

Serving Indiana in Youth, Conservation and Community Service



## 2018 BY-LAWS & TOURNAMENT RULES

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JANUARY . JUNE 9	16
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# Constitution & Bylaws

## THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE INDIANA BASS FEDERATION

THESES REVISIONS WERE APPROVED ON DECEMBER 7 2013

### **ARTICLE I: NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the **Indiana Bass Federation** “*hereinafter referred to as the “Federation.”*”

### **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES**

The purpose and objectives of this organization are as follows:

1. To serve as an organization in which the individual clubs in the state of Indiana affiliated with a national bass organization may unite to the benefit of their common interest and causes.
2. To act as an agency to assist member clubs in whatever manner deemed practical and beneficial. The Federation shall not infringe upon member clubs contrary to their autonomous entity.
3. To act as an agency between the national bass organization and member clubs in the Federation in whatever matters deemed practical, necessary and beneficial to both parties.
4. To assist and cooperate with the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, U. S. Forest Services and U. S. Fish and Wildlife and their agencies in matters mutually beneficial.
5. To become politically and legally involved in such matters that are not consistent with the goals of a national bass organization and the Federation which may arise on a national, state or local level.
6. To preserve and further the sport of bass angling by actively becoming engaged in the areas of environment, pollution and youth participation.
7. To promote, organize and conduct an annual Indiana Bass Federation tournament or tournaments in a manner consistent with the format and rules of the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated to determine the members of a team to represent the state of Indiana at any national bass organization tournament held by a national organization to which the Federation is affiliated.
8. To promote, assist and facilitate the formation of additional bass clubs to become affiliated with a national bass organization and the Federation.

### **ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP**

1. All Clubs affiliated with a national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated and whose principal meeting place is within the state of Indiana are eligible for membership in the Federation, subject to Section 5 and proper payment of all applicable dues and assessments.
2. Individual members of such clubs as stated in Section 1, automatically become members of the Federation.
3. Each club shall be represented by one (1) of its members, who must be a member in good standing and shall be entitled to only one (1) vote on each Federation issue. This does not preclude the attendance at said meetings by additional members of the same club.
4. Should a club of the State Federation decide to drop its membership, it may do so at any time by written request to the state and the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated.

5. Any club and/or member may be dropped from membership in the Federation for reasons which are not consistent with the policies of the Federation.
6. The Federation does recognize the establishment of Junior Bass Clubs.

#### **ARTICLE IV: DUES AND MONIES**

1. The decision to assess member clubs dues, may be made by a 2/3 majority vote of those Federation representatives present at the next general meeting; after a 30 day written notice has been issued to the Federation member Club.
2. The Federation may accept monies from the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated using said monies as indicated by the national organization.
3. Monies may be derived from the sale of Federation patches and decals.
4. Monies may be derived from special projects which may be sponsored by this organization. Such projects must be consistent with the goals and policies of the organization and approved by the Board of Directors of the Federation.
5. Monies in excess of cost in the operation of Federation tournaments or special programs shall revert to a designated fund only for said tournament (s) or special program.
6. Under no circumstances shall the Federation accept monetary or in kind assistance from individuals, businesses, corporations, government agencies, or any other donors, if there is prima facie evidence that the goals of these entities are contrary to those of the organization.
7. Upon dissolution or liquidation of the corporation, any assets of the corporation remaining after payment of all liabilities and obligations of the corporation shall be distributed only to one or more non-profit organizations engaged in activities similar to those of this corporation.

#### **ARTICLE V: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

1. The Federation will be composed of four voting Directors from each zone as selected by the Federation membership from that zone. Directors shall be selected from members in good standing in the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated and of an affiliated Federation club in the state. **A Director may not simultaneously serve in the role as an Officer of the Federation.**
2. Zones may elect (1) SUB-DIRECTOR per district. A SUB-DIRECTOR is able to participate and vote in Board of Director meetings
3. It will be the duty of the Zone Directors to convey the business of the clubs which he represents to the Board of Directors, and in turn, relay the business of the Board of Directors to the affiliated Clubs Zone Directors shall serve a term of two years. There are no term limits.
4. Selections of Zone Directors shall be the responsibility of the agents of each club within the zone. Club agents will be one individual designated by his club to represent them.
5. Should a Zone Director/Sub-Director prove unsatisfactory in the position, he may be removed by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board. Should the position of Director be vacated by removal, death, illness, transfer or any other means, an election shall be held immediately to fill the vacant position for the remainder of the term. It will not be counted as a full term; therefore, he may be re-elected for additional terms should his Zone so choose.
6. Upon accepting a Director's position, the individual assumes certain obligations and expectations. He or she is expected to be active and involved in the many facet of the organization. A Director should be willing to:
  - a. Attend all Board Meetings representing his Zone's concerns: including a minimum of four (4) Board Meetings per year, usually in February, July, August and December as well as all Additional meetings that may be called by the President from time to time.
  - b. Act in concert with other Zone Directors, to arrange, schedule, and attend the Zone Meetings of his or her Zone. Directors of each Zone are required to offer four (4) such meetings per years.
  - c. Assist, guide and advise or possible conduct the District Top-8 Qualifying tournament, the State Final, and Invitational Tournaments. He or she may also be called upon to solicit prizes for these events.

