



## 2024 Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Team Series Overview and Rules

### Set-Up:

A Tournament Director or Committee shall run each Tournament. The Tournament Director shall be allowed to fish as a contestant. Tournament Headquarters shall be the official weigh-in site.

### Angler Teams:

Tournament format will be a "Team" or "Buddy" event. The combined weight for the boat will be the official weight for the team and will be used to determine the standings. A "Team" consists of 2 anglers.

- 1. You may substitute a partner for an individual tournament.**
- 2. You may fish alone for an individual tournament.**

If for some reason you are forced to get a new partner, this may be approved once during the series. All circumstances concerning a partner change must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director, reviewed and approved prior to the next tournament. The Tournament Directors' decisions are final. No Partner changes will be allowed after the 4th tournament of the series.

The tournament series is open to any 2 angler teams. **There is a \$25 Registration fee for all participants that must be paid prior to the first tournament you will be entering.** This covers your entry into the series to be eligible to move on to the Bassmaster Team Championship and a shot at the Bassmaster Classic Berth.

### Participants

Bassmaster Elite Series and MLF tour pros are not allowed to participate.

### Point System:

All Teams will receive 50 points for participation. Their weight will then be added to the participation points to determine their point standings following each event.

1st Place	100 points
2nd Place	99 points
3rd Place	98 points
4th Place	97 points

## **Pay outs:**

The payout will be based solely on the participation level for the individual tournament. Typically an event will pay 1 place for every 7 entries received. Final determination will be made by the tournament director at each event. The IBN will always pay at least 3 positions.

## **Bassmaster Team Championship:**

All Team Series participants will be competing for a spot at the **Bassmaster Team Championship**.

The IBN will send one team for every 50 teams that participate in our series. We will begin with the top team by points and continue down to fill all possible spots. **Total Points for the season will not include the Team Series Classic Tournament.** The entry fee for the Bassmaster Team Championship is \$500 per team. This entry fee will be paid by the IBN to B.A.S.S. on behalf of the teams that qualify. **Bassmaster Team Championship anglers compete for a spot in the 2025 Bassmaster Classic.**

## **IBN Team Series Classic:**

The field will be limited to 20 teams and there are 2 ways to qualify for the Team Series Classic tournament held in October at a location TBD.

1. The winning team from each tournament will automatically get a spot.
2. After filling the first 6 teams with the event winners the balance of the field (14 teams) will be filled according to points each team received during the series.

## **IBN Team Classic Payout:**

The Payout for the Classic will be solely based on the success of the open series tournaments. The amount of the winnings will be determined at the end of the official tournament series. Every effort will be made to make available a minimum of \$10,000 in total payout of cash and prizes for this event. The final amount of payout for the tournament will be determined by the IBN at the completion of the tournament series.

## **Illinois Bass Nation Member Incentive:**

At the end of the series the IBN will award a spot on the 2024 IBN State Team to the 4 highest placed teams (Boater and Non-Boater) that are registered, active members of an IBN club in the current and previous year.

All participating Teams are encouraged to become a part of an IBN Club to take advantage of this Member Incentive Opportunity.

## **Insurance:**

DURING THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION DAYS, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITORS USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE

CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.

## **Official Rules & Procedures:**

**1. Official Rules:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of any and all prizes. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

## **2. Participation & Eligibility to compete in the IBN Team Series events:**

All IBN Team Series events are open to any and all anglers wishing to participate. Contestants are not required to be a member of the IBN.

## **3. Series Registration:**

A one time registration fee of \$25 per angler will be paid at the time of the first tournament entry for a team. Each Angler will receive an official Bassmaster Team Championship ID card along with B.A.S.S. Times magazine.

## **4. Tournament Entry Fee:**

Each Tournament entry fee received in the mail for the 2024 season will be \$160 per team. (\$185 at the launch the day of the event).

## **5. Series Pre-Registration:**

Each team may preregister at \$50 per tournament.

Example

Team "A" can send in \$50 for each team series event they want to secure a launch position in.

All events will be (\$50 x 6 events) \$300.

Team "B" sends in \$160 and specifies the 3 events they want to participate in. Both

Teams would then need to pay the remaining \$110 of the entry fee the day of the event.

By pre registering they would be exempt from the \$185 entry fee the day of.

**Pre-registered boats will draw for launch position on the morning of the tournament.**

Anglers can register by sending in an entry form Postmarked no later than 10 days prior to the date of each tournament. Registration can also be completed the morning of the tournament at the launch site and must be a cash transaction; no checks will be accepted at that time.

(\$175 at the launch the day of the event).

The Tournament Director may impose a cut off for an event based on our permit allowance at that location. All teams are encouraged to preregister for events.

## **6. Safety:**

Safe boat conduct must be applied at all times by all competitors. During the official competition each competitor must possess a Coast Guard-approved chest type life preserver. This preserver must be strapped, buckled, or zippered securely while on the boat and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be the reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official Tournament Day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the contestants and tournament committee. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek safe shelter in bad weather where danger may be imminent. Tournament waters may also be restricted because of unsafe conditions including but not limited to bad weather. The Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation has the right to impose speed limits on any and all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. In case of an emergency the competitors shall dial 911 FIRST and then notify the Tournament Director.

## **7. Sportsmanship:**

Competitors of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation are expected to follow HIGH STANDARDS of sportsmanship, safety, and conservation. Any infractions of these fundamentals may be deemed cause for disqualification and additional sanctions up to and including removal as a member of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future IBN Tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries, conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the State of Illinois bind all competitors. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants, depressants, or otherwise shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days, Chemical-substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be ground for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Competitors who fail to show the morning of take off and have not notified the Tournament Director no later than 11:00 pm the evening prior to the tournament day, at the Tournament Directors discretion may be disqualified. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

## 8. Boat & Motor:

For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This device must be attached to the driver's body at any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. **Maximum horsepower 250, no jet drive or tunnel hull boats.**

\*\*\* All teams moving forward to the Bassmaster Team Championship will be required to operate a console steering boat. No tiller drive boats will be allowed.

