat with that day's catch and bring fish to weigh-in. The tournament director shall be contacted prior to doing so.

21. Cheating: Anyone determined to have cheated in an event will be immediately banned from fishing in all future USA BASSIN events. USA Bassin reserves the right to require certified truth verification test(s) be performed at any time and at a location selected by USA Bassin, LLC. Cellular devices shall not be used to gain a competitive advantage. All protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director prior to the close of weigh-in. Verbal protests will not be accepted.

22. Insurance: All members shall carry liability insurance on any watercraft used during competition in USA BASSIN Tournaments. Failure to do so or providing false information shall result in immediate disqualification.

23. Tournament Rules: These rules shall remain unchanged during the current season. Rules and regulations for specific tournaments are subject to change at any time prior to the start of that tournament. For the most up-to-date version of the rules, go to usabassin.com and/or contact the tournament director.

Partner 1: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail: _____

Motor/Size_____**Boat/Year/Length**_____

Partner 2: _____ **M/F Y/N**_____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ **Zip:** _____ **Cell:** _____

E-mail: _____

Youth DOB_____ **Team ID**_____

In consideration of membership in U.S.A. BASSIN Tournament Fishing Circuit (" USA BASSIN") as well as being granted permission to participate in the fishing tournaments and other events held or sponsored by USA BASSIN (the "Events"), THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RELEASES, DISCHARGES, WAIVES AND RELINQUISHES ANY AND ALL ACTIONS OR CAUSES OF ACTION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR WRONGFUL DEATH OCCURRING TO HIM/HERSELF ARISING OUT OF, RELATED TO , OR CONNECTED WITH IN ANY MANNER ENTRY OR PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS, wherever or however the same may occur and for whatever period said activities may continue, and the undersigned agrees that under no circumstances will he/she or his/her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns prosecute or present any claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death against USA. BASSIN, LLC, USA BASSIN: The Next Generation, Inc. or any of their principals, officers, directors, employees, or agents ("Released Persons") for any of said causes of actions, whether the same shall arise by the negligence of any of said persons, or otherwise. The undersigned further and separately agrees to indemnify, save, and hold harmless Released Persons from any loss, liability, damage, or cost, including but not limited to court costs and attorney's fees, that they may incur, in connection with participation in Events, whether caused by the negligence of Released Persons or otherwise. This release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the applicable law. The undersigned further states that he/she has carefully read the foregoing, knows the contents thereof, and has signed this release as his/her own free act. Any member agrees, by his or her signature on this agreement, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination, commonly referred to as a truth verification test, and to abide by its conclusion. Truth verifications test(s) will be used at USA BASSIN'S sole discretion and administered by it or its agents. Refusal to take or failure to pass the examination as determined by USA BASSIN will result in disqualification, at the sole discretion of USA BASSIN. The undersigned HEREBY WAIVES TRIAL BY JURY in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by or against the undersigned regarding any matter whatsoever in connection with the tournament. Verification of liability insurance: I, the undersigned, further state that I am a current member of USA BASSIN and that I maintain liability insurance on the boat I will use in any USA BASSIN Tournament Fishing event. Attorney's Fees: Only USA BASSIN and Released Persons are entitled to recover their attorney's fees. The undersigned is not entitled to recover attorney's fees regardless of the outcome of any litigation or settlement. The laws of the State of Indiana, excluding only its choice of law provisions, shall govern the validity, enforcement, and interpretation of this Contract. Any dispute or cause of action under this Contract shall exclusively be filed and resolved in a state court located in Lawrence County, Indiana and the undersigned irrevocably agrees to submit to personal and subject matter jurisdiction in the same. I signify by my signature that I have read and understand the above agreement and all USA BASSIN Rules

Signature:_____ Signature:_____