

## 2026 TBF NATIONAL SEMI-FINALS ~ OFFICIAL RULES ~

**1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT:** TBF National Semi-finals are national TBF events and will follow national TBF rules, guidelines, sponsors and practices **these are NOT state events**. Rules will remain unchanged for the season, except for special events pre-announced and conduct by TBF. Strict adherence is expected by all participants. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left to the on-site Tournament Director with review by TBF National Staff. The only appeal is to a TBF National Senior Tournament Director level or above and their decision shall be final in all matters and is not subject to appeal. Officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in any TBF tournament. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery. Failure to report violations (Boater or Co-Angler) may be cause for disqualification. Protests should be in writing within 30 minutes of final flight check-in time of each tournament day.

**2. PARTICIPATION, ELIGIBILITY, ADVANCEMENT:** Only qualified active members 16 years of age or older from the Federation through which they qualified are eligible. Any person under the age of 18 must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the entry form\release, proof of age is the responsibility of the participant. Participation by anyone in any TBF tournament is at the sole discretion of TBF. **STATE Advancement TO A NSF** - Each TBF affiliated federation may advance a maximum of 10% of their annual in state Adult participation numbers (not membership) or a minimum of 12 anglers (6 Boaters and 6 Co-Anglers) whichever is greater. **CLUB Advancement TO A NSF** - Each TBF club in good standing (for the purposes of the National Semi-finals) with their state federation can send 1 boater & 1 co-angler for 1-19 active TBF members, 2&2 for 20-29, 3&3 for 30-39 etc. It is each State Federations responsibility to manage that number to an equal number of Boaters and Co-Anglers. **Advancement FROM A TBF NSF to the Federation Championship** - The top Boater and Co-Angler from each **STATE** in the final standings of a TBF National Semi-Final will advance to the Federation National Championship. A second Boater and Co-Angler will advance if 30 or more boats actually fish the event from that state, a third set at 60 boats etc who actually fish the event from that state, etc. from each state participating. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters and all days to be fished. All state rules regarding fishing will be observed unless more stringent regulations are specified at the rules meeting. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament officials, is not able to safely compete for the entirety of the event without unfairly hindering their daily partner or endanger the safety and well-being of self or anyone shall not be eligible. Properly, fully completed official entry must be received BEFORE the event registration deadline date. **Advancement FROM the Federation Championship to a MLF event contingency** - (BFL All-American for example) – Eligibility is open ONLY to those TBF anglers who upgraded to a MLF competitor membership BEFORE fishing their/this National Semi-Final event (NSF). **TBF specifically reserve the right to refuse participation, including championship or other special event participation, to anyone, for any reason.**

**3. REGISTRATION & FORMAT:** Entry fee for Boaters is \$200.00 and \$100.00 for Co-Anglers. Payback is over 100% to the anglers and federations each season cycle as follows: 75% payback to 20% of the field in each separate group of Boaters and Co-Anglers, 10% to the state federations conducting the event to cover expenses and the balance to support the Federation National Championship anglers from this event will advance to. **No refunds apply at any time.** No refunds will be made nor will credit be extended, except in dire cases approved by TBF National Office and anglers who drop out or do not fish after registration closes will forfeit their spot and their entry fee. Disqualification from this or any tournament for any reason could result in forfeiture of entry fee and prohibition from participating.

Online registration will open **30 days** before the event registration **CLOSING date which will be Thursday at 12 noon, two weeks prior to the first tournament day.** TBF reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. If an angler drops out prior to the close of registration, the federation has the option of replacing them or dropping an angler from their list to even the Boater/ Co-Angler roster back up.

Entries must be **RECEIVED BEFORE the entry deadline** online at [www.bassfederation.com](http://www.bassfederation.com) or can be submitted by fax / mailed / phone. You are HIGHLY encouraged to register **ONLINE**, Money order, check or credit cards with a paper entry form **RECEIVED** by the deadline date, are acceptable payments (VISA, MasterCard, Discover). A 3% convenience fee will be added to all credit card transactions, a \$25 processing fee will be applied

to all declined transactions. Mailing address is TBF, 5998 N Pleasant View Rd, Ponca City, Oklahoma. 74601 – P-580.765.2319 - Fax 580.765.2890 it is your responsibility to confirm receipt of your entry.