## 9. Basic Boat Equipment:

Every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.

## 10. Boat Identification:

Each boat MAY be given, prior to the day's start an inspection check by a tournament official. All boats will be tagged for identification purposes. The team will be given a numbered plate or Key fob which MUST remain with your boat until turned in at the official check-in.

## 11. Permitted Fishing Locations:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Director. Fishing is permitted anywhere on tournament waters except within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. Power poles are considered to be a fixed position device. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such a boat believes that the competitor's boat is close to being in this 50-yard radius. A competitor has the right to navigate through this 50-yard radius to get to fishable waters. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within this 50-yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within boundaries posted off limits or NO Fishing by State or Federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. All angling must be done from a boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing an object in tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

## 12. Contestants Must Remain In Boat:

Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official check-in by boat. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. The trailering of boats during the tournament hours is prohibited except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

### **13. Official Check Point:**

There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated by the Tournament Director. At the time of check out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all the rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves by means of numbered plate or key fob and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners should stay together until they have completed weigh-in.

### **14. SCORING:**

Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredth of a pound weight of each Team's catch during the competition day of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of the provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with largest bass first. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament officials. After competitors check-in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL bass fish in his possession to the tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Each competitor is expected to keep his catch alive by use of a properly aerated live well. All bass shall be escorted from the live well to the bump tank in special bags filled with water to insure survival. Failure to do this can result in disqualification. The few bass which do not survive may be used for scientific study and for charity. Bass must not be placed on stringers at any time during the tournament. Tournament Officials will furnish specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

### **15. PENALTY POINTS:**

The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have the sole authority for accessing penalty points. For each legal dead bass presented to a weigh-in official the competitor shall be penalized the following amounts on that day's weigh-in. For example see below

- 1 Dead Fish - (.50 lb)
- 2 Dead Fish - (1.00 lb)
- 3 Dead Fish - (1.50 lb)
- 4 Dead Fish - (2.00 lb)
- 5 Dead Fish - (2.50 lb)

Competitors that present a bass for weigh-in that fails to measure the prescribed length legal fish for the tournament waters will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each non-legal bass presented from the total score of the competitor after removing the illegal bass. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have authority for accessing penalty points.

**CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED.** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. (.5 Lbs) The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water at a retailer.

## 16. LATE PENALTIES AND NO SHOWS:

Teams who are not in the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of 1lb. per minute late to be deducted from his total weight, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any Team more than 10 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's weight.

**Example below if a tournament check in time is 15:00**

15:01.00	1lb penalty
15:02.00	2lb penalty
15:03.00	3lb penalty
15:04.00	4lb penalty
15:05.00	5lb penalty
15:06.00	6lb penalty
15:07.00	7lb penalty
15:08.00	8lb penalty
15:09.00	9lb penalty
15:10.00	Disqualified from the tournament

## 17. TIES:

In case of a tie, for the first place team the following tiebreakers will be used in order:

- 1.) The team with the largest bass by weight. (All teams are encouraged to weigh their largest bass in case of a tie) It is not the scale official's responsibility to remind them.
- 2.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition.
- 3.) The team or individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition.
- 4.) In the unlikely event that teams remain tied after these tiebreakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine winner(s) and the money will be equally split. The tournament Director and tournament officials shall resolve ties for lesser positions.

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 official competition day.

## **18. PROTESTS:**

- All protests concerning the tournament must be in writing and signed by the protester and presented to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the end of weigh-in time (Scale is closed). The IBN will supply official protest forms which will include a copy that will be provided to the submitter of the protest, and another copy for the angler against which the protest is being filed.
- Protests will not be accepted unless the person(s) filing the protest were directly involved.
- If there is evidence of extreme rule violations uncovered at a later time, the board reserves the right to review and take whatever actions it deems necessary.
- All protests will be reviewed and testimony will be taken at a special meeting of the Tournament Committee. All involved parties will be given at least 7 days advance notice. This date, time and location of this meeting will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee. Only involved parties (individuals not TEAMS) will be allowed at the meeting. No proxies or substitutes will be allowed. Failure to appear at this meeting will be grounds for dismissal of the Protest (if the submitter is not present) or admission of the violation (if the accused is not present).
- EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THAT COMPETITOR BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The costs of the polygraph test will be the responsibility of the party submitting to the polygraph test. Failure to submit to (and pay for) a requested polygraph test will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament and all future IBN events and membership.

## **19. Media (Written, pictures and information)**

Results of the Tournament will not be official until results are reviewed by the Tournament Officials.

By participating in this competition contestants agree to waive their rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the programs of the tournament in which they appear and consent to Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., LLC's (and their parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, and those acting under their permission or upon their authority), copyrighting, distributing, televising, publishing and using in any way the audio and visual portions of any television videotape, film and photographs of any interviews, scenes or other sequences in which the contestant may be included, and any reproduction thereof, anywhere at any time through medium or media for advertising, promotion, trade, television programming or other lawful purpose whatsoever, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

Any issues not specifically addressed in this document will be ruled on by the IBN board and / or Tournament Director / Committee. All decisions will be final.

By completing a tournament entry form you agree that you are familiar with and will abide by all of the rules and requirements in this document.

Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Team Series  
Tournament Director  
Matt Marques