- d. Help coordinate or assist in Federation special projects.
- e. Maintain personal contact with the Clubs within his Zone and assist them as needed. An equal number of Clubs should be assigned to each Director of the Zone to alleviate duplication and to ensure adequate contact.
- f. Encourage clubs to be involved and active in Federation programs.
- g. Solicit advertising for the Federation's newsletter.
- h. Assist clubs in receiving proper recognition for their projects and public service functions that reflect favorably upon the Clubs and the Federation, i.e. local media, newsletter, etc.
- i. Select a Top-8 Tournament Director with the approval of the Board of Directors. Upon approval of the Board, the Tournament Director will select a tournament crew and with the support of his or her zone director shall plan, organize and operate that zone/district Top-8 Tournament. With the information and documentation received from the Federation Secretary provided however that all such Federation Top-8 Tournament Rules. It will be the primary duty of the tournament committee to so conduct its affairs that only honor, integrity, sportsmanship and the highest ideals of fair play will accrue, and thus to each and every member of the Indiana Bass Federation.

A Director wears many hats. He is an avenue of information, a facilitator, a solicitor, decision-maker and a worker. It is imperative that prospective candidates be made aware of these expectations and that Club Representatives actively seek the best possible candidates for their Director positions.

7. The Board of Directors will convene at least quarterly to conduct the business of the Federation, Additional meetings will be held at the discretion of the President. The Board of Directors shall biannually elect, by secret ballot, the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The President shall then appoint from the Federation membership: Chairman for the Conservation Committee, Tournament Committee, Youth Activities Committee, Budget Committee and any Special Committee.
8. A member seeking election as a Zone Director must be in good standing of the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated and a member of an active affiliated club of the Federation as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. A member-not-in-good-standing may not petition for reinstatement as a member-in-good-standing, until at least one (1) year after he or she has been determined to be a member-not-in-good-standing by the Board of Directors.
9. All Zone Directors present shall be entitled to vote on all matters before the Board, the President voting only in the case of a tie vote.
10. Zone Directors will be installed at the Annual February meeting and serve a TWO year term or such additional time as necessary for a successor to be elected.

#### **ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS**

1. The nominations and elections for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be conducted at the last scheduled board meeting of each year, with the new officers to be installed at the February Board meeting the following year.
2. A nominee for an Officer position must be a member in good standing of the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated and in an active affiliated club of the Federation and of the Federation itself as determined from time to time by the Board of Directors. A member-not-in-good-standing may not petition for reinstatement as a member-in-good-standing, until at least one (1) year after he or she has been determined to be a member-not-in-good-standing by the Board of Directors. An Officer may not simultaneously serve as a member of the Federation Board of Directors.
3. A nominee for President must have served one year on the Board of Directors in order to be elected or have assumed office due to a vacancy.
4. A nominee for Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer must have served one year on the Board of Directors, have actively participated in a major project of the Federation, or otherwise demonstrated active interest in the efforts of the federation.
5. Officers shall be installed at the Annual February meeting and serve a TWO year term or such additional time as necessary for a successor to be elected.

6. The President shall preside over all meetings of the Board or special meetings of the Federation; direct all official business; supervise all Federation activities; appoint and be an ex officio member of all Standing and Special Committees; be an official representative of the Federation in the relationship of other organizations; delegate such duties as may be appropriate to better serve the Federation; maintain liaison with the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated. The President shall appoint from the Federation membership a Chairman for the Conservation Committee, Tournament Committee, Youth Activities Committee, Budget Committee and any Special Committee he or she deems appropriate..
7. The Vice-President shall assist the President upon request; preside in the absence of the President, assume the office of President should it be vacated.
8. The Secretary shall record accurate minutes of all board and general membership meetings. Maintain regular correspondence with all member clubs; provide Board of Directors with accurate up to date Club rosters. Receive all charters and Top-8 entry forms and monies. Forward all monies to Treasurer with accurate documents. Arrange for all board meetings and disseminate appropriate notices.
9. The Treasurer shall receive and distribute all monies upon approval of the board or upon the direction of the President. Maintain accurate financial records and report accordingly at each board meeting. Submit a quarterly financial report for the board.
10. Any officer may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Board upon 30 days prior notice.

#### **ARTICLE VII: FEDERATION GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRICTS**

1. The Federation shall be divided into four geographical zones. Each zone may be sub-divided into districts.
2. These geographical Zones shall be Zone 1, 2, 3, 4.
3. The dividing lines of these zones shall be as follows:
  - a. Zone One: The Indiana State line on the west, north, east and the southern county lines of the following counties: Benton, White, Carroll, Howard, Grant, Blackford, and Jay.
  - b. Zone Two: The Indiana State line on the west, southern boundary of Zone One on the North, the northern boundary of Zone Four to the south, U.S. Highway 31 and State Highway 135 continuous at their intersection on the east.
  - c. Zone Three: The Indiana State line on the east, the southern boundary of Zone One on the north, the northern boundary of Zone Four on the south, and the eastern boundary of Zone Two on the west.
  - d. Zone Four: The Indiana State line on the west, south, east and the northern county lines of the following counties: Knox, Davies, Martin, Lawrence, Jackson, Jennings, Ripley and Dearborn.
4. The normal meeting place of a club shall determine its Zone designation. Said club shall remain its initial Zone even though its normal meeting place might subsequently be changed to another Zone.
5. Should the geographical location of a club be such that there is a question as to its Zone designation, the Board of Directors shall assign said club to a Zone.