TBF National Semi-Finals are two (2) day events held on Saturday & Sunday with a mandatory Friday night check in. Format will be Boater and Co-Angler paired each day by random draw. Boaters will keep the same boat number each day and draw a new Co-Angler each day. Take off order will be reversed for day 2.

Each competitor must check in and register on site, in person with officials at the time and place prescribed for Friday check in and rules briefing or send a representative as defined below. Failure of an angler or their representative to Check-in/register in person during the prescribed times shall result in a \$20 late fee which will be donated to the Future Fisherman's Foundation or other approved TBF charity, anyone who fails to notify the tournament director and is more than 15 minutes late can be disqualified. Anyone late to the pre-tournament rules briefing pre-announced start time will pay a \$20 late fee as defined above as well. In case of emergency please contact the tournament director or TBF immediately on the **TBF tournament hot line at 580.716.4261**, TBF National Office at 580.765-9031 or other designated contact.

In an emergency or exceptional situation, a sitting State Federation President or State Federation Tournament Director may represent a maximum of 4 anglers from their own state and stand in for them at registration, if need be, late fees will still apply, the event official tournament director may represent any angler(s) as well. The angler being represented gives up all rights to any claims of "unknown" items if they miss the rules briefing for any reason. **NO EXCEPTIONS. IT SHALL BE EACH COMPETITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK THE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FACT SHEET FOR ON SITE REGISTRATION TIME AND LOCATION.**

**4. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE, CHECK IN, COMPETITION:** Competition waters are open for fishing anytime until Sunday night midnight prior to the first competition day. Tournament waters will be off limits to all competitors, Monday, Tuesday and re-open for practice on Wednesday, Thursday all day and Friday until 3pm local time.

**After Sunday night midnight prior to the event, a competitor may not seek, purchase, barter for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through publicly available sources)** nor may a contestant enter tournament waters with anyone who is deemed "expert" on tournament waters by tournament officials after this date, except (a) An immediate family member living the same household who is not deemed and "expert" or anyone who is a confirmed competitor in the same event. ***The hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after the entry deadline of 12 noon on Thursday, two weeks prior to the first tournament day of each National Semi Final tournament.***

**On Friday, the day before the first tournament day, all TBF participants must be off plane, within site of the boat launch and no longer fishing by 3pm local time.** After the pre-tournament briefing begins fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. You may only be on the water to return to your place of lodging.

**You are expected to compete all days that you are qualified; failure to do so may result in ineligibility to compete in the future. IF an angler drops it is THAT states responsibility to even the field per rule # 7.**

During the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to marine band weather.

**5. SAFETY & TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY:** Safe conduct must be observed at all times by all participants. Participants must abide by all local navigation laws and avoid restricted areas at all times. All participants are required and agree to wear a fully zippered fastened or snapped Coast Guard-approved type III or greater chest type personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is running. Tournament officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day, restrict tournament waters or impose speed limits because of navigation, traffic, bad weather or any other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors or the public. In the event of a storm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. 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.

TBF will announce emergency contact numbers/instructions at the pre-tournament briefing. ALL the rules of this event, particularly the safety rules are the responsibility of ALL participants and official's to verify / adhere to.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** Participants will conduct themselves in a true sportsmanlike, courteous, safe and ethical manner at all times maintaining professional demeanor in public and in communication with officials. The "Federation" is the "grassroots ambassadors" of fishing, maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any unfavorable conduct, speech or action by a participant in our efforts to promote sportsmanship, clean waters and conservation will not be tolerated and could affect eligibility to participate. Each competitor is expected to participate in the marshaling of the field to help maintain the highest integrity of competition. Use of or possession in the boat of alcohol or marijuana/cannabis products, ("medical" or otherwise) or any drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any participant during the official event or tournament days or in our weigh-in process area and/or any use by the final day designated "leaders" until any polygraph examinations are complete will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Any conduct prior to or during the event reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and/or disqualification. Any disqualification discipline or suspension from any fishing organization may be grounds for rejecting any application for participation or disqualification. **Any violation of these basic sporting principles will be taken seriously.**

