



2025 Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Junior & High School Series Overview and Rules

**PLEASE FIND ALL GENERAL RULES AND
INFORMATION HIGHLIGHTED IN ORANGE
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GENERAL YOUTH SERIES INFORMATION AND RULES:

1. Set-Up:

A Tournament Director or Committee shall run each Tournament. The Tournament Director shall be allowed to captain in a tournament. Tournament Headquarters shall be the official weigh-in site.

2. Partner Changes:

- You are allowed one partner change per year
- Any points or qualifications earned by a team will only be awarded to one of the team members if you change partners.
- Any partner change will make you ineligible for team of the year. Solo anglers are exempt from this rule.
- Any angler that fish's solo may choose a partner to join him/her, this counts as your one partner change.
- Any new partner of a team must meet minimum requirements to be eligible for the partners previous earned points or qualifications.
- All partner changes are subject to approval of the IBN Youth Director/Committee.

3. Substitution Partners:

- Subs MUST be from the same school or club.
- Only 1 sub allowed during each half of the tournament trail (1 fall / 1 spring)
- All decisions are subject to approval of the tournament director and / or youth committee and all decisions are final.

4. Insurance:

DURING THE OFFICIAL COMPETITION DAYS, NO COMPETITOR MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT COMPETITOR HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF A MINIMUM OF \$300,000 BOATING LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERING THE BOAT BEING USED IN THE TOURNAMENT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITORS USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED AND ANY COMPETITOR WHO DOES NOT HAVE PROOF OF IN-FORCE INSURANCE WITH \$300,000 COVERAGE MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO COMPETE.

5. Official Rules & Procedures:

Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of any and all prizes. The decision of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

6. Safety:

Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and the tournament, each competitor and Boat Captain is required to wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. Personal flotation devices (PFD) must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Junior participants under the age of 13 must wear a non inflatable chest style PDF at all times. Junior participants 13 and older may wear an inflatable life vest when the combustion engine is NOT running. Inflatable life vests may only be worn if you are 16 years of age or older and weigh more than 80lbs. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be reason for disqualification. All Coast Guard and state regulations as to age, weight and type of PFDs, must be observed. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten, or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Once competition is underway, it is the responsibility of the Boat Captain to take appropriate actions that involve hazardous weather conditions. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. IBN reserves the right to impose boat speed limits and the area covered by the speed limit in any or all tournaments. 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 or his/her designee. It is suggested boat captain have a safety check with the anglers each day prior to launch to familiarize the location of all safety equipment

Navigation lights (red/ green & 360 lights) MUST be in and turned on until you reach your first location.

7. Sportsmanship:

Competitors of the Illinois Bass Nation are expected to follow HIGH STANDARDS of sportsmanship, safety, and conservation. Any infractions of these fundamentals may be deemed cause for disqualification and additional sanctions up to and including removal as a member of the Illinois Bass Nation. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by licensed physician) by any competitor or coach during the official practice or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future IBN 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. The prevailing statutes and regulations of the State of Illinois bind all competitors. No alcoholic beverages, stimulants, depressants, or otherwise shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days. 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 ground for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Competitors who fail to show the morning of take off and have not notified the Tournament Director no later than 11:00 pm the evening prior to the tournament day, at the Tournament Directors discretion may be disqualified. 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.

8. Boat & Motor:

For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. This device must be attached to the driver's body at 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. **Maximum horsepower 250, no jet drive or tunnel hull boats.**

***** All teams moving forward to the Bassmaster High School National Championship will be required to operate a console steering boat. No tiller drive boats will be allowed.**

9. Basic Boat Equipment:

Every boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.

10. Boat Identification:

Each boat MAY be given, prior to the day's start an inspection check by a tournament official. All boats will be tagged for identification purposes. The team will be given a numbered plate or Key fob which MUST remain with your boat until turned in at the official check-in.

11. Permitted Fishing Locations:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director. Each competitor must obtain this information from the Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Director. Fishing is permitted anywhere on tournament waters 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. Power poles are considered to be a fixed position device. All such boats are required to advise any other competitor when such a boat believes that the competitor's boat is close to being in this 50-yard radius. A competitor has the right to navigate through this 50-yard radius to get to fishable waters. No such boat shall permit selected competitors to fish within this 50-yard circle claimed by him/her to the exclusion of any other competitor. Any water within boundaries posted off limits or NO Fishing by State or Federal agencies will be OFF-LIMITS. All angling must be done from a boat. Competitors wishing to change fish habitat by placing an object in tournament waters may do so if such action does not violate state or federal regulations.

