

# New York - The Bass Federation (NYTBF)



## 2025 TOURNAMENT RULES

This trail has been formulated for the grass-roots weekend angler and for those anglers just starting in the sport. Entry fees and payouts (see Entry Fees and Payouts) are divided into two divisions - Boater and Co-Angler. When registering for the tournament season or just one NYTBF event, each angler will need to select the division they wish to compete in and once selected the angler must stay in that division (Boater or Co-Angler) for the remainder of the tournament season. The two distinct divisions allow for the beginning angler and those anglers without a boat to compete equally and fairly. Boaters who lose their boat due to mechanical reasons may request co-angler status pending approval of the NYTBF Tournament Director or their designated representative.

### TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION:

Participation in the NYTBF tournaments and in the Two-Day State Championship qualification process is open to all members of the NYTBF. If you are not a member of a NYTBF affiliated club then you can join the "NYTBF NONE" Club and participate in any of the NYTBF tournaments/events. Anglers must be current members of the NYTBF **prior** to participating in non-Open tournaments. To be considered a current member, dues must be paid in full and all information needed provided. All tournaments require that current year dues be paid. It is the anglers responsibility to make sure that they have paid their dues.

Each angler is required to fill out and sign an application for each tournament. PayPal entries are considered signed when submitted and tournament registration forms with fee must be submitted 6 days prior to the tournament. Any deviation from this must be coordinated and approved by the NYTBF Tournament Director or President.

For multiple day tournaments, anglers are required to fish each day. In the event of mechanical breakdown or emergency during the prior tournament day, the angler may be excused from participation on the second day but only after participating in first day and with permission of the Tournament Director. In this case, the anglers weight and participation will count towards the final standings for the event. In the event of a boater not being able to fish subsequent days due to the stated conditions then the tournament director will adjust

the pairings as needed. This may result one or more being paired with multiple co-anglers. It will be at the discretion of the Tournament Director to decide if this will make for an unsafe condition and if they will make the final determination on pairings.

**REFUNDS:** Refund requests for Entry Fee after Tuesday registrations and payments are not allowed. However, 5 points will be granted towards Semi-Final qualification.

**TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS:** There will be a random drawing to determine Boater/Co-Angler pairings by the Tournament Director or designated individuals. For Two-Day tournaments, there will be separate random drawing to determine pairings for each day of the event. The pairings shall be published four (4) days in advance of each tournament. The Tournament Director, at his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to takeoff. If there is not an adequate number of Co-Anglers to pair with Boaters, Boaters in the order of the draw will fish alone unless they have registered after the cutoff date. In this case, the late registrant will be paired with a Co-Angler from the existing Co-Angler field at the ramp.

If there are more Co-Anglers than Boaters; priority will be given in the following order:

**\*\*NOTE\*\*** Exceptions for payment timeline will be only granted through the NYTBF Secretary.

1. First paid – first in
2. Date of entry
3. Time of entry

All Co-Anglers that do not get paired will have priority in the next NYTBF event.

**MEDICAL CONDITION/HANDICAPPED:** The Board of Directors has the authority to consider deviations from the random draw pairings if an Angler's medical condition dictates.

**TOURNAMENT HOURS:** At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. They must, however, stay within sight of each other.

**BOAT EQUIPMENT:** All boats must be in full compliance with state laws and US Coast Guard regulations. All boats must have working kill switches (which must be affixed at all times when the internal combustion motor is running). All boats must have a working mechanically aerated livewell capable of holding and sustaining two limits of fish (Bass). Boats must be a minimum of 17 feet in length and will not exceed the manufactures horse power rating. All boats must be equipped with a seat for the Co-Angler partner, if so desired by the co-angler. Boaters are requested to have the locker behind the passenger seat available for use by the co-angler, if possible.

**SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Life jackets shall be worn by both competitors at all times when the combustion motor is running. The engine kill switch shall be affixed to the driver at all times when the combustion motor is in gear. All competitors shall comply with state laws at all times. When boating and fishing near other boats and people, maximum courtesy should be extended to all. Anglers in the same boat shall not intentionally fish or handle the boat in a method which will put the other angler at a disadvantage. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament competition hours, will result in immediate disqualification. Drunkenness and/or any un-sportsmanlike conduct at any tournament will be cause for disqualification and may result in disqualification from future tournaments. Every effort should be made to handle and return fish to the water with as little harm as possible. Intentional damage or poor handling of fish until they are safely back in the water could result in disqualification.