#### **ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS**

1. There shall be two (2) state meetings of all clubs representatives, one in February and another in December. Exact time and place of these meetings shall be at the call of the President. Each club will be required to make one (1) of at least two (2) required state meetings within a calendar year.
2. Each club will be required to attend two (2) zone meetings and one (1) district meeting within a calendar year. Meetings attended by a club will NOT count towards this requirement until said club's dues to the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated, and Indiana Bass Federation have been paid in full.
3. There shall be four (4) Board of Directors meetings, one each just prior to the above mentioned general meetings, and one at the time of the Federation tournament (finals) of each calendar

year. Exact time and place of these meetings shall be at the call of the President. A quorum of at least two-thirds of the Directors must be present before any Federation business may be conducted.

4. Special meetings, either general or of Directors, may be called by the President or at the request of any three members of the Board of Directors. Exact time and place shall be at the call of the President or the Directors requesting such meeting.

#### **ARTICLE IX: STANDING COMMITTEES; PURPOSES, DUTIES**

1. The President shall appoint the following Standing Committees, and such other special committees as may become necessary. Terms of appointment to Standing Committees shall be two years or less. To be eligible for appointment, a committee candidate must be a member in good standing of the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated and a Club affiliated with the Federation.
  - a. State Conservation, Natural Resources Director (SCNRD): The purpose of this position shall be to protect our natural environment from harmful change; to document and report to the proper authorities violations of local, state and federal anti-pollution laws, statutes, regulations, ordinances and other regulation devices; to take political action where appropriate; to undertake information and educational programs. To bring to the club and/or membership a great awareness of threats to our environment; and above all, to take a leadership role in repairing harm that has already been done to the life giving waters of America.
  - b. Indiana Bass News Publication: The purpose of this position is to collect information from the Federation, Clubs, Invitational Tournaments and Charity Tournaments, to be laid out in the I.B.F. publication, produced six times per year. Also, to work with advertisers to help with the printing cost of the publication.
  - c. Youth Director: As the state youth director, you are responsible for all youth activities that come before the Federation. You are to advise and assist the Clubs and members involving youth activities. As the youth director, with presidential approval, you may appoint sub-directors to help with youth events as may be supported or endorsed by the Federation and/or the national organization to which the Federation is affiliated.
  - d. Invitational Tournament Director. The purpose of this position is to establish, with Board approval, a six invitational tournament series, to be known as the I.B.F. Invitational Trail, whereby invitational entrants fish for cash and points towards a seventh tournament, known as the Forrest L. Wood Classic, where the qualifying entrants, as determined by the rules of said invitational tournaments fish a two day tournament for a prize package to be determined by the tournament director.
  - e. Public Relations Director: The purpose of this position shall be, to attempt to promote and create favorable public opinion of the Federation, Clubs, and membership by using the media or whatever means, so as to create favorable relations with the general public.
  - f. Web Coordinator: The purpose of this position shall be to coordinate the posting of news, information, and approved advertising on the Federation's website.
  - g. Past President Advisor: The purpose of this position is to take advantage of the wisdom and expertise of a past Federation president by appointing a former president of the Federation to advise the current President as to matters important to the Federation and the member Clubs.

#### **ARTICLE X: CLUB RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Clubs retain their own unique identity. The Federation does not and will not interfere with Clubs' internal affairs. As long as the club maintains its membership in good standing and adheres to the ideals of good sportsmanship in conservation and adheres to the contractual agreements, if any, with the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated, the Club is acceptable for affiliation with the Indiana Bass Federation (I.B.F.) To maintain its affiliation in good standing the I.B.F. requires each Club to adhere to the following requirements:

2. General Membership meetings: There are two (2) General Membership meetings of all Club Representatives each year, one in February and the other in December. Each Club is required to be represented at one (1) of these two (2) meetings within a calendar year.
3. Zone Meetings: The directors of each Zone are required to offer at least four (4) Zone/District Meetings within a calendar year for those Clubs within their Zone/District. Each Club is required to be represented at a minimum of two (2) of these meetings.
4. Each Club is entitled to one (1) vote at the State Membership and Zone/District meetings. Therefore, each club should appoint a representative to attend said meetings and exercise their right to vote on behalf of the Club's membership. This one vote rule does not preclude the attendance at such meetings by additional members of the same Club.
5. Club Membership Roster: Each Club is responsible for keeping its membership roster up-to-date with the Federation Secretary and the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated. The addition or deletion of individual members should be made as they occur. The Federation Secretary prior to February 1 of each year must receive a current membership roster.
6. Dues and Assessments: Each Club is required to submit yearly dues plus an assessment. A check for the proper amount must accompany the Club's Membership roster and be received by the Federation Secretary prior to the February due date. Meetings attended will not count until all assessments are paid in full.
7. Proof of Boater Insurance: Any boater participating in a Federation and/or Club sanctioned event must provide current proof of liability insurance showing the following:
  - a. Minimum amount of insurance as required by the Federation and/or the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated:
  - b. Name of insured
  - c. Name of insurance company
  - d. Description of boat
  - e. Policy effective dates

It is the individual Club's responsibility to insure that a current proof of insurance is on file with the Club Secretary.

#### **ARTICLE XI: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the Robert's Rules of Order-Revised shall govern this organization in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws.

