



2023 Maine BASS Nation Team Trail Rules

*** All teams are required to comply with all state laws and it is the sole responsibility of said teams to know all laws during Maine BASS Nation events! The Maine BASS Nation Team Trail Committee is not a source for these laws. Any questions about laws should be directed to the appropriate authority. ***

*** Taxes of tournament winnings are the responsibility of the winning anglers and not Maine BASS Nation. ***

*** Teams fishing the current season are competing for the following calendar year BASS Team Championship ***

*** For the remainder of this document, Maine BASS Nation Team Trail will be referred to as MBT ***

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY

Participation in each tournament is open to all angling teams or individuals where one of the individuals is at least 18 years old. Eligibility for the BASS Team Championship, sponsor prizes or affiliated programs resulting in qualification, monetary or physical prizes, both anglers within a team must be in good standing with the Maine BASS Nation.

Prior to any team's first event, a \$40 registration fee is due (\$20 MBT Registration + \$20 Bassmaster Team Championship Registration).

1. All teams fishing for points and eligibility for the BASS Team Championship must be active rostered **members of a Maine BASS Nation affiliated club** prior to the first event fished. Teams can register for an affiliated Maine BASS Nation club at time of trail tournament registration. Maine BASS Nation dues are \$30 State, \$30 Nation plus Bassmaster magazine subscription.
2. Entry fees for each event will be \$125.00, which includes the luncheon pool (see rule below). Entry fees may be paid via exact cash ½ hour before the start of each tournament. Online payment and registration will be accepted up to 24 hours prior to the event. Each registered team will be given a number at time of Trail registration, and that will be their number and weigh in position for the season.
3. Blast off positions may be determined the day prior to the event for all teams that are pre-registered. Team registering the morning of the event will receive their number in the order that they arrive. The last new team registration will be the starter boat for that event.
4. **LAUNCH and REMOVING BOATS:** All boats must go through an inspection to include a live well check and weed check prior to entering the tournament lake and after the event has completed. Tournament anglers are in violation of Maine State Law if they pull a boat from tournament waters with fish in their live wells. No Tournament anglers are allowed under any circumstances to pull boats from tournament waters with fish in the live wells. All boats competing in the event must have a valid registration and display their current Milfoil sticker prior to entering the tournament water.

2. INSURANCE, LIABILITY & Code of Conduct

It is the sole responsibility of the boat owner to carry and have proof of adequate public liability insurance covering them and passengers. All boat owners must carry insurance liability at a minimum of \$300,000 to participate in any MBT tournament. Tournament staff has the right to ask for proof of insurance at any time and all teams will be required to present their insurance information when they initially register. **All contestants are required to sign a waiver** absolving the tournament organizers, tournament sponsors, co-sponsors and their employees from any responsibility for any damage or personal injury sustained as a result of their participation in the tournament or related activities. Contestants are required to have in their possession and provide proof of insurance on demand by the tournament director. All participants agree to hold harmless MBT, officers, directors and agents.

1. **ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT:** Anglers participating in any B.A.S.S.-sanctioned event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and family members of anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on B.A.S.S., its members, officers or representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport. (i) Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors or family members of competitors in B.A.S.S. events that will be cause for penalties as outlined in this document. • Heated public disagreements with B.A.S.S. officials, other

competitors and fans and volunteers during an event. • Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of B.A.S.S. rules or officials. • Public comments that an angler or family member knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of B.A.S.S., B.A.S.S. officials or its sponsors • Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators and the media, are present. • Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels. • Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors or others connected with a B.A.S.S. event, including on social media. • Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers. • Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler's ability to compete. Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from competition and rejection of an application for participation in a B.A.S.S. tournament.

3. SAFETY

Boating safety must be observed at all times during practice and competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver must be on and fastened anytime the combustible engine is operative until the boat is trailered and the kill switch lanyard must be attached to the driver during competition day. It is suggested that this be practiced during any practice day but will be enforced only on competition day. A violation during a competition will result in a disqualification.

- a. For safety reasons anglers must be in the cockpit section of the boat while the combustible engine is in gear. The only two exceptions are for beaching a boat or leaving a beach position, or to assist in navigating a water way. It **IS NOT** an exception to be standing in any part of the bow section or stern section of a boat while the combustible engine is operative for the search of fish, to improve your fishing position or fishing while the combustible motor is in gear. A violation during a competition will result in a disqualification.
- b. **PASSING ON PLAIN and the WATER SAFETY ZONE:** Boat Captains are asked to use great caution when passing another boat on the water! Maine State Law reads as follows:
 - Water Safety Zone: means the area of water within 200 feet of any shoreline, whether the shoreline of the mainland or of an island.
 - Watercraft may not be operated at a speed greater than headway speed while within the water safety zone or within a marina or an approved anchorage in coastal or inland waters except while actively fishing. "Headway speed" means the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerage and control of the watercraft while the watercraft is moving. The operator of any watercraft must operate at a reasonable and prudent speed for existing conditions and regulate the speed of a watercraft so as to avoid danger, injury or unnecessary inconvenience in any manner to other watercraft and their occupants, whether anchored or under way. The operator must consider the effect of the wash or wave created by their watercraft to waterfront piers, floats or other property or shorelines.
 - Reckless Operation of a Watercraft: It is illegal to operate any watercraft, water ski, surfboard or similar device in such a way as to recklessly create a substantial risk of serious bodily injury to another person.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

