

Utah B.A.S.S. Nation Official Tournament Rules — 2024

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

To be eligible to participate in the UTBN State Team qualifying tournament and qualify for the UTFBN State Team, you must be a current member in good standing of the following:

- B.A.S.S. (which is a subscription to the B.A.S.S. magazine*)
- B.A.S.S. Nation (which is National dues, \$30 annually*)
- Utah B.A.S.S. Nation (which is State dues, \$20 annually)
- Member of a Utah B.A.S.S. Nation Club.

All of the above criteria's must be completed and dues paid in full prior to the start of a qualifying tournament to be eligible for the UTBN Angler of the Year and UTBN State Team.

- Must be 16 years of age or older.
- Guests may fish the tournament by invitation only from an affiliated Utah B.A.S.S. Nation club. Guests should pre-register and may enter all Options pots available (i.e. Big Fish and added purse). Guests are not eligible for a place on the state team. A \$15.00 associate member fee will be charged to all guests.
- Tournament Director reserves the right to refuse guests entry forms.
- The state team will be comprised of 20 anglers, of these 20 positions the break-down is 10 boaters, 10 non-boaters. Fulfillment of positions on the state team will be based on results from three separate state team qualification tournament set. Each tournament set (tournament 1-3 or 4-6) is considered as a qualification event, there are no points or weights to carry over except for Angler of the Year consideration.

- State team member

- The positions on the state team will be determined upon the completion of each tournament as follows:

Tournament #1 Bullfrog Marina, Lake Powell, UT 22-24 March 2024

The top 5 boaters and top 5 highest finishing co-anglers are guaranteed positions on the state team (10 positions total). Positions are as follows: State Team Boater Positions 1-5 = Top 5 finishing boaters

State Team Non-Boater Positions 1-5 = Top 5 finishing non-boaters

Tournament #2 Bullfrog Marina, Lake Powell, UT 25-27 Oct 2024

The top 5 boaters and top 5 highest finishing co-anglers are guaranteed positions on the state team (10 positions total). Positions are as follows: State Team Boater Positions 6-10 = Top 5 finishing boaters

State Team Non-Boater Positions 6-10 = Top 5 finishing non-boaters

- All boat operators must have \$300,000 of boat liability insurance in effect at the time of the tournament(s); the policy must show an effective “START and EXPIRATION DATE”. Tournament officials have sole responsibility to determine if insurance policies meet the specified requirements.

- UTAH B.A.S.S. NATION ANGLER OF THE YEAR

- Angler of the Year (AOY) for both the boater and nonboater division will be determined off total points awarded, based off finishes in all 6 UTBN tournaments.

- AOYs will earn a direct berth to the B.A.S.S. National Championship

2. ENTRY FEES AND ENTRY FORMS:

- Entry Forms will be submitted by each contestant on an official entry form. The form must contain each entrant’s name, B.A.S.S. membership number, B.A.S.S. Membership expiration date, boater or non-boater status, and applicable fees.

- The official entry form shall be the only registration accepted and if at all possible received by the Tournament Director by the given deadline date posted on the entry form. One (1) check for the total amount of entry fees made payable to the Utah B.A.S.S. Nation from each individual shall accompany the official entry form.

- Entry fee’s must be submitted at the same time as the entry form or the Tournament Director has the right to reject the entry form. Option pot payments may be paid at the pre-tournament meeting.

- It is each individual’s responsibility during the pre-tournament check in to confirm and validate with the tournament director the applicable option pots they are signed up and paid for.

- Entry fees will be One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) per Boater per qualifying tournament, Fifty Dollars (\$50.00) per Non-boater per qualifying tournament.

- All entry forms and the release of liability waiver must be received prior to the posted deadline.

