

2019 Fish-Off Plan

The body of water scheduled in 2019 is China Lake in the town of China, Me located at the #####TBD LOCATION ##### hours 7:00am – 3:00pm each day. When your club registers its anglers, all anglers must be willing to compete on this water.

It needs to be stated that every Nation member in good standing with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (Bassmaster magazine), the National B.A.S.S. Nation, the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation and their Maine Nation Bass Club will be allowed/is encouraged to participate in the 2019 fish off. The good standing designation will be required at the same time that the Fish-Off registration forms/funds are required to be turned in.

The Maine Nation will make registration forms/tournament rules available to clubs at the May meeting and will require them to be returned completed, with full non refundable payment attached prior to the adjournment of the July meeting. These documents should be available on the Maine Nation Web Site “MEBASS.COM” as well. The registration forms will need listed (the clubs name, members name, B.A.S.S. membership numbers, contact phone numbers, current available E-Mail addresses and with the members listed with regards to Boater & Non Boater). With regards to Boater and Non Boater status, each club will be required to list/send an even number of Boater and Non Boaters. Stated again, each club must send an equal number of Boaters and Non Boaters. The provided registration forms will be set up to provide for a designated non boater for each listed boater.

At the July meeting the Tournament Director will collect the required documents and checks (all payments are none refundable*). The only extenuating circumstances to be considered at that time would be new issues (an access issue, previous fish kill on the lake, etc).

It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to than complete in an obviously unbiased fashion (complete with more than one witness) the fish off pairings. This will be completed, documented and made available to the club contact list (list currently used by the Nation Secretary to send business minutes too), in a timely manner. Again as in the past no anglers will be allowed to be paired with individuals provided by the same club and/or allowed to be paired with the same angler on two consecutive days. In 2019 during the second day pairings the field will be split in half assuring initially that each member will have the opportunity to blast off in the first half of the field one of the two days. It should be expected by the Nation Body that these pairings lists will be sent out attached to the July Nation Business meeting minutes.

Again this year each club will be able to send as many boaters and/or none boaters as they desire. Pairings will be by blind draw assuring that no boater/non boater are paired from the same club. You can call around and have on your roster individuals from your club paired with individuals from another club. Actually this is encouraged however regarding no shows you are responsible for them. Make sure you are comfortable with your choices.

At the weigh in the non boaters are required to stay with the boater, crossing the stage and if viable weighing in their fish. They must stay together until the boats fish are weighed, failure to do this may disqualify both anglers catches.

All boaters will be required to carry a \$300,000 GL policy limit. Proof of this will be required to be presented to the Tournament Director prior to that boats use in the event. Spare boats and alternate boats can be substituted provided they meet this insurance requirement.

Non boaters competing will not be able to become a boater once the initial pairings have been completed. Should a boater experience an issue with their boat and no borrowed boat (adequate insurances in place), be available they cannot become a non boater. No boater will be fishing alone.

Handling Event Day no shows: The club is responsible for providing completed registration forms with 100% compliance regarding designated non boater for each listed boater. Should an angler fail to show up the club of the boater/non boater is responsible to decide which angler from their club will sit out. However only one pairing can be impacted and again no boater/non boaters from the same clubs can be paired together. No refunds of any monies will be provided by the MBN for any anglers removed from the field*. This should be handled at the club level.

Regarding the words Non refundable*, it is just that, please anticipate family functions. We understand that emergencies and other unexpected issues do develop however this organization going forward will not be refunding fish off funds once the draw process has begun. The idea of individuals changing their desire to fish the fish off as the event draws near has been a bone of contention for many years. We are all adults and as such have to understand that your personal issues however unfortunate should not disrupt the flow of business at the State level.

Active members of a MBN Junior Club and then must still be a minimum of 16 years of age prior to the event date are eligible to compete. They must be of functional capacity so as to be able to both get into and out of the bass boat themselves. All non boaters must provide their own life preservers. Non boaters can net fish for boaters and vice-versa.

Once this document(s) has been made available it will be known as the Nations Official 2019 Pairings List. Historically when anglers drop out of the fish off the subsequent disruption has never been handled in any consistent manner. The pairings list should any participants have a change of availability to fish the fish off, will be handled in the following manner.

Each list will be handled independently of any other lists in existence at the time (day one, day two, most recent, etc.). Up until the morning of the event should an angler drop out of the fish off for any reason the Tournament Director will fill the vacancy to that individual's position by removing another angler from the list. All changes to the list will be completed as they are discovered. All changes will be documented by the Tournament Director (dates, times, individuals name and club orientation).

Tournament Day no shows (first or second day), will put the organization in a serious dilemma. Thus unless life is lost, life is in jeopardy or a catastrophic incident were to occur less than 10 hours prior to the blast off all no shows will be without appeal disallowed entry into the following years Regional Qualifier. All that is required is a phone call to eliminate the no show penalty from being invoked.