#### **ARTICLE XII: AMENDING OF BYLAWS OR CONSTITUTION**

1. These Bylaws may be amended at any duly called general meeting of the Club representatives by two-thirds vote of those representatives present, providing a written notice of the proposed change, or changes, has been presented to each Club not less than thirty days prior to the annual meeting.
2. Any amendments to these Bylaws are subject to approval by the member Clubs in accordance with this Article and shall be provided in writing to the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated.

**THIS IS THE END OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
OF THE INDIANA BASS FEDERATION**



**TOP-8 QUALIFIER AND STATE FINALS RULES**  
**APPROVED FOR 2018 SEASON ON APRIL 17, 20184**

**A. GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. **KNOW THE TOURNAMENT RULES:** It is responsibility of each participant to read and understand the Top-8 Qualifier and State Finals Rules (hereinafter referred to as the %Tournament Rules+.
2. **RULE CHANGES:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The INDIANA BASS FEDERATION (hereinafter referred to as %IBF+) Board of Directors may amend or modify these Tournament Rules by a majority vote. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director named to run the Top-8 Qualifier and \or the State Finals Tournaments.
3. **RULE INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT:** It shall be the obligation of the Tournament Director to follow these Tournament Rules. In those instances where no specific Tournament Rule exists, the Tournament Director shall use his best judgment in making discretionary determinations. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments.
4. A Tournament Committee official shall always have the right to approach or board any competitor's boat at any time during the practice (if any) or tournament day to check for compliance with any of the aforementioned rules.
5. The decision of the Tournament Director and Tournament Officials shall be final in all matters.

**B. TOP-8 QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT:**

1. **WHO MAY FISH:** Every IBF club in good standing shall be given an opportunity to fish in a Top-8 Qualifier Tournament if they meet all of the requirements outlined by the IBF Board Of Directors.
2. Club members must be sixteen (16) years or older to compete in the Top-8 Qualifier as well as the State Finals.
3. Any member who is not on the club roster before the deadline for the roster to be turned in will not be eligible to fish Top-8 Qualifier that year.
4. All persons fishing in the Top-8 Qualifier shall be members in good standing of the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated itself, as determined from time to time by the Board of directors of the IBF pursuant to its Constitution and Bylaws.
5. There shall be a tournament entry fee, which shall be determined by the IBF. The tournament entry fee, along with a completed roster, shall be in the hands of IBF Secretary by the date established by the Directors. Incomplete rosters(s) will be returned to the Club(s). Only timely completed forms with proper payment shall be acceptable.
6. A club may send as many eight (8) person teams as it desires.. Any person listed on the club roster that was submitted prior to the deadline may participate as an alternate so long as each team separately meets the requirements set forth herein. Those requirements include that:
  - A. All members are on the roster of their club and are in good standing with the IBF\TBF;
  - B. Any additional teams must also pay a separate additional entry fee;
  - C. All members have submitted a roster approved by the Secretary indicating the team as an additional team with a particular club
7. Alternate (s) may participate should one or more of the original eight (8) be unable to do so. Unless authorized by the zone prior to the commencement of their Top-8 Tournament or the State Finals Tournament that they host, an alternate may not substitute for another contestant once the tournament is underway. In the event that a Zone authorizes substitution of alternates after the tournament has

commenced, the substituted alternate's weight shall count toward the alternate's individual and the alternate's team weight.

8. Only the names on the roster will be eligible to fish the Top-8 Tournament originally scheduled by the Board of Directors. Once the entry is turned in there will be no substitutions or alternates allowed after the cut-off date for entries to be turned in for the originally scheduled tournament. In the event that the date of an originally scheduled tournament is changed, each club may submit an amended Top-8 roster by the date and time determined by each affected District or Zone.

9. Eligibility to fish the Tournaments shall be determined by the Roster from the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated, updated the last Friday of March and the records of the IBF Secretary **unless a later date is established by the Board of Directors**. You must be listed on these rosters to be eligible to fish in the Tournaments. In case of discrepancies, a National Federation Card may be accepted. Each Zone will be sent a copy of the rosters for their Zone. A contestant may be registered by another individual at registration.

10. Each contestant must be registered with the Tournament Director or appointed committee member at the designated time and place. Late registration will result in disqualification.

11. If a club presents an unequal number of boaters or non-boaters to Top-8 registration, that club must adjust their Top-8 roster to reflect an equal number of boaters to non-boaters. (i.e. 1 boater - 1 non-boater, 2 boaters to 2 non-boaters, 3 boaters - 3 non-boaters.) This applies both days. This rule may be altered to allow an unequal amount of boaters to non-boaters by a 2/3rds approval vote of clubs present at the respective Zone meeting, for which the Top-8 locations are selected in each zone. The odd number of boater or non-boater shall be required to have a non-participating observer in the boat during tournament hours and witness the anglers weigh in.

12. Any person, persons or club that enters the Top-8 Tournament who commits a violation or has knowledge of a violation of the Top-8 Tournament rules and does not report the violation to the Tournament Director then and in the event, said person, persons or club will be disqualified indefinitely from participation in any Federation-affiliated event upon the decision of the Board of Directors.

13. The Tournament Director shall not fish as a contestant.

14. DETERMINATION OF VENUE OF TOURNAMENTS: The Districts and Zones shall determine how many Top-8 Qualifying Tournaments are necessary for their Zone and where their District/Zone tournaments shall be conducted.

15. Any District/Zone may fish any place in the state except on dates on waters selected first by the home District/Zone.

