



2024-25 Bass Fishing Series Term and Conditions

In accordance with Section 1.450 of the IHSAA Constitution, the Board of Directors has approved the Terms and Conditions governing the 2024-25 IHSAA Bass Fishing Tournament Series.

I. SCHOOL CLASSIFICATION

Competition in the IHSAA Bass Fishing Tournament Series will be a one class tournament.

II. DATES AND SITES

A. Individual Tournament Series Dates and Sites:

1) The regional tournament shall be on Thursday, May 15, 2025 (Thursday of Week 45 in the IHSAA Standardized Calendar). Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

Note: All regional tournaments shall be a one-day tournament. In the event of cancellation due to weather, the next Monday, May 19th (Monday of Week 46 in the IHSAA Standardized Calendar), shall be the make-up date.

2) The sectional tournament shall be on Thursday, May 22, 2025 (Thursday of Week 46 in the IHSAA Standardized Calendar). Tournament sites and team assignments will be posted online.

Note: All sectional tournaments shall be a one-day tournament. In the event of cancellation due to weather, the next Monday, May 26th (Monday of Week 47 in the IHSAA Standardized Calendar), shall be the make-up date.

3) State Final: Friday and Saturday, June 6th and 7th, 2025, Week 48 of the IHSAA Standardized Calendar).

III. ONLINE ENTRIES, WITHDRAWAL PROCEDURES, AND ELIGIBILITY

The policy for Original Entry Deadlines, Late Entries and Late Withdrawals shall be the policies and procedures regarding entry for all IHSAA-sponsored sport/activities included in the 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures.

A. Online Entries

All member schools must enter their school into the state series competition through the IHSAA School Center on the IHSAA Website at www.ihsa.org. The deadline for entry is February 1, 2025. The 2024-25 Entry Policies and Procedures outlining the online entry procedures for all IHSAA-sponsored tournaments can be found in the Schools Center on the IHSAA website.

B. Late Entries

Any attempt to enter a sport or activity online after the established deadlines will be denied. Schools that wish to enter after the deadline will be considered late. To be considered for late entry, the Principal/Official Representative must contact the IHSAA administrative officer in charge of that sport or activity. The penalty for late entry shall be a payment of \$100.00 for that sport/activity by the school.

C. Breach of Contract By-law 6.041 (Withdrawal Procedure)

To withdraw without penalty, the principal must notify the IHSAA Office, in writing, of the school's withdrawal from Bass Fishing prior to the seeding meeting date and/or the date the List of Participants is due for that sport. If a school withdraws after the seeding meeting date/List of Participants due date and/or does not show up for competition, the school will be charged a \$500 penalty. If applicable, the school may be charged for any additional financial loss sustained by the offended school(s) or the Association as a result of such breach.

D. Eligibility

All member schools in good standing may enter a team. This is open to male or female students in your school.

All students must meet the eligibility requirements as outlined in Section 4.000 in the IHSAA by-laws.

IV. HOST FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS

A. Regional Host Allowance:

Regional hosts shall pay all local expenses and shall receive a guarantee of \$200.00.

B. Sectional Host Allowance:

Sectional hosts shall pay all local expenses and shall receive a guarantee of \$200.00.

C. Admission Fees:

1) In the State Tournament Series, ticket prices have been established by the IHSAA Board of Directors.

D. Rights Fees for TV and Radio:

See the IHSAA web site (www.ihsa.org) for the fees to be charged by Local Managers and/or the IHSAA for television and cable broadcasts and radio originations. The Policy regarding media requirements for each Local Manager is contained in these Terms and Conditions.

V. TOURNAMENT ASSIGNMENTS

1) Schools will be assigned geographically to one of 30 IHSAA Regional Tournaments. The top six (6) boats from each regional tournament will qualify for one of six (6) sectional tournaments, and the top 10 boats from each sectional tournament will qualify for the IHSAA Bass Fishing State Finals. The 11th place boat from each sectional tournament will serve as the alternate qualifier from the sectional. If one of the advancing boats cannot participate at the state finals, the alternate boat will replace the boat that initially qualified for the state finals. Boats that cannot participate at the state finals have until Wednesday following the sectional tournament to notify the IHSAA of its inability to participate.



2) Schools will be assigned geographically to one of 6 IHSAA sectional tournaments. The state final will have up to ten (10) qualifying boats from each of the sectional tournaments. The eleventh-place boat from each sectional will serve as the alternate qualifier from the sectional. If one of the advancing boats cannot participate at the state finals, the alternate boat will replace the originally qualified boat. Boats that cannot participate at the state finals have until Wednesday following the sectional tournament to notify the IHSAA of its decision to not participate.