- Late registration will not be accepted at the pre-tournament meeting.
- It is the boater's responsibility to sign up with a non-boater to guarantee the use of their boat. It is the non-boaters responsibility to sign up with a boater to guarantee them a spot in the tournament.
- If a contestant that has paid an entry fee into the tournament elects to not show up to the event or backs out of the tournament prior to the pre-tournament meeting – there may be a 25% handling fee deducted from the entry fee before the refund is issued.
- A Pre-tournament meeting will be held the evening prior to the tournament start. All contestants must attend this meeting, or make arrangements with the tournament director, to get partner's name, blast-off order, and meeting place. Tournament hours and partner pairings will be announced at this time. Location of the pre-tournament meeting will be posted on the UTBN website and shown on the entry form.

3. CUT-OFF and OFF-LIMITS:

There are no cut-off rules for the tournaments except as follows:

- On State Team Qualifying tournaments, the official Pre-Fish will begin at safe light conditions 3 days prior to the first tournament day, and will end at 2:00 pm on the day of the pre-tournament meeting.
- During the Official pre-fish days you may only fish with another tournament contestant or family member.
(Example: Prior to the start of the official pre-fish you may fish with whomever you want, for as long as you want. Once the official pre-fish begins then you must fish with a tournament contestant or a family member).
- During the official pre-fish or during the tournament a competitor may not skin dive or scuba dive in the tournament waters.
- Once the official pre-fish begins you may not solicit or receive information from anyone except another tournament contestant. Violation of this rule is grounds for disqualification without a refund of any tournament fees or option pot monies.
- Once the pre-tournament meeting begins, fishing or scouting of the tournament waters is prohibited except during the tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament meeting.
- Testing of engines after the weigh-in is only allowed with the permission of the Tournament Director or UTBN leadership representative.

- The tournament director at the pre-tournament meeting will announce the OFF-LIMITS/NO FISHING AREAS.

4. SAFETY:

- Safe boat conduct and all rules must be observed at all times by tournament competitors both during the official pre-fish period and throughout the tournament.

- Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his/her fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification.

- Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP:

- Competitors in Utah B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation issues. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

- Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter, or prescribed by a licensed physician) by the competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification for this and all future Utah B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments.

- Any competitor deemed drunk or incoherent at the ramp the morning of the blast off shall be disqualified immediately and from all future Utah B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments, also authorities will be contacted at that time for further disciplinary actions.

- Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regards to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, which reacts unfavorably upon the effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification.

- NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SHALL BE ALLOWED IN THE BOATS OR IN THE WEIGH-IN AREA.

- Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon the efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- Only artificial lures may be used. No “Live Bait” or “Prepared Bait” will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc.
- Only ONE casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod (8 foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in boat ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time.
- All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner.
- When visually fishing for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked.

7. BOAT AND MOTOR:

- All boats must meet BIA requirements. No overpowered boats will be allowed. Maximum engine horsepower allowed is 300 H.P.
- For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. This ignition kill device must be attached to the driver’s body anytime the combustion engine is operating.
- Fishing boats may be used that are 15 feet or more in length. A small motor, gas or electric may be used for slow maneuvering.
- Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. No barges or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted.
- The Tournament Director or Tournament Committee reserve the right to determine a boats serviceability and eligibility for use in the tournament

8. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

- Every boat must have all required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and LIVE-WELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE, A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH FISHERMAN USING THE BOAT. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is “proper and adequate”. Boat owners with one live-well must provide a method to identify each angler’s catch. CAUTION: State law prohibits tagging fish or clipping of fins. Pinning is allowed provided pins are removed before weigh-in.

9. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

- Each boat MUST be given prior to each tournament day start an inspection check by a tournament official (functioning bow and stern light, Tournament ID band and empty live wells). You are responsible for ensuring your drain plug is installed.

10. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

- The boat operation is done solely by the boater at no time is the non-boater to operate the boat unless there is an emergency situation or the boater permits them

to do so (this pertains to driving the boat; not operating an electric trolling motor).

