

2025 CTBF Team Qualifying Tournament Rules and Official Entry Form

2025 Colorado Bass Federation Official Team Qualifying Tournament Entry Form and Rules Effective Mar 1, 2025

The following rules can only be changed at the end of the calendar Year at the State Board meeting, with a motion and second being made at a previously held regular board meeting. Or written notice of a motion and a second, being made by EVERY club in the Federation, written notice must be made a minimum of 30 days in advance, but not later than Nov. 1. The rules set forth at the end of the Yearly State Board meeting shall remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the Colorado Bass Federation (CTBF).

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee. In the event of a rule's violation, the Tournament Committee may impose such sanctions, as it deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Committee and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS/ELIGIBILITY:

Participation in this tournament is by invitation only. **This tournament is open only to members of the Federation who are 16 years of age or older and who are active members of Colorado T.B.F Inc. affiliated**

Chapters in good standing. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitors. This tournament is open to teams consisting of no more than two contestants per boat. The operator of the boat must be at least 16 years of age or older and have a valid driver's license. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of potential competitors. **DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY COLORADO BASS FEDERATION EVENT OR OPEN EVENT, NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A POLICY IN FORCE WITH A MINIMUM OF \$300,000**

BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW \$300,000.00 LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE.

NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Committee, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or himself shall not be eligible. A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR ON OR BEFORE THE APPLICATION DEADLINE DATE OF 12:00 P.M. FRIDAY ONE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE DAY. ENTRIES RECEIVED AFTER THIS TIME WILL BE SUBJECT TO A \$25.00 LATE FEE AND MUST BE PAID IN CASH. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. **Contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license that covers the waters on which the tournament is held.**

2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE:

For CTBF State events the tournament waters shall be off limits to all competitors commencing at 1201a.m, **MONDAY THE WEEK OF THE TOURNAMENT**, until safe light on the first practice day. The exact dates and times of the official practice period \ off-limits must be obtained from the CTBF. For single day CTBF Open tournaments there will be no off-limits. The competitor must know and observe these dates. **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 ANYONE WHO IS DEEMED AN "EXPERT" ON THE TOURNAMENT WATERS BY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, UNLESS HE/SHE IS A CONTESTANT IN THIS TOURNAMENT or A DIRECT FAMILY MEMBER.** During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not

"SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. 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 the event of an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine band weather info. **EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES IN WRITING WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE SCALES CLOSING FOR THAT DAY. 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, BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THIS DOCUMENT, TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON.**

The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Committee, and their agents, and shall be used (or not used) at the discretion of the Tournament Committee. Without limiting the foregoing, the Tournament Committee 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 their own expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Committee and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination.

3. REGISTRATION:

Each competitor is encouraged to PRE-REGISTER. Completed entries, **must be postmarked one week prior to the tournament day.** It shall be each competitor's responsibility to obtain from the CTBF registration times and location. **Entry fees will set for the tournaments by the tournament committee.** In event that an entrant has notified CTBF before the event day that he/she is unable to fish the tournament due to circumstances beyond his/her control, a refund of the entry fee will be made. Boat numbers will be assigned according to the receipt of the Official Entry by the Tournament committee or at the pre-tournament rules

meeting. There will be no refunds of entry fees except for hardship cases, which will be determined by the Tournament Director on a case-by-case basis. Order out will be determined by draw at the pre-tournament meeting.

4. SAFETY:

Safe boat conduct must be always observed by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest-type life preserver. This 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 their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. **Tournament officials have 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.** The Tournament Director reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on this tournament. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. **Navigation lights will be in use from tournament start until Teams reach their first fishing location.**

Participating boats will be marked to distinguish them from other boats on the tournament waters.

5. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors in an CTBF tournament 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 official practice or during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future CTBF tournaments. Maximum courtesy must be always observed 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 prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct 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 for disqualification. **Written Protest** must be submitted to a Tournament Official within **30 minutes** of the completion of the weigh in on that day. **Protest from the Official Practice period will be submitted in writing to a Tournament Official within 30 minutes of the conclusion of the weigh in on the first Tournament Day.** If at any time, any of the Tournament Officials are made aware of any rule's violation during the official practice or tournament, the incident will be investigated to determine the validity of the incident. If it is determined that a rules violation has occurred appropriate penalties will be enforced. A committee of Chapter Representatives will be established in matters that may result in disqualification only. During the investigation by Chapter Representatives, only the description of the incident will be presented. Names will only be provided after a decision has been made. The following dispositions will be used for submitted protest,

UNFOUNDED: No misconduct.
NON-SUSTAINED: There is not sufficient evidence to prove or disprove the protest.
SUSTAINED WITH NO PENALTY: The allegation did occur, but there was just cause for the violation.
SUSTAINED: The allegation did occur, and a penalty will be imposed.
Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for

participation and for disqualification. Prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish bind all competitors.

6. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, except for pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE casting, spin casting or spinning rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified above may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. No gaffs OR "GRIPPERS" may be used to boat bass nor be permitted in boat at any time.

7. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:

MAXIMUM HORSEPOWER FOR ALL OUTBOARD MOTORBOATS USED IN OFFICIAL PRACTICE AND IN TOURNAMENT COMPETITION MUST NOT EXCEED THE RATING SPECIFIED ON THE U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. 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 more than 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 Oklahoma Bass Federation Tournaments.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR:

For the safety of all contestants, **ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH.** This ignition kill 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.

Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in length or longer. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. All BLADDER tanks and any other type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by an 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 that meet U.S. Coast Guard regs. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Under no circumstances shall a competitor be allowed to "store" additional gas on the bank or anywhere else for use in a tournament boat. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. **NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR.** The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Committee. A competitor answering affirmatively the question "Will you bring a boat and motor?" will be expected to make that boat and motor available for tournament use by himself and his daily partner, if so, requested by tournament officials. Those answering the same question negatively will be presumed not to have a boat available and will be paired with one who does when possible. It shall be the responsibility of the fishing partners to mutually agree on whose boat to use, and the basis for sharing expenses. If partners are unable to agree, the Tournament Committee shall make such determination, which shall be binding upon the partners.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **LIVWELL SPACE, PROPERLY AERATED, TO ADEQUATELY MAINTAIN ALIVE A LIMIT CATCH OF BASS BY BOTH ANGLERS USING THE BOAT.**

Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

Each boat **MUST** be given, prior to each day's start, an inspection by a tournament official. Live wells, lights and kill switch must be working prior to take off. If boat markers are issued, they must show upon request.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Committee for each Tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the OBF Tournament officials. Fishing on Tournament waters is permitted anywhere except within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position **WITH THE TROLLING MOTOR OUT OF THE WATER.** The anchored boat has a responsibility to inform other competitor's boats when they have entered the 50-yard circle claimed by him/her. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within the 50-yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within these boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. Also, the live-bass release area established by the Tournament Committee will be OFF-LIMITS and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to these tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

12. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:

Contestants must not depart the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to

fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat unless the tournament is a trailering event. Both competitors must always remain in boat except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: **A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. One of the partners** may remain with the boat if so desired. The partners must stay together always, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above if they do not decide that one will stay with the boat for their catch of that day to be counted. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed, and the competitors will continue, and their catch will be counted.

This applies only to dire emergency situations. **Trailing of boats during tournament hours is permitted only by the direction of the Tournament Officials.**

13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:

There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in all boats shall identify themselves and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