3:30 p.m. Boats 1-20 return to docks
4:30 p.m. Awards

VI. TOURNAMENT STRUCTURE AND TIME SCHEDULES

3) Regional Tournaments

Regional time schedules will be announced by the local tournament managers. Early weigh-ins at the regional are at the discretion of the local manager. If allowed, participants are then finished from further participation at the sectional.

B. Sectional Tournaments

Sectional time schedules will be announced by the local tournament managers. Early weigh-ins at the sectional are at the discretion of the local manager. If allowed, participants are then finished from further participation at the sectional.

C. State Final Schedule

Time Schedule for the State Final Tournament:

A safety meeting for all coaches will be conducted prior to June 5, 2025. The IHSAA will announce the actual day/time no later than May 30, 2025.

Thursday, June 5, 2025

7:00-9:00 a.m. Safety checks for boats with pre-fishing starting immediately after the boat has been safety checked. Safety checks will be done on a first come, first serve basis.

Based on the Pre-tournament draw for release, competing boats will be placed in one of the three flights for the purposes of the boat's return in each day of the tournament. Each flight will consist of approximately one-third of the total number of boats participating in the state finals. Boats will be released in order of the pre-tournament draw on day 1 of the tournament and in reverse order of the draw on day 2.

Friday, June 6, 2025

5:30 to 6:45 a.m. Check in
7:00 a.m. Release of boats
3:00 p.m. Boats 1-20 and all Unified Boats return to docks for weigh in
3:15 p.m. Boats 21-40 return to docks
3:30 p.m. Boats 41-60 return to docks

Saturday, June 7, 2025

5:30 to 6:45 a.m. Check in
7:00 a.m. Release of boats
3:00 p.m. Boats 41-60 and all Unified Teams return to docks for weigh in
3:15 p.m. Boats 21-40 return to docks

VII. ADVANCEMENT OF WINNERS

A. Advancements:

1) **Regional:** A maximum of six (6) boats from each regional will advance to the sectional. The six advancing boats will be those boats with the most amount of total weight of caught fish. If fewer than six (6) boats catch fish in a regional tournament, only those boats that will catch fish will be able to advance to the sectional tournaments.

2) **Sectional:** A maximum of ten (10) boats from each sectional will advance to the state finals. The ten advancing boats will be those boats with the most amount of total weight of caught fish. If fewer than three (3) boats catch fish in a sectional tournament, only those boats that catch fish will be able to advance to the state finals.

VIII. TOURNAMENT RULES

A. Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. All bass must be caught on artificial bait by casting only. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time. All fishing must be conducted from the boat.

B. In all state series events, only largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass are accepted species.

C. All regionals and sectionals will be set for at least 5 hours of fishing and cannot exceed 8 hours on the water. A regional tournament is considered to be complete if half of the minimum possible scheduled tournament time has been fished (2.5 hours). If the tournament is postponed until the next Monday, no fish will count towards the next day weigh-ins.

D. If weather shuts down the regional once it has been rescheduled for Monday, the winner will be determined by the fish caught during the time allotted for that sectional on the second day.

E. State final will consist of two days of fishing with a maximum of eight (8) hours of fishing each day, when possible.

F. If weather shuts down either day of the state final once it has started, that day's weight will be determined by the fish caught during the time allotted for that day.

G. In the state final, if one of the days is completed and the other day is not able to be fished because of weather, the winner(s) will be determined by the one-day weigh-in.

H. All participants must be back in for weigh-in by their designated time at the regional, sectional, and state final tournaments. This would vary only if a weather alert has been issued which might shorten that day's tournament. It is the



participant(s) responsibility to make sure the boat is back to the weigh-in site by the designated time.

I. At the state finals, the state finals manager can allow boats to exit the water at a location other than the pre-determined return site in the event severe weather occurs/may occur that may shorten a day of the state finals. The state finals manager will notify schools if he/she invokes this option. If used, a boat may only leave the water when tournament personnel are present and have checked the boat's live well. Once a boat has left the water, it may not re-enter the water to fish any more for that day and must report to the weigh-in area for weigh-ins. Any fish caught and brought to weigh-ins will not be weighed until the established start time for weigh-ins. The state finals manager will be responsible for identifying any other exit locations for the state finals lake and notifying schools of those in advance of the state finals.

J. There will be a one-pound deduction for every minute a participant is late getting back for weigh-ins up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed for that day. It is the participant's responsibility to notify the tournament manager in advance of the designated return/closing time of any problems that may have occurred.

