

FROM THE FRONT DECK

Greetings Utah BASS Nation Anglers—Just wanted to get a newsletter out to everyone to get the New Year started and ensure everyone is receiving the latest and greatest information .

- ◇ As we move forward into 2023 the UTBN will be changing the tournament format to compensate for the requirements coming down from BASS Headquarters and how they want all the states to operate. The old format had been in place with both BASS and the UTBN for the past 15 years and needed to be refreshed. Detail's can be found on pages 3 and 4.
- ◇ Please be mindful that we have had a great run since 2007 with rock solid leadership (Tom Nokes, Corey Jones, Rusty Bennet, Billy Ricker and Trevor Tippetts), which has lead to sound decision making over the years—lots of thoughts and discussions has been looked at and we believe the new format will be beneficial to all parties. Anglers will be reward for each days performance for both points and money, the overall pay-out totals will increase for both the boater and non-boater, and we will now have Anglers of the Year which will be determined off of overall consistency across all 6 events—much in the same fashion used by the BASSMASTER Elite series
- ◇ There may be a few hiccups and growing pains as we work through some challenges, if you see something that doesn't look or sound correct please let us know, if you need rationale on why we moved in this direction please reach out to us. It is your organization, your dues and you are the anglers fishing the events. We just herd the cats.

Tournament Locations

Everyone is aware of the drought conditions and the struggles the entire western region of the United States is dealing with—obviously this impacts our ability to host tournaments out of the #1 preferred location of Bullfrog Marina. We will continue to monitor the situation and do everything with in REASON to operate out of Bullfrog—but once we get into a window of decreasing water levels and usable boat ramp(s) and estimates by DNR and the Park Service that's when we have to start making decisions that impact EVERYONE. Changing of tournament permits, updating the National Parks and Utah DNR, hotel reservations, time off work, travel and fuel expenses, etc. all these variables come into the decision making process and need to be in place 30 days prior to a tournament starting. Perfect example was in Sep 2022 all projections and information that we gathered, projected that the ramp at Bullfrog was not going to be a usable option, so 30 days prior to the tournament we made the adjustment to head south to Page AZ. Of course hindsight is 20/20 and with a surge in late fall storms made Bullfrog doable but we do not have the luxury of waiting and making last minute decisions.

Utah BASS Nation 2023 State and National dues is now being accepted. Total cost of membership is \$50 and can be paid via PAYPAL, ([PAYPAL address is UTBN@outlook.com please send as a gift](mailto:UTBN@outlook.com)) VENMO ([Venmo address is @UT-BassNation.](https://venmo.com/UT-BassNation)) Check or Cash is also welcomed. The breakdown on your dues is \$20 goes to the UTBN and \$30 goes to B.A.S.S. Nation headquarters.





TOURNAMENT NEWS

Stateline Marina Lake Powell Page Arizona - October 2022

Day 1 of the Utah BASS Nation State Team Qualification Tournament kicked off with 16 boaters and 14 nonboaters competing for the remaining 10 coveted positions on the 2023 State team that will be competing at the Western Divisional in September 2023. Low water conditions and warm weather did not slow down the fishing and Tracy Myers got things started on the boater side with a five fish limit weighing 13.24 lbs., Riley Nielson was running a close second with 12.20 lbs. followed up by Tom Nokes with 11.75 lbs., Sam Page at 11.12 lbs. and Eric Inman at 10.80 lbs. On the Nonboater side of things newcomer Dave Ballou deposited a five fish limit of 10.28 lbs. onto the scales and staked his claim to first place, with Rick McLenon sliding into second place with 8.56 lb., followed up by Kenny Keovilayphone 8.50 lbs. and Wally Haltom with 8.20 lbs.

Day 2 found the weather conditions to be pretty much the same as on Day 1 and as always there was some movement on the leaderboard as anglers started getting the bite a bit more dialed in. Riley Nielson muscled his way into the lead with a 10.53 lb. limit, Trevor Tippetts cruised up to second place with 11.93, and Trace Myers sliding into third place with a 8.99 lb. limit. 4th place was anchored down by Bill Brown and 5th place by Eric Inman. Dave Ballou strengthened his grip on the nonboater side of things and stayed in first place with 9.75 lbs. with Wally Haltom trying to gain some ground with 8.30 lbs. Kenny Keovilayphone with 7.18 lbs. KC Simbro once again demonstrated his big fish prowess with a limit of 11.11 lbs. anchored by a 4.38 lb. largemouth.