**BOAT INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:** Each boater MUST have a copy of his/her current boat insurance showing a minimum \$300,000 liability at each tournament. Failure to produce proof of insurance upon request by tournament officials will result in immediate disqualification

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** All fishing shall be with artificial baits only. Prepared baits (real shiners, crayfish etc.) are not allowed. Rods over 8 foot (96") long are not allowed. Spinning, Bait-casting and Spin-casting are all allowable fishing techniques. Fly fishing is not!! Anglers are allowed to have a number of rods rigged and available for use but only one "wet-line" is allowed (being actively fished). Trolling (hands-free fishing using only a motor to move the bait) is not allowed in any tournament. All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner as per state guidelines. All bass caught while site-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to the Boater or Co-Angler for verification.

**CELL PHONES:** The use of cell phones and/or other communication devices are expressly forbidden to include texting during tournament hours except in emergency situations. Any variations of this rule must be coordinated through the tournament director prior to launch. If found in violation of this rule; you will be disqualified for that day's catch.

**UNDERWATER OPTICS:**

Floggers and underwater camera optics cannot be used or carried/stored in boat during official NYTBF tournaments. Such devices may be used during pre-fishing. The banning of Forward Facing Sonar (FFS) is explained in the last paragraph of Tournament Rules (see New Rule).

**PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing is allowed anywhere on the tournament lake other than designated off limits areas, except within 50 feet of another competitor who: has trolling motor is up and is anchored in position. Anglers who feel that another boat is encroaching on the 50 foot rule must warn the offending anglers at that time. Anglers who allow one other person (tournament participant) to fish within the 50 foot zone are then obligated to allow any other boat or angler the same courtesy. No angler or boat may stop others from passing on navigable waters. Anglers may not leave the boat for the purpose of

catching a fish or fishing an area which is otherwise inaccessible by boat. Leaving the boat for dire circumstances (as determined by the Tournament Director) is acceptable, but whenever possible the anglers should remain within sight of each other. All tournament boats must remain on the tournament water throughout the tournament day and all contestants must depart from and return to the check in point by boat (no trailering from other launch sites).

**BOAT IDENTIFICATION AND CHECKPOINTS:** Boat numbers will be drawn and will be issued at the ramp. Wood boat number tokens are to remain with the boat throughout the day. Prior to the start of each tournament, there is a mandatory check-in for all anglers. All boats shall be in the water 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Boats will line up on the water and leave the launch site in numerical order. The last boater drawn will be the take-off martial, he/she will ensure boats leave in the proper order and the take-off at a safe distance apart. At the end of the day; all boats must check-in and return their boat number regardless of whether they caught any fish. In the event that a boat has to leave the water prior to the end of the tournament day, anglers are required to notify the Tournament Director of their intent and return the boat number. As a requirement for weigh-in process, wood boat number tokens must be returned.

For multiple day tournaments, the boat order on day 2 will be reversed from day 1. For tournaments exceeding 2 days, boat order will be determined to allow for all anglers to have approximately the same fishing time.

**SCORING AND PENALTIES:** Tournament winners shall be determined by the total weight of each anglers catch during the tournament. Only Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass in compliance with state size limits may be weighed in. If an angler presents a short fish to the weigh-in, the fish will be disallowed and a 1-pound penalty will be assessed. If this is a multiple day event, the negative balance (if any) will be carried over to the next competition day. There will be a five fish limit for each angler, in the event that an angler has more than the prescribed limit in their possession at any time, the angler will be disqualified. Any fish, which appears to have been intentionally altered to give the appearance of being longer than the minimum legal length will be cause for disqualification. Any angler that presents a dead fish for weigh-in will receive an 8-ounce deduction from the total weight for each dead fish. All fish weighed in by any angler must be caught during tournament hours on the official tournament waters, any deviation from the above will result in immediate disqualification and removal from TBF. Any angler who returns to the weigh in site late will receive a penalty of 1 pound for each minute that they are late. Anglers who are fifteen or more minutes late will have their total catch disqualified.

**TIES:** For tournaments, in the event of a tie between 2 or more angler, the winner will be determined by:

1. Total number of fish.
2. Total number of fish alive.
3. Big fish. (Lunker entries must be live fish only)
4. Coin flip.