All teams are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any team who displays poor sportsmanship, violates these rules, or any Department of Fish and Game, state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing is subject to disqualification upon the tournament director's discretion. MBT reserves the right to cancel membership at any time. MBT reserves the right to refuse service to anyone. Any citations from Maine Game Wardens will result in an automatic disqualification for that event and potentially the season. The tournament director's decision is final.

5. TOURNAMENT PROTECTION

Any act or inflammatory statement by any contestant that, in the opinion of the Tournament Authority, is detrimental to the bass tournament, damaging to organized bass fishing, to MBT, or any of its staff, sponsors, or to permitting agencies or their officers (such as park rangers, fisheries biologists, or other officials), during the practice rounds or tournament, may result in the temporary or permanent suspension from all future MBT events. **IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EACH CONTESTANT** to know these rules. A rules violation compromises the entire tournament field, not just your partner for the day.

6. BOATS AND MOTORS

There is a 250-horsepower limit for all vessels! All other boats will not be able to fish and teams entering a boat which are improperly powered will forfeit that day's entry fees and prize eligibility. All boats must be equipped with working live wells, navigation lights, kill switch and all other required safety equipment according to state law

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7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed and will be subject to disqualification. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rinds or mammals hide. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Eligible fish for the tournaments are smallmouth or largemouth bass that are a minimum of 12 inches or more in length. Only one (1) rod per angler may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat and ready for use, however, every cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is made. Official measuring board for MBT is the Golden Rule (flat board). **Only non-penetrating cull tags are permitted.** Any team caught using penetrating cull tags will have their days catch disqualified. Nets designed for landing fish are allowed.

8. PROTEST

All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director or President prior to the officials close the scales. This means once the tournament is over, it's over. You must have at least one witness to confirm the violation other than your partner. The Tournament Director will hear protests and the decisions of the Tournament Director will be final. You may however use photographs with date stamps.... i.e., cell phones to assist in your protest in lieu of a second party, boat. The director's decision will be final based upon the additional information provided.

9. SUBSTITUTION RULE

When a team first registers, the team identified on the registration form is the team for the tournament season. Teams are allowed 1 (substitution per team member) substitution in the season, after that teams may only substitute with a junior angler, the age of 16 years old or younger. There are several junior clubs in the State who can be contacted for parental contacts, if need be. Substitute anglers must meet the above eligibility requirements to fish for points. Teams may elect to have one angler fish or finish an event, if a suitable substitute can't be found, but may only hold 5 fish in the livewell.

9a – Substitutions are not allowed during the TOC for teams competing for the BASS TEAM Championship. Extenuating circumstance requests may be considered by the MBT tournament committee.

All team members must be in the boat in the morning, no exceptions.

10. OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats, including but not limited to our tournament staff boats, may be on the lake for boat inspection and observation during tournament hours. Each team is required to cooperate with all requests.

11. SCORING

Tournament Scoring: Each team may weigh-in seven (7) fish per day with a minimum of 12 inches in length (or per I&FW permit or lake rules). Fish will be measured on a Golden Rule (flat board) with the mouth closed. A courtesy bump will be provided at the request of the team. A penalty of .50lb per dead fish will be deducted from the total weight. It is the team's responsibility to properly dispose of their dead fish (see 13). Any team caught not following this may have their days catch disqualified. The Tournament Director has the final say regarding fish health. Any team bringing more than seven (7) fish to the scales will lose their largest fish for that weigh-in. Once the fish have been turned over to the weigh master, any short/dead fish cannot be returned without a penalty. Tournament standings will be determined by the total weight for the competition days of the tournament. Only largemouth or smallmouth bass will be scored. Any team weighing in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will lose that fish for that weigh-in. Fish intended to be weighed in for Lunker MUST be tagged prior to arriving at the weigh in sink. You are responsible for letting the weigh master know if you are interested in weighing in a big bass for the event. Each team is required to leave from and return to a specified checkpoint. Any team returning to the checkpoint late will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no weight will be allowed. If requesting a reasonable exception, the Tournament Director or President MUST be notified at least 15 minutes prior to weigh in. The Tournament committee will make a ruling on the request. Once you hand your fish to the weigh master, the bass will be weighed, and the contestant(s) are done for the day.