16. Top-8 Qualifying Tournaments shall be completed by the end of June and the paper work shall be immediately sent to the State Finals Tournament Director.

17. ADVANCEMENT TO THE STATE FINALS: The number of persons from each District/Zone Top-8 Qualifier who qualify to fish the State Finals shall be equal to two (2) times the number of Teams entered in that tournament. However, in the event that an uneven number of teams fish the District/Zone Top-8, the next highest qualifier shall also be sent to fish the State Finals so that all Districts/Zones send an even number of persons to fish the State Finals.

FOR EXAMPLE: If twenty (20) teams are entered in a District/Zone's Top-8 Qualifier; the top forty (40) anglers from that District/Zone's Top-8 Qualifier shall be eligible to fish in the State Finals. If ten (10) teams are entered in a District/Zone's Top-8 Qualifier; the top twenty (20) anglers from that District/Zone's Top-8 Qualifier shall be eligible to fish in the State Finals.

18. In order for a contestant to qualify for the State Finals, they must weigh in fish **at the Top 8 Tournament**. There will be no drawing in order to fill the slots available to a zone-qualifying tournament.

FOR EXAMPLE: If a zone has 20 teams fishing the qualifying tournament and only 10 contestants weigh in fish, only those contestants will be sent on to the final fish-off.

19. The top eight (8) Anglers in points at the end of the IBF Invitational Trail's six tournaments are invited to fish the next year's State Finals as a Boater as long as they are a member of a club that fished the Top-8 program in the prior year. The top eight (8) Co-Anglers in points at the end of the IBF Invitational Trail's six tournaments are invited to fish the next year's State Finals as a non-boater as long as they are a member of a club that participated in the prior year's Top-8 program.

20. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT: In addition to qualifying to fish the State Finals through the Top-8 Program, the top finisher who does not otherwise qualify for the IBF Tournament Trail Forrest L. Wood Classic, shall be granted an Angler spot in the IBF Tournament Trail Forrest L.

Wood Classic and shall pay the entry fee for a 40<sup>th</sup> Angler spot. The second top finisher of each of the Top-8 tournaments conducted by each District/Zone who does not otherwise qualify for the IBF Tournament Trail Forrest L. Wood Classic, shall be granted a Co-Angler spot in the IBF Tournament Trail Forrest L. Wood Classic and shall pay the entry fee for a 40<sup>th</sup> Co-Angler spot.

### **C. STATE FINALS TOURNAMENT:**

1. There shall be a final fish-off tournament known as the State Finals.
2. The Tournament Rules below apply to the State Finals; with the exception that there shall be a practice day on the Friday before the State Finals tournament. Participants may be on the water starting ½ hour before sunrise on Friday, the day before the State Finals starts. Participants must be off the water prior to the start of the meeting.
3. Zones shall equally rotate hosting the State Finals starting with Zone 1, then Zone 2, then Zone 4 and then Zone 3.
4. The lake site of the State Finals shall be determined by the host Zones Directors and the host Zones Directors shall name a Tournament Director.
5. A tournament pre-drawing will be done with numbers assigned or names (if enough time is allowed) to insure individuals would be paired from different zones. One Director from each Zone should be in attendance. This tournament is for the people in your respective Zone.
6. If a qualifier does not show up at the pairings meeting, their position shall be filled by the person in attendance who is the highest finisher from the missing qualifiers Zone who caught at least one (1) fish in the missing qualifiers Zones Top-8. If there is no such person in attendance, then anyone from any Zone who caught at least one (1) fish in their respective Top-8 may be picked to fill that vacancy by a random draw.
7. Non-boaters shall pay their Boater partner no less than \$20.00 per day for gas and oil expenses. Each partner shall also equally share in all launch, parking, administrative or any other such Tournament-related fees.
8. Each Zone knows one (1) year in advance to have ample time to schedule for this tournament. If a Zone is unwilling or unable to secure a site the tournament rotates to the next Zone in order. The paperwork will be sent immediately to the State Finals Tournament Director.
9. There shall be a mandatory meeting on Friday night, prior to the State Finals Tournament, to make official pairings and conduct any other necessary business. A map and a copy of a notification letter should be sent out in plenty of time. Lodging phone numbers should be included.
10. The \$5.00 Big Bass Pot will be awarded each day with the overall winner receiving cash and a plaque.
11. The Top 10% of boaters and top 10% of co-anglers will advance to the National Semi Finals in the same capacity as boater and co-angler.
12. The contestants who qualify to go to the State Finals will be fishing for the honor of representing the Indiana Bass Federation as the elite Sweet 16+. The top eight (8) individual boaters and top eight (8) individual co-anglers as determined by the State Finals tournament will be designated as the Sweet 16+.

### **D. TOURNAMENT RULES:**

1. APPLICATION, ENFORCEMENT AND DISCRETION: These Tournament Rules apply to both the Top-8 Qualifier and the State Finals Tournaments unless otherwise indicated above.
2. The Tournament Director shall establish administrative rules that are not otherwise contrary to any of the written rules herein as he deems necessary to efficiently run the tournament.
3. Each competitor agrees to report to tournament officials any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.
4. OFF LIMITS PERIOD: The Tournament sites are off limits to all participants beginning on the Sunday evening at midnight prior to the Tournament and shall continue until the start of the Tournament. Off Limits means no contestant shall be on or in the water in any manner or in any craft.
5. REGISTRATION FOR THE TOURNAMENT: Registration times and dates shall be determined by the District/Zone Directors and/or the Tournament Director.

