

## **2023 NEVADA TBF OFFICIAL RULES**

**1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT:** The following rules will remain unchanged for the season, except for special tournaments pre-announced and conducted. Strict adherence is expected by all participants. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules is the exclusive domain of the designated on-site Tournament Director, and their decision shall be final in all matters and is not subject to appeal. Officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate for any infraction including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations (Boater or Co-Angler) may be cause for disqualification. Protests should be in writing within 30 minutes of final flight check-in time of each tournament day.

**2. PARTICIPATION:** Previously qualified anglers 16 years of age or older who are active members in good standing of TBF and the Federation through which they qualified are eligible. Any person under the age of 18 (19 in Alabama and Nebraska) entering must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the entry form\release, proof of age is the responsibility of the participant. Participation by anyone in any TBF tournament is at the sole discretion of TBF. Each TBF affiliated federation may advance a maximum of 10% of their annual in state participation numbers or minimum of 12 anglers (6 Boaters and 6 Co-Anglers) whichever is greater. It is each State Federations responsibility to manage that number to an equal number of Boaters and Co-Anglers. The top Boater and the top Co-Angler from each state in the final standings of each National Semi-Final will advance to the Federation National Championship. A second Boater and second Co-Angler will advance at each 50 participant mark (50 Boaters/50 Co-Anglers) from each state participating in the event. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters and all days to be fished. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament officials, is not able to safely compete for the entirety of the event without unfairly hindering their daily partner or endanger the safety and well-being of self or anyone shall not be eligible. Properly, fully completed official entry must be received BEFORE the event registration deadline date. **Officials specifically reserve the right to refuse participation, including championship or other special event participation, to anyone, for any reason.**

**3. ENTRY FEE, REGISTER & FORMAT:** The entry fee for the State Team Qualifying events is \$150 of which \$20 goes toward payout options for the overall win and \$5 toward big fish for each division (boater and non-boater). Additional payouts for 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> place finishers will be based upon the number of contestants in the division.

**No refunds apply at any time.** No refunds will be made nor will credit be extended, except in dire cases approved by NVTBF. Disqualification from this or any tournament for any reason could result in forfeiture of entry fee.

Event registration for all anglers will open 7 days before the event and will close on the Friday at 4 pm before the event. Tournament Officials reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline

**4. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE, ONSITE CHECK IN & COMPETITION:** Competition waters are open for fishing anytime. **Prior to the event, a competitor may not purchase or barter for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources)** nor may a contestant enter tournament waters with anyone who is deemed "expert" on tournament waters by tournament officials after this date, except (a) An immediate family member living the same household who is not deemed and "expert" or anyone who is a confirmed competitor in the same event. **The hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted 9 days before 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. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to marine band weather information.

**5. SAFETY & TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY:** Safe conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times. All participants are required and agree to wear a fully zippered fastened or snapped Coast Guard-approved type III or greater chest type personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is running. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day, restrict tournament waters or impose speed limits because of navigation, traffic, bad weather or any other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors or the public. In the event of a storm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from competition and seek safety or shelter until

it is safe to continue. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other. TBF will announce emergency contact numbers and instructions at the pre-tournament briefing. ALL the rules of this event, particularly the safety rules are the responsibility of BOTH contestants in the boat to personally verify and adhere to.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with officials. The "Federation" is the "grassroots ambassadors" of fishing, maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a participant in our efforts to promote sportsmanship, clean waters and conservation will not be tolerated and could affect eligibility to participate. Each competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field to help maintain the highest integrity of competition. Use of alcohol or any mind altering drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the event or use of alcohol until after you have weighed in will not be tolerated. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Any conduct prior to or during the event 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/or disqualification. Any disqualification discipline or suspension from any fishing organization may be grounds for rejecting any application for participation or disqualification. **Any violation of these basic sporting principles will be taken seriously.**

**7. PAIRINGS:** All Boaters and Co-Anglers will be paired by random draw. All contestants are responsible for contacting their assigned Boater or Co-Angler following the draw. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place AWAY FROM THE RAMP so you can be launched at least 30 minutes prior to the morning's takeoff. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners at any time. Once you are paired by the draw you must inform Tournament Officials if you cannot fish or fines and penalties will apply. A contestant must not allow any fish caught by them to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this and all future tournaments conducted by TBF.

