

INDIANA BASS FEDERATION TRAIL RULES 2019

1. **RULES CHANGES:** The Indiana Bass Federation (IBF) Trail Director shall be responsible for making any changes in these Rules. The following rules will remain unchanged from start of first tournament through the conclusion of the tournament season each year except for special tournaments conducted by the IBF.
2. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and not subject to appeal. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, but not limited to, disqualification, withhold or forfeiture of prizes and barring from participation in any or all IBF ran tournaments.
3. **NO MEMBERSHIP:** No Memberships required, however qualifying participants (active IBF members in good standings) shall be eligible to qualify for free entry into the Indiana State Championship.
4. **MEMBERSHIP and ELIGIBILITY:** Participation is open to Anglers who are 16 years of age or older. Any participant under the age of 16 must provide a written completed permission form from a legal guardian and shall not operate the boat while gas motor is running.
5. **“ENTRY” DEFINED:** A completed entry form submitted with full entry fee, received by the tournament director that meets all requirements detailed below.
6. **“EARLY ENTRY” DEFINED:** All entries will be accepted in the order received. Entries shall be accepted till a DNR “full field limit” is met. An Angler who enters by EARLY ENTRY deadline and provides a Co-Angler (who also enters by the EARLY ENTRY deadline) will receive guaranteed pairing status. Co-Anglers who enter by the EARLY ENTRY deadline with an Angler (who also enters by the EARLY ENTRY deadline) will receive guaranteed pairing. All others will be taken in order of entry (first come first served). By signing the entry form, each competitor agrees to abide by all rules and submit to a Polygraph or Truth Verification test. Administration and interpretation of the test shall be the responsibility of the Tournament Director or his agents and at their time and location.
7. **ENTRY DEADLINE:** A completed entry form, with entry fee paid in full, must be received by the tournament director no later than the close of pre-tournament meeting held the day prior to tournament or it will be considered late.
8. **LATE ENTRY:** All entries that do not meet the entry deadlines as defined above shall be deemed as LATE ENTRIES. LATE ENTRIES must be accompanied by a \$20.00 service fee. Participant may request this service fee be applied to the next scheduled IBF tournament as part of EARLY ENTRY only. This amount will be surrendered as service fee under all other applications.
9. **Refunds or transfers:** Refunds or transfers must be requested no later than 5:00 pm Friday before each tournament and will be at the discretion of the Trail Director.
10. **Returned Check Policy:** Anyone with a returned check will be charged an additional service fee of \$35.00 and subject to being placed on a No Check list.
11. **Official Practice/Off Limits:** Official Practice off limits are from midnight the Sunday prior to tournament week till two days prior to start of Tournament beginning at official sunrise and ending at the start of the pre-tournament meeting. **EXAMPLE:** You may practice on Friday and-Saturday preceding a Sunday tournament provided you are

off tournament waters by announced start time of pre-tournament meeting. Monday thru Thursday of tournament week is off limits. Contact Tournament Director with any questions or for clarifications. See the entry form for specific off limit dates. Off Limits means no contestant shall be on or in the water in any manner including on or in any craft on or in tournament waters. Competitors may NOT purchase information or hire services designed to assist them on tournament water.

12. CLASSIC: Classic will be a three-day cumulative weight event. All classic Anglers will compete on Friday and Saturday. CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY field will be comprised of the 12 anglers and 12 co-anglers with the highest cumulative weight at close of Saturdays weigh in as well as the AOY and Co-AOY from the IBF Trail Series and the IBF Saturday River Series. Classic practice will be under same guidelines as Trail Tournaments. Off limits from midnight the Sunday prior to tournament week till two days prior to start of Classic. Should an angler qualify for CHAMPIONSHIP SUNDAY and not be able to participate for any reason the next heaviest weight in respective Angler or Co-Angler standings will be offered the opportunities and moving down the list till position(s) are filled.
13. PRE-TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION: Each Competitors pre-tournament responsibilities are to sign register, pay for big bass if desired, meet the partner, arrange for meeting the partner the morning of the tournament, exchanging telephone number and relaying times such as boat check, take off, return, off limits, etc. in person or have a qualified substitute during the official registration hours. Failure to register will result in a 2-pound penalty from the competitors catch. A substitute must be at least 16 years of age and will have the same responsibility as the angler. A substitute may be another competitor, but they may not substitute for more than one person.
14. PAIRING OF COMPETITORS: Two competitors will be assigned to each boat. Announcement of the fishing partners will be made at the pre-tournament meeting, which must be attended by each competitor or their substitute. Any competitor who refuses to fish with their drawn partner will be immediately disqualified and their entry fee will be forfeited. It is each partner's responsibility to get checked in and started on time. Each partner will be responsible for understanding their take off position, take off and return times and designated Off Limits areas. Tournament Officials are not responsible for missing partners. If more Anglers than Co-Anglers are entered in the tournament, excess Anglers will be paired together. They both fish as Anglers. It shall be their responsibility to determine whose boat shall be used and will be resolved with the flip of a coin if agreement can't be reached. Each will be able to fish from the front of the boat an equal amount of time and each must allow the other to go to their water an equal amount of time. If more Co-Anglers are entered than Anglers, the excess Co-Anglers may switch to Angler status by paying the Angler entry fee or have their entry fee refunded without a service charge. The selection of Anglers and Co-Anglers will be by guarantee status and then time of entry.
15. SAFETY: Safe boating must be observed at all time. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life preserver anytime the combustion engine is in operation All boats must be equipped with an emergency shut off devise that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All boats must always be operated in a safe manner.
16. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in IBF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship. Courtesy must always be practiced, especially about boating and angling in the vicinity of noncompetitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act that reflects unfavorably upon the IBF tournament reputation for fairness, courtesy, safety or conservation shall be reason for disqualification from this and future IBF tournaments. Examples include but are not limited to
 - a. reported violations by the DNR,
 - b. failure to wear Coast Guard approved life preservers,
 - c. fishing off limit areas or off limit times,
 - d. endangering the safety of others,