14. SCORING:

Tournament standing, auxiliary awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth and announced by the Board of Directors. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a

special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament officials, in which case the state limit or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. At no time shall a Team have in their possession more than the tournament limit. This does not apply to teams that are in the process of culling a fish. This affects teams that have more than the tournament limit in live wells. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of this provision, and in the event a Team has more than the above-described limits to possession, tournament officials shall cull the largest bass first, down to the limit described. In addition, if a Team is found to be in possession of more than the limit specified, they will be penalized by the weight of their largest fish in that days catch. Culling of bass will be completed immediately if the competitor has in his possession the described limit. **Culling of dead fish will be prohibited. No culling of bass will be permitted after a competitor checks in at the Official Check-in point.** 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 bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by the Tournament committee and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the State limit covering the tournament waters. 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 accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each such bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass 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/she MUST present all LEGAL fish in his/her possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a tournament official, that contestant may not return to his/her boat until his/hers catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be put on a stringer at any time during the tournament. This

restriction includes live-well stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. It has been determined that stringing decreases the chances of a bass' survival, and bass thus handled may be disqualified. Specially designed bags which increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Committee, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in. Any bass brought to the scales that is not of legal length will result in a one-pound penalty and loss of the fish. **No dead bass shall be weighed for big bass awards. (20 POINTS AWARDED FOR AT LAKE PARTICIPATION). Your limit counts for both team members in the boat and your top 3 finishes points are cumulatively taken for District 21 NSF qualification. Angler/Co-Angler of the Year is awarded on total series accumulated points.**

15. CATCH & RELEASE:

For each legally dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized **eight (8)** ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. The Tournament Committee shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

16. LATE PENALTY:

Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 13 at the appointed 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 "Lunker Award" for each one minute they are late. Any competitors more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that days catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the tournament begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing.

17. TIES:

In case of a tie the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the

competition; 2.) The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The team with the heaviest single days catches during a two day or more competition day event; 4.) The team or individual with the second heaviest single days catch during competition. In the unlikely event that teams or individuals remain tied after these four tiebreakers are employed; then 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 committee.

18. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE

The Federation encourages the use of patches, logos and other signage to promote local and T.B.F. Inc. sponsors.

19. PAYOUT:

Entry fees for Colorado CTBF State Qualifying Series Events will be (\$100.00 PER BOAT). \$4.00 from each entry fee will go towards a daily big bass pot. \$16.00 from each entry fee will go towards the Colorado TBF. \$10.00 from each entry fee will go towards the Nation Contender fund to assist with off-setting cost for the National Contenders. Side pots are encouraged but will not be set, collected or awarded by anyone deemed a Tournament Official.

20. ADVANCEMENT FROM SERIES:

Angler and Co-Angler of the Year advance directly to the Federation National Championship...\$1,000 Stipend paid by state to TBF.

10% of adult participation in a state event/series advance to the NSF (NOT 10% of membership but 10% of your adult participation). A state cannot simply add anglers to a NSF who did not qualify and or did not fish one of their state qualifiers.

21. ADVANCEMENT FROM NSF TO FNC:

1 Boater/1 Co-angler advances for 1-29 boats
2 Boater/2 Co-angler advance 30-59 boats, etc.
(Every 30 boats competing in NSF earn additional from state)

**2025 Colorado TBF Team
Qualifying Series Schedule**

Wilson Lake, KS

**May 17-18 (2-One day
Tournaments)**

Hells Creek Boat Ramp

Lake McConaughy, NE

**June 18-19 (2-One day
Tournaments)**

Ramp TBD (Water level)

Pueblo Reservoir, CO

**September 6-7 (2-One day
Tournaments)**

North Shore Marina

TBF District 21 NSF

Grand Lake, OK

October 4-5 (2-Day Event)

Wolf Creek Ramp

Tournament Information and Emergency Phone Numbers

Frank Bianchi 719-491-2074

Troy Stinson 719-660-7121

Carey Goldberg 719-591-6226

2025 Sponsor Partners

MLF

BASS PRO SHOPS

POWER POLE

CABELAS

RANGER BOATS

LEWS

STRIKE KING

TH MARINE

CRUSH CITY RAPALA

MINNKOTA

THE BASS FEDERATION, INC. HUMMINBIRD

SEND ENTRIES TO:

Frank Bianchi

6645 Lange Circle

Colorado Springs, CO 80918

719-491-2074

Entry forms, rules and dates can be found and downloaded at our website.

<https://coloradotbf.com/>