K. There will be a five fish limit per boat. Fish may be culled if a participant(s) has five fish (5) in the live well. No more than five (5) fish can be in the live well at any time.

L. Ties will be broken, if the poundage is equal, in the following manner: First criteria will be the largest fish caught; the second criteria will be the number of fish caught.

M. All participants must wear a coast guard approved life jacket the entire time they are on the water. If they do not, violators will be disqualified.

N. Participants must only use the gear that is in the boat when the boat leaves the dock at the start of the day. They may use their own gear or the gear of the captain in the boat. If an alternate is used in the tournament, the gear of the alternate must be secured in an area and can be added once the alternate is picked up.

O. Every boat must have an adult captain for driving purposes, and only that captain can drive when the outboard motor is in use.

P. Coaching: The captain/coach of the boat may make suggestions but may not fish in any respect, including tying lures, netting fish, and handling fish or gear. However, if a team has only one participant on the boat, the captain/coach may net the fish if asked by the participant. In the event an angler catches a non-target species, such as a muskie, northern pike, walleye, gar, bowfin, or catfish, the coach may assist the student in removing the lure from the fish to prevent injury. The captain/coach or team participants can operate the electric motor. A boat captain must be an employee of the district or be a board-approved bass fishing captain.

Q. All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in. All fish that are put in the live well must be kept alive. Dead fish

will have a ½ pound deduction and cannot count as the large fish for that boat. Dead fish may not be culled.

R. There will be a speed limit enforced at all regional, sectional, and state final tournaments. The speed limit will be no faster than 35 mph, or the lake requirement will be enforced if slower than 35 mph.

S. Teams up to four participants per boat may be entered by each school. No later than one (1) week prior to the first level state series tournament, each entered school will complete an online Team Roster form in the IHSAA Schools Center. Only students, coaches, and boat captains who appear on this roster will be eligible to represent the school during the state series. A school will be required to present a boat roster to the appropriate tournament manager prior to any state series event. Schools may change boat rosters from one round of the state series to the next, again using only those students, coaches, and boat captains who are listed on the original Team Roster. At the first level tournament, a school may enter up to two (2) boats and only two of the four students entered for that boat may fish at any one time. At all levels of the state series, only two students may be in the boat at any one time. The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament.

T. The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament. Individual weight will also be recorded for the top fish designated by each boat. The largest fish award will be given at each tournament to all participants of the boat that weighs in the largest fish of that tournament.

U. No live bait or trolling is allowed in the sectional or state final.

V. Participants must stay completely in the boat unless they are using an authorized rest room facility, are back at the dock switching participants, or due to some other emergency or malfunction. If an emergency or malfunction occurs, the boat must contact the local manager or his/her designee prior to leaving the boat.

W. Any transfer of fish from one live well to a different live well in another boat due to malfunction must be made in the presence of the local manager or his/her designee.

X. On the day of competition at either the regional, sectional, or state finals tournaments, schools will be limited to putting into the water the number of boats entered, or, in the case of the state finals, the number of boats the school qualified. No additional boats containing coaches or other competitors from a school can be put into the water on days of competition. On the pre-fish day for the state finals, schools can only put into the water boats that are captained by a district employee or board-approved coach/captain. **For the pre-fish day at the state finals, schools can put a maximum of 1 boat for each qualified roster on the water.** Contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat, or participate in the practice of "hole sitting", a practice wherein a non-competitor sits on a fishing spot, holding it for a contestant. In addition, non-competitors may not place



markers for contestants. All these acts are prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of the boat. Three days prior to the official practice date for the state finals tournament, no coaches, boat captains, or team members of any qualifying school may be on the water at the state finals site.

Y. School uniforms must be worn during competition. School uniforms can only have the school's name and/or logo and the student's name on them. Any sponsorship the school has secured cannot be displayed on the uniforms or on the coach/driver of the boat. Sponsorship logos may be displayed on the boats that are in the tournament.

Z. Each tournament manager shall appoint (in addition to him/herself) a tournament committee of at least three (3) participating coaches or school administrators. Competing schools can only bring to the tournament committee potential violations of these Terms and Conditions for consideration. Potential violations must be reported prior to the conclusion of weigh-ins on the day in question and must be made in writing. The decision(s) of the tournament committee shall be final in matters pertaining to the IHSA Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions. Neither the IHSA Office nor the Board of Directors will review tournament committee decisions, whether alleged errors are due to faulty judgment or misinterpretation of the rules.