- Any contestant who, in the judgment of the tournament officials, who operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap his partner may be disqualified (do not front-end the non-boater).
- It is highly recommended that the details of the competition day between the boater and non-boater be discussed and finalized prior to the start of the official tournament day. Topics in this discussion should include but are not limited to expenses for gas and oil, fishing locations, etc. Work out all the details before the tournament day begins so it is not a problem at the end of the day.
- In view of the large expense involved in operating and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is recommended that the non-boater share one-half of the cost of gas and oil for the competition day.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

- Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director at each tournament.
- No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him, to the exclusion of any other competitor.
- Any water within these boundaries posted OFF-LIMITS or NO FISHING by State or Federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Director will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament briefing.
- Water deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No Boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing.
- Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants. Host marina will be off limits as will, launch, and boat recovery area.
- The Tournament Director may alter this area as competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing any object in the tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.
- Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of any tournament rules. Failure to report violations or suggestions to another competitor that they violate these rules or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.

12. CONTESTANT MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

- Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must depart and return to official checkpoint by boat and must check in at the end of the tournament day regardless if they are weighing in or not.
- Both competitors must remain in the boat at all time, except in case of dire

emergency. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be scored in the tournament. If a competitor **MUST VIOLATE ANY OF THE ABOVE CONDITIONS** (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament.

- A competitor may bring in their bass and partner's bass in another boat in such an emergency that the boater cannot leave his boat for whatever reason. The bass must be plainly marked and segregated by means of weigh bags.
- If after the emergency situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitors to resume fishing, a **RE-START** will be allowed the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only in dire emergency situations.
- Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of tournament officials.
- Boats shall not be trailered until after the contestants have weighed their daily catch.
- *If the need should arise, person(s) may leave the boat for use of a restroom.

13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

- There shall be only one official point for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. This point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out, all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in, all boats shall identify themselves by their assigned boat number and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, and tags must be turned in at check-in.

14. SCORING:

- Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each competitor's catch during the competition days of the tournament. Only largemouth and smallmouth bass will be weighed.
- The daily limit shall be five (5) of the above mentioned species and varieties per day, or a special limit established for a particular tournament by the Tournament Director, in which case the state limit, or special limit, shall be tournament limit.
- All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the states in which they fish. At no time shall a competitor have reduced to possession of more than the limits described above (Cull Down before leaving). Tournament

officials may conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above- described limits to possession, shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described.

- There shall be no culling of bass within the check-in area Any competitor who enters weigh-in area with more than a legal Tournament limit, shall be penalized their largest Fish plus one pound.

- Culling of dead fish is strictly prohibited.

- The tournament director or his/her designees may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water; however they are not allowed to receive ice from non contestants.

- The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be twelve (12) inches on Lake Powell.

- Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on a “Golden Rule” flat Board with mouth open and swished tail shall be weighed.

- All Fish will be released alive after the weigh-in if possible, with a minimum distance of at least 1/2 mile from the weigh-in site. A trophy bass may be kept, but it must be claimed and so designated by the competitor at the weigh-in.

- Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor.

- Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament director.

- Each competitor must present their catch to the weigh-in officials, and the angler must certify the weight of catch for that day. Once a competitor’s catch is presented to a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been measured, counted, weighed and recorded.

- Bass must not be strung at any time during the tournament. It has been determined that stringing decreases the chances of a bass’s survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified.

- The UTBN will furnish weigh bags (when possible) and these bags must be used for weigh-in.

15. DON ’T KILL YOUR CATCH:

- Each competitor is expected to keep bass alive by use of a properly aerated live-well. The few bass, which do not survive must be kept by the applicable angler to comply with state laws.

16. PENALTIES:

- The tournament director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.
- For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized two tenths of a pound to be deducted from his daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.
- Dead fish cannot be weighed in as an anglers “big fish”

- Competitors who are not in the official check-point area as described in Rule 13 at the appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of catch that day, including any weight to be counted toward a “lunker award”, for each one (1) minute a competitor is late.
- Any competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day’s catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up “lost time”.
- After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in.

