



2024 Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Championship / Qualifier Tournament

The I.B.N State Team Qualifier Tournament shall be selected by The Tournament Director, Regional Director on a rotating basis. The Tournament Director and Tournament Committee shall officiate. The Tournament Director of the I.B.N. State Team Qualifier Tournament shall be allowed fish as a contestant. Tournament Headquarters for I.B.N. State Team Qualifier Tournament days shall be the official weigh-in site.

State Regional Team: The top 6 boaters and the top 6 Non-boaters plus two alternates, as determined by the angler's individual total weight at the conclusion of the tournament, shall become part of the IBN "Regional Team". Financial assistance from the Illinois B.A.S.S Nation (over and above entry fees) will be provided for, if and when available, to compete in The B.A.S.S. Nation Regional Tournament. The Team will be competing on an equal basis, with teams from other states making up the Region. Team members must be available to accept their position upon the call of the Tournament Director (typically following the weigh-in). In addition, the State Nation President or his/her designated representative will be considered a second alternate.

Raffle incentive;

The First take-off position Club / Member that sold the winning IBN raffle ticket in the prior year. The Second take-off position will be awarded to the Club / Member that sold the most IBN raffle tickets per member in the previous year. The total number of tickets will be divided by the number of members. The club with the highest average number of tickets sold per members will be awarded the second position. The Third take-off position Club / Member that sold the 2nd place IBN raffle ticket in the prior year. The Forth take-off position Club / Member that sold the 3rd place IBN raffle ticket in the prior year.

Official Rules & Procedures

1. 2024 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:

All members of an established Club Chapter with the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation, on B.A.S.S. National and State Nation records as of June 30th are eligible. All clubs in good standing that have completed a Board Approved Youth or Conservation event (prior to Aug 1st) can enter up to 20 anglers and two alternates into the I.B.N. Championship / Regional Team Qualifier Tournament.

A club member that is or becomes a member of more than one club must declare the club he/she is attempting to qualify in by notifying the IBN State Secretary no later than June 30th of any given year. Competition will be Pro-Am Format. Boaters will compete against Boaters and Non-boaters against Non Boaters. The roster submitted by each club for this event will show Boaters and Non-Boaters. As listed on the roster, those who qualify for the Regional Team, by total weight in each category, will move forward (as the roster states) boater or non-boater filling the available spots, along with 2 alternates. Team rosters must be submitted in pairs (boater – non boater). (How a club chapter determines the anglers per team is left to their own decision.)

3. Team alternates and extra boats:

Team alternates and extra boats are to be supplied by each club. Alternates are expected to assist in making this a successful event. Alternates may participate should one of the anglers from that team become unable to do so. An alternate may not substitute for another contestant once the tournament for that day is underway without the Tournament Director's approval. Alternates are expected to help put on the event. During the practice and competition day of any Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum of \$300,000 boating liability insurance on that boat. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover the competitor using the boat.

4. Tournament Entry Fee:

The tournament entry fee is \$200 per angler. \$45 for regional expenses, \$15 IBN expenses, \$10 for Nationals, \$40 for lodging, \$20 for stipen, \$35 for boater payout and \$35 for non boater payout. Payout amounts will be based solely on the participation level of the event. A Big Bass Pot will be collected at the pre-tournament meeting at \$10.00 per team member per day. The pot will be kept separate (Boater and Non-Boater) paying out accordingly.

Those wishing to enter the Big Bass Pot will do so on an individual basis. The Big Bass payout will be 100% of money collected. Big Bass Payout will be done following the last day's weigh-in. The Tournament entry fee along with a completed entry form shall be in the hands of the Tournament Director no later than August 1st. An incomplete entry form will be returned to the club. Only completed forms are acceptable. In case of default, withdrawal or disqualification, after the August 1st cutoff date, the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation shall retain the tournament entry fee. All roster changes after August 1st will incur a \$25.00 service charge, which must be submitted with the team roster change.

5. Pre-Tournament Practice:

The purchasing of information or hiring of guide services will not be permitted after the entry deadline (August 1st). **Off limits will be Sunday September 1, 2024 at 20:00 CST to 15 minutes before sunrise on Thursday September 5, 2024.** Pre-Tournament practice will be on Thursday and Friday prior to the official tournament days, unless the Tournament Director informs the team captains otherwise. Any contested practicing on Friday must launch from the official boat ramp and return to the **designated ramp by 12:00pm CST Friday September 6, 2024.** Any contestants who launch from any other ramp on Friday or return to the designated ramp on time will be subject to disqualification at the discretion of the tournament director. At no time during official practice may a team have more than the number of boats submitted on their roster on the tournament waters. Only contestants and alternates will be allowed to practice. During the official off-limits period, no other club members, friends or family members may be on tournament waters for the purpose of checking lake conditions or locating fish for any team.

6. Registration & Pre-Tournament Meeting:

Registration: Each team captain must register in person or have a representative register with the official Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation staff at the time and place prescribed on the schedule of events. Registration by team captains shall be 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the event. Failure to register during the prescribed registration hours (2:00– 3:00:01) can result in a penalty of weight loss from the total catch of the team. Team Captains more than 30 minutes late for registration and failing to notify the Tournament Director, can at the discretion of the Tournament Director, forfeit their entry fee and the entire team will not be entered in the tournament. Pre tournament meeting begins at 4:00 p.m. ALL team members must be at the Pre-Tournament meeting. Only absences approved by the Tournament Director / Committee will be allowed, No EXCEPTIONS. Contestants, without approval, not personally present for the pre-tournament meeting/pairings will be disqualified.

IT SHALL BE EACH COMPETITOR/TEAM RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR REGISTRATION TIME AND LOCATION OR OBTAIN TIMES FROM THE ILLINOIS B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT HEADQUARTERS. NO EXCEPTIONS.