Day 3 dawned with another flawless weather scenario consisting of calm winds and bluebird skies. Riley Nielson stayed consistent and put another 10.87 lbs. on the scales to retain his first place position, Trevor Tippetts with 11.17 locked down second place with Trace Myers holding on to third place with 9.37 lbs. On the nonboater side of things Dave Ballou completed the wire-to-wire win with 6.41 lbs. Wally Haltom closed out second place with 9.75 and Rick McLenon moving into third place with 10.49 lbs.

Congratulations to Riley Nielson, Trace Myers, Eric Inman, Tom Nokes, Sam Page, Rick Culver, Dave Ballou, Wally Haltom, Rick McLenon and Kenny Keovilayphone for making the UTBN 2023 State Team. Thanks to everyone that attended the event, and for supporting the Utah BASS Nation. This event had lots of new faces and that means things are still moving in a positive direction and highlights the fact that this is by far one of the strongest organizations in the west made up of great people and great anglers.

FINAL RESULTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 7



UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

2023 MUSSEL-AWARE BOATER PROGRAM test can be found at the below listed website and is a requirement for all boaters competing in Utah B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments

Utah Division of Wildlife Resources - Online Exams

<https://dwrapps.utah.gov/wex/dbconnection/jsp?examnbr+513276>





UTBN EXISTING TOURNAMENT FORMAT

2 Tournaments per calendar year, each tournament was 3 days long typically held in March and October qualifying 20 anglers towards the state team

- March Tournament qualified 10 anglers for the State team (6 boaters/4 nonboaters)
- October Tournament qualified 10 anglers for the state team (6 boaters/4 nonboaters)

20-person state team then competed at the Western Divisional

#1 boater and #1 nonboater at the Western Divisional advanced to the BASS Nation Championship and competed for 3 spots in the BASSMASTER Classic and 1 spot in ELITE series.

B.A.S.S. NATION CHANGES

B.A.S.S. has now directed each state to determine who their #1 boater and #1 nonboater are going to be, think Utah Angler of the Year (UT AOY).

- The Utah AOYs advance directly to the 2024 BASS Nation Championship
- There will be no more western divisional Tournaments as done in the past starting in 2024.

What B.A.S.S. will have instead of a 2024 Western Divisional Tournament, they will now host a REGIONAL TOURNAMENT that will be conducted at 4 different areas of the U.S.

- UTBN receives 10 each, guaranteed state team boater and non-boater slots to the 2024 Regional.
- UTBN state team members still receive all the sponsor discounts/benefits as in previous years.
- 2024 Regional Locations is still to be determined. Entry fee will be \$400 boater and \$200 nonboater
- Top 20 anglers (Boaters and non-boaters) from each Regional will advance to the 2024 BASS Nation Championship.
- Nothing has changed at the 2024 BASS Nation Championship – Up for grabs is an Elite series invite, 3 spots for the Bassmaster Classic, and opportunity to win boat and money, etc.



NEW UTBN TOURNAMENT FORMAT

Starting in 2023 this is how we will determine the 2024 UTBN State Team and UTBN AOYs

Hold 6 tournaments per calendar year, each tournament will be considered a stand-alone single day Tournament.

- Tournaments #1, #2 and #3 will be 17-19 March out of Page AZ and will determine 5 boaters and 5 non-boaters for the state team (based off total points for 3 days)
- Tournaments #4, #5, and #6 will be 27-29 October out of Bullfrog, UT and will determine 5 boaters and 5 non-boaters for the state team (based off total points for 3 days)
- Points are accrued for each finishing position starting at 100 pts first place, 99 for second place, 98 for third place, etc. for EACH tournament day. Total points accrued over the 3-days at March tournaments will determine ½ the state team members. The other ½ of the state team will be based off points accrued over 3-days at October tournaments.
- Each tournament day will be paid out as a single Tournament (*FOR EXAMPLE: If you win tournament #1 on 17 March you receive 100 pts and get paid, if you suck on tournament #2 on 18 March and finish last you get last place points and do not get paid, then you figure it out and finish third on tournament #3 on 19 March you get 98 points and third place money*).
- Positions paid will be determined by number of participants in the Tournament.
- State team members (5 boaters and 5 non-boaters) from each of the March and October tournaments will make up the UT State Team and be eligible to compete at the 2024 Regional Tournament
- UT AOYs will be determined based off total points accrued from all 6 tournament days.
- #1 boater and #1 non-boater will be considered UT AOYs and advance directly to the 2024 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.