12. Contestants Must Remain In Boat:

Contestants must not depart the boat to land 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 check-in by boat. In such an emergency, competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to contact a tournament official by phone or other means or to report an emergency breakdown), both competitors must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by the tournament officials and enough time is left for the competitors 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. The trailering of boats during the tournament hours is prohibited except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

13. Official Check Point:

There shall be only one official check point for check-out in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated by the Tournament Director. At the time of check out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all the rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves by means of numbered plate or key fob and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners should stay together until they have completed weigh-in.

14. SCORING:

Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the pound and hundredth of a pound weight of each Team's catch during the competition day of the tournament. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye 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 reduced to possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament officials will conduct checks for violation of the provision, and in the event a competitor has reduced more than the above-described limits to possession, shall cull down to the limit described, beginning with largest bass first. The official length for bass shall be determined by the Tournament Director and announced at the tournament briefing. In most cases it will be the longest state limit covering the tournament waters. Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighted-in. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of the tournament officials. After competitors check-in at the official checkpoint they MUST present all LEGAL bass fish in their possession to the tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Each competitor is expected to keep his catch alive by use of a properly aerated live well. All bass shall be escorted from the live well to the bump tank in special bags filled with water to insure survival. Failure to do this can result in disqualification. The few bass which do not survive may be used for scientific study and for charity. Bass must not be placed on stringers at any time during the tournament. Tournament Officials will furnish specially designed bags, which increase survival rate, and these bags must be used for the weigh-in.

15. PENALTY POINTS:

The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have the sole authority for accessing penalty points. For each legal dead bass presented to a weigh-in official the competitor shall be penalized the following amounts on that day's weigh-in. For example see below

- 1 Dead Fish - (.50 lb)
- 2 Dead Fish - (1.00 lb)
- 3 Dead Fish - (1.50 lb)
- 4 Dead Fish - (2.00 lb)
- 5 Dead Fish - (2.50 lb)

Competitors that present a bass for weigh-in that fails to measure the prescribed length legal fish for the tournament waters will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound for each non-legal bass presented from the total score of the competitor after removing the illegal bass. The Tournament Director and his designated appointees shall have authority for accessing penalty points.

CULLING OF DEAD BASS IS PROHIBITED. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized 8 oz. (.5 Lbs) The Tournament Director or his designees shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. In addition, the Tournament Director, or his/her designees, may reduce tournament hours or tournament limits for fish care purposes. It is suggested in warm weather tournaments anglers keep extra ice for fish care. Contestants are allowed to purchase ice on the water at a retailer.

16. LATE PENALTIES AND NO SHOWS:

Teams who are not in the official check-in area at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of 1lb. per minute late to be deducted from his total weight, including any weight to be counted toward a big bass award. Any Team more than 10 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's weight.

Example below if a tournament check in time is 15:00

15:01.00	1lb penalty		15:06.00	6lb penalty
15:02.00	2lb penalty		15:07.00	7lb penalty
15:03.00	3lb penalty		15:08.00	8lb penalty
15:04.00	4lb penalty		15:09.00	9lb penalty
				Disqualified from the tournament
15:05.00	5lb penalty		15:10.00	

17. TIES:

In case of a tie, for the first place team the following tiebreakers will be used in order:

- 1.) The team with the largest bass by weight. (All teams are encouraged to weigh their largest bass in case of a tie) It is not the scale official's responsibility to remind them.
- 2.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition.
- 3.) The team or individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition.
- 4.) In the unlikely event that teams remain tied after these tiebreakers are employed, then a flip of a coin will be used to determine winner(s) and the money will be equally split. The tournament Director and tournament officials shall resolve ties for lesser positions.

None of the above rules shall prohibit a properly designated Tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time during the official competition day.

18. PROTESTS:

- All protests concerning the tournament must be in writing and signed by the protester and presented to the Tournament Director within 10 minutes of the end of weigh-in time (Scale is closed). The IBN will supply official protest forms which will include a copy that will be provided to the submitter of the protest, and another copy for the angler against which the protest is being filed.
- Protests will not be accepted unless the person(s) filing the protest were directly involved.
- If there is evidence of extreme rule violations uncovered at a later time, the board reserves the right to review and take whatever actions it deems necessary.
- All protests will be reviewed and testimony will be taken at a special meeting of the Tournament Committee. All involved parties will be given at least 7 days advance notice. This date, time and location of this meeting will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Committee. Only involved parties (individuals not TEAMS) will be allowed at the meeting. No proxies or substitutes will be allowed. Failure to appear at this meeting will be grounds for dismissal of the Protest (if the submitter is not present) or admission of the violation (if the accused is not present).
- EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO SUBMIT TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THAT COMPETITOR BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The costs of the polygraph test will be the responsibility of the party submitting to the polygraph test. Failure to submit to (and pay for) a requested polygraph test will be grounds for disqualification from the tournament and all future IBN events and membership.

