

## Official 2018 TIBF Qualifier Rules

**Rule Changes:** The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification.

**Participants & Eligibility:** Entries *must* be done in Boater/Co-Angler pairs. Only anglers who are members of The Idaho Bass Federation and TBF/FLW National Federation rosters for current year are eligible for the qualifier and paid up in advance of any qualifier tournament in which they fish. All State, National and FLW dues must be current. Anglers must be at least 16 years of age prior to the first qualifier tournament. Any Angler under age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the entry form/release. The Official Entry Form must be properly completed, signed, and submitted no later than 8pm. Friday night of pre-tournament meeting. The state team will be comprised of the top finishers respectively consisting of top 6 Boaters and top 6 Co-Angler by points or 10% of state annual in state participation numbers, whichever is greater. Qualifying will be determined by calculating total score from 3 of 4 fished qualifiers (1 throw-out).

**Entry Fees:** Entry fees are \$250 per Boater and \$125 per Co-Angler which covers the entire series of Qualifier tournaments. No refunds at any time. *All Boaters must attach proof of valid and current insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 liability.* This insurance must be in effect at the time of the event.

**Draw & Pre-tournament/Boater Meeting:** All Boaters and Co-Angler will fish with whom they signed up with in accordance with entry forms (No random draw). The launch order draw will be held at the pre-tournament meeting the evening before the event at 8:00pm. Each contestant must be present or have someone represent them at the pre-tournament meetings. Event Boater and Co-Angler numbers will be even, no one can fish alone. **If a registered Boater/Co-Angler does not show and an alternate is not available, the designated Boater/ Co-Angler will be unable to fish the event.**

**Alternates:** Should an angler not attend an event for which they have already paid they should find alternate angler to assume their spot in the event. **Tournament Director is not responsible for identifying alternate Anglers.** If an alternate/observer fishes, they must meet the above eligibility rules to fish. They would not pay an entry fee to fish but has option to participate in option pots. Alternates must report to the tournament director at the pre-tournament meeting.

**Registration:** Each competitor must register with official tournament staff before 8:00pm Friday evening prior to first qualifier tournament.

**Fish Limit:** Fish limit per Angler is 5 fish of no less than 12" length except where state or federal rules conflict. Any short (less than 12") fish will result in total bag disqualification. Anglers culling dead fish will be disqualified.

**Option Pots:** Top 3 Boater Option pots will be \$25 and \$50 and Top 3 Co-Angler Option Pots will be \$25. Big Fish Option of \$10 will pay out to Boater big fish and Co-Angler big fish of event. Options pay back 100%. For Option Pots other than Big Fish, Boaters will be competing against Boaters and Co-Angler against Co-Angler only. Alternates may participate in respective option pots. Options may be paid at pre-tournament meeting of respective event.

**Off Limits Period:** The tournament waters will be OFF-LIMITS to all competitors Sunday Midnight through Saturday tournament start. During the tournament, a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless he is a contestant in the tournament. Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion

of the Tournament Director. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Director shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such polygraph test shall be administered, the individual who administers such polygraph test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination if deemed necessary.

**Boat Operation:** Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-Anglers will fish from the back deck or seating area of the boat only. **Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished.** For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown or during an 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 tournament director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her Co-Angler and any Co-Angler who unfairly handicaps his/her Boater may be disqualified. Co-Anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day nor share information about their Boater's location or tactics with any other Boater.

**Breakdowns/Equipment Failure:** 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.

**Penalties:** A ½ pound will be deducted from any competitor for each Dead Fish brought to the scales. No dead fish may be weighed as Big Fish. Any short fish (less than 12") will result in bag disqualification. Competitors, who are not at the official safety check-in point by appointed time, shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their days catch. Any competitors more than 15 minutes late, is disqualified. Return time shall be defined as off-plane, no longer fishing and plainly visible by the official timekeeper. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

**Horsepower Regulations:** Each boat must be equipped with a U.S. coast guard rating plate, which must be attached to the boat by the manufacturer. in no case may the horsepower of your outboard exceed the rating specified on the rating plate. Each competitor agrees to submit, by their signature on the official entry form, the boat and motor used in the tournament to an inspection by factory-trained personal, if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower is in excess of the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts of your motor to INCREASE THE HORSEPOWER OVER THE FACTORY HORSEPOWER RATING IS FORBIDDEN, and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from TIBF Sanctioned Events.

**Tackle and Equipment:** Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" will be permitted. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be in use or used 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, 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 may be used to land bass nor be permitted in the boat at any time. 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.

**Boat Check:** All boats must have a factory installed live well system. Live well checks will be done prior to tournament launch

**Permitted Fishing Locations:** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director and will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting. 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. 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.

**Safety:** 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 and time the combustion engine is operating. While the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. A preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament Director has the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. Front and rear lights must be in place and functioning prior to leaving the launch site.

**Sportsmanship:** Competitors in TIBF tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future TIBF tournaments. 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 act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations.

**Dispute handling:** All protests must be presented in writing to Tournament Director no more than 30 minutes of last flight check-in. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules is the exclusive domain of the designated on-site Tournament Director.

**Release boats:** 1 of every 4 boats will be assigned as release boats. Refusal to participate as a release boat can result in disqualification. The assigned boats will start with the first boat launched. For example, in a 20 boat field, boats 1 through 5 will be assigned as release boats. Those 5 boats will be given their weigh bags on the night prior, or morning of the event. This will allow them to get through the weigh line first and prepare to receive fish to release.

**Entry Fee Distribution:** Boater entry fees are to be divided as follows: \$30 for National Boater, \$20 for jerseys, \$10 for Qualifier administration, \$190 travel funds to Semi-Finals. Co-Angler entry fees are to be divided as follows: \$15 for National Co-Angler, \$20 for jerseys, \$10 for Qualifier administration, \$80 travel funds to Semi-Finals. Any qualifier member that does not go to the Semi- Final or National tournament must return any paid funds so that it can be forwarded to the next alternate member. Qualifier members receiving travel funds must attend annual banquet. If member cannot attend, reimbursement may be requested by TIBF board, exception will be considered on a case by case basis.

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