

**SPONSORING**  
**WAWASEE**

**MOORE BOATS**

Ligonier, IN



**SPONSORING**  
**CROOKED**

**THE ANGLER BAIT & TACKLE**

Helmer, IN



**SPONSORING**  
**St. JOE RIVER**



Mishawaka, IN

**NORTHERN BASS**  
**TOURNAMENT TRAIL**

<b>DATES</b>	<b>ENTRY * DEADLINE</b>
4-22-12	Wawasee 4-15-12
7-15-09	Crooked 7-8-12
8-26-12	Shafer 8-19-12
9-30-12	St. Joe River 9-23-12
10-14-09	Tippecanoe 10-7-12

This is a DRAW tournament circuit. Angler / Co-Angler.

An Angler who enters by the deadline and provides a Co-Angler (who also enters by the deadline) will receive a guaranteed entry and will be drawn with a Co-Angler. Co-Anglers who enter by the entry deadline with an Angler (Who also enters by the deadline) will receive a guaranteed entry. All others will be taken in order of entry (first come, first served). **A completed entry form and entry fee must be postmarked no later than the published deadline for each tournament.** Late entries (**CASH ONLY**) will be accepted, except with a full field. Late entries (**CASH ONLY**) must be accompanied with a **\$10.00 nonrefundable service fee** and submitted no later than 5:00 pm the day before the tournament. Refunds or transfers must be requested no later than Friday before each tournament.

**ENTRY FEE**  
**\$160 ANGLER**  
**Includes \$10 Big Bass Pot**

**ENTRY FEE**  
**\$80 CO-ANGLER**  
**Includes \$10 Big Bass Pot**

**2012**  
**NORTHERN BASS**  
**TOURNAMENT TRAIL**



Visit the Indiana Bass Federation  
web site  
[www.indianabass.com](http://www.indianabass.com)

**CONTACT:**  
Mitch Hayes  
(C) 219-716-4808  
[candyman@rtcol.com](mailto:candyman@rtcol.com)

**MAIL ENTRIES TO:**  
**NORTHERN BASS TOURNAMENT TRAIL**  
1603 Ewing Rd.  
Rochester, IN. 46975

1.) **RULES:** These rules shall remain unchanged throughout 2012. Interpretation and enforcement of Northern Bass Tournament Trail rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director. Tournament directors may impose sanctions as deemed appropriate for rule infractions without limitation e.g., disqualification, forfeiture of prizes, entry fee and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Federal, state, local and lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede Northern Bass Tournaments rules when in conflict and not subject to appeal.

2.) **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation is open to anglers who are 15 years of age or older. All Angers under the age of 18 will require written permission from a legal guardian. We recommend that each competitor be a member of an IBF Club, TBF and FLW. **If not an IBF Club member there will be a \$10 membership fee.**

3.) **ENTRY FEES:** Angler entry fee is \$160 which includes Big Bass pot. Co-Angler entry fee is \$80 which includes Big Bass pot. The CLASSIC has the same entry fees for both Angler and Co-Angler

4) **REGISTRATION:** An Angler who enters by the deadline and provides a Co-Angler (who also enters by the deadline) will receive a guaranteed entry and will be drawn with a Co-Angler. Co-Anglers who enter by the entry deadline with an Angler (Who also enters by the deadline) will receive a guaranteed entry. All others will be taken in order of entry (first come, first served). **A completed entry form and entry fee must be postmarked no later than the published deadline for each tournament.** Late entries (**CASH ONLY**) will be accepted, except with a full field. Late entries (**CASH ONLY**) must be accompanied with a **\$10.00 nonrefundable service fee** and submitted no later than 5:00 pm the day before the tournament. Refunds or transfers must be requested no later than Friday before each tournament. Anyone with a returned check will be charged an additional service fee of \$40. Each competitor must register in person during the official Registration hours. Failure to register during the prescribed hours will result in a 2-pound penalty assessed to the competitors catch for the tournament or disqualification if the pairing has started.

5.) **PAIRINGS:** Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of the fishing partners will be made at the pre-tournament meeting. **Pairings will start 45 minutes before the start of the tournament.** Any competitor who is not present when their name is called for pairings will be disqualified. Any competitor who refuses to fish with assigned partner shall be immediately disqualified and shall forfeit their entry fee. Partners must stay within sight of each other and each others' catch throughout the day. If more Anglers than Co-Anglers are entered in the tournament, **excess** Anglers **will be** paired together. They both fish as Anglers but it shall be their responsibility to determine whose boat shall be used. A flip of a coin will decide it if agreement cannot be reached other-wise. If more Co-Anglers are entered that Anglers, excess Co-Anglers may change to Anglers status by paying the difference in entry fee or their entry transferred or refunded without service charge.