PRIZE PAYOUT: Prize money will be awarded following the weigh in at each tournament. One place will be paid out per 7 teams entered with a maximum of 10 places paid. \$10 from each entry will go towards the big bass pot. \$5 from each entry towards Team Championship and \$5 to the Maine Bass Nation. Teams are responsible for tagging their Big Bass when they are weighing in. Fish weighed for Big Bass must be alive. Tournament Staff can't help in identify the Big Fish. Winners are responsible for all taxes on any moneys or prizes won.

a. **Trail Scoring:** Trail scoring will be as follows for the MBT season for all eligible teams.

- a. The 1st place team in each event will be awarded 100pts. 2nd place 98pts, 3rd place 96pts etc. Up to 46th place at 10pts. In the event there are more than 46 teams, teams 47th on will receive 10pts.
- b. Lunker: The team that weighs the largest fish (lunker) for the tournament day will be awarded an additional 5pts.
- c. Limit: Any team that weighs in a LIVE LIMIT (all 7 fish ALIVE) during tournament day will be awarded an additional 5pts.
- d. No points may be transferred from one team to another.

- e. Each team with a trail score of **200pts** or more will qualify for the MBT Championship. Each team MUST fish a minimum of **3 (three)** MBT sanctioned events to qualify for the championship.
- f. Any team that wins an event is automatically qualified for that year's TOC so long as they fish a minimum of **3** events.
- g. Any team that fishes all **4** regular season events will be automatically qualified for the TOC.
- b. Bassmaster Team Championship**
 - a. MBT is a sanctioned trail of the Bassmaster Team Championship. Through this partnership, MBT can qualify 1 (one) team per every **25** (twenty-five) teams paid registration for the Bassmaster Team Championship. Awarded qualified positions defined below.
 - b. All expenses for the Bassmaster Team Championship are the responsibility of the qualifying teams
 - c. Qualification will go as follows:
 - i. 1st team = Points Champion
 - ii. 2nd team = TOC Winner
 - iii. All remaining qualification spots will come from points standings
 - iv. If the TOC winner does not accept their qualification, the spot reverts back to point standings.
 - d. MBT will collect a set amount from each entry to be put towards additional prizes. See payout schedule for details.
 - e. See BASS Team Championship rules for additional details.
 - f. Teams fishing the **2023** season are competing for **2024** BASS Team Championship.
 - i. Team Championship contract must be signed. See contract for details.

12. CULLING FISH

It is the responsibility of each team to keep no more than a maximum of 7 fish in a live well. If more than the legal limit is present in the live well during the event you will be subject to disqualification. You can cull a dead fish. You cannot cull a fish after checking in at the end of the event.

13. Fish Care

It is the responsibility of the tournament anglers to assure all fish caught are cared for properly, prior to being returned to the tournament waters. This includes venting a fish's bladder if required. Anyone observed releasing an improperly cared for fish or releasing a fish in a non-designated area are subject to disqualification. All dead fish must be returned to the lake and sunk to the bottom and not remain visible to the public.

14. PERMITTED FISHING WATERS

All fishing must be done from a previously inspected boat. Boats may not be trailered to and from weigh-in during tournament hours unless under the direction of the tournament director. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of a non-anchored tournament boat without that boat's permission unless specified during the tournament meeting by the tournament director. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with the trolling motor out of the water without the anchored boat's permission. Both team partners must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours unless arranged with the tournament director prior to the start of the event. Having a non-contestant sit in a hole for you (save your spot) will not be tolerated. Contestants cannot leave a boat to land a fish. Navigable waters are the only waters to be fished during the tournament. Contestants must be able to drive the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat. The practice of restricting the natural movement of fish by any means such as, but not limited to, the use of nets, tanks, or dams will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification. Restricting the access to waters normally accessible by all anglers, by any means such as, but not limited to the falling of trees or the construction of obstructions will not be allowed and will result in disqualification.

15. PRACTICE FISHING

There are NO "OFF LIMITS" dates during the regular season. You can fish the lake whenever the lake is open prior to the tournament. During the tournament, a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. These devices may be used for emergency purposes only or family calls. During the competition day(s) a contestant must not have the assistance or advice from anyone to locate bass except from another contestant in this tournament. Failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these rules will be cause for disqualification.

16. FISH TRANSPORT

Restricting natural movement of fish by any means such as but not limited to: use of nets, tanks or dams will result in immediate disqualification. Restricting access to waters normally accessible to anglers by any means such as but not limited to: felling of trees or placement of obstructions will result in disqualification. It shall be illegal to "seed" an area with live or dead baitfish or any other type of chum for the purposes of conditioning or congregating fish populations. Such action by participants or third parties acting on behalf of participants shall be grounds for disqualification.

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17. CONSERVATION

Conservation and safety are the primary concern of the MBT. Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide adequate aeration to maintain fish in good condition. It is also an expectation that anglers maintain their catch in an adequate weigh bag to protect their catch during the weigh in process.

