

2025 Maine B.A.S.S. Nation Fish-Off Plan

The body of water scheduled for 2025 is Androscoggin Lake. Launch facility at River Bend Campground, 1540 ME 106 Leeds ME 04263. Check in and Weigh-in will be held at Stinchfield Beach, Stinchfield Beach RD Leeds, ME 04263. On **9/6/25 & 9/7/25** Any changes regarding specific locations, off limits and fish release area will be announced prior to the Fish-Off. Tournament hours 8:00am – 4:00pm each day. When your club registers its anglers, all anglers must be willing to compete on this water.

There will be a cutoff this year **beginning Tuesday 9/2/2025**. 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/drones 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 - \$225 (includes \$10 per day for lunger)

Non-Boater - \$125 (includes \$10 per day for lunger)

Optional Pool - \$50

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 Optional Pool box), Total amount due MUST be paid no later than August 10, 2025. 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 must be made by check payable to Maine B.A.S.S. Nation with a post mark no later than August 10, 2025.

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 all 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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Invoice and payment should be sent **“No Later Than 8/10/2025”** 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 club’s 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). Sign-ups will allow for uneven boaters and non-boaters, if the non-boater registration does not exceed the boater registration.

**** DEADLINE for submitting online registration of club roster and payment is Sunday **August 10, 2025**.

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. Boaters that do not have a non-boater on Day 1, may have a non-boater on Day 2.

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 insurance 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 a non-boater fail to show up, the designated boater will not be impacted, if a boater were to fail to show up their paired non boater will be moved to another boater from another club other than that of the non-boater. If a boater fails to show with a full field of competitors, a non-boater from that club would have to be removed from the competition. 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.

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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 the responsibility of that club to replace the contestant if so desired. Since entry is already paid, it is also the responsibility of that club to determine additional funds due back to that club.

Active members of an MBN Junior Club must still be at 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 are allowed to 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. 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 year's 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 ensure 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.

In this manner several advantages will be realized.

- There will be a consistent way all changes will be made.
- 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.

2025 Specific Data:

- 2026 Qualifier Team Roster will be determined by the Fish Off.

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- Tournament Hours both days 8:00am- 4:00pm.

The fish off entry fee will be \$225.00 for boaters and \$125.00 for non-boaters. This includes lunger (Non-refundable once the August Meeting was adjourned).

The optional pool will be collected and paid for prior to the event. Only those participating will be eligible for subsequent payouts.

The fish off lunger fee has been added into the entry fee, \$20 per angler. All competitors will be eligible for lunger on their respective competitor designation. Non-Boaters will have their own split lunger pool each day. Boaters will have their own split lunger pool each day. A total of 4 lunkers will be paid out each day.

The fish off optional pool fee will be \$50.00. Payout based on total accumulated weight and paid after the completion of the second day of event. Separate optional pools for Boater and non-boater

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 2025 Fish-Off will be awarded these positions. The next 10 Boaters and Non-Boaters will be our Qualifier Team and will travel to the 2026 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._____

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 Tom O'Brien @ (207) 651-2704 or at tobrien98@hotmail.com

Additional Information:

- 1) Surface Area Restriction by the state launch is as follows: No fishing or entering past white buoys. Off limits area is a line from the White buoys to either shoreline. Any angler caught entering or fishing these waters will be disqualified.
- 2) Fish Release: Please release fish at least 300 feet from any shoreline in deeper water.
- 3) Off Limits and additional restrictions: See Below

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