

2021 TBF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Rules and Procedures

TBF rules that govern the 2020 qualifying tournaments under which you qualified (TBF National Semi-Finals) will be in effect for this event. In addition, several special championship rules in this information packet and announced prior to the event will take precedence over any preceding publication of rules. This information packet, in addition to, the 2020 NSF rules under which you qualified are the official rules for the 2021 TBF National Championship. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Deadline Date for Confirmation of Entry: Please return entries as soon as possible! **Entries must be postmarked by January 15, 2021.** A properly completed, signed confirmation and **all** registration sheets must be sent to: TBF, 5998 N Pleasant View Road, Ponca City, Ok 74601. All confirmations must be postmarked no later than the official deadline date or you may be dropped from the entry list and forfeit your slot. Vacancies shall be filled or not filled at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

Liability Release and Polygraph -It is mandatory that all TBF National Championship contestants complete the mandatory liability release.

Tournament Format -The championship is a boater/co-angler format tournament. Daily Tournament Partners will be paired by random draw. Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat **only**. Co-anglers will fish from the back deck of the boat **only**. Boaters will have complete control of the boat operation and waters to be fished.

Off-limits\Official Practice Period

Currently, tournament waters of the Red River Pools 3, 4, 5 are available for pre-practice fishing. You may practice anytime between now and when the lake goes off-limits. There are no restrictions. Tournament waters will go **off limits Monday FEBRUARY 22** – After this time contenders may not receive any information, advice or have the illegal assistance of anyone other than another Federation National Championship competitor for the purpose of locating or catching fish on Championship waters. No contender will be allowed on the tournament waters again until the three (3) official practice days. MONDAY, TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY March 8, 9, 10 and THURSDAY, FRIDAY and SATURDAY March 11, 12, 13 the Competition days. ALL days will be out of your own personal boats. **Boats will NOT be provided.** These will be the only days contenders will be allowed on the tournament waters after it goes off-limits and before the official event days. ***By vote of the state Federation Presidents,*** each state's boater(s) will furnish a boat for themselves and their states co-angler(s) for the official practice days (if you and your states co-angler chooses to practice those days). Each states boater has first choice to bring their boat. BOTH anglers (boater and co-angler) from a state federation MUST practice together if they practice and from the same boat. **NO one may choose to practice alone on March 8, 9, 10. IF and only IF your state boater and or co-angler chooses NOT to practice March 8, 9 THEN BOTH anglers must contact us for approval before one getting on the water.** Your 3rd day practice partner, WILL also be your first day's tournament partner and will be assigned at Tuesday night's registration by random draw. **NOTE:** * *A LIMITED number of co-anglers will be allowed to bring a boat as backup boats and will compensated if they are used as such in case any boaters boat was to break down. No one will fish out of a co-angler's boat without them in it and operating the big engine, unless THEY choose not to. IF you are interested in this option as a co-angler please contact us for details.*

Competitors who do not qualify to advance beyond any cut day are no longer considered competitors and may not share information with those who do.

Contestants may not enter tournament waters to fish, locate areas for fishing, test equipment or sightsee during the off-limits period. "Private" flights over tournament waters (including drones) are not permitted during the off-limits period. During the off-limits period, the hiring of services is prohibited. This

includes, but is not limited to, having someone fish for you or having someone stockpile fish for you. It is TBF's intention to eliminate blatant "guiding," "bird-dogging," "hole-setting," or teamwork where the team members are not a part of this tournament. Decisions of tournament official are final and not subject to appeal.

Thursday\Friday March 11-12 the full field will compete. On Friday March 12 the field will be cut to the top boater and top co-angler from each of the seven (7) TBF divisions represented. All 14 of these anglers will advance to the 2021 BFL All-American, IF they met FLW competitor membership contingency requirements before they qualified, The 2021 BFL AA will be held on Douglas Lake, TN. June 3-5, 2021.

Live YOUR Dream - The National Champion Boater & Co-angler and in fact all 7 top boaters and 7 top co-angler division champions will receive a Living Your Dream Prize Package of varying levels. National champion Boater and co-angler packages at a minimum are outlined in your cover letter attached to this document. Payout is cash and prizes and covers all boaters and all co-anglers.

Tournament Waters -Tournament waters will consist of Red River Pools 3,4,5 only and its tributaries.

