

THSBA.101 - *Almost everything you want to know but are afraid to ask... 😊*

- Official Website** We urge and encourage you to visit www.texashighschoolbassassn.com
Our rules, membership information, release forms, tournament schedules, entry site, and especially the new & improved ONLINE STORE are all there. Go take a look and see all the cool offers from our sponsors and buy some of our new merchandise!
- Rules** The THSBA rules are listed on the website under the “Membership” tab. While the membership & tournament rules are enforced by the THSBA, many schools may have additional rules and guidelines that they require of their student anglers. You should always consult your team advisor first and if clarification is needed, then contact the THSBA.
- Itinerary** A map of where the weigh-in takes place and an itinerary of ALL PERTINENT information for each tournament is generally posted to the website approximately 2 weeks prior to the tournament. This can be found under the Division tabs on the website. We post it in PDF format so that advisors can save it and post to your teams’ Facebook pages or it is easily printable.
- Tournament Entry** This is how each individual team must enter a tournament. It can ONLY be done online at the THSBA website, www.texashighschoolbassassn.com
Early registration concludes at 11:59pm on the Sunday, six (6) days prior to a tournament. Late registration costs an additional \$20 and concludes at 11:59pm on Wednesday, three (3) days prior to a tournament. **Absolutely NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED after that time.**
- Tournament Entry Fee** Once entered online, a team can pay for their event in one of two ways:
PAY ONLINE – Credit card (\$65) \$20 late fee must be paid at Pre-Event Check-In
PAY AT EVENT – discounted (\$60 early entry, \$80 late entry) CASH, CHECK only
- Pre-Event Check-In** This is generally held the evening prior to a tournament. Each team (or a representative) must check-in with tournament directors and pick up wristbands to be worn by each team member during the tournament. If the registration fee hasn’t been paid, that MUST be done at this time. Please advise the tournament directors if a single payment is being brought to check-in by an advisor or other team representative. Sometimes these check-ins are held at the weigh-in site, other times they will be held at our sponsor’s location, Academy Sports & Outdoors, in the city nearest our events. ****Anyone who misses the evening check-in MUST check-in the morning of the tournament prior to launching & first cast. Always look at the Tournament Information Sheet for details for Angler Check-In locations and addresses.***

Boat Captain Side Pot **OPTIONAL** - Boat captains are able to compete against each other in all of the regular season tournaments. The prize is a 50/50 cash pot. There is a \$20 entry fee and the captain weighing in the single largest, legal bass wins half the pot and the other half is awarded in the form of a scholarship. The captain's catch **MUST** be kept separate from the students' catch.

Take-Off All tournaments this season are set to be trailering events where teams can leave from the ramp of their choice when it is safe to do so. When leaving the ramp, remember that students may help unload the boat **ONLY** if they have completed a Texas Boater's Safety Course. Teams should only leave the ramp when it is safe to do so and all navigational lights should be used. When trailering to the weigh-in, the wristbands that have been issued must be worn. This is how Texas Parks & Wildlife defines as the legal way to transport fish in your live well.

First Cast This time is set by the tournament director and is based on sunrise times, nautical safe light, etc. A team may **NOT** make their first cast until this time. Teams caught fishing before the posted first cast time will be disqualified.

Stop Fishing Also referred to a "lines up". No more fishing may take place after this time. Any team caught violating this time rule will be disqualified.

Weigh-In This refers to the event and also the location where teams present their catch to be weighed and measured at the end of the tournament. All events will have a set weigh-in location (tournament headquarters). This is where the THSBA trailer and tournament directors will be during tournament hours, getting the scales, tanks, and computer ready for student anglers arrival. Team advisors, parents, and fans set up tents & lawn chairs in the area to the front of the THSBA stage to watch the weigh-in. It is important that the boundaries set and marked by the tournament directors be respected as they are set up for the safety of all who attend. These areas could be marked with flagging material, cones, caution tape, etc. It is also important to respect other team advisors or parents who want to take pictures at the front of the stage.

Bump Man This is the person at the tanks who will measure the fish the students present to be weighed. He/she will determine if the fish are alive or dead (1/2 lb. penalty) and whether they meet the minimum length requirement (1 lb. penalty AND loss of fish if too short).

Courtesy Board This is a measuring device that is just like the one the bump man will use. It is provided so that any student angler who is not certain that their fish is/are legal may check them **PRIOR** to turning them over to the bump official. This could potentially save the team a penalty as they could release the fish back into the lake or to the live-release tank.

- Live Release Tank/Boat** When tournaments are held off-site from the lake (usually because of insufficient available parking for teams & spectators), the THSBA hires a company with a live release tank to come to the location and collect all of the live fish. They are held in the aerated tank until the conclusion of the tournament and then are returned to the lake and released.
- Holding Tanks** There are a series of tanks set up to hold the teams' fish prior to coming to the stage for weigh-in. The first set has air lines. The team comes to the tanks with their fish in a plastic bag. They place this bag into the water tank and insert one of the air lines into their bag to help aerate the water for their fish. Once they get to the bump man, he places the fish in a mesh, breathable bag and they go into the next set of tanks. These tanks are aerated and the tubing is tied down and is sufficient for all bags to share.
- Weigh-In Bags** There are 25 plastic sponsor bags and 25 THSBA logo mesh bags. The reason we ask teams to wait their turn for these bags that are provided on site is to limit the number of teams that can be at the tanks at one time. There is simply not enough room to have more than 25 teams in each set of tanks. This jeopardizes fish health and safety and the teams run the risk of their fish dying while in the weigh-in line. Fish are safer if they are in the aerated live well of the boat rather than in a bottle neck situation at the weigh-in lines. Best practice is to send one team member to check-in and wait for a weigh-in bag while the other team member waits at the boat with the fish.
- Weigh-In/Check-In Table** ALL teams MUST come to the check-in/weigh-in table after the tournament. This table will be marked with a tall flag banner that reads "WEIGH-IN/CHECK-IN". Checking-in is the only way that we have to confirm all teams get off the lake safely. For teams who have fish to weigh, they MUST check in by the time noted on the Tournament Information Sheet and they will either receive a bag to go retrieve their fish or they will wait there until empty bags are available. For teams who did not catch fish, they still must check-in and leave one of the wrist bands with the check-in official. This shows us the team did get off the lake safely AND it gives the team points for participating even if they didn't catch fish.
- Boat Safety Check** A mandatory Boat Safety Check is a boat inspection for teams who place 1st – 5th. Random spot checks for other entrants are possible as well. The inspection covers all safety equipment that is required (as per the rules) for all THSBA teams. A team that fails a Boat Safety Check will be disqualified and will lose their points and any prizes that would have been due to them. There have been numerous disqualifications in the past for such items as fishing licenses, fire extinguishers, etc. *REQUIRED: Working fire extinguisher, working kill switch, working navigation lights, working live well, throw cushion, life jackets for ALL occupants, current boat registration, current liability insurance (\$300,000 coverage), and current fishing license for anglers 17 & older.*

Polygraph

A polygraph exam (truth verification test) is given at the conclusion of weigh-in to the captain of the winning team, any team that was protested, and a team randomly selected by Tournament Officials. Until this test is certified, the final standings are not official.