7. Pairing of Contestants:

Partners shall be paired by a draw or another method determined by the Tournament Director. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting place for the following morning's take off. It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to check in at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director at his discretion may reassign partners prior to the morning's take-off. It is suggested that a minimum of thirty (30) minutes is required for preparation to depart from the check in point. When two (2) contestants check in at the beginning of the day they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch. This is to remain throughout the day until each other's catch has been officially weighed in except in dire emergency. No two (2) contestants from the same club chapter shall fish together during the tournament. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and from all future tournaments of the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation.

8. Safety:

Safe boat conduct must be applied at all times by all competitors. During the official practice and 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. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his partner, or endanger the safety and wellbeing of his partner, the public, or himself shall not be eligible to compete.

9. 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 practice 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 grounds 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.

10. Tackle & Equipment:

Only artificial lures may be used, NO "Live Bait" or "Prepared Bait" is allowed with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only casting, spin-casting or spinning rods and reels may be in the boat at any time, all other types are prohibited. Only ONE rod and reel combination is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting matter. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.

Only non-penetrating culling clips are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates the skin or mouth of the fish is not allowed.

Use of landing nets and grippers for landing bass is prohibited during tournament competition.

11. Horsepower Regulations:

Maximum horsepower for all outboard motors used in tournament practice and in tournament competition will be limited, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972. When required, each boat MUST have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must NOT exceed the rating specified on this rating plate. If the rating plate states "unlimited" then the maximum horsepower allowed will be 250 HP. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972 must adhere to the ratings set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower-rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from IBN Tournaments.

12. 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 anytime 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. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet or more in length. Any raised platform or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All BLADDER tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer's authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have

factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in the boat. During the official practice and during the tournament, no portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament competitor. No “barges” or cumbersome craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with “stick steering” or “tiller steering” shall be used during the tournament by any competitor. A competitor answering affirmatively to the question “Will you bring a boat and motor?” will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his partner, if so requested by the tournament Director. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat and motor available and will be paired with someone who does when possible.

13. Basic Boat Equipment:

Every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both fishermen using the boat. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate”.

14. Boat Inspection:

Each boat will be given, prior to the day’s start, an inspection check by a tournament official. This will be done on the water during the take-off. Live wells are to be open and running, Life jackets / vests are to be buckled, snapped etc. Kill switches will be tested. For identification purposes, a ribbon will be placed at the top of the trolling motor and must remain there till the end of the tournament.

15. Boat Operation:

Boaters and non-boater will discuss seating arrangements and fishing locations. Being a Pro-Am format, ultimately the boater will have the final say. Any boater in judgment of the tournament Director operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps their co-angler can be penalized or disqualified from the tournament. During the hours of competition, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from non-competitors, follow a non-competitors boat or participate in the practice of “hole sitting” or the placing of markers by anyone. During tournament hours the use of underwater cameras or mobile communication devices such as cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CB’s, etc. Is not permitted except to communicate with tournament headquarters or in the case of an emergency. However, communication with the Corps of Engineers Lockmasters is permitted. All teams are responsible for their OWN gas and oil used during the tournament.

16. 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. Also the Live bass release area

established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the tournament briefing. 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 any local, state or federal regulations. Any habitat changes must be made prior to the first official practice day.

17. 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. Both competitors must remain in the boat at all times except during dire emergencies. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of the day to be scored in the tournament. 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. If a competitor must leave the boat to take a restroom break all fishing must stop until both competitors are back in the boat. The trailering of boats during the tournament hours is prohibited except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

18. 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 at the tournament meeting. 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 and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together until they have completed weigh-in.

19. Scoring:

Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound, down to the hundredth of a pound weight of each competitor'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 a competitor's check-in at the official checkpoint, he 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. Once a competitor's catch is measured, counted and verified by a tournament official that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. 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.

20. 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 accessing 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.

21. Late Penalties and No Shows:

Contestants 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 or her total weight, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any competitor more than 10 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's weight. Late penalties apply to both boater / non-boater.

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

22. Ties:

In case of a tie, for first place team the following tiebreakers will be used in order: (1) Big Bass; (2) individual with heaviest single day catch during competition; (3) individual with the second heaviest single day catch during competition; (4) individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed during competition; (5) individual with the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition. 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 practice period or official competition day.

23. Failure to report:

Violations, suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification from the tournament.

24. Protest:

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 scale being 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.

1. Protests will not be accepted unless the person(s) filing the protest were directly involved. 2. 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. 3. If it is determined that two (2) or more participants from the same club (TEAM) are involved in the same (or related) rule violation, the entire club's (TEAM'S) weight for the day will be disqualified. 4. If it is determined that three (3) or more participants from the same club (TEAM) are involved in the same (or related) rule violation, the entire club (TEAM) will be disqualified from the tournament; and, no member of the club (TEAM) will be allowed to advance to the next level.

5. 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).

6. EACH CONTESTANT (Both the accuser and violator) AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST. 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.

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

25. Off Limits:

The location for the tournament waters will be off limits to all competitors and any of their club members from Sunday at Mid-night prior to the tournament until Thursday morning at safe light. At which time only team members and alternates fishing the event are allowed to practice.

No club or team may receive or solicit assistance from any other club or anglers not participating in the tournament about the location or methods used to catch fish on tournament waters during the off limits period. Any violation of this rule will result in the team's disqualification from the tournament.

26. Insurance:

(DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND 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 BE DISQUALIFIED. Random checks may be conducted. Each policy must show an effective date and expiration date.

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 Tournament Director. All decisions will be final.