- e. becoming abusive and or disrupting the harmony of the IBF tournaments,
 - f. any act of cheating,
 - g. drunkenness at the pre-tournament meeting or tournament. Alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs are prohibited in the boat, during the tournament or until completion of the tournament event. The practice of hole sitting or having a non-competitor restrict an area is strictly forbidden. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie talkies, CB's, etc. to communicate fishing locations or information to gain an advantage or give another competitor an advantage during the tournament hours is strictly prohibited.
17. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used except for pork trailers. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. Maximum rod length is 8 ft. Trolling is not permitted fishing method. Any fish caught while site fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by the partner.
18. **BOAT, MOTOR AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** All boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length and equipped with wheel steering. No jet-propelled vessel, barge, pontoon or other cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must have two properly aerated livewell areas with space to maintain a limit of fish for each competitor. One large livewell with a divider that prevents the Anglers fish from being mixed with the Co-Anglers fish is acceptable.
19. **MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER:** Maximum horsepower for all outboards will be 250 HP and may not exceed the limitations set by the Coast Guard for each boat. Each boat must have a horsepower rating plate attached to the boat as provided by the manufacture. Only fuel tanks designed for boats will be allowed. NO cans of fuel in unapproved containers will be allowed. No sitting fuel out on the bank will be allowed. You may not obtain fuel at any location where other competitors may not.
20. **BOAT OPERATIONS AND EXPENSES:** Anglers will fish from the front deck only. Co-Angles will fish form the back deck only. Co-Anglers may move to the front of the boat to land a fish or to assist the Angler in landing a fish but may not fish from the front deck. The CO-Angler may assist in boat operation to help the Angler become unstuck or assist in emergency or safety situation but shall not fish from the front deck. The Angler will have complete control of the boat operation and waters to be fished. Any Angler who, in the judgment of the tournament director, operates the boat in a manner that unfairly handicaps the Co -Angler will be disqualified. Anglers paired with another Angler are entitled to equal time in the front of the boat to operate the trolling motor, and an equal number of hours to fish their selected waters (number hours include travel time to fish location). In the view of gas prices and the large expense involved in operations and maintaining a tournament bass boat, it is suggested the Co-Anglers pay the Angler no less than \$25.00 towards the cost of gas and oil. However, a mutually agreed upon price is acceptable.
21. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Competitors may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat except areas designated as off limits by the Tournament Director, State laws, DNR rules, or within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which is first anchored with the trolling motor up. An anchored boat has the responsibility to inform another competitor when their boat has entered the 50-yard circle claimed by them. All angling must be done from the boat. Competitors must not leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to waters. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. Competitors must leave and return to the official check point by boat.
22. **Emergency/Breakdowns:** Both competitors must always remain in the boat except in case of emergency (or nature calls). In case of an emergency, competitors may be removed from the boat to a boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat so designated by tournament officials. If a competitor is rescued or there is an emergency, all fishing must cease until the tournament director is notified of the problem. Partners must remain

together except in the event of boat malfunctions. If a boat malfunctions one competitor may stay with the boat. The other may catch a ride to weigh in with another boat in the tournament. The returning competitor may bring in both contestants' catch but they must be clearly separated. The rescuing boat's competitors must witness any transfer of fish and must stay with those fish and their own throughout the weigh in procedures. When the stranded competitor is picked up all fishing for the rescued competitors must cease. The Tournament Director must be notified as soon as possible of the situation.