Off-Limits Areas - TBF National rules concerning off-limits during competition days will apply to this event.

Tackle Restrictions - You are not limited in the amount of tackle that you may bring to the TBF National Championship. However, Boaters must make room for their co-anglers and co-anglers will be limited to 5 rod/reel combinations in any boat each day. Boaters will use the front storage compartments to store their tackle and co-anglers will use the rear storage compartments for their tackle. Co-anglers MUST be provided a back seat if requested.

Landing of Fish - Dip nets will be permitted during the TBF National Championship. Paired contestants may assist each other in the landing of fish. You must bring your own dip net.

Fish & Fishing License

Each angler will be allowed 5 fish of at least 12 inches in length for all allowed species. It is each angler's responsibility to purchase and have in their possession, prior to registration a valid Louisiana fishing license is required for Louisiana waters and can be purchased online or on site at multiple places or you must have proof of a legal exemption covering the dates of the event.

Personal Flotation Devices - You should bring and use your own personal lifejacket. TBF will have a limited number of loaners on hand for use as well.

Starting Position

Boat numbers will be assigned to each boater by a random draw for competition days 1 & 2. Starting positions will be reversed for the second day of competition. Starting positions for the third and final day will be determined by order of finish on Day 2. Co-anglers will be assigned a partner for each day of practice and competition. Boat numbers and partner pairings will be announced at the pre-tournament meetings and cut days.

Ties

In case of a tie for first place, or cut position, the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual with the heaviest single days catch during competition; 4.) The individual with the second heaviest single days catch during competition. In the unlikely event that a tie remains after these four tiebreakers are employed a flip of a coin will determine the outcome. Any other ties shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

Dress and Conduct - REGISTRATION TUESDAY March 9- Bass Pro Shops, Shreveport, LA
On TUESDAY, March 9, 2021, we will be taking photos at registration. Please dress appropriately in your fishing attire/ clothing and proudly promote your TBF sponsors and TBF logos.

Extensive media coverage of the 2021 TBF National Championship will place each contestant in front of large crowds of people via photographs, interviews and television. Each angler must be neat and clean in appearance, cooperate with the media and project a professional image. On all competition days and the official practice days, no tobacco logos may be worn or displayed. On Day 3, logos, patches or decals that conflict with TBF sponsors may be prohibited from being worn or displayed. So plan accordingly. On Day 3, the use of tobacco while fishing is prohibited. On the final competition day, Day 3, Saturday, March 13, contenders who make the cut must wear shirts and/or equipment provided by TBF, if so supplied. The dress for all functions at the 2021 TBF National Championship is casual. All meetings and banquets are mandatory, they are not optional. Family is welcome.

Arrival -Upon registration and arrival each contestant will need to establish credit with the hotel in order to charge incidentals to the room and must have a credit card on file with TBF. This may be accomplished with any major credit card.

Contestant Expense Policy -TBF will reserve and pay for all contestants' shared rooms at the host hotel. Tuesday Night, Wednesday night and Thursday night. You certainly can stay Friday night at your cost if you book your room that way. **We will extend the rooms for finalists through Sunday if need be and pay for those under the terms described above.** You will be charged for room nights that you book if you leave early. So, for clarification, if you wish to stay all week and come in on Sunday for Monday's first practice day, YOU would pay for Sunday, Monday and Friday nights and TBF will pay for Tue, Wed, Thur. nights for everyone and Fri./Sat. IF you are a finalist. You may come in earlier if you wish to visit the surrounding areas at your own cost, and we will book it for you if you list it that way, but remember tournament waters go off-limits starting Monday Feb 22 through Sunday March 7 with the first official practice day being Monday March 8.

Contestants choosing a private room will be billed for the extra cost before your trip. TBF will also book your room for you for the first two practice days at your cost if you wish us to in order to get our group rates and so that you possibly do not have to move rooms. You must request us to book your extra nights on your registration documents.

There will be some mandatory evening banquets contained in the final schedule of events. Your family members and guests are invited to attend these evening meal functions at no additional charge. All other meals are the responsibility of each contestant.

Any TOURNAMENT Questions? Call the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR Randy Sullivan - Email Randy@federationangler.com cell 580-716-4261

Housing /Hotel Questions Contact TBF National Office 580-765-9031