

# 2024 Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Fish-Off Plan

The body of water scheduled in 2024 is Long Lake / Brandy Pond. Check-in will be taking place at Moose Landing Marina, 32 Moose Landing Trail, Naples 04055, **9/7/24 & 9/8/24** Any changes regarding specific locations, off limits and fish release area will be announced prior to the Fish-Off. Tournament hours 7:00am – 3:00pm each day. When your club registers its anglers, all anglers must be willing to compete on this water.

There will be a cut off this year **beginning Tuesday 9/3/2024**. 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 with the intent to locate fish or fishing areas, 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 its shores for the purpose of locating fish and/or fishing spots during any off limits periods.

Entry Fees:

Boater - \$200

Non-Boater - \$100

Lunker Pool - \$10

Optional Pool - \$20

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 fish off. The good standing designation will be required at the same time when the Fish-Off registration forms/funds are required to be turned in.

**Each club planning to participate needs to register all anglers via the link on the MEBASS.com website.**

Once rosters are submitted (including checking off Lunker and Optional Pool boxes), **Tylor Marquis will email club Presidents and invoice for total due.** Total amount due MUST be paid or received prior to the end of the August delegates meeting. Failure to submit payment and or register online prior to the end of the August delegates meeting will disqualify the club from the event. Payment may be made online or by check payable to Maine B.A.S.S. Nation.

It is the responsibility of the **club president** to ensure that each boater has met the following requirements. Anyone violating these requirements may be subject to disqualification.

1. Minimum \$300,000 general liability per occurrence that is valid for tournament days
2. All boats meet state law requirements and have working live well systems capable of maintain 8 fish, working kill switch and navigational lights.
3. **All boaters born after 1/1/1999 must have Boater Safety Education requirements met for Maine.**

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If paying by check, invoice and payment should be sent **"No Later Than 8/2/2024"** to:  
Corey Vose  
36 Buena Vista Drive  
Augusta ME 04330

All supporting documents will be available on the Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Web Site "MEBASS.COM" as well. The online registration form will need: 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 registration link will be set up to provide for a designated non-boater for each listed boater.

\*\*\*\* DEADLINE for submitting online registration of club roster and payment is the **August delegates meeting.**

\*All payments are non-refundable\*.

It will be the responsibility of the Tournament Director to then 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 belonging to the same club and/or allowed to be paired with the same angler on two consecutive days. The lists will be sent out via email and the MEBASS.com website a minimum of 2 weeks before the fish off date.

Day 1 pairings of Boater/Non-boater and blast off number will be determined randomly. Day 2 Boater/Non-boater pairings will also be done randomly but the blast off position will be in the order of the boaters' day 1 finish.

Again, this year each club will be able to send as many boaters and/or non-boaters as they desire. You can call around and have on your roster individuals from your club paired with individuals from another club. This is encouraged however regarding no shows you are responsible for them. Make sure you are comfortable with your choices.

Non-boaters competing will not be able to become a boater once the tournament starts. 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.

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 designated boater/non-boater from the registration list will be asked to leave the tournament. 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 managed at the club level.

July 14, 2024

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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 cause of disagreement for many years. We are all adults and as such must understand that your personal issues however unfortunate should not disrupt the flow of business at the State level. In the case of emergencies where a boater or non-boater must resign their position it is responsibility of that club to replace the contestant. Since entry is already paid, it is also the responsibility of that club to determine and additional funds due back to that club. Failure to replace the boater or non-boater will automatically eliminate the boater or non-boater from competition.

Active members of an MBN Junior Club must still be a minimum of 16 years of age prior to the event date to be eligible to compete. They must be of functional capacity 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 Pairings List. Historically when anglers drop out of the fish off the subsequent disruption has never been managed in any consistent manner. The pairings list should any participants have a change of availability to fish the fish off, will be managed in the following manner.

Each list will be managed 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 your club president and notification to the tournament director to eliminate the no show penalty from being invoked.

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 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 when applicable.

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In this manner several advantages will be realized.

- There will be a consistent way 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 new members to the fish off experience.

## 2024 Specific Data:

- 2024 State Team Roster will be determined by the Fish Off.
- 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 August Meeting was adjourned).

The following optional pools will be collected and paid prior to the 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.

Payouts will reflect Boater/Non-Boater Participation. All declarations need to be made at this time; you will not be able to enter any of the optional pools once the August meeting was adjourned.

B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifiers and National Championship.

***Maine BASS Nation has been allotted 3 Boater/Non-boater slots directly to the BASS Nation Championships (BNC) based on our membership roster. The top 3 boaters and non-boaters from our 2024 Fish-Off will be awarded these positions. The next 10 Boaters and Non-Boaters will be our State Team and will travel to the 2025 Nation Qualifier (previously referred to as regionals). Additional slots to the BNC can be earned from the Qualifier as in the past. Dates and locations of the Qualifier and BNC will be announced by BASS at a later date. Note: Potential changes based on the 2023 qualifier format for 2024 & 2025, the above information could be altered or modified by B.A.S.S.***

***Rules: The rules for the Fish Off are covered under the ME BASS open rules with specific rules regarding the Fish Off outlined in Appendix A of the ME BASS open rules or the annual Fish Off Plan.***

For more information contact Ben Hilfrank @ (207) 671-2996

# **2024 Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Fish-Off Plan**

## **Additional Information:**

- 1) Songo River: No locking allowed. Fishing in the South end of Brandy to the locks is allowed.
- 2) Fish Release: Please release fish at least 300 feet from any shoreline in deeper water.
- 3) Off Limits and additional restrictions: See PDF document