23. TRAILERING: Trailering of boats during the tournament hours is prohibited, except by directions of the Tournament Director. Partners must stay together and within sight of each other and each other's catch throughout the day, until the weigh in is complete. An Exception may be made for trailered weigh ins, in that case no fish are to be moved from the live well unless both Angler and Co-Angler are present.
24. OFFICIAL CHECK POINT: There will be one official check point for checking boats in the morning and one official check point for checking in at the end of the tournament. Failure to go through Boat Check in the morning or failure to check back in at the check-in point in the afternoon will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check in. ALL BOATS MUST BE CHECKED IN AT LEAST 15 MINUTES BEFORE THE START OF THE TOURNAMENT OR BE HELD 15 MINUTES AFTER ALL OTHERS ARE RELEASED FOR TAKE OFF.
25. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official check-in point at the designated time will be disqualified.
26. CARE OF FISH: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by use of properly aerated livewell. At no time shall there be more than the TOURNAMENT limit (5) of fish be in a contestant's livewell. Culling must be done at the time of any catch. No culling of Dead Fish. At no time shall the Co -Anglers fish be mingled with the Anglers fish. Co-Anglers should mark or pin their fish with culling tags before they are placed in the livewell. During weigh in all fish should be kept in fresh clean aerated water if possible.
27. SCORING: Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredths weight of each competitor catch the day of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Spotted and Smallmouth bass are accepted for weigh-in. The limit will be five (5) fish unless state or lake limit is less. The minimum length is twelve (12) inches unless the state or lake minimum is more than twelve (12) inches, in which that minimum will prevail. No fish which appears to have been mutilated or altered will be weighed. Bass presented for weigh in that fail to measure will be penalized at a rate of one (1) pound for each such non-legal fish plus that fish being removed from the total catch that day. For each legal bass weighed in dead, eight ounces (8 oz, ½ pound, .50) will be deducted from the weight of that fish. Decision of what is considered dead is up to the tournament officials.
28. Any contestant presenting more than five (5) fish at weigh-in will have their catch disqualified.
29. TIES: In the event of a tie the positions that tied will have those monies added together and split evenly between the tied competitors. The competitors will be deemed tournament equals in points/winnings.
30. POINT SYSTEM: Anglers and Co-Anglers will be scored separately. The point system used will have a maximum of 100 points. Each tournament First place will receive 100 points, second place 99, third place 98, etc. on down to 100th place 1 point. After the six invitational tournaments the Angler accumulating the most points will be Angler of the Year. If there is a tie, the tie breaker will be decided by the angler that weighed the greatest number of legal fish over the year. Co-Angler of the Year will be determined in the same fashion.
31. CLASSIC FIELD: The TOP 40 ANGLERS AND TOP 40 CO-ANGLERS in year end point standings will be invited to fish the annual Classic, known as the Forrest L. Wood Classic. The pro-rated entry fee into the classic will be determined by the finishing position in points, not by the invitation position. The finisher in position 1-10 will not

pay an entry fee into the Classic. All other's will pay the full entry. In addition, the top two finishers of each of the Top-8 Program tournaments conducted by each Zone or District of the State Federation who do not otherwise qualify for the Forrest L. Wood Classic shall be invited to fish the Forrest L. Wood Classic. The top finisher in each Top-8 Program tournament shall be granted an Angler spot in the Forrest L. Wood Classic and would pay the entry fee equal to the 40th Angler spot. The second-place finisher in each Top-8 Program tournament who does not otherwise qualify for the Forrest L. Wood Classic would be granted a Co-Angler spot in the Forrest L. Wood Classic and would pay the entry fee equal to the 40th Co-Angler spot. Also, two invitations from the Saturday River Series two positions will be invited to fish the classic starting with the top money winning angler and co-angler and moving down the list till the positions are filled. These anglers shall pay the same entry as the Top-8 invited anglers.

32. **QUALIFICATION FOR IBF STATE CHAMPIONSHIP:** The top eight Anglers and Co-Anglers in points at the end of the IBF Invitational Trail's regular season schedule are invited to fish the following year's IBF State Championship as a Boater or Non Boater as long as they are a member of an IBF club that fished the Top-8 program in the prior year and they are a member of an IBF club in the year that they are eligible to fish in the IBF State Championship. The top eight Anglers and Co-Anglers in money winnings at the end of the IBF Saturday River Series regular season schedule are invited to fish the following year's IBF State Championship as a Boater or Non Boater as long as they are a member of an IBF club that fished the Top-8 program in the prior year and they are a member of an IBF club in the year that they are eligible to fish in the IBF State Championship.
33. **CANCELLATIONS:** Tournament days may be cancelled due to inclement weather or unsafe conditions. The decision to cancel will be left to the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.
34. **INSURANCE:** All boats used in IFB Tournaments must carry a minimum of \$300,000 liability insurance and must have proof if requested by the Tournament Director.