For the 2019 Fish-Off, a call and discussion with Dwayne Turnage @ 207-229-5216 or Corey Vose @ 207-441-4442 would be appropriate.

In this manner several advantages will be realized.

- There will be a consistent manner in which all changes will be made.
- No angler will be scheduled or allowed to be fishing alone at the fish off.
- The Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Anglers will be better able to take advantage of the Skeeter Real Money, the Triton Gold Programs, Bass Cat Monies and other reward programs offered by manufacturers (require minimum numbers of boats).
- Clubs can introduce both new members to the fish off experience.

In this manner one disadvantage is realized.

- Non boaters competing will no longer have guaranteed access to the front of the boats that they are fishing out of.

The intent of this document is to provide a concise and equitable flow to the fish-off pairings of the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation going forward. This document is in place prior to any participant's acknowledgment or any fund transfers, thus all entering into the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation fish-off accepts this format, will abide by its intent and understands that the decisions of the Tournament Director and his appointee(s) will be final. By design this format should assure that no angler at any tournament location is scheduled to fish alone. Incidents the morning of the tournament may develop requiring adjustments to this plan however every attempt will be made to follow this plan if and when applicable.

2019 Specific Data:

(Not part of the above document however talking points for Delegates at your next club meeting).

The fish off dates will be:

- All anglers - September 8th and 9th, the following years State Team Roster will be determined by this one round.
- We will be using the ### TBD LOCATION ### on China Lake in China, Me.
- Tournament Hours both days 7:00am- 3:00pm.

The fish off entry fee will be \$200.00 for boaters and \$100.00 for non boaters. (Non refundable once the July Meeting has adjourned).

The following optional pools will be collected and paid for each event. Only those participating will be eligible for subsequent payouts.

The fish off lunger fee will be \$10.00, (split lunger both days - four big fish winners per event).

The fish off optional pool fee will be \$20.00. Payout based on total accumulated weight and paid after the completion of the second day of event.

Payment needs to be in the form of two checks, one from the club for the fish-off funds and one from each club for the optional pools. All declarations need to be made at this time, you will not be able to enter any of the optional pools once the July meeting was adjourned.

Maine B.A.S.S. Nation's

2019 Fish Off, **Club Competition**

In 2019 the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation will continue the Club/Team competition in conjunction with our annual Fish-Off. Providing another opportunity for clubs to showcase their ability to work together, the benefits to mentoring new members and the Federation to display annually our Best Bass Fishing Club. The goal is to increase participation at our annual fish-off (our largest fund raiser), as well as to provide our member clubs an opportunity to compete and win prizes as a club.

The winning Club members competing in the event (all members fishing the event regardless of numbers) will all receive a plaque, boasting their club name, the event, date and the first place Club finish. A photograph of the team taken at the event can be our 2020 Guide cover and a \$200.00 donation will be awarded to that club to be used as they see fit (youth, conservation, and lures, whatever). Plaques and the donation will be awarded at the end of the year banquet.

To qualify a club must only participate in the State Fish-Off. There is a twist however as the deciding weight will be that of the combined, top twelve, two day weights brought in by that club. A club can have as many or as few fishing the event as they desire but remember that only the weights of the top twelve anglers will be counted. Clubs with fewer participants may still win if their combined weights exceed all others. Clubs with more than twelve anglers well, will hope that their anglers trailing after day one all improve their lot on day two as positions and weights can and do change. Remember that the winning club is decided by the top twelve weights but all members fishing for the club will receive plaques and participate in the cover photograph.

Again our goal is twofold, increase participation at the Fish-Off event and provide clubs (and club members) the opportunity to boast (perhaps only for 12 months) that they are truly the best bass fishing club in our organization. It is our thought that this will be a win / win for all participating in the State Fish-Off, should be a lot of fun and may be a catalyst for your clubs growth throughout the year.

MAINE B.A.S.S. NATION TOURNAMENT RULES

1) **Tournament Committee:**

The Committee shall be solely responsible for interpretation and enforcement of the rules and regulations. The Tournament Committee is eligible to participate in and compete for any and all prizes. The Committee's rulings shall be final except as defined by Maine State Law.

2) **Eligibility to participate in the 2019 Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Fish Off**

It needs to be stated that every nation member in good standing with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (Bassmaster Magazine), the National B.A.S.S. Nation, the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation and their Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Club will be allowed/is encouraged to participate in the fish off. The good standing designation will be required at the same time that the Fish-Off registration forms/funds are required to be turned in.

Boater Eligibility:

*Boaters upon registering from their club must have available a functional watercraft and have a functional live well system with sufficient capacity that is capable of maintaining ten quality bass alive.