6.) **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** During Registration, Pairings or tournament hours no alcoholic beverages or narcotic drugs may be consumed or allowed in the boat while on the water, except prescription medications.

7.) **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All entrants in Northern Bass Tournament Trail must follow standards of sportsmanship, safety and conservation at all times. Displaying of poor sportsmanship and bringing unfavorable publicity to the Northern Bass Tournament Trail and to the sport of bass fishing shall be grounds for disqualification. No ladders, platforms, or standing on seats and/or motors shall be allowed for the purpose of fishing or locating bedding fish.

8.) **SAFETY:** Boating safety must be observed at all times during practice and competition. A U.S. Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver must be on and fastened any time the combustible engine is operative and the kill switch must be attached to the driver.

9.) **BOATS & MOTORS:** There is no horsepower limit; however, no engine may exceed the BIA horsepower rating for the boat in use. All boats must be 16 feet in length and meet US Coast Guard and state regulations. All boats must have an emergency kill switch. All boats must have an aerated livewell suitable to sustain two tournament limits in releasable condition. Extra gas tanks must be secured and must meet US Coast Guard specifications.

10.) **TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Intentional snagging of fish will not be allowed. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait permitted with the exception of pork rinds. Liquid fish attractants are allowed. Only one (1) rod 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. Rods may not exceed eight feet in length. The use underwater cameras are not allowed during competition. The official measuring board of Northern Bass Tournaments is Gator Grip (Aluminum). It is recommended each bump board be check against the Official boards.

11.) **OFFICIAL BOATS:** Officials boat(s) may be on the water for boat inspection, observation and filming during tournament hours. Entrants shall cooperate with all reasonable requests from official boats.

12.) **SCORING FISH:** Each competitor may weigh in five (5) fish per day with a minimum of 12 inches in length, unless state or lake limits are greater, measured on a flat board with mouth closed and tail compressed. Any angler weighing-in a fish shorter than the legal tournament length will be assessed a one (1) lb. penalty plus the loss of the short fish. Any angler bringing more than five (5) fish to the scales will be disqualified. A penalty of 1.00 lbs. per dead fish will be deducted from the total weight. Only largemouth, spotted, smallmouth bass will be scored. Any boat returning to the checkpoint late will be DISQUALIFIED. No Grace Time.

13.) **CULLING FISH:** It is the responsibility of each competitor to keep no more than a maximum of five (5) fish in a live well. If more than five fish are present in the live well during the event you will be subject to disqualification. No culling is allowed in the host marina.

14.) **CONSERVATION:** Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat. They must provide aeration to sustain a limit of fish in a good and releasable condition as possible.

15.) **OFF LIMITS PERIOD:** Northern Bass Trail does not impose an "Off limits period" however, all competitors must be off the tournament water by 5:00 pm the day before the tournament. Clarify this rule with your tournament director.

16.) **PERMITTED FISHING WATERS:** All fishing must be done from a previously inspected boat. No tube or wade fishing allowed. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of a "Gas dock". No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boat's permission. Both competitors must fish from the same boat. Only contestants may be in the boat during the tournament hours. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall not be tolerated. Boats may not be traileered to weigh-in during the tournament hours unless under the direction of the tournament director. Contestants must be able to get the boat into the fishing area without getting out of the boat. Navigable waters are the only waters to be fished during the tournament. Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish. 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 shall not be tolerated and will result in immediate disqualification. Restricting the access to waters normally accessible to anglers by any means such as felling of trees or placement of obstructions will result in disqualification

17.) **POLYGRAPH:** All contestants are subject to a polygraph testing. Failure to submit is grounds for disqualification. Any contestant who has failed a polygraph test for cheating in a bass tournament is not eligible to compete in Northern Bass Tournament Trail. Polygraph and voice stress testing are preformed at the discretion of the tournament director

18.) **CHAMPIONSHIP POINTS:** Qualifying will be based on a point and pound format beginning with 100 points for first place and descending down by one 1) point per place. In each event "First Place" will receive 100 points plus their weight, e.g., 1st Place = 100 points + 20.50 lbs. = 120.50 points, 2nd Place = 99 points + 20.00 lbs. = 119 points. This procedure will be followed for all competitors weighing fish. The lowest team having weight will be the last points given bases off the point's structure. All remaining competitors that fished but did not weigh fish will receive one-half (½) of the next place after the last weighing teams' points. Example: The last team weighing fish in a 45-boat field ended at 40th place with 2.0 lbs. They would receive 60 points + 2.0 lbs or 62 points. The remaining 5 teams without weight would receive 29.5 points each (59/2 = 29.5).

19.) **CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFYING:** You must fish all four (4) regularly scheduled tournaments during the year to qualify for a Classic berth based on points system.