**8. BOAT OPERATION:** Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-Anglers will fish from the back deck or seating area of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an emergency, Co-Anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard but may not fish anytime from the front deck. Boaters may NOT request that the Co-Angler not fish. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her Co-Angler and any Co-Angler who unfairly handicaps his/her Boater may be disqualified. Co-Anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day nor share information about their Boater's location or tactics with any other Boater.

**9. BOAT EQUIPMENT & SAFETY:** The safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH SAFETY DEVICE. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time 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. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer if required. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Changing or altering standard factory motor parts to increase horsepower over factory rated horsepower is forbidden and will result in disqualification. During any official practice or competition day(s) of any TBF event no contestant may operate a boat unless they have documented proof of an insurance policy with reasonable amounts of watercraft liability coverage on that particular boat and a valid expiration date. Proof must remain **WITH THE BOAT** during the entire event **RANDOM CHECKS MAY BE CONDUCTED AT ANY TIME**. Policy must be in full force covering the competitors in that boat, all dates of the event. NOTE: Statements of "*No fixed expiration date*" are NOT acceptable. All tournament boats are required to have in their possession all Coast Guard-required safety equipment, including but not limited to approved type III or greater chest type personal flotation devices, a type IV throw cushion, fire extinguisher, distress horn/flag/whistle, and display boat marker (supplied by tournament officials). Great Lakes, Canadian border or navigable water ways may also require and anchor and flares. In addition, each boat must have a functional bilge pump and live-well space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch by BOTH competitors using the boat. TBF recommends the use of live-well additives to promote the healthy release of all fish to their natural habitat. Further TBF recommends the use of ICE to cool live-well water and improve oxygen levels during "hotter" months.

The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate". Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in total length or longer, propeller driven and must have a rear deck, Boater's must make a back seat available to their Co-Angler if so requested. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Only gas tanks that are factory installed options or auxiliary tanks installed by a factory 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 properly secured or strapped in a boat, that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to all contenders and/or the public. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted.

**All tournament boats must be cleaned of all harmful exotic aquatic species prior to entering the water and upon departure from infected waters. CLEAN DRAIN & DRY.**

**10. BOAT CHECK & ID:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a live-well and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament official. TBF reserves sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner. There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament rules. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in until weigh-in slips have been issued. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

**11. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" will be permitted. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be in use or used at any one time. All other types prohibited. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal. No gaffs or grippers may be used to land bass nor be permitted in the boat at any time. Alabama rigs and other similar type baits will follow the most restrictive state laws covering any part of the tournament waters. **Boaters** will utilize the front storage compartments and the Boater will make available the back storage compartments for the Co-Anglers use. **Co-Anglers** are limited to a maximum of 7 rods as defined above rigged and ready for use in the boat.

**12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by Officials for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the tournament official. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: Any water within these tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, any live fish release area established by Tournament Officials will be Off-limits and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fish or a fishing location. Only water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to all contestants. Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The removal of official local, state or federal barricades or barriers at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited. The use of any type of block & tackle, rope, cable or similar type system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is prohibited. On tournament days, participants are prohibited from fishing except during designated tournament fishing hours. Participants should stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate to and from the check-in site and launch facilities, if repairs and/or a test-run are needed contact a tournament official first. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat and all boats must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No boats may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except by direction of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are only two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant, at which point all fishing must cease by all parties. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided that all contestants fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction between their catches to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Otherwise contestants must remain together and within sight of each other at all times. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted. However, ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, anytime partners are separated.

**13. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not at the official safety check in point as described above at the appointed check in time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that

day, including any "Big Fish Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." Return time shall be defined as off-plane no longer fishing and plainly visible by the official timekeepers.

