

2023 TBF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Rules and Procedures

TBF Rules that govern the 2022 qualifying events 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, in addition to, the 2022 NSF Rules under which you qualified are the official rules for the 2023 TBF National Championship. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Deadline Date for Confirmation of Entry: Please register online ASAP! **Entries must be made ONLINE by January 16, 2023.** All entries must be made 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 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. No boater may purposely handicap their Co-Angler nor ask them not to fish.

Off-Limits/Official Practice Period - Currently, tournament waters of Lake of the Ozarks 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 Saturday Night midnight, Sunday, March 12 at 12:01am – 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) allowed practice days, SUNDAY, MONDAY, and TUESDAY March 26, 27, 28. The official Competition days will be WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, March 29, 30, 31. 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 allowed practice days (if you and your states co-angler chooses to practice on the 3 allowed days defined above). 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 26, 27, 28.** IF and only IF your state Boater and or Co-Angler chooses NOT to practice on March 26, 27, 28, THEN BOTH anglers must contact us for approval before on getting on the water alone. NOTE: *A LIMITED number of Co-Anglers will be allowed to bring a boat as backup boats, and will be 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 Officials are final and not subject to appeal.

Wednesday\Thursday, March 29-30th the full field will compete. On Thursday, March 30th, 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 2023 BFL All-American, **IF they met MLF Competitor Membership Contingency Requirements before they qualified at a TBF National Semi Final.**

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 Lake of the Ozarks.

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 15 inches for Largemouth & Smallmouth and 12 inches for spotted bass. Spotted bass determination will be a rectangle tooth patch, jaw line that does not extend past the eye, and dorsal fins that is connected. It is not permitted to cull a dead fish. It is each angler's responsibility to purchase and have in their possession, prior to registration a valid Missouri fishing license unless exempt. License 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 life-jacket. 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 different 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 – Official on-site check in and Registration is MANDATORY

On Tuesday, March 28, 2023, we will be taking photos at registration. Please dress appropriately in your fishing attire/ clothing and proudly **promote your TBF sponsors and TBF logos. On-site registration location will be listed in your confirmation notice and final agenda approx. 3 weeks before the event.** Extensive media coverage of the 2023 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. No tobacco, CBD or cannabis logos may be worn or displayed. Any logos, patches or decals that conflict with TBF sponsors may be prohibited from being worn or displayed, so plan accordingly. The use of tobacco while fishing is prohibited if there is a TV camera on you. On the final competition day, Day 3, Friday, March 31, contenders who make the cut must wear shirts and/or equipment provided by TBF, if so supplied. The dress for all functions at the 2023 TBF National Championship is casual. All meetings and banquets are mandatory, they are not optional. Family is welcome. During official practice and tournament days, the use of, or possession in the boat of any Alcohol or Cannabis or Cannabis products are strictly prohibited.

Arrival -Upon registration and again at on-site check-in each contestant will need to verify with us their place of lodging.

Contestant Lodging – For 2023 - By a vote of the TBF State Federation Presidents, and angler feedback to allow anglers to stay where they wish and feel the most safe/comfortable. Contenders at the Federation National Championship will make their own lodging arrangements at a location of their choice. TBF is under no obligation but will attempt to help you find a room-mate to split expenses with if; A.) you are staying at one of the area hotels and B.) if you wish us to. Best bet is to reach out to your own state anglers or neighboring state anglers. Your state presidents can help with those contacts. For this event you must stay in an area hotel, motel or resort if you wish to receive a housing stipend. **The host hotel for the event will be the Inn at Grand Glaize. When making your reservation be sure to mention group code TBF23 to receive the group discount.**

TBF will also PAY directly to each angler, a room night stipend to help offset the cost of lodging for the official tournament days you are qualified for **IF** you choose stay at one of the area motel or hotels/resorts. **VRO's, Airbnb's, etc and private residences are NOT eligible for a hotel/motel stipend.**

Any TOURNAMENT Questions?

Call the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR:

Randy Sullivan - Cell 580-716-4261

Randy@federationangler.com

For registration or general questions Contact TBF National Office 580-765-9031

To complete your online registration for this event before **January 16th**, 2023, here are the required steps:

- 1.) Make sure NOW that both you and your home TBF affiliated club is updated for 2023 with at least 6 members in the club to make your home club active.
- 2.) **You cannot register or fish the event if BOTH you and your home club are not active.**

DO NOT WAIT contact your club president and get yourself and your club updated and active TODAY!

Register online before **January 16th**, 2023.



PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING

Team #

List Everyone In The Boat By Name

I/We, _____
in consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in ANY event(s), an/or related activities conducted by any Federation Angler affiliated groups including but not limited to; The Bass Federation,(TBF), SAF, NBAA, NABC, TWF, MWC and all other affiliated events either jointly or separately, I/WE acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that: **The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist. If you have significant medical conditions you should consider not participating in the event.** AND, I/WE have been advised by the event organizers and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; **AND, I VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO PARTICIPATE, AND KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE ORGANIZERS** and/or, their officers, officials, directors, shareholders, agents, and/or employees, other participants, and sponsoring agencies/advertisers, their parent and affiliate companies and, if applicable, owners and lessors of premises and property used to conduct the event OR any others connected to the event (collectively "RELEASEES"), **AND I HEREBY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION.** I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual or significant hazard during my presence, I will remove myself from participation and bring until it is safe to continue; **AND I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS "RELEASEES",** with respect to any and all damage, injury, disability, death, or loss to person or property, which I suffer or which I am found to have caused in whole or in part by my negligence or intentional misconduct or whether arising from the negligence of the RELEASEES, to the fullest extent of the law.

I agree to submit, by agreeing to this document, and by my participation in the event, to a truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at the organizer's sole discretion, and administered by its agents. I understand that failure to pass the exam as determined by the event organizers will result in disqualification. I also certify that the number given on all forms is my correct and unique taxpayer identification number.

If am an equipment or a boat operator, **I understand** as the captain/operator of a vessel or any piece of equipment that I am solely responsible for the safe operation of it and for the safety of any and all occupants in it at all times. **I expressly assume all risks associated with the event. If I am using a boat during the allowed practice or the event, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage, excess medical, watercraft liability and/or contractors' insurance having reasonable limits or defined in the rules. Said insurance must cover any and all injury and/or damage incurred in connection with the event.** Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. If I am participating in a youth event of any kind, I certify that training compliant with the Youth Safe Sports Act of 2017 has been made available to me this year. **I hereby wave my rights of privacy or publicity free and clear of any claims whatsoever** on participants part with regard to the event organizers unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, through any media, medium, format or productions by the event organizers, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere, at any time. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties, payments or other compensation in connection with such use. **I further agree that event officials' decisions will be final and binding. I understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever. Having fully acquainted myself with the rules and this agreement I agree to be bound by them. I have agreed to this contract either physically, digitally or by my participation in the event. I acknowledge this document has been made available to me multiple times, I understand it and agree to enter knowingly and voluntarily.**

Angler A- Dated _____ Age _____ Signed _____

Angler B - Dated _____ Age _____ Signed _____

Boat Captain (if applicable) - Dated _____ Age _____ Signed _____

PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF MINORITY AGE PARTICIPANTS As parent/guardian with legal responsibility for the angler, I do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities, incidents to my minor child's involvement or participation, **EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE** of the Releasees, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

X _____
A - PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE EMERG. PH # (s) : _____ Date _____

X _____
B - PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE EMERG. PH # (s) : _____ Date _____