- 20 or less boat average will qualify 15 Anglers / Co-Anglers.
- 21 - 25 boat average will qualify 20 Anglers / Co-Anglers.
- 26 - 30 boat average will qualify 25 Anglers / Co-Anglers.
- 31 - 60 boat average will qualify 30 Anglers / Co-Anglers.
- 61 - 101 and above boat average will qualify 40 Anglers / Co-Anglers.

20.) **INSURANCE:** All boats used in the Northern Bass Trail must carry a minimum of \$300,000.00 liability insurance and must have upon request a certificate of proof of insurance

## **TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

### ***MOORE'S BOATS, Ligonier, IN.***

**April 22 .....Wawasee ... Syracuse Ramp... 7am – 3pm**

### ***The ANGLER BAIT & TACKLE, Helmer, IN***

**JULY 15 ..... Crooked . County Park \$5 fee .. 6am – 2pm**

**AUGUST 26 ..... Shafer . Indiana Beach \$5 fee.... 6am – 2pm**

### ***STARBOARD CHOICE MARINE, Mishawaka, IN***

**SEPTEMBER 30 . St. Joe River ..... DNR \$5 fee. 7am – 3pm**

## **CLASSIC**

**OCTOBER 14 .... Tippecanoe . Tippy Hall \$5 fee.8am – 4pm**

## **NORTHERN BASS TOURNAMENT TRAIL**

**ANGLERS ENTRY FEE: \$160  
BIG BASS INCLUDED**

**Co-ANGLERS ENTRY FEE \$85**

**BIG BASS INCLUDED**

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:**

**Northern Bass Tournament Trail**

**1603 Ewing Rd.**

**Rochester, IN. 46975**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOURNAMENT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**1. CURRENT MEMBER YES / NO**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Company** \_\_\_\_\_ **Policy #** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. GUARANTEED PARTNER'S NAME**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SSN:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_

#### **PARTICIPANT AGREEMENT, RELEASE, AND ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF RISK**

In consideration of Northern Bass Tournament Trail allowing me to participate in this tournament, I acknowledge and agree as follows:

1. I have read and understand the description of the tournament and the Official Rules of this tournament. I will obey all rules and understand that any violation may result in immediate disqualification without refund of my entry fee. I also understand that tournament officials may reject my application for any reason and in that event will refund my entry fee.
2. I understand and acknowledge that competitive fishing is a dangerous sport, the risks of which include, though not exclusively, drowning, collisions in the water, and injuries from hooks and other fishing paraphernalia. I voluntarily assume responsibility for these risks, identified and not identified, and all risk of injury or death or damage to myself, or my property or to others, including spectators and their property, arising from my participation in the tournament.
3. I hereby release, discharge, and agree to hold harmless and indemnify Northern Bass Tournament Trail its shareholders, officers, directors, agents and employees, the host, sponsors and tournament officials, and it's partners, agents or employees, and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament from any and all liability, claims, demands, actions or rights of action which are related to, arise out of, or are in any way connected with my participation in this tournament, including specifically but not limited to the negligent acts or omissions of Northern Bass Tournament Trail, it's shareholders, officers, directors, agents and employees, the host, sponsors and tournament officials, and it's partners, agents or employees and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament, for any and all injury, death, illness or disease, and other damage or loss to property suffered by myself or others. In signing this document, I acknowledge and agree that if anyone is hurt or property is damaged while I am engaged in this event, I will have no right to make a claim or file a lawsuit against Northern Bass Tournament Trail, it's shareholders, officers, directors, agents or employees, the host, sponsors, officials and all other persons or entities associated with the tournament, even if they or any of them negligently caused the bodily injury or property damage.
4. Any suit brought by me against Northern Bass Tournament Trail, as a result of my participation in this tournament will be brought in state or county court in Fulton, County, where the principal office of Northern Bass Tournament Trail, is located. Should it become necessary for Northern Bass Tournament Trail, or someone on its behalf, to incur attorney's fees and costs to enforce this agreement, or any portion thereof, I agree to pay the reasonable costs and attorney's fees thereby expended, or for which liability is incurred.
5. I have sufficient health, accident and liability insurance to cover any bodily injury or property damage incurred by myself or others as a result of my participation in this event. If I have no such insurance, I represent that I am capable of paying for any and all such expenses or liability.
6. I have no past or present medical or psychological condition that might affect my participation in the tournament in such a way as to cause harm to myself or others.
7. I give Northern Bass Tournament Trail permission to use my name and photograph for promotional purposes. I agree to submit to and accept the results of the polygraph test given at this event.

My signature below reflects that I have read this entire document, understand it completely, understand that it affects my legal rights, and agree to be bound by its terms. References herein to "I", "my", "myself", and other first person references shall include any child or ward for which I sign.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Parent, if minor \_\_\_\_\_

**Director Use Only:** Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash or Check # \_\_\_\_\_