19. Media (Written, pictures and information)

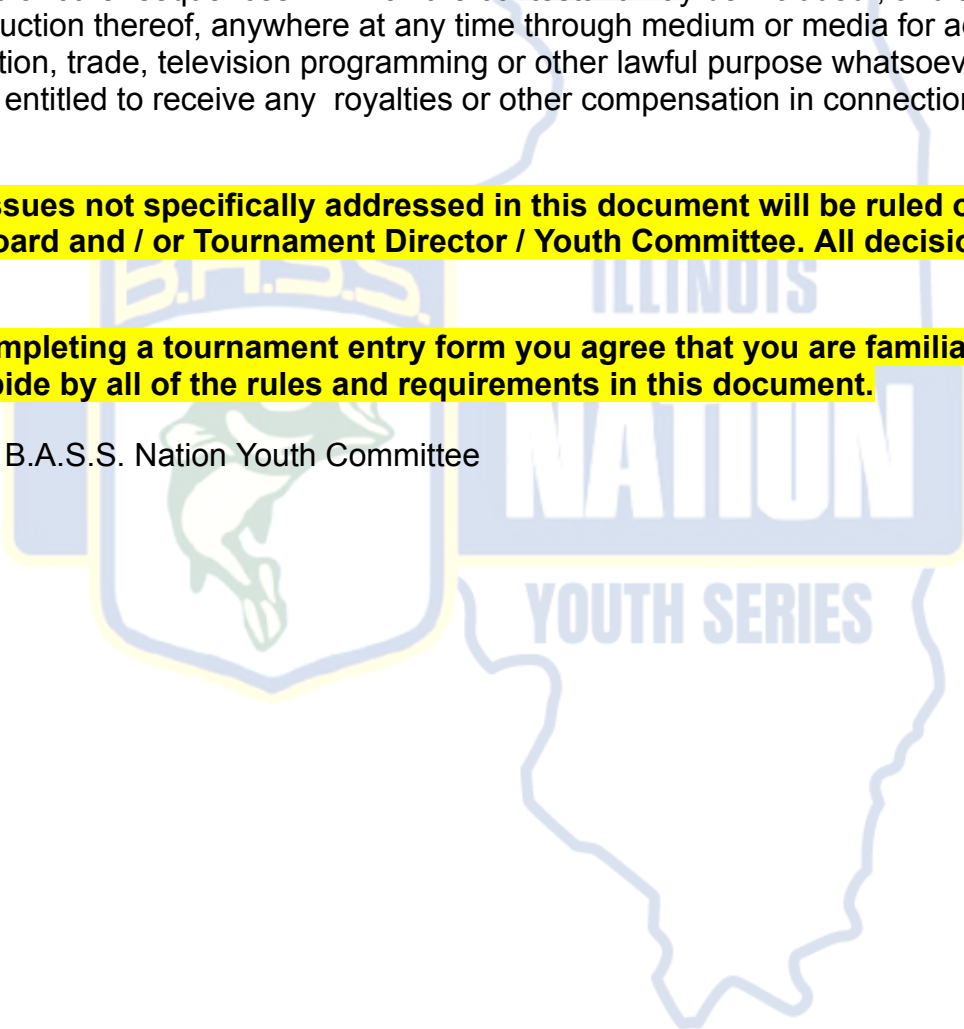
Results of the Tournament will not be official until results are reviewed by the Tournament Officials.

By participating in this competition contestants agree to waive their rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the programs of the tournament in which they appear and consent to Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation, B.A.S.S., LLC's (and their parent, affiliated and subsidiary companies, and those acting under their permission or upon their authority), copyrighting, distributing, televising, publishing and using in anyway the audio and visual portions of any television videotape, film and photographs of any interviews, scenes or other sequences in which the contestant may be included , and any reproduction thereof, anywhere at any time through medium or media for advertising, promotion, trade, television programming or other lawful purpose whatsoever, and shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use.

Any issues not specifically addressed in this document will be ruled on by the IBN board and / or Tournament Director / Youth Committee. All decisions will be final.

By completing a tournament entry form you agree that you are familiar with and will abide by all of the rules and requirements in this document.