*Boats will need to be equipped with functional live well inlet screens (visual inspections should be expected).

*Boaters will be required to produce/submit with the registration forms a valid boater's insurance declaration page with a minimum of \$300,000 general liability listed for the boat to be used. Should the policy effective date expire prior to the date of the Fish Off, it will be the responsibility of the boater to produce and get to the Tournament Director an updated declaration page when available. Without this document in hand no boat will be allowed to be used in this competition.

3) **Registration:**

All competitors must check in at the tournament headquarters/weigh-in site one half hour before the start of the tournament. Boaters must float their boats prior to checking in. Only two competitors/persons are allowed per boat. Teams shall remain the same throughout the day of competition.

4) **Check-In and Blast-Off:**

The order in which boats leave will be determined by the draw pairings list. No swapping of take off positions is permitted. In the event of a boat issue (motor failure, etc), the director can by pass that start position during blast off.

All boats are to be back no later than the end of tournament time given at the morning meeting. All fishing will cease upon returning to the official check-in point.

A one (1) pound per minute penalty shall be assessed to any team (from each members weight), who is late, up to fifteen (15) minutes. After fifteen (15) minutes the team will be disqualified.

Any waters shut off (designated as a no fishing area for that days competition), will be, prior to the start of each days event, discussed at the briefing.

In the event of a break down, competitors may board another boat with their fish to get back to the check-in on time. All fish brought on board by the competitors who are broken down shall be clearly marked or separated by the teams. The tournament Committee shall be notified of the circumstance immediately upon entering the check-in point. The team may retrieve the broken down boat after their fish are submitted for weigh-in.

All teams (the two paired to fish that day together) shall remain together upon checking in until their fish are weighed.

5) **Horsepower Limitations:**

The maximum horsepower for any competitor's boat shall not exceed 250 horsepower or the maximum rating listed on the U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat.

6) **Safety:**

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Life vests must be worn and completely fastened at all times when combustion engine is running. For the purpose of this section, a life vest shall be required to be fastened and buckled and the engine kill switch connected to the operator at all times when the internal combustion engine is running. The following exceptions will apply: when a competitor's boat is anchored, moored, beached or tied to a dock, the internal combustion engine shall be allowed to run for the purpose of warming the engine, to keep batteries charged for the purpose of running the live wells to keep fish alive before weigh-in and/or when the competitor has weighed his/her fish and is placing the boat on the trailer. The Committee can delay the start and/or shorten the tournament day without making up the hours for safety related reasons.

7) **Sportsmanship:**

All competitors are required to comply with all Maine Fish & Wildlife Laws as well as State and local boating laws/rules and any other rules the Tournament Committee may impose. Competitors are required to follow and maintain the highest standards of sportsmanship and courtesy. Violation may result in disqualification.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in any competitor's boat. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed at the weigh-in site or at the awards ceremony. Violators and others (individuals obviously under the influence) will be disqualified and forfeit any and all finish position, prize money(s) and or prizes.

8) **Permitted Fishing Locations:**

Fishing is permitted anywhere on tournament waters without taking the boat out of the water. Competitors must remain in the boat at all times except for an emergency (a restroom break necessitates an emergency). Competitors will maintain a fifty (50) yard distance from any other competitors or non-competitor boat that has the DC motor in the stowed position and an anchor in the water (power poles, etc., are viable anchors). No competitor at anchor will "wave in" or allow another competitor inside the fifty (50) yard area surrounding their boat to fish. If a boat is anchored in or near a channel, another competitor may cross inside the fifty (50) yard zone to gain access to other water. The boat crossing the fifty (50) yard zone must pass at a reasonable and safe speed and may not fish inside this area when passing through.

9) **Fish to be Weighed In/Scoring /Penalties:**

Only largemouth and smallmouth bass shall be submitted for weigh-in. Minimum length of either specie shall be twelve (12) inches. Anglers competing on the boater side may bring in a maximum of five (5) fish to the scale. Anglers competing on the Non-boater side may bring in a maximum of three (3) fish to the scale. Culling of fish must be done immediately upon catching the next fish that puts the competitor over the limit. The culling of dead fish is permitted.

Fish eligible for lunker award will be presented at the weigh-in alive. Dead fish will not be eligible for lunker awards. Lunkers will be returned to the tournament waters alive unless requested by an agent of the Commissioner of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife.

In addition to the penalties previously described above, others are as follows:

***Short fish:** short fish will not be weighed as part of the angler's bag and a one (1) pound penalty shall be assessed for each short fish brought in.

***Dead fish:** a .25 pound penalty shall be assessed for each dead fish brought in.

***Over the limit:** any competitor that brings in more than their limit shall have their creel culled down starting with the largest fish and continuing in this manner until the legal limit is reached.