2023 TOURNAMENT DATES

Tournament #1 Friday, 17 March, Lake Powell, Page AZ

Tournament #2 Saturday, 18 March, Lake Powell, Page AZ

Tournament #3 Sunday, 19 March, Lake Powell, Page AZ

Tournament #4 Friday, 27 October, Lake Powell Bullfrog Marina, UT

Tournament #5 Saturday, 28 October, Lake Powell Bullfrog Marina, UT

Tournament #6 Friday, 29 October, Lake Powell Bullfrog Marina, UT

NOTE: Tournament locations are subjective to change depending on water level and boat ramp conditions



UTAH B.A.S.S. NATION STATE TEAM TOURNAMENTS #1, #2 and #3 Stateline Marina, Lake Powell March 17-19, 2023

ENTRY FEE'S AND ENTRY FORMS MUST BE SENT IN TOGETHER.

Option pots may be paid at the pre-tournament meeting.

☐ Boater Entry Fee \$300.00
☐ Big Fish Option \$30.00
☐ Big Creel Option \$30.00

TOTAL PAID _____

New Tournament Format for 2023
- Every tournament day will be treated as a separate event and will pay out for each days performance. Points will be accrued and counted towards Angler of the Year

See tournament rules at www.utbfn.net for

☐ Non-Boater Entry Fee \$150.00
☐ Big Fish Option \$30.00
☐ Big Creel Option \$30.00

TOTAL PAID _____

Boater Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____
EMAIL Address _____
B.A.S.S. # _____ Club _____
Signature _____
Boat Insurance Carrier and Policy # _____
Emergency Contact Name and # _____
Utah DNR Quagga Mussel Certificate # _____
Boat Hull ID/ Registration number _____

Non-Boater Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone # _____
EMAIL Address _____
B.A.S.S. # _____ Club _____
Signature _____
Emergency Contact Name and # _____

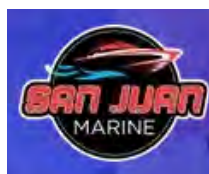
SIGNATURE ON THIS PAGE CONSITUTES THE FOLLOWING

1. That you have read, understand and agree to abide by the 2023 UTBN Tournament Rules as posted at www.UTBfn.net
2. As a participant in this tournament that you expressly assume all the risks associated with this tournament and hereby release BASS, the Utah BASS Nation, it's officers, the host, all participants and all tournament officials from all claims of injury or damage incurred with this event.
3. All boaters in the event must complete the Utah DNR on-line quagga mussel awareness training and have a copy of the certificate displayed on the dash of there tow vehicle and present a copy to the Utah DNR when requested. Training can be completed at the following web address <https://dweapps.Utah.gov/wex/dbconnection.jsp?examnbr=513276>
4. That you will complete and return the RELEASE OF LIABILITY waiver with your entry form.
5. That you will complete and return an IRS Tax form 1099 prior to receiving any monies or tournament winnings from the UTBN

Sign up with a non-boater to guarantee the use of your boat. Entry Forms must be received no later than 6:00 p.m. on 15 March 2023, Make checks payable to the Utah BASS Nation. Returned checks are subject to a \$25 return fee. **ENTRY FORMS can be mailed to Billy Ricker, 1449 North 1825 West, Clinton UT 84015 (801-499-0080) or email at utahbassnation@gmail.com. PAYPAL or VENMO is accepted for payment of dues, entry fees and option pots. PAYPAL address is UTBN@outlook.com please send as a gift. Venmo address is @UT-Bass Nation.** **No late entry forms or late sign ups will be accepted at the pretournament registration meeting without prior approval.**

- All anglers must be off the lake no later than 2:00 on 16 March 2023. Registration and Pre-Tournament meeting will be at the Damn Bar & Grill, 644 N. Navajo Drive, Page AZ on 16 March 2023, check-in, and payment into option pots starts at 3:00, raffle starts at 3:30 and the pre-tournament meeting and first days partner pairing starts at 4:00 p.m.