Illinois B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Committee





20. JUNIOR SERIES PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

A. Angler must be a student currently enrolled in school, in good academic standing, and a member of a Bassmaster Junior club. Any student in 2nd to 8th grade is eligible to compete in IBN Jr. tournaments. . Competitors will be considered an “incoming student” into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria has been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating 8th graders will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their 8th grade year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. This is a team format, but an angler may fish solo if they choose to do so. . Your partner must be from the same official junior club and coach to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to B.A.S.S. in writing for approval. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to accept or deny such requests.

B. This tournament is open only to current members of official Junior Clubs. Students must belong to the same official Junior Club to compete as a team in this tournament.

C. Each participating team must have a Coach (Boat Captain). Boat Captains must be of the age that would place them out of High School. Each tournament contestant will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed. Failure to follow these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document.

D: All anglers MUST be a member in good standing of B.A.S.S., Bass Nation, & Illinois Bass Nation. Failure to do so could result in disqualification.

21. Junior Series General Info:

- Juniors will follow same schedule as high school
- Juniors will NOT declare North/ South division

22. Junior Series Tournament Entry Fee:

Each Tournament entry fee for the 2025 season will be \$50 per team. An annual membership fee of \$20 per angler will be paid at the time of the first tournament entry for a team per calendar year.

23. Junior Series Payouts:

No monies shall be paid to any junior team. The IBN Youth Series will provide stipend money to the junior teams that qualify for the Bassmasters Junior Nationals based on entries throughout the season.

24. Junior Series Points System:

Place	2 points	Place	2 points
1st	100	9th	84
2nd	98	10th	82
3rd	96	11th	80
4th	94	12th	78
5th	92	13th	76
6th	90	14th	74
7th	88	15th	72
8th	86	No fish	25

Points will be calculated as follows for Juniors:

- All Teams that participate in the tournament will receive at least 25 points.
- State qualifier points will be based off of a team's best **5** events from either division.
- TOY (Team of the Year) points will be based off of a team's best **5** events in either division.

TOY tie breaker rules:

- 1) Total number of fish (best 5 of 8)
- 2) Weight of season (best 3)
- 3) Largest fish during season
- 4) Coin flip

25. Junior Series State Championship & National Berths:

- State Championship will consist of a field of 15 teams
- State Championship berths will be awarded as follows:
 - Each angler must fish a min of 3 events, min of 2 events must be as a team for state championship &
 - 1st place from each event will receive a bid to State **OR**
 - Top 3 in points as well will receive a bid to State
- Junior National berths (3) will be awarded as follows:
 - TOY will receive a berth
 - 1st & 2nd place at state championship

26. Junior Series Coaches Rules:

Illinois Bass Nation and B.A.S.S. Junior Coaches Rules: Coaches may only fall in the following criteria: -

Close family friend/State Nation member / Parent of the student's Junior B.A.S.S. Club *If a potential coach is a local guide, then they will be ineligible for the tournament. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to deny any Coach.

During Official Practice* coaches MAY:

- Coach
- Give advice
- Teach by example
- Fish
- Run the trolling motor
- Land fish with or without a net

During Competition coaches MAY:

- Coach
- Give advice (send in plays)
- Run the trolling motor
- Assist with culling
- Verbally explain techniques, how to...
- Net Fish

During Official Practice* or Competition, anytime the combustion engine is running, coaches **MUST** be seated in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. *official practice days only are those days immediately preceding competition days, in which Illinois Bass Nation has identified as the "official practice days". Not all events will have "official practice days"



27. HIGH SCHOOL SERIES PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:

A. You must be a student currently enrolled in high school, in good academic standing and a member of your institution's fishing team or an official community club on file with Illinois Bass Nation and B.A.S.S. Only one club from each institution is allowed. Certain schools allow eighth-grade students to compete. If your institution allows eighth-grade students to compete, a letter must be submitted with a faculty member's signature stating this permission. Seventh-grade students are not allowed to compete in Illinois Bass Nation High School Tournament Events. Competitors will be considered an "incoming student" into the next grade once they have completed their final exams in their current grade. They will then be able to participate in events once the aforementioned criteria have been met and they are in the admissible grade bracket to compete. Graduating seniors will be extended a grace period and allowed to compete in the summer months once their senior year has been completed. They will not be allowed to fish in any events that are qualifying for the next calendar school year. This is a team format, but an angler may fish solo if they choose to do so.. You must have a partner from the same official school or community club and a coach to compete. If extenuating circumstances exist that prohibit you from having a partner in the tournament, then a request must be submitted to Illinois Bass Nation in writing for approval. Illinois Bass Nation reserves the right to accept or deny such requests.

B. This tournament is open only to current members of official high school clubs, recognized by said high school or an official community club. Students must belong to the same official high school club or official community club to compete as a team in this tournament. Multiple clubs from the same institution, including community clubs, are not allowed. Community clubs can incorporate multiple institutions. Students from those institutions must all be a member of the same community club.