**7. PAIRINGS:** All Boaters and Co-Anglers will be paired by random draw and will not be paired with another angler from their home states until/unless no other options are available. All contestants must contact their assigned Boater or Co-Angler following the pretournament meeting. Partners should advise each other of their respective lodging and phone numbers and establish a meeting time and place AWAY FROM THE RAMP so you can be launched at least 30 minutes prior to the morning takeoff. The tournament director, at his sole discretion, may reassign partners at any time. Once you are paired by the draw you must inform Tournament Officials if you cannot fish or fines and penalties will apply. Event Boater and Co-Angler numbers will be even, no one can fish alone, if an angler does not show up or must withdraw and a Standby Angler\Observer cannot be found, Boaters or Co-Anglers will be removed from the same state that the angler dropped from to even the field based on last registered/first out. Register early if you do not want the risk. **(also see Rule # 20)** When possible contestants from the same Club\State Federation will not be paired together until there are no other options left and nor shall two competitors' fish together more than one day in any single event. Announcement of your first day's partner shall be made at the pre-tournament rules and safety briefing which must be attended by each competitor. Subsequent day's partners shall be posted at each weigh-in. Tournament Officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. A contestant must not allow any fish caught by them to be counted on the score of another contestant. In such a case, both contestants shall be disqualified from this and all future tournaments conducted by TBF.

**8. BOAT OPERATION:** Boaters will fish from the front deck only. Co-Anglers will fish from the back deck\seating area only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For safety, in the event of a breakdown/emergency, Co-Anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard but may not fish anytime from the front deck. **Boaters may NOT request that the Co-Angler not fish. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the officials, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps their Co-Angler and any Co-Angler who unfairly handicaps their Boater may be disqualified.** Co-Anglers are not permitted to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during competition day nor share information of Boater's location or tactics with another boater.

**9. BOAT EQUIPMENT & SAFETY:** The safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH SAFETY DEVICE. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer if required. The horsepower rating of the outboard engine must not exceed the rating specified on this plate. Changing or altering standard factory motor parts to increase horsepower over factory rated horsepower is forbidden and will result in disqualification.

During any official practice or competition day(s) of any TBF event no contestant may operate a boat unless they have documented proof of an insurance policy with reasonable amounts of watercraft liability coverage on that particular boat and a valid expiration date. Proof must remain **WITH THE BOAT** during the entire event **RANDOM**

**CHECKS MAY BE CONDUCTED AT ANY TIME.** Policy must be in full force covering the competitors in that boat, all dates of the event. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. All tournament boats are required to have in their possession all Coast Guard-required safety equipment, including but not limited to approved type III or greater chest type personal flotation devices, a type IV throw cushion, fire extinguisher, distress horn/flag/whistle, and display boat marker (supplied by tournament officials). Great Lakes, Canadian border or navigable water ways may also require and anchor and flares.

In addition, each boat must have a functional bilge pump and livewell space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch by BOTH competitors using the boat. TBF recommends the use of livewell additives to promote the healthy release of all fish to their natural habitat. Further TBF recommends the use of ICE to cool livewell water and improve oxygen levels during "hotter" months. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in total length or longer, propeller driven and must have a rear deck, Boater's must make a back seat available to their Co-Angler if so requested. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Gas tanks that are factory installed or auxiliary tanks installed by a factory authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks properly secured or strapped in a boat, that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to all contenders and\or the public. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted.