**ANGLER OF THE YEAR (AOY) POINTS:** Based on three (3) of four (4) Point Tournaments, will be awarded 1st Place - 100 points, 2nd place - 99 points, 3rd place - 98 points, and so on. Failure to weigh-in a fish will result in no AOY points awarded. The Boater and Co-Angler with the most points at the end of our regular tournament season (four point events) will be crowned Angler of the Year earning a designated spot in the TBF National Semi-Final Tournament and their NYTBF annual membership dues and all points tournament entry fees paid for the next tournament season. If only three (3) point tournaments per year are scheduled, all 3 (three) tournaments count towards AOY. Ten points are awarded to any angler who fishes in a point tournament but "does not weigh in" or leaves early after informing a Board Member.

For AOY standings, in the event of a tie in the points, the winner and other placings will be determined by:

1. Total number of fish for Points season.
2. Total number of fish alive for Points season.
3. Number of tournaments attended during Points season
4. Total weight for Points season
5. Big fish for Points season. (Lunker entries must be live fish only)
6. Coin flip.

**ENTRY FEES AND PAYOUTS:** Regular Points Tournaments: Boater entry fees \$150.00 and Co-Angler entry fees \$100.00, both divisions will payout 80% of fees received. All remaining proceeds will go to fund the NYTBF and our TBF National Contenders. Pay Pal charges will be added to all on-line fee payments.

**BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:** For all tournaments, the boater will have complete control of the boat during tournament hours. Co-Anglers are responsible to pay the boater thirty dollars (suggested) to help offset some of the expenses of running the boat for regular season events and share the fuel/oil cost daily. Any damage to the boat caused by the Co-Angler shall be the responsibility of the Co-Angler to reimburse the boater. All disputes over boat damage must be announced in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the scales closing.

Missing a paid point tournament after Tuesday before the tournament (for any reason) will not result in a reimbursement or have said fee cover another tournament. However, 5 points will be granted that will apply to Semi-Final qualification.

Military (Active Duty, Reserve or National Guard) must fish a minimum of one event and present deployment orders justifying why they missed the other qualifying events and they'll be allowed entry.

## **QUALIFICATION and PARTICIPATION IN THE TBF NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL TOURNAMENT:**

The NYTBF Boater Angler of the Year (AOY) and the Co-Angler AOY will automatically advance to the TBF National Semi- Final tournament. The number of NYTBF anglers who advance to the TBF National Semi-Final tournament are based on the total number of anglers that fish all NYTBF events preceding the TBF National Semi-Final, (10% of the total participating field). It is mandatory that the numbers of said Boaters and Co-Anglers be equal in number.

In addition our NYTBF subordinate affiliate clubs with 30 plus members are authorized to send one (1) Boater and one (1) Co-Angler (it must be a boater & co-angler together in order to balance the tournament field) to the TBF National Semi-Final. Anglers are responsible for their individual tournament entry fee as determined by the TBF and host state.

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In the event there is a shortage of co-anglers to participate in the National Semi-Final event through the above stated qualification process, the President or his designate will attempt to fill the team with active NYTBF members based on the following order.

1. From Ending Point Standings
2. From Executive Board Members
3. Points tournament participation

Every reasonable effort will be made to fill out the participation for the Semi-Final event.

**PROTESTS:** All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director in writing prior to the closing of the scales. When a protest is filed the Tournament Director, he/she will then listen to all sides and make a determination as to the outcome. If the complaint involves the Tournament Director, the VP/President will act as the determining official. The interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

**RULES VIOLATIONS:** Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations (angler or co-angler) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, the loss of the heaviest one-day catch, the loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the entire tournament or ineligibility to participate in future TBF tournaments.

**OTHER RULES:** If not specified in these rules then the rules governing the TBF Semi-Final Tournaments apply with the exception of the rules pertaining to practice periods. For appeals relating to tournament participation, a request is to be made to the President. Appeals will then be presented to the Board of Directors and their decision will be final in the matter. This will be on a case by case basis.

**NEW RULE:** In addition to underwater optics (cameras) and Floggers, Forward Facing Sonar (FFS) devices are not allowed during any NYTBF Point Tournament. However, FFS electronics are allowed during NYTBF managed Team Open tournaments. Small FFS clam shell boxes will be used to seal FFS plugs with a colored plastic tie. Said boxes must be returned to the trailer after the tournament. Boater members who leave early (do not weigh), may cut the plastic tie but need to drop the blocking box (undamaged) into a receptacle by the trailer tongue. If any boater leaves early but fails to drop off said blocking box, a \$40 fine will be levied.

As of June 2025