C. Each participating team must have a coach (boat captain). Boat captains must be of the age that would place them out of high school. Each tournament contestant will receive coaching rules. All the rules in this document and the coaching rules document must be followed. Failure to follow these rules may result in penalties as laid out in this document.

D: All anglers MUST be a member in good standing of B.A.S.S., Bass Nation, & Illinois Bass Nation. Failure to do so could result in disqualification.

28. High School Series Tournament Entry Fee:

Each Tournament entry fee for the 2024 season will be \$60 per team. An annual membership fee of \$20 per angler will be paid at the time of the first tournament entry for a team per calendar year.

29. High School Series Payouts:

The payout will be based solely on the participation level for the individual tournament.

# OF BOATS	Places Paid:
UP TO 30	3
31 - 40	4
41 - 50	5
51 - 60	6
61 - 75	7

30. High School Series Point System:

1st place 100 points	11 - 90	21 - 80	31 - 70	41 - 60	51 - 50	61 - 40
2nd place 99 points	12 - 89	22 - 79	32 - 69	42 - 59	52 - 49	62 - 39
3rd place 98 points	13 - 88	23 - 78	33 - 68	43 - 58	53 - 48	63 - 38
4th - 97	14 - 87	24 - 77	34 - 67	44 - 57	54 - 47	64 - 37
5th - 96	15 - 86	25 - 76	35 - 66	45 - 56	55 - 46	65 - 36
6th - 95	16 - 85	26 - 75	36 - 65	46 - 55	56 - 45	66 - 35
7th - 94	17 - 84	27 - 74	37 - 64	47 - 54	57 - 44	67 - 34
8th - 93	18 - 83	28 - 73	38 - 63	48 - 53	58 - 43	68 - 33
9th - 92	19 - 82	29 - 72	39 - 62	49 - 52	59 - 42	69 - 32
10th - 91	20 - 81	30 - 71	40 - 61	50 - 51	60 - 41	70 - 31

Points will be calculated as follows for High School:

- All Teams that participate in the tournament will receive at least 25 points.
- State qualifier points will be based off of a team's best 5 of 8 events from 6 in division and 2 out of division.
- TOY (Team of the Year) points will be based off of a team's best 5 of 8 events from 6 in division and 2 out of division.

TOY tie breaker rules:

- 5) Total number of fish (best 5 of 8)
- 6) Weight of season (best 3 of 5)
- 7) Largest fish during season
- 8) Coin flip

31. High School Series State Championship & National Berths:

- State Championship will consist of a field of a max of 60 teams.
- State Championship berths will be awarded as follows:
 - Each angler must fish a min of 3 events, min of 2 events must be as a team for state championship &
 - Finish in the top 2 of an event OR
 - Be in the top 18 in points
- High School National berths will be awarded as follows:
- TOY of each division will earn the first berth awarded to that division's contracted trail.
- Any sequential berths earned in any contracted trail will be awarded via the State Championship along with State championship berths.
- **ANY CHANGES MADE BY BASSMASTERS ON HOW A CONTRACTED TRAIL OR A BASS NATION STATE EARNS NATIONAL BERTHS MAY CAUSE AFOREMENTIONED BERTH DISTRIBUTION TO BE CHANGED.**

32. High School Series Coaches Rules:

Illinois Bass Nation and B.A.S.S. High School Coaches Rules:

Coaches may only fall in the following criteria: -

- Official faculty member of the student's institution - Close family friend/State Nation member / Parent of the student's High School B.A.S.S. Club *If a potential coach is a local guide, then they will be ineligible for the tournament. B.A.S.S. reserves the right to deny any Coach.

During Official Practice* coaches MAY:

- Coach
- Give advice
- Teach by example
- Fish
- Run the trolling motor
- Land fish with or without a net

During Competition Coaches MAY:

- Coach
- Assist with culling
- Net fish for solo angler
- Give advice (send in plays)
- Verbally explain techniques, how to....
- **Navigate boat via trolling motor in or out of dangerous area, during this anglers may NOT fish**

During Competition Coaches MAY NOT:

- Fish
- Teach by example
- Tie knots
- Land fish with or without a net
- Run the trolling motor by pedal or remote, **except in or out of dangerous areas, during this anglers may NOT fish.**

During Official Practice* or Competition, anytime the combustion engine is running, coaches MUST be seated in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. *official practice days only are those days immediately preceding competition days, in which Illinois Bass Nation has identified as the "official practice days". Not all events will have "official practice days