6. Proof of minimum liability insurance is attested to by the completion of Top 8 entry form. Each boater in the Top 8 Tournament, State Finals and **National Semi Finals** has to carry the minimum liability insurance as laid out in the By-Laws. At present, this minimum amount is \$300,000.00 in total liability coverage. Contestants also **must be able to provide** proof of insurance when they register for the Top-8 or State Finals event **if requested**
7. PAIRINGS: Boat partners shall be paired by a draw made by the Tournament Committee and any realignment in the pairings that is necessary for any reason shall be done by the Tournament Committee. Any contestant who refuses to fish the tournament with a contestant he or she is paired with shall be immediately disqualified from the tournament. The disqualified contestant's club shall lose a boater or non-boater to bring said club in compliance with these Rules.
8. The Tournament Director shall determine if two (2) contestants shall fish together more than once during the tournament.
9. No two (2) contestants from the same Club shall fish together during the tournament.
10. If you are not present when your name is drawn for a pairing conducted in which your attendance is required, you shall be disqualified. An eligible alternate may replace a disqualified individual at that time.
11. MEETINGS AND TOURNAMENT HOURS: The Tournament Director shall establish meeting places, launching sites and weigh-in sites which shall remain the same on both days; unless same becomes impracticable.
12. The fishing hours of the tournaments will be announced at the meeting following registration.
13. The Tournament Director may alter the fishing hours if unsafe conditions warrant.
14. In the case of default, or disqualification, the tournament entry fee shall be retained by the IBF.
15. The morning take-off shall be controlled by the Tournament Director.
16. WHERE YOU MAY FISH OR NOT FISH: Fishing is permitted anywhere on the tournament waters as may be governed by lake regulations; unless the Tournament Director determines Off Limits+areas in which fishing will not be permitted during the Tournament.
17. Fishing is NOT permitted within 50 yards of another contestant's boat, which is first anchored or tied on a location with trolling motor up.
18. INFORMATION: Commencing when the lake becomes off limits for the Tournament, and concluding after the final day's weigh-in, no competitor shall have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass unless this other person is a contestant in the tournament. Person or persons violating this rule will be disqualified from the tournament and will be barred from the Top-8 Tournament for a period of three (3) years.+
19. BOAT PROBLEMS: In the event of equipment failure and/or an emergency:
  - i. Both partners in a disabled boat may remain in the disabled boat and be towed on the water by any other boat back to the weigh-in area; or
  - ii. Both partners may enter the boat of another IBF Tournament contestant with their fish maintained separately identifiable between all contestants and return to the weigh-in by water; or
  - iii. One partner from the disabled boat may stay with the disabled boat and one partner from the disabled boat may take both contestants' fish from the disabled boat to the weigh-in by a pair of competitors or a Tournament Official in a different (rescue) boat. In that case, all fish must be duly-marked for separation and transport and weigh-in of all such fish must be witnessed at all times by the same tournament official or competitors that carried the person and the disabled boat's fish to the weigh-in. Once a contestant enters a rescue boat, he/she may not continue fishing or assist the rescue team in any way while they fish.
20. Non-boaters in each club are responsible for boaters' expenses in their club at the Top-8 Zone Tournaments.
21. CONDUCT DURING TOURNAMENT: All contestants must remain in their boats except in the case of a dire emergency, the need to go to the bathroom, or if the crew's safety is jeopardy.
22. All fishing must be done from within an assigned boat.
23. It is the responsibility of the boat partners to meet in ample time prior to the take-off of each tournament.
24. Boat partners must stay together, in sight of one another, from take-off until completion of their weigh-in.

25. Bass caught by a contestant shall be applied to that contestant's weight credit only.
26. Boat partners should discuss and agree to a schedule concerning the operation of the boat, trolling motor, seating arrangements and the selection of fishing locations. Both boat partners are entitled to fishing locations and the operation of the trolling motor for one-half (1/2) of the tournament *hours* during Top 8 Tournaments. This does not apply to the State Finals since it is an angler/co/angler event and co-anglers are only fishing against other co-anglers.
27. Any contestant deemed guilty of operating a boat to the disadvantage of their partner shall be disqualified from the tournament and any previous score shall be disallowed.
28. Good sportsmanship is expected of all contestants. Any actions and/or words that reflect unfavorably toward the Federation or its members' efforts to promote sportsmanship, fair competitions, compliance with tournament rules, safety, etc. shall not be tolerated.
29. The Tournament Director and his Tournament Committee shall be treated with respect and dignity at all times. Unruly behavior at any meeting or at any other time will not be tolerated and shall be subject to discretionary sanctions by the Tournament Director.
30. Littering or polluting of any kind will not be tolerated.
31. All possible courtesies shall be extended in using the facilities during the tournament.
32. Alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs or a contestant deemed under the influence shall not be allowed during the tournament, weigh-in period, registration and pre-tournament meetings.
33. Violation of any of the above will be cause for disqualification from that tournament and/or any future Federation event, up to two (2) years based on the seriousness of the infraction, with Board approval. Individual must apply for reinstatement for the Board of Directors.
34. FISHING EQUIPEMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. no live or prepared bait will be permitted, however, pork or pork type strips, rinds, etc., may be used.
35. Only casting, spinning, or spin casting rods no longer than eight (8) feet in length from butt of handle to rod tip may be used.
36. Only one rod may be used at a time. Other rigged rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes.
37. Electronic depth finders, GPS, light meters, oxygen meters, PH meters and temperature gauges may be used; any other electronic devices must be approved by the Tournament Committee.
38. BOAT REQUIRMENTS/REGULATIONS: All boats must be at least fifteen (15) feet in length.
39. Trolling motors may be used to maneuver the boat in to position while fishing.
40. Trolling by using the outboard motor as a fishing method is not permitted.
41. All electric start combustion motors must be equipped with a Kill Switch+device; manual start motors need not comply with this ruling.
42. Each boat must be equipped with adequate live well capacity and aeration to keep two limits of fish alive.
43. Each Club shall furnish four (4) boats. It is suggested that an extra boat+be brought, in the event of trouble with any of the four originally intended boats. It is not the responsibility of the Tournament Committee to provide boats for contestants.
44. Each boat will be given an identification number, which must be displayed, to the check-in boat upon return for weigh-in.
45. Maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in tournament competition will be 250 HP, not to exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard in their ruling of November 1, 1972. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this rating plate or the horsepower maximum set by the national bass organization to which the Federation is affiliated. Any boat manufactured prior to November 1, 1972 must adhere to the rating set by the U.S. Coast Guard for similar boats. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the entry form, the boat and outboard motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory trained personnel, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating.
46. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification. Falsifying an entry form or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor also would be cause for immediate disqualification from Indiana Bass Federation tournaments. Any person found in violation of the rules regarding horsepower shall result in disqualification of the boat and boat operator.
47. No boats may be used that use stick steering. The determination of what is ~~stick~~ steering+shall be made by the Tournament Committee after inspection of any suspected boat.

