



OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES

- Rule Changes:** Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Protests must be made in writing prior to the official closing of the scales at each tournament.
- Participation/Eligibility:** The NextGen Open is only open to full time High School and College students that meet the requirements below.

College

- Must be in good academic standing
- Must be a full-time student (minimum 12 credit hours), for the 2019 Fall semester, at a four-year college/ university, a community college, or an online university.
- Contestants must be members of a college fishing club that is recognized by their school (proof maybe requested before tournament day)
- Anyone who has fished two or more FLW Tour events and/or Bass Elite events as a pro in any one season is not eligible to participate.
- Any person under the age of 18 (19 in Alabama and Nebraska) must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form.
- Must be 32 years of age or younger, from the day of the tournament

High School

- Must be in good academic standing
- Must be a full-time student for the 2019 Fall semester
- Must be 20 years of age or younger, from the day of the tournament
- Any person under the age of 18 (19 in Alabama and Nebraska) must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form

- Pre-Tournament Practice:** All Tournaments will have no off-limits period prior to the official practice days. There will be 2 full days and a half a day of official practice prior to tournament day. Practice days are optional. The half day practice period ends at 12pm the day before the tournament and the lake is off-limits until launch the next day.
- Registration/Pre-Tournament Meeting:** Registration can be conducted via Angler-Nation.om or at the pre-tournament meeting. There will be a preregistration period, during this time competitors may receive a discounted entry fee. The pre-tournament meeting is mandatory; teams are responsible for arriving on time. Each participating angler must present a Valid driver's license (college students only**), a current school ID for the Fall 2019 semester, and a valid fishing license, to the appropriate tournament officials.
- Teams:** This is a team event; all teams must have 2 competing anglers and High School teams must have a boat driver
- Fees:** There are no entry fees for this event
- Safety:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the boat is on plane. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the boat is on plane. All boats must have and use navigation lights during low light conditions. Tournament day(s) may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors. The decision to shorten or cancel tournament days will be determined by the Tournament Director.
- Permitted Fishing Methods:** All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used with the exception of pork trailers. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast or rod is used. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Sharing fish with other teams or individuals will result in immediate disqualification for all parties involved. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

9. **Sportsmanship and Conduct:** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to Angler Nation Tournaments, sponsors, the sport of fishing and Angler Nation Tournament's efforts to promote that sport. Examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: 1) Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any mind-altering substance during tournament hours, 2) Abuse of, or addiction to, mind altering substances, 3) Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably on the Angler Nation, the sponsors of this tournament, or reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules. If conduct does not comply with the standards set forth, the Angler Nation, its sponsors and its director shall have the right to refuse any application, or to deny a confirmed application, by returning any entry fees of a previously accepted application or disqualify a contestant. The Angler Nation and the sponsors of this event reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone.
10. **Boat Operation:** During hours of competition, contestants may not receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat, participate in the practice of "hole sitting", or the placing of markers by non-competitors. High School teams must have a boat driver to navigate to and from different spots. Once in location the high school anglers must operate the trolling motor, unless it is determined by the boat owner that it would cause damage to their boat. In that case the boat owner may operate the trolling motor until such time as they feel it is safe.
11. **Boat and Horsepower Regulation:** Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well with space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as displayed on the manufactures rating plate. By signing the entry form, each contestant agrees to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in future ineligibility to enter any NextGen Tournaments
12. **Communication / Help:** The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. High School teams may not receive help from their boat driver and must make all the decisions on when and where to fish. Any involvement by the boat driver of a High School team could cause the team to be disqualified.
13. **Permitted Fishing Locations:** Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat from the host ramp, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat, or within 20 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler.
14. **Off-Limit Areas:** Will be established and announced at each pre-tournament meeting. Contestants fishing inside the established off-limits area will be immediately disqualified. Contestants' boats must remain in the tournament waters during the event.
15. **Official Checkpoints / Check-In:** There will be only one official checkpoint at the weigh-in. It is the sole responsibility of each contestant to arrive at the designated check-in location on time, regardless of what they are told. It is the angler's responsibility to verify their provided flight time and boat number correctly. Official Check-in times will determined by the cellular phones held by the Angler Nation Staff
16. **Live Fish Only:** Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live-well additives which promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat are recommended. NO DEAD FISH can be presented for weigh-in. This will help insure the care of bass in a team's live-well is most important. A dead fish will be determined by the tournament director which will be final with no appeal. Culling dead fish is prohibited.
17. **Late Penalty:** Contestants who are not officially checked-in at the appointed time will be assessed a one pound per minute penalty from the total weight. Any contestant more than 10 minutes late will be disqualified. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, a contestant may return to the check-in location with their catch by receiving a ride from another registered contestant or tournament official only. Prior to receiving help, the contestant must contact the tournament director. The contestants must still return to the official check-in location by their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty.
18. **Closing of the Scales:** Scales will close 20 minutes after the last flight is due in. Due to certain weigh-in locations this time may be lengthened or shortened at the tournament director's sole discretion. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time policy will be announced. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by that time.
19. **Ties:** All ties will be decided by 1) total number of fish caught, 2) big fish, 3) then a coin toss. All ties will be resolved by splitting that place's awards.
20. **Restricting, Seeding or Baiting:** No restricting bass by any method which disallows natural movement throughout the entire impoundment. Seeding bass from one impoundment to the tournament impoundment, or any coordinated effort in the use of live bait, in baiting holes for the means of attracting or maintaining bass is prohibited. The act of moving bass from one area of the lake to another confined area of the same lake is not permitted.