Penalties for rules violations may include the following

- Reduction of competition hours as determined by the tournament director
- Loss of one or more fish in question. All such fish must be marker verified by either your partner or observer, If not verified the entire catch may be disqualified
- Loss of catch for the day of the violation
- Disqualification from the tournament in question
- Disqualification from future UTBN or B.A.S.S. events, which may be from a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or may be a lifetime disqualification.
- Any different or additional penalties determined by the Tournament Director

18. TIES:

- In case of a tie, the total number of fish weighed-in will break the tie; Overall Big Fish will be used to break further ties.

19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS:

- Two (2) contestants will be assigned to each boat wherever possible, no contestants from the same locale will be paired nor shall two competitors fish together more than one day.
- Announcement of fishing partner shall be made at the pre-tournament meeting, which must be attended by each competitor. It is suggested that the partners make every attempt to locate each other the night before the tournament day they are assigned together.

- It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with sufficient time remaining to checkout at the official checkpoint and start on time.
- Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. It is suggested that a minimum of thirty (30) minutes is required for preparation to depart to the checkout point.
- When two contestants check-out at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day until the weigh-in is completed except in case of dire emergency (See Rule 12.)
- A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this tournament and all other UTBN events in the future.
- No boats will be sent out with only one (1) competitor or with three (3) competitors unless absolutely necessary because of breakdowns or uneven pairings
- In the event that two boaters are paired with each other, it shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use and a basis for sharing operation expenses. If the partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Director shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.
- During draw event tournaments if a boater is unable to compete due to equipment malfunction then any non-boater guests fishing the event will be taken out of the tournament. If there are no guest non-boaters, than the non-boater that signed up with the boater will be taken out of the tournament. This is at the Tournament Directors discretion after all alternate options have been reviewed. Entry Fees may be refunded or prorated depending on number of days remaining in the event.

20. ADDITIONAL RULES

- None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated tournament official (Tournament Director, UTBN President or Vice President) from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the "warm-up" period or the competition days.
- No transmitting devices will be allowed during tournament hours for the purpose of passing or receiving information about fishing activities or fish locations. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, notes; etc.
- Protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 30 minutes of weigh-in each day.
- A guest boater will forfeit the use of their boat, in the event of excess boats at a tournament. (Entry fee will not be refunded, if the guest boater backs out of the tournament).

- A guest non-boater will not be allowed to compete in the event of excess non-boaters. (Entry fee will be refunded).
- In the event that a tournament participant must leave/depart from the tournament prior to the conclusion, express permission shall be obtained from the Tournament Director or a Tournament Official, and this is to ensure that the remaining contestants or tournament field remains balanced. If the contestant leaves without permission from the above-mentioned officials then this contestant may be prohibited from all future Utah BA.S.S. Nation events.
- If a contestant is disqualified for a rules violation their entry fee and option pot fee's will not be refunded.
- It is the contestant's responsibility to attend the tournament awards ceremony, all disputes in regards to standings and cash awards including option pots shall be brought up at this time. Upon conclusion of the awards ceremony all decisions in regards to cash awards and option pot payouts are final. The Tournament Committee (Tournament Director, President, Vice President and Treasurer) reserve the right to adjust the UTBN State Team and standings only if there is an error; we will not recoup or repay any monetary differences after the conclusion of the post tournament awards ceremony. It is highly recommended that you keep each tournament day's weight slip to help resolve any misunderstandings.
- All contestants' in UTBN events where prizes/monies are distributed are required to fill out and give to the UTBN a W-9 prior to the awarding of any prizes/monies. Refusal or falsification of the W-9 form will automatically prohibit person(s) from competing in any UTBN event.
- Carrying or having extra fuel in a portable container in the boat or placement of extra fuel along the shoreline is prohibited. Boats will only be allowed to use fuel tanks installed at the factory during the assembly of the boat.

Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to Tournament Officials. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director and officials may impose such sanctions as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibited from participation in subsequent UTBN tournaments. The decision of the Tournament Director and officials shall be final in all matters. If you have questions on any of the above stated rules it is your responsibility to get clarification prior to the start of the tournament.