10) **Live Well Requirements:**

All boats must be equipped with a suitable electric live well aeration system. The Tournament Committee shall permit coolers set up in such a fashion pending approval. Functional live well intake screens/filters/devices must be in place. The Tournament Committee shall reserve the right to disqualify or reject an insufficient live well system. See Boater Eligibility above for definition.

11) Boat Control

The Boater has 100% control of the boat for the day, may choose to fish the non boater's water, may choose to let the non boater take the front of the boat however neither of these is required. The non boater is not responsible for refunding any monies for gas, etc., to the boater. Each angler is competing against their respective angler group (boater / non boater).

12) Tackle/Equipment/Fishing Methods:

Only bait casting, spinning and spin casting rods shall be allowed. Fly casting tackle shall be prohibited. Rod length shall not exceed ninety-six (96) inches. Only one (1) rod and reel shall be used by a competitor at any time. Other rods may be rigged and ready for use in the boat. Only artificial lures may be used. Pork rinds and strips are considered to be artificial baits. No live bait shall be permitted on or in any competitor's boat, fishing line or hook. Landing nets will be allowed. Fishing shall be done in the conventional manner of casting and retrieving. The technique's known as "dead sticking" and "dragging a tube" shall be allowed (only one line can be wet at a time).

(13)Ties:

In the event of a tie for any position, the competitor with the most bass will be the winner. The second tie breaker if needed will go to the competitor who weighs in the heaviest single live bass. If a tie still exists, prizes (if any) will be combined for the two places in contention and will be equally split between the tied competitors. Regarding placement of finishers if still contested a coin toss will be the decider.

(14)Cut-Off:

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to enact an off limit period for tournament waters. During the cut-off period, it shall be considered a violation if any competitor or an agent of the competitor does any of the following: goes out on the tournament waters in any boat, goes swimming, snorkeling or scuba diving. It will be against the rules to: fly over the tournament lake in an aircraft for the purpose of finding fishing spots or navigational hazards, seek any information from a non-competitor pertaining to hazards, fishing spots or fish locations and/or to place markers on the tournament waters or it's shores for the purpose of locating fish and/or fishing spots during any off limits periods.

(15)Protests:

Protest must be brought to the attention of the Tournament Committee within thirty (30) minutes of the end of the fishing period/start of the weigh-in, which ever is later.

(16)Other Prohibited Help and Equipment:

The following are considered violations of fair sportsmanship standards and any competitor found utilizing such measures will be disqualified.

*No competitor may use a non-competitor to sit on or hold a fishing spot until the competitor arrives.

*No competitor shall use a cellular phone, two-way radio or any other means of mechanical and/or electrical communications to gather fishing information from another competitor or non-competitor. Use of such communication devices shall be limited to emergency situations. Any such devices shall remain off except for weather information channels.

(17)Tournament Day no shows:

First or second day no shows will put the organization in a serious dilemma. Thus unless life is lost, life is in jeopardy or a catastrophic incident were to occur less than 10 hours prior to the blast off all no shows will be without appeal disallowed entry into the following years Divisional Qualifier. All that is required is a phone call to eliminate the no show penalty from being invoked. For the 2018 Fish-Off a call and discussion with Dwayne Turnage @ cell: 207-229-5216 or Corey Vose @ cell: 207-441-4442 would be appropriate.

The Tournament Committee reserves the right to reject any application from any competitors who have been found in violation of the tournament rules and/or state laws.

Maine B.A.S.S. Nation

China Lake, China Me. Sept. 8 & 9, ~~2017~~ 2019 7:00am-3:00pm

Entry Fee:
\$200.00-Boater/\$100.00 Non Boater
Optional Pool \$20.00/ Lunker Pool \$10.00

2019 State Fish-Off Application:

Club Name: _____

First Pair per page

	Boater	OP	LK
Print Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.A.S.S. Federation Membership Number: _____			
Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____			
Boat Ins. Co.: _____ Policy #: _____ Exp Date: _____			

Signature: _____ Total funds due _____

	Non-Boater	OP	LK
Print Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.A.S.S. Federation Membership Number: _____			
Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____			

Signature: _____ Total funds due _____

Subsequent Pair per page

	Boater	OP	LK
Print Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.A.S.S. Federation Membership Number: _____			
Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____			
Boat Ins. Co.: _____ Policy #: _____ Exp Date: _____			

Signature: _____ Total funds due _____

	Non-Boater	OP	LK
Print Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
B.A.S.S. Federation Membership Number: _____			
Phone Number: _____ E-Mail Address: _____			

Signature: _____ Total funds due _____

(By signing this application I acknowledge an understanding of the attached rules and ~~2017~~ ²⁰¹⁹ fish-off plan)