

2024 TBF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Championship Rules and Procedures

TBF Rules that govern the 2023 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. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Deadline Date for Confirmation of Entry: Please register online ASAP! **Entries must be made ONLINE between Friday Dec 8th and January 14, 2024.** 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 if you wish to participate.

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 Sam Rayburn, TX 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 10 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, March 24, 25 all day and TUESDAY March 26 until 3pm. The official Competition days will be WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, March 27, 28, 29. Boats will NOT be provided, ALL days will be out of your own personal boats. 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 24, 25, 26.** IF and only IF your state Boater and or Co-Angler chooses NOT to practice on March 24, 25, 26, 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 27-28 the full field will compete. On Thursday, March 28, 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 2024 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 LakeSam Rayburn, TX.

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 14 inches and over. 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 Texas 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 26, 2024, 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 2024 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 29, contenders who make the cut must wear shirts and/or equipment provided by TBF, if so supplied. The dress for all functions at the 2024 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 – SAM RAYBURN IS ALWAYS FULL AND BOOKED UP EARLY DO NOT WAIT! BOOK EARLY NOW! 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.

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

Online registration for this event Opens Friday Dec 8th at 9am CST and CLOSES **January 14th**, 2024, here are the required steps:

1.) Make sure NOW that both you and your home TBF affiliated club is updated for 2024 with at least 6 members in the club to make your home club active. **DO NOT WAIT REGISTRATION OPENS FRIDAY!**

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 STARTING Dec 8th 2023 and before close of business **January 14th**, 2024.