**All tournament boats must be cleaned of all aquatic species prior to entering the water and upon departure from infected waters. CLEAN DRAIN & DRY**

**10. BOAT CHECK & ID:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a livewell and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament official, also a boat marker, which MUST remain in or on the boat and turned in during check-in at the end of each day. TBF reserves sole discretion to assign boat numbers in any manner. There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through official boat check in the morning or to check in at the check-in point in the afternoon can result in disqualification and\or fines. All fishing must cease upon check-in. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament rules. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in until fish have been weighed. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

**11. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" is permitted. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be in use at any one time. All other types prohibited. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see with the naked eye, with glasses or via visual aids such as electronics, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal. No gaffs or grippers are allowed to land bass nor permitted in the boat. Alabama rigs and other similar type baits will follow the most restrictive state laws covering any part of the tournament waters. **Boaters** will utilize the front storage compartments and the Boater will make available the back storage compartments for the Co-Anglers use. **Co-Anglers** are limited to a maximum of 7 rods as defined above rigged and ready for use in the boat.

**12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by Officials for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the tournament official. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: Any water within these tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, any live fish release area established by Tournament Officials will be Off-limits and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fish or a fishing location. Only water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to all contestants. Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The removal of official local, state or federal barricades or barriers at any time to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited. The use of any type of block & tackle, rope, cable or similar type system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is prohibited. On tournament days, participants are prohibited from fishing except during designated tournament fishing hours. Participants should stay off tournament waters before and after tournament hours except to navigate to and from the check-in site and launch facilities, if repairs and/or a

test-run are needed contact a tournament official first. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat and all boats must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No boats may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except by direction of the tournament director.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are only two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant, at which point all fishing must cease by all parties. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided that all contestants fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction between their catches to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Otherwise, contestants must remain together and within sight of each other at all times. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted. However, ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, anytime partners are separated.

**13. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors not at the official safety check in point as described above at the appointed check in time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Big Fish Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all weight credit for that day. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." Return time shall be defined as off-plane no longer fishing, plainly visible by the official timekeepers.

**14. SCORING:** For the "STATE PRIDE" standings to determine which participating federation wins their National Semi-Final, each state will pre-designate their top 4 Boaters and top 4 Co-Anglers and their weights will be tracked as a group separately to determine which State wins the 'STATE PRIDE" award. Boater and Co-Angler tournament standings, advancement positions and awards and final standings shall be determined by the individual total two day official weight of each Boater and each Co-Angler separately. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The limit shall be five (5) fish per BOATER and (3) fish per Co-angler, per day unless the prevailing state limit is less than these limits, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the Tournament Director. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest fish first, down to the stated limit. The official length shall be announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters; in no case will it be less than 12 inches. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall not be weighed and will accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any fish that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of Tournament Officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a Tournament Official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been presented to tournament officials, no one may alter nor add to their catch or return to their boat until their catch has been weighed and recorded. Fish must not be "stringered" at any time during the tournament. This would also include any device that would hold more than one fish in the livewell. Balance beams can be used for sorting fish but cannot be left attached to a fish. Each contestants catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag, you MAY NOT use you own bag.

**15. CATCH AND RELEASE:** For each legal dead fish presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces, to be deducted from the total weight of that fish. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points.

**16. TIES:** In case of a tie for any advancement position, champions or STATE PRIDE awards or spots the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual or state pride group with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual or state pride group with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual or state pride group with the heaviest single days catch during

competition; 4.) The individual or state pride group with the second heaviest single days catch during competition. In the unlikely event a tie remains after these four tiebreakers are employed; a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s) and the money, if any will be equally split. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

**17. PROTESTS & TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS:** Anyone has a right to protest a contestant. Protests should be in writing within 30 minutes of final flight check-in time of each tournament day. IF it is a participant protesting another participant there will be a \$40 protest fee. The fee will be returned if the protest is found valid. Following interviews with concerned parties or truth verification testing if required, a final ruling will be made. In the event rules infractions occurred a penalty of daily and/or tournament weight may be applied, and cash, prizes and awards must be returned if so requested. If a protest is found valid, the disqualification party must pay all investigative costs. RANDOM and "FOR CAUSE" TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS CAN BE GIVEN AT ANY TIME THROUGHOUT SEASON. ***EACH COMPETITOR AGREES, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON ANY ENTRY FORM, WRITTEN OR ELECTRONIC and or by their participation in a TBF event, TO SUBMIT TO A TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST OR POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON and abide by the conclusion.*** Failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification. The administration and interpretation of the truth verification test shall be the sole responsibility of TBF, and their agent(s), and shall be used (or not used) at their discretion. Without limiting anything herein, TBF shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such a truth verification test shall be administered, the individual who administers such a truth verification test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test and the determination of the meaning of the results. The participant shall be available, at their own expense, at the location stipulated and shall cooperate in all respects.