- To be eligible for the 2024 Utah B.A.S.S. Nation State Team you must be a current member of the following : The B.A.S.S. Nation and the Utah B.A.S.S. Nation, you also need to have an active subscription to BASSMASTER magazine prior to the start of the tournament. This event is a random draw tournament. Guests may fish this event if there are open spots at an additional cost of \$15.



RELEASE OF LIABILITY -- READ BEFORE SIGNING

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the Utah B.A.S.S. Nation program, its related events and activities, I, _____, the undersigned, acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

1. The risk of injury from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular skills, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,
2. I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL SUCH RISKS, both known and unknown, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES or others, and assume full responsibility for my participation; and,
3. I willingly agree to comply with the stated and customary 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 attention of the Company immediately; and,
4. I, for myself and on behalf of my heirs, assigns, personal representatives and next of kin, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS THE B.A.S.S. Nation and Its Member Clubs; B.A.S.S., LLC and B.A.S.S. Events, LLC, their officers, officials, agents and/or employees, other participants, sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used for the activity ("Releasees"), WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, or loss or damage to person or property, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES OR OTHERWISE, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND ASSUMPTION OF RISK AGREEMENT, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY INDUCEMENT.

x _____ Age: _____ Date Signed: _____
PARTICIPANT'S SIGNATURE

FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION)

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my child and our heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

x _____ Date Signed: _____
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE (print name)

NOTE: This is a SAMPLE WAIVER/RELEASE FORM only. Final wording should be as directed by the insured's counsel, but observe the principles represented within the above.



UTBN BOATER	DAY 1 # fish	weight	big fish	DAY 2 # fish	weight	big fish	DAY 3 # fish	weight	big fish	total fish	total weight
Riley Nielsen	5	12.20	3.83	5	10.53		5	10.87		15	33.60
Trevor Tippetts	5	8.94		5	11.93		5	11.17		15	32.04
Trace Myers	5	13.24		5	8.99		5	9.37		15	31.60
Bill Brown	5	9.36		5	8.57		5	13.14	3.92	15	31.07
Eric Inman	5	10.80		5	9.11		5	10.71		15	30.62
Tom Nokes	5	11.75		5	10.02		5	7.14		15	28.91
Sam Page	5	11.12		5	7.44		5	9.64		15	28.20
Rick Culver	5	8.59		5	8.50		5	10.38		15	27.47
Joe Paez	5	5.84		5	12.02	4.53	5	9.22		15	27.08
Marc Caldwell	5	6.25		5	11.80		5	8.74		15	26.79
Billy Ricker	5	8.60		5	7.92		5	9.36		15	25.88
Tyler Ivie	5	6.70		5	9.69		5	8.81		15	25.20
Tom Wennerlund	5	7.44		5	10.68		5	6.96		15	25.08
Jaxon Gochis	5	8.16		5	7.73		5	6.73		15	22.62
Randy Pierson	5	6.96		5	6.68		5	8.14		15	21.78
Wayne Welchel	3	2.93		5	6.88		5	7.05		13	16.86

* Trevor Tippetts and Bill Brown previously qualified for UTBN 2023 State Team at spring tournament

UTBN NONBOATER	DAY 1 # fish	weight	big fish	DAY 2 # fish	weight	big fish	DAY 3 # fish	weight	big fish	total fish	total weight
Dave Ballou	5	10.28	3.04	5	9.75		5	6.41		15	26.44
Wally Haltom	5	8.20		5	8.30		5	9.75		15	26.25
Rick McLenon	5	8.56		5	6.53		5	10.49		15	25.58
Kenny Keovilayphone	5	8.50		5	7.18		5	8.26		15	23.94
Ted Grove	5	7.18		5	6.75		5	9.56	3.36	15	23.49
KC Simbro	3	4.44		5	11.11	4.38	5	6.99		13	22.54
Mandy Myers	4	6.19		5	6.71		5	8.98		14	21.88
John Piper	3	2.88		5	10.02		5	8.65		13	21.55
Kurt Gale	4	4.69		5	7.90		5	8.37		14	20.96
Curtis Butler	5	5.44		5	7.13		5	7.21		15	19.78
Paul Swan	5	6.57		3	4.59		3	4.04		11	15.20
Zac Ortiz	1	1.32		5	5.59		5	7.82		11	14.73
Josh Thalman	3	2.45		4	4.98		5	6.28		12	13.71
Trent Perry	5	7.27		3	3.25		2	2.96		10	13.48