**14. SCORING:** Boater and Co-Angler tournament standings, advancement positions and awards and final standings shall be determined by the individual official weight of each Boater and each Co-Angler separately. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties for boaters and three (3) of the above species and varieties for non-boaters, unless a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the Tournament Director. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest fish first, down to the stated limit. **The official length shall be 13" with the mouth closed.** Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall not be weighed and will accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of Tournament Officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a Tournament Official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to tournament officials, no one may alter nor add to their catch or return to their boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Fish must not be "stringered" at any time during the tournament. This would also include any device that would hold more than one fish in the live-well. Balance beams can be used for sorting fish but cannot be left attached to a fish in the live-well.

**15. CATCH AND RELEASE:** For each legal dead fish presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces, to be deducted from the total weight of that fish. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

**16. TIES:** In case of a tie for any position the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual with the largest live fish weighed-in during the competition.

**17. PROTESTS & TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS:** Anyone has a right to protest a contestant. Protests should be in writing within 30 minutes of final flight check-in time of each tournament day. IF it is a participant protesting another participant there will be a \$40 protest fee. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. Following interviews with concerned parties or truth verification testing if required, a final ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions occurred a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if so requested. If a protest is found valid, the disqualified party must pay all investigative costs. RANDOM and "FOR CAUSE" TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS CAN BE GIVEN AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT SEASON. **EACH COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON ANY ENTRY FORM, WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC and or by their participation in a TBF event, TO SUBMIT TO A TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST OR POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON and abide by the conclusion.** Failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification. The administration and interpretation of the truth verification test shall be the sole responsibility of TBF, and their agent(s), and shall be used (or not used) at their discretion. Without limiting anything herein, TBF shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such a truth verification test shall be administered, the individual who administers such a truth verification test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test and the determination of the meaning of the results. The participant shall be available, at their own expense, at the location stipulated and shall cooperate in all respects.

**18. PATCHES, SIGNAGE, MEDIA, & PROMOTIONS:** TBF has no intention to restrict the use of logos, patches or signage and encourages their use to promote your various supporters. Realizing we are in a TV \ media \ sponsorship field that MAY sometimes restrict the use of some signage TBF reserves the right to restrict the use of such signage in our promotional endeavors with as much advance notice as possible. Further all anglers agree to use any and all "Official" products, equipment or jerseys so specified and provided by TBF if asked to in our efforts to promote TBF, youth, conservation and clean waters, if applicable. **Smoking is NOT allowed in the weigh-in line, additionally, if you are being filmed for television no tobacco products may be used while filming.**

**21. PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING**

In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by The Bass Federation, (doing business as TBF) and/or FLW, Inc., (doing business as FLW), either jointly or separately, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that: The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and, I have been advised by TBF and/or FLW, and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and,

I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE BASS FEDERATION, INC. and/or FLW, INC. OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AGENTS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT (“RELEASEES”) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND,

I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; and,

I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

I agree to submit, by signature on this document, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination. Hereinafter known as a truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at TBF’s sole discretion, and administered by TBF or its agents. I understand that failure to pass the examination as determined by TBF will result in disqualification. I certify that the number shown on these forms is my correct taxpayer ID number.

Having fully acquainted myself with the tournament rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournament. In signing this application, and by my presence at the event, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, participant release of liability and safety regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament and I hereby release The Bass Federation, Inc., (TBF), FLW, INC. (dba FLW) and its parent, and affiliate companies, its licensees and affiliates, and all their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, and stockholders, the tournament hosts, tournament sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this tournament. If I am using a boat during the official practice or during the tournament, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having reasonable limits and covering the dates and my participation in all events I attend. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, video\audio productions and/or articles and press releases by TBF, FLW, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever. I am currently a member in good standing of my home state federation, an affiliated member club, TBF and FLW. I agree if I qualify for The Federation National Championship or any other event representing TBF to use any and all "Official" products and equipment so specified and provided, and be bound by the terms and conditions of a STATE or LIVING THE DREAM CONTRACT, if applicable.

The Participant signifies by their signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