48. Safety practices and precautions shall be observed at all times.
49. A Coast Guard approved life preserver, properly fastened, must be worn by all contestants whenever the combustion motor is in operation.
50. It shall be the contestants responsibility to familiarize themselves with prevailing lake regulations and Indiana boating laws. Violations of the same will be cause for disqualification.
51. All contestants will be instructed at the pre-tournament meeting on weigh-in Procedures.
52. Each contestant must present his or her own catch to the weigh-in official. No other person shall then handle the fish except the contestant or a weigh-in official.
53. CATCHING OF FISH: All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bedding bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.
54. MANAGING YOUR FISH: Contestants must agree upon a system prior to the tournament blast off to separately identify their fish from those of their partner. At a minimum, BOTH PARTNERS MUST pin all of their fish in a manner that will allow the identification of the contestant who caught the fish at all times until the fish are presented for weigh-in.
55. Dip nets may be used to boat bass during the tournament. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited.
56. SCORING: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and ounce weight of each competitors catch during the tournament period.
57. Only largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass will be weighed.
58. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per day.
59. Any contestant presenting more than five (5) fish to be weighed will be penalized by forfeiting his two (2) heaviest fish of the six (6) presented and only the lightest four (4) will be weighed and counted toward his or her weight for the day.
60. At no time shall a competitor have more than the limits described above in their possession.
61. In circumstances where a contestant's boat has divided livewells, the contestants must use separate livewells to keep their fish unless one of the livewells is not working.
62. Tournament officials may conduct checks for violations of the above provisions, and in the event that a competitor has more than the above prescribed in their possession, the largest bass first shall be culled, down to the limit described.
63. All fish caught on state controlled water or property shall meet the state legal limit size of fourteen (14) inches. All fish caught on other bodies of water not having to conform to state legal size of fourteen (14) inches shall meet State Federation rule of a twelve (12) inch minimum requirement.
64. Bass which are presented for weigh-in which do not meet the minimum size requirements as stated above, measured on the longest straight line with mouth closed and the tail pinched, shall accrue penalties at the rate of one (1) pound per each such fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor.
65. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mauled, mashed or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of Tournament Committee.
66. For each legal bass weighed in dead, the competitor shall have 4 ounces (or .25 of a pound if digital scales used) deducted from the weight of that fish. The tournament director and his designated appointees shall have sole authority to determine dead fish. Any fish not being released at the weigh-in (trophy) will be counted as a dead fish, with said penalties being enforced.
67. LATE PENALTIES: A contestant who is late either at the start or at the end of each tournament day will be penalized 10 percent of the contestant's total weight for each minute the contestant is late.
68. Any contestant who is more than ten (10) minutes late at the beginning or at the end of each tournament day shall lose all weight credit for the entire day.
69. Any registered contestant who is not at the tournament take-off site either day, or who does not notify the tournament director one (1) hour before take-off time, for that day, shall be barred from fishing in Top-8 tournaments for one (1) year.
70. Any team that does not show up at the tournament site either day that does not notify the tournament director one (1) hour before take-off time, for that day shall be barred from fishing in Top-8 tournament for a period of one (1) year.
71. In the event that a competitor believes that another competitor has committed a violation of any Tournament Rule, the competitor shall bring it to the attention of the Tournament Director or a member of the Tournament Committee in writing prior to the conclusion of the weigh-in for that day. The Tournament

Director shall review the facts supporting the written protest with the competitor filing the protest and with all competitors alleged to have been in violation, as well as any other persons he deems necessary. The Tournament Director will announce the details of the protest and his decision regarding the protest to all competitors.