**18. PATCHES, SIGNAGE, MEDIA & PROMOTIONS:** TBF has no intent to restrict use of logos, patches or signage and encourages there use to promote your various supporters. Realizing we are in a TV \ media \ sponsorship field that MAY restrict the use of some signage\logos TBF reserves the right to restrict the use of such signage\logos in with as much advance notice as possible. Further all anglers agree to use any and all "Official" products, equipment or jerseys so specified and provided by TBF if asked to in our efforts to promote TBF, youth, conservation and clean waters, if applicable. **Smoking and alcohol is NOT allowed in the weigh-in line, additionally, if you are being filmed for television no tobacco products may be used while filming.**

**19. STATE FEDERATION RESPONSIBILITIES:** It is each state federation's responsibility to help manage and staff their National Semi Final event each year whether they are hosting it that year or not. In the event of a dispute the district's assigned federation presidents will meet to attempt resolution, if they cannot then a TBF National Senior Tournament Director level or above will resolve the issue which shall be binding on all parties. It is each state Federations responsibility to manage their National Semi Final qualifier list to an equal number of Boaters and Co-angler and submit a written list to TBF National Office a minimum of 30 days before the events first tournament day. Additionally, each state federation must identify their top 4 Boaters and top 4 Co-Anglers so their weights can be tracked in the "State Pride" competition.

**20. STATE FEDERATION STANDBY ANGLERS:** Each participating State in a National Semi-Final will be allowed a MAXIMUM of two (2) and a suggested MINIMUM of one (1) (**Required or rule # 7 applies**) Official Standby Anglers immediately accessible for the event. These Standby Anglers must have followed all the off-limits and tournament rules that apply and should be ready to step in to even up a boat should one of a state's anglers have to drop out for any reason. Standby Anglers will be expected to assist the hosting state with the daily afternoon weigh in duties both days. TBF must receive a completed entry form from these official Standby Anglers before the tournament entry deadline date. Tournament Director must approve the reason for the leaving Angler before a replacement with a Standby Angler will be allowed. **In addition, the HOSTING State Federation each year will be required to secure and have at the ready one(1) Standby Angler immediately accessible by the tournament director WITH a boat for standby or rescue in case they are needed.**

## **21. PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING**

I/We, \_\_\_\_\_, in consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in ANY event(s), and/or related activities conducted by any Federation Angler affiliated groups including but not limited to; The Bass Federation,(TBF), Student Anglers Federation,(SAF), MLF or an affiliated State Federation and all other affiliated events either jointly or separately, I 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; AND, I 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 KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, 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, sponsors, 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 HEREBY ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND, I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; AND I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS “RELEASEES”, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE 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, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT OF THE LAW.**

I **agree** to submit, by signature on this document, 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 certify that the number shown on these forms is my correct taxpayer identification number.

**Having fully acquainted myself with the tournament rules**, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry. In signing this application, and by my presence at the event, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, participant release of liability and safety regulations. If I am an equipment operator 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 official 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 a reasonable limit. 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. I certify that training compliant with the Youth Safe Sports Act of 2017 has been made available to me this year if I am participating in a youth event. I hereby waive my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the 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, video\audio productions and/or articles and press releases by the event organizers, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever.

**The Participant(s) signifies by their signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.**

Angler A- Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF MINORITY AGE PARTICIPANTS-** As parent/guardian for this participant with legal responsibility, 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 minor child's participation, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE of the Releasees.

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