18. WEIGH-IN

Any angler may request a one-time immediate "re-weigh" of their fish before leaving the scale area with their sack of fish. Once a sack of fish has left the scale area, the angler loses his right to request a re-weigh and any request of that nature will be denied. The new "re-weigh" weight will be the final weight used for the event.

- a. **LATE TO WEIGH-IN:** There is no excuse for being late to the weigh-in. Any contestants (and respective partners) caught returning to the check-in point after the official tournament deadline for their flight, will lose one pound per minute after the official end time of the tournament. After 15 minutes late, the team will be disqualified. In the event that a team has mechanical issues, it is their responsibility to contact the Tournament Staff immediately after the problem is identified. It is up to the Tournament Staff to remove late penalties, in this case. A team can have their catch brought in by another boat, with the understanding that one of the team members is with the catch and the fish have been separately identified.

19. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS

During tournament hours no contestant shall be under the influence of, or in possession of alcohol or any illegal substance in his or her boat. An infraction of this rule shall result in immediate disqualification for the offending party. No drugs other than prescription will be allowed in the boat or to be consumed while on the water.

20. TIE BREAKERS

If two teams have the same weight at the end of the tournament, the big fish will break the tie. Big fish must be marked prior to handing it to the weigh master. It is the angler's responsibility to ask to weigh a big bass in at every event. No one other than the weigh master or tournament official may handle the fish after the bag is handed to the weigh master. Any short / dead fish cannot be returned without a penalty.

- A. In the event of a total weight and lunker tie, the points will be awarded to both teams based on primary position.
 - a. If the tying team qualified for a payout, the 2 positions will be combined and split 50/50 amongst the 2 teams.
- B. In the event of a tie with Lunker, both the points and payout will be split 50/50.

RELEASE OF LIABILITY; INDEMNIFICATION

2.1. I expressly assume all risks associated with my participation in the tournament series and for myself, my executors, administrators, heirs, next of kin, successors and assigns, I hereby waive, release and discharge Maine B.A.S.S. Nation, its affiliates and subsidiaries, the hosts, sponsors and tournament series officials ("Released Parties") from any and all losses, liabilities, claims, damages and expenses (including without limitation, attorney's fees and related costs), of any kind (hereinafter "Claims") arising out of or in connection with my participation in the tournament series, including but not limited to Claims involving, death, disability, personal injury and/or property damage. I hereby INDEMNIFY, HOLD HARMLESS, AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the Released Parties for any and all Claims arising as a result of my participation in this Tournament. I acknowledge that this Tournament may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and personal loss. The risks may include, but are not limited to, those caused by water conditions, temperature, weather, equipment, actions of other people including, but not limited to, participants, volunteers, and spectators. This release of liability shall be construed broadly to provide a release and waiver to the maximum extent permissible under applicable law.

2.2. I shall indemnify, defend, and hold harmless the Released Parties against all Claims, whether or not a lawsuit or other proceeding is filed, to the extent that they arise out of : (1) my breach of the terms of this Agreement, (2) gross negligence, or willful misconduct by me, my agents or those acting on my behalf; (3) my violation of any applicable law, ordinance, rule, or regulation, including but not limited to all rules and guidelines applicable to tournament events; (4) breach of any warranty provided by me to Released Parties hereunder. I shall provide Maine B.A.S.S. Nation with prompt notice of any claim and give complete control of its defense and settlement to Maine B.A.S.S. Nation. I shall also cooperate in all reasonable respects with Maine B.A.S.S. Nation its insurance company, the Released Parties (as applicable) and their legal counsel in the defense of such claim. If I fail to promptly indemnify and defend a covered claim, the Released Parties shall have the right to defend themselves, and in such case, I shall promptly reimburse the Released Parties, for all of their associated costs and expenses

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MAINE BASS NATION TEAM TRAIL PAYOUT (SAMPLE)

THIS DOES NOT INCLUDE ANY ADDED FUNDS FROM SPONSORS. ANY DONATED FUNDS WILL BE ADDED TO THE PAYOUT.
PAYOUT PERCENTAGES MAY FLUCUATE DEPENDING ON PARTICIPATION.

50 BOATS @ \$125.00 = \$6250.00

SUBTRACT \$10.00 PER TEAM FOR LUNKER =\$500.00

SUBTRACT \$5.00 PER TEAM FOR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP = \$250.0

SUBTRACT \$5.00 PER TEAM FOR THE MAINE BASS NATION =\$250.00

BALANCE = \$5250.00

1ST = \$1710.00 32.5%

2ND =\$1210.00 23%

3RD =\$790.00 15%

4TH =\$550.00 10%

5TH =\$425.00 8%

6TH =\$310.00 6%

7TH =\$255.00 5%