**72. TIES:** In case of a tie for team or individual standings, the following tie-breakers will be used in this order:

- i. The team or individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during competition.
- ii. The team or individual with the largest number of legal live fish weighed-in during competition.
- iii. The team or individual with the heaviest single day catch during competition.
- iv. The team or individual with the second-heaviest single day catch during competition.
- v. In the event that teams or individuals remain tied after these four tie-breakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s). And the money, if any, will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by the above order.
- vi. There shall be no ties sent to the State Finals.

**73. DETERMINATION OF THE Sweet 16:** The top eight (8) individual boaters and the top eight (8) individual co-anglers shall be designated as Sweet 16+. They will be recognized and identified as Indiana elite in the National Semi-Final event as well as all subsequent qualifying events through the Forrest L Wood Cup tournament.

**74.** The top Club in each zone will be appropriately recognized, based on the total Club weight.

**75.** Top individual and lunker bass catches will be recognized.

**76.** In the event that a Sweet 16 member advances to the National Championship and their Top-8 is being held on those dates, that individual shall be awarded Boaters Entry+into that year's State Finals.

# CALENDAR

Send updates to: [IBFweb@redshad.com](mailto:IBFweb@redshad.com)

- SAT **13** JAN 2018 [Zone 1 Meeting](#) 9:00 am American Legion, Warsaw
- WED **17** JAN 2018 [Zone 4 Meeting](#) Patty's in Corydon
- THU **08** FEB 2018 [Zone 2 Meeting](#) 7:00 pm Danville Middle School
- SAT **17** FEB 2018 [Board Meeting](#) 8:00 am Indianapolis
- SAT **17** FEB 2018 [General Membership Meeting](#) 1:00 pm Indianapolis
- SAT **03** MAR 2018 [Zone 1 Meeting](#) 9:00 am American Legion, Warsaw
- SUN **11** MAR 2018 [Budget Meeting](#) 9:00 am Indy
- THU **05** APR 2018 [Zone 3 Meeting](#) FOP Greenfield
- SUN **08** APR 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Patoka
- THU **12** APR 2018 [Zone 2 Meeting](#) 7:00 pm Honey Creek Tackle
- SAT **14** APR 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) SOUTH Patoka
- WED **18** APR 2018 [Zone 4 Meeting](#) Patty's in Corydon
- SAT **21** APR 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) NORTH Geist
- SAT **28** APR 2018 [Zone 3 Top 8](#) Day 1 Brookville
- SUN **29** APR 2018 [Zone 3 Top 8](#) Day 2 Brookville
- SAT **05** MAY 2018 [Zone 4 Top 8](#) Day 1 Rocky Point
- SUN **06** MAY 2018 [Zone 4 Top 8](#) Day 2 Rocky Point
- SAT **05** MAY 2018 [Zone 2 Top 8](#) Day 1 Raccoon
- SUN **06** MAY 2018 [Zone 2 Top 8](#) Day 1 Raccoon
- SUN **06** MAY 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) NORTH Maxinkuckee
- SAT **19** MAY 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) SOUTH Monroe
- SUN **20** MAY 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Brookville
- FRI **01** JUN 2018 [Zone 1 Meeting](#) PolarKraft Factory Syracuse 6 pm
- SAT **02** JUN 2018 [Zone 1 Top 8](#) Day 1 Wawasee
- SUN **03** JUN 2018 [Zone 1 Top 8](#) Day 2 Wawasee
- SUN **03** JUN 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Monroe
- THU **07** JUN 2018 [Zone 3 Meeting](#) FOP Greenfield
- SAT **09** JUNE 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) SOUTH West Boggs



SUN **10** JUN 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) NORTH Hamilton

WED **13** JUN 2018 [Board Meeting](#) 6:00 pm Anderson

SUN **01** JUL 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Tanners Creek

SAT **21** JULY 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) SOUTH Hardy

SAT **28** JUL 2018 [Youth Tournament](#) NORTH Shafer

THU **02** AUG 2018 [Zone 3 Meeting](#) FOP Greenfield

THU **09** AUG 2018 [Zone 2 Meeting](#) 7:00 pm Outdoorsman

WED **15** AUG 2018 [Zone 4 Meeting](#) Patty's in Corydon

WED **22** AUG 2018 [Board Meeting](#) 6:00 pm Outdoorsman

SUN **26** AUG 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Madison

SUN **23** SEP 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Monroe

THU **04** OCT 2018 [Zone 3 Meeting](#) FOP Greenfield

THU **04** OCT 2018 [Zone 2 Meeting](#) 7:00 pm Danville Middle School

SAT **13** OCT 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Classic Day 1- TBD

SUN **14** OCT 2018 [IBF Invitational Tournament](#) Classic Day 2- TBD

WED **24** OCT 2018 [National Semi-Finals Practice](#) Patoka

THR **25** OCT 2018 [National Semi-Finals Practice](#) Patoka

FRI **26** OCT 2018 [National Semi-Finals Practice](#) Patoka

SAT **27** OCT 2018 [National Semi-Finals](#) Patoka Day 1

SUN **28** OCT 2018 [National Semi-Finals](#) Patoka Day 2

SAT **10** NOV 2018 [Zone 1 Meeting](#) 9:00 am TBA

WED **14** NOV 2018 [Zone 4 Meeting](#) Patty's in Corydon

SAT **01** DEC 2018 [Board Meeting](#) 8:00 am Outdoorsman

SAT **01** DEC 2018 [General Membership Meeting](#) 1:00 pm Outdoorsman