AA. Unsportsmanlike Conduct:

Managers and officials have the strictest instructions to disqualify any participant, coach and/or other person guilty or profane or indecent language or of gross unsportsmanlike conduct. IHSA By-laws 2.040, 3.141, 6.011 and 6.012 give the Board of Directors complete authority to penalize a school for any unsportsmanlike conduct on the part of the principal, the coach, athletes, or any member of the faculty or Board of Education or any other official representative of any participating school. This authority will definitely be exercised by the Board of Directors.

AB. Prayer at IHSA State Series Contests: Prayer at an IHSA state series contest that takes place over the public address system is prohibited.

AC. AED: Host schools must have an AED available and on site at all IHSA post season contests.

IX. TOURNAMENT POLICIES

A. State Final Passes: Each school will receive passes for all qualifiers, a pass for the coach, and a captain's pass to drive the boat. Only people with passes will be allowed on boats.

B. Damage to Property or Equipment:

If contestants or people from any school entered in a state series are found guilty of carelessness or maliciously breaking, damaging or destroying property or equipment belonging to the host site, such school shall be held responsible for costs incurred in replacing or repairing such property or equipment.

C. Media Coverage & Rights Fees for Broadcasting

Coverage

1) State Series hosts should work to accommodate media members with space to cover State Series events whenever possible.

2) For State Series events, the IHSA Press Box Policy should be used as a guide for determining media press box access should space become an issue.

Broadcasting

1) Radio or audio-only internet broadcasts are not subject to a broadcast rights fee at the Regional, Sectional, or Super-Sectional levels. A \$100 fee exists at the State Final round, pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

2) If a State Series contest/event is broadcast on the NFHS Network, then there is no rights fee due and no other video streaming/TV broadcasts will be allowed, pending special permission from the IHSA.

3) If a State Series contest/event is not broadcast on the NFHS Network, then the broadcast rights may be purchased to broadcast via video streaming/TV pending approval by the IHSA after completion of the IHSA's broadcast application form.

** Broadcast application forms can be accessed by Googling "IHSA Broadcast Applications" or directly at IHSA.org/News-Media/News-Media-Center/Broadcast-Applications.*

D. Tobacco/Liquid Nicotine Products: The use of tobacco or liquid nicotine products in any competition area, either during a practice or while a contest is in progress, or affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest by any coach, player, any other person connected with a team, or fan shall be prohibited. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, tobacco/liquid nicotine free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site.

E. Use of Inhalers: A student with asthma may possess and use his/her medication during an IHSA competition, while under the supervision of school personnel, provided the school meets the outlined procedures of self-administration in the Illinois School Code.

F. Alcoholic Beverages and IHSA State Series Events:

The possession, distribution, sale and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages are prohibited at the site and on any affiliated property of any IHSA state series contest. State series hosts are required to make all state series contest sites and any affiliated property, including parking lots, fan accommodation areas, and other school or event venue property, alcohol free zones on the date or dates of any IHSA event being held at the site. Violation of this policy by an event host will subject the host to a penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Such penalty may include but not necessarily be limited to prohibition against subsequent event hosting assignments. Violation of this policy by a non-hosting member school will subject the school to penalty for violation of IHSA By-law 2.020. Patrons of any IHSA state series contest determined to be in violation of this policy will be removed from the premise, and law enforcement officials will be called as warranted. No ticket refunds will be granted in such cases.



X. AWARDS

A. In all Regional Tournaments, a plaque will be awarded to the school winner in the Regional Bass Fishing Tournament. Individual medallions will be given to the team participants in the boat catching the largest fish.

B. In all Sectional Tournaments, medals will be awarded to the first, second, third and fourth place boats. A plaque will be awarded to the school winner in the Sectional Bass Fishing Tournament. Individual medallions will be given to the team participants in the boat catching the largest fish.

C. In the Bass Fishing State Final Tournament, individual medallions will be given to the team participants in the boat catching the largest fish.

D. First, second and third place trophies will be awarded to the school boat winners in the State Final Bass Fishing Team Tournaments. In addition, medallions will be presented to the first, second and third place team participants. The Coach, Superintendent, Principal, and Activities Director of the first, second and third place teams will also receive medallions.

E. Awards Ceremonies: At all tournaments when participants are receiving awards, they shall wear their school's official uniform. No extra clothing, hats, caps, signs, or other adornment shall be worn or carried at the awards ceremony. If a contestant fails to wear his/her official school warm-up or uniform, he/she shall not be allowed to participate in the awards ceremony.

XI. OFFICIALS

Official weigh-in supervisors will be assigned by the IHSA for all regional tournaments, sectional tournaments, and the state final.