

2025 TBF NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Special Championship Rules and Procedures

TBF Rules that govern the 2024 qualifying events under which you qualified (TBF National Semi-Finals) will be in effect for this event as well. In addition, several special Championship Rules in this information packet and announced prior to the event will take precedence over any preceding publication of rules. PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

Deadline Date for Confirmation of Entry: Please register online ASAP! **Entries must be made ONLINE before close of business January 14, 2025.** All entries must be made no later than the official deadline date or you may be dropped from the entry list and forfeit your slot. Vacancies shall be filled or not filled at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

Liability Release and Polygraph -It is mandatory that all TBF National Championship contestants complete the mandatory Liability Release if you wish to participate.

Tournament Format - The Championship is a Boater/Co-Angler format tournament. Daily partners will be paired by random draw. Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-Anglers will fish from the back deck of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of the boat operation and waters to be fished. **No boater may purposely handicap their Co-Angler nor ask them not to fish.**

Off-Limits/Official Practice Period - Currently, tournament waters of Lake Dardanelle, AR are available for pre-practice fishing. You may practice anytime between now and when the lake goes off-limits. There are no restrictions. Tournament waters will go off-limits for two weeks starting Saturday Night midnight/ Sunday, March 16 at 12:01am – After this time, contenders may not receive any information, advice or have the illegal assistance of anyone other than another Federation National Championship competitor for the purpose of locating or catching fish on Championship waters. No contender will be allowed on the tournament waters again until the three (3) allowed practice days, SUNDAY, MONDAY, March 30, 31 all day and TUESDAY April 1 until 3pm. The official Competition days will be WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY and FRIDAY, April 2,3,4., ALL days will be out of your own personal boats, boats will NOT be provided. These will be the only days contenders will be allowed on the tournament waters after it goes off-limits and before the official event days. By vote of the state Federation Presidents, each state's Boater(s) will furnish a boat for themselves and their states Co-Angler(s) for the allowed practice days (if you and your states co-angler chooses to practice on the 3 allowed days defined above). Each states Boater has first choice to bring their boat. **BOTH anglers (Boater and Co-Angler) from a State Federation MUST practice together if they practice and do so from the same boat. NO one may choose to practice alone on March 30, 31 and April 1.** IF and only IF your state Boater and or Co-Angler chooses NOT to practice on these dates, THEN BOTH anglers must contact the tournament director for approval before on getting on the water alone. NOTE: ***A LIMITED number of Co-Anglers will be allowed to bring a boat as backup boat, and will be compensated if they are used as such in case any Boaters boat was to break down.** No one will fish out of a Co-Angler's boat without them in it and operating the big engine, unless THEY choose not to. **If you are interested in this option as a Co-Angler please contact us for details we will get you on that list.**

Competitors who do not qualify to advance beyond any cut day are no longer considered competitors and may not share information with those who do.

Contestants may not enter tournament waters to fish, locate areas for fishing, test equipment or sightsee during the off-limits period. "Private" flights over tournament waters (including drones) are not permitted during the off-limits period. During the off-limits period, the hiring of services is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, having someone fish for you or having someone stockpile fish for you. It is

TBF's intention to eliminate blatant "guiding," "bird-dogging," "hole-setting," or teamwork where the team members are not a part of this tournament. Decisions of Tournament Officials are final and not subject to appeal.

Wednesday\Thursday, April 2,3 the full field will compete. On Thursday, April 3, the field will be cut to the top Boater and top Co-Angler from each of the seven (7) TBF Divisions represented. All 14 of these anglers will advance to the 2025 BFL All-American, **IF they met MLF Competitor Membership Contingency Requirements before they qualified at a TBF National Semi Final.**

Live YOUR Dream - The National Champion Boater & Co-Angler and in fact all 7 top Boaters and 7 top Co-Angler Division Champions will receive a Living Your Dream Prize Package of varying levels. National Champion Boater and Co-Angler packages at a minimum are outlined in your cover letter attached to this document. Payout is cash and prizes and covers all Boaters and all Co-Anglers.

Tournament Waters -Tournament waters will consist of Lake Dardanelle only **no locking.**

Off-Limits Areas - Off limits area will be the take-off cove from the Gazebo across to the point of the rock jetty in the take-off cove along with any others announced at the tournament briefing or required by permit per TBF National Rules concerning off-limits during competition days will apply to this event.

Tackle Restrictions – You are not limited in the amount of tackle that you may bring to the TBF National Championship. However, Boaters must make room for their Co-Anglers and Co-Anglers will be limited to 5 rod/reel combinations in any boat each day. Boaters will use the front storage compartments to store their tackle and Co-Anglers will use the rear storage compartments for their tackle. Co-Anglers **MUST** be provided a back seat if requested.

Landing of Fish - Dip nets will be permitted during the TBF National Championship. Paired contestants may assist each other in the landing of fish. You must bring your own dip net.

Fish & Fishing License

Each angler will be allowed 5 fish of at least 14 inches and over for largemouth and 12 inches for smallmouth and spotted bass. It is not permitted to cull a dead fish. It is each angler's responsibility to purchase and have in their possession, prior to registration a valid Arkansas fishing license unless exempt. License can be purchased online or on-site at multiple places or you must have proof of a legal exemption covering the dates of the event.

Personal Flotation Devices - You should bring and use your own personal life-jacket. TBF will have a limited number of loaners on hand for use as well. Anglers who choose to wear an inflatable life preserver **MUST** carry a regular **NON-** Inflatable life preserver in the boat at all times as well to be legal. Therefore, **EVERY** boater is required to have (2) **NON-**Inflatable PFDs on board at all times.

Starting Position - Boat numbers will be assigned to each Boater by a random draw for Competition Days 1 & 2. Starting positions will be reversed for the second day of competition. Starting positions for the third and final day will be determined by order of finish on Day 2. Co-Anglers will be assigned a different partner for each day of practice and competition. Boat numbers and partner pairings will be announced at the pre-tournament meetings and cut days.

Ties -In case of a tie for first place, or cut position, the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The individual with the largest number of legal **LIVE** fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The individual with the heaviest single days catch during competition; 4.) The individual with the second heaviest single days catch during competition. In the unlikely event that a tie remains after these four tiebreakers are employed a flip of a coin will determine the outcome. Any other ties shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

Dress and Conduct – Official on-site check in and Registration is MANDATORY

On Tuesday, April 1, 2025, we will be taking photos at registration. Please dress appropriately in your fishing attire/ clothing and proudly **promote your TBF sponsors and TBF logos. On-site registration location will be listed in your confirmation notice and final agenda approx. 3 weeks before the event.** Extensive media coverage of the 2025 TBF National Championship will place each contestant in front of large crowds of people via photographs, interviews and television. Each angler must be neat and clean in appearance, cooperate with the media and project a professional image. No tobacco, CBD or cannabis logos may be worn or displayed. Any logos, patches or decals that conflict with TBF sponsors may be prohibited from being worn or displayed, so plan accordingly. The use of tobacco while fishing is prohibited if there is a TV camera on you. On the final competition day, Day 3, Friday, March 29, contenders who make the cut must wear shirts and/or equipment provided by TBF, if so supplied. The dress for all functions at the 2025 TBF National Championship is casual. All meetings and banquets are mandatory, they are not optional. Family is welcome. During official practice and tournament days, the use of, or possession in the boat of any Alcohol or Cannabis or Cannabis products are strictly prohibited.

Arrival -Upon registration and again at on-site check-in each contestant will need to verify with us their place of lodging.

Contestant Lodging – BOOK EARLY! By a vote of the TBF State Federation Presidents, and angler feedback to allow anglers to stay where they wish and feel the most safe/comfortable. Contenders at the Federation National Championship will make their own lodging arrangements at a location of their choice. TBF is under no obligation but will attempt to help you find a room-mate to split expenses with if you wish us to. Best bet is to reach out to your own state anglers or neighboring state anglers. Your state presidents can help with those contacts.

Any TOURNAMENT Questions?

Call the TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR for this event:

Cell 580-716-4261

Robert@federationangler.com

For registration or general questions Contact TBF National Office 580-765-9031

Online registration for this event Opens Dec 9, 2024 and CLOSSES **January 14th**, 2025, here are the required steps:

- 1.)** Make sure NOW that both you and your home TBF affiliated club is updated for 2025 with at least 6 members in the club to make your home club active. **DO NOT WAIT to get this done.**
- 2.)** You cannot register or fish the event if BOTH you and your home club are not active.

DO NOT WAIT contact your club president and get yourself and your club updated and active TODAY!



PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY

READ BEFORE SIGNING

Team # _____

List Everyone In The Boat By Name

I/We, _____

in consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in ANY event(s), an\or related activities conducted by any Federation Angler affiliated groups including but not limited to; The Bass Federation,(TBF), SAF, NBAA, MWC, NABC, TWF or an affiliated State Federation and all other affiliated events either jointly or separately, I also agree to receive their event communications through text messages or email blasts and fully understand that I can opt out of those messages anytime. I further understand if I do opt out of them, I forfeit any claims to not being notified about any subject that may affect my chances to compete or my safety. 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 _____

Angler B - Dated _____ Age _____ Signed _____

Boat Captain (if applicable) - 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 and 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 _____

X _____
B - PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE EMERG. PH # (s) : _____ Date _____