



# OPEN TOURNAMENT

## Lake Shafer-Freeman Open

05/31/2026      Lake Shafer      Big Monon Ramp      6:15 am - 2:15 pm

07/26/2026      Lake Freeman      Tall Timbers Ramp      6:30 am - 2:30 pm

**Entry Fee: \$125.00 \* Entry Includes Big Bass & USB**

**Payout Based on 25 Paid Teams**

**Mail Entry Form and Make Checks Payable to:**

**Kurtis Bowsher \* 1972 N. St. Rd. 39 \* Monticello, IN 47960**

**\* 574-581-0812 \* [kurtisbowsher@yahoo.com](mailto:kurtisbowsher@yahoo.com)**

**Assistant Director: Sam Ryan \* 574-870-9656 \* [samryan3116@gmail.com](mailto:samryan3116@gmail.com)**

### USA BASSIN Membership

**This is an open tournament, meaning you do not have to be a current USA BASSIN member to participate. All USA BASSIN Teams will receive points that count toward their 2026 points standings.**

### The 2027 Tournament of Champions is held on Kentucky Lake

The top 3 USA BASSIN teams of this tournament will also qualify for the Tournament of Champions.

**Win a free entry into the Bassmaster Team Championship!!**

**All USA BASSIN Teams that qualify for the Tournament of Champions will be eligible to compete for an entry into the Bassmaster Team Championship. This is your chance to make it to the Bassmasters Classic!!**

**For more information on these events visit USA BASSIN's web site: [www.usabassin.com](http://www.usabassin.com)**

# U.S.A. BASSIN Rules & Entry Form

Partner 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Partner 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Female? \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Motor/Size \_\_\_\_\_ Boat/Year/Length \_\_\_\_\_

Youth DOB \_\_\_\_\_ Team ID \_\_\_\_\_

**Liability Release:** In consideration of membership in U.S.A. BASSIN Tournament Fishing Circuit ("USA BASSIN") as well as being granted permission to participate in the fishing tournaments and other events held or sponsored by USA BASSIN (the "Events"), THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RELEASES, DISCHARGES, WAIVES AND RELINQUISHES ANY AND ALL ACTIONS OR CAUSES OF ACTION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PERSONAL INJURY, PROPERTY DAMAGE, OR WRONGFUL DEATH OCCURRING TO HIM/HERSELF ARISING OUT OF, RELATED TO, OR CONNECTED WITH IN ANY MANNER ENTRY OR PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENTS, wherever or however the same may occur and for whatever period said activities may continue, and the undersigned agrees that under no circumstances will he/she or his/her heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns prosecute or present any claim for personal injury, property damage, or wrongful death against USA BASSIN, LLC, USA BASSIN: The Next Generation, Inc. or any of their principals, officers, directors, employees or agents ("Released Persons") for any of said causes of actions, whether the same shall arise by the negligence of any of said persons, or otherwise. The undersigned further and separately agrees to indemnify, save, and hold harmless Released Persons from any loss, liability, damage, or cost, including but not limited to court costs and attorney's fees, that they may incur, in connection with participation in Events, whether caused by the negligence of Released Persons or otherwise. This release is intended to be as broad and inclusive as permitted by the applicable law. The undersigned further states that he/she has carefully read the foregoing, knows the contents thereof, and has signed this release as his/her own free act. Any member agrees, by his or her signature on this agreement, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination, commonly referred to as a truth verification test, and to abide by its conclusion. Truth verifications test(s) will be used at USA BASSIN'S sole discretion and administered by it or its agents. Refusal to take or failure to pass the examination as determined by USA BASSIN will result in disqualification, at the sole discretion of USA BASSIN. The undersigned **HEREBY WAIVES TRIAL BY JURY** in any action, proceeding, or counterclaim brought by or against the undersigned regarding any matter whatsoever in connection with the tournament. Verification of liability insurance: I, the undersigned, further state that I am a current member of USA BASSIN and that I maintain liability insurance on the boat I will use in any USA BASSIN Tournament Fishing event. **Attorney's Fees:** Only USA BASSIN and Released Persons are entitled to recover their attorney's fees. The undersigned is not entitled to recover attorney's fees regardless of the outcome of any litigation or settlement. The laws of the State of Indiana, excluding only its choice of law provisions, shall govern the validity, enforcement, and interpretation of this Contract. Any dispute or cause of action under this Contract shall exclusively be filed and resolved in a state court located in Lawrence County, Indiana and the undersigned irrevocably agrees to submit to personal and subject matter jurisdiction in the same. I signify by my signature that I have read and understand the above agreement and all USA BASSIN Rules

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## **1. Membership:**

USA Bassin Membership fee shall be \$30.00 per person. All members under the age of 19 before August 31 of the current year shall be considered a "Youth" and receive a free membership. A current USA BASSIN membership shall provide members the privilege to compete in all USA Bassin tournaments. Anglers currently competing in BASS Bassmaster Elite Series and the Major League Fishing (MLF) Bass Pro Tour shall not be eligible to participate in any current or the immediate-year-following USA BASSIN Tournament season. The USA Bassin tournament directors USA Bassin officials are permitted to compete in USA BASSIN events. The USA Bassin season shall be from September 1 through August 31 of the following calendar year.

## **2. Tournament Entry Fees:**

The tournament director may adjust entry fee on tournament locations that require a lake usage fee or sales tax.

## **3. Scoring:**

5-Tournament Divisions= 100-point scoring system: Sample Scoring 1<sup>st</sup> place team -100 point; 2<sup>nd</sup> place—99 points 3<sup>rd</sup> Place -98 points and so on. All teams that didn't weigh in a fish receive 50 participation points. 10-Tournament Divisions= 50 points scoring system: All Teams not weighing in a fish receive 50 participation points. Divisional Champions will be determined by the team that has the highest final total points in said division. If a Team splits up, all points will remain with Partner #1. Teams acquire points by fishing any USA BASSIN tournament. The points your team receives from each tournament will be automatically added to the standings of the division you fished and to "National Points Standings" located on the home page of the USA BASSIN Web Site.

## **4. USA BASSIN Teams:**

Teams may consist of one person or a maximum of two persons. All teams that finish the season with 250 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish a U.S.A. BASSIN Regional Tournament of their choice and may fish in more than one Regional Tournament. If you are fishing more than one division and qualified for a USA BASSIN Regional Tournament using two different partners, you may choose which partner you wish to take to the Regional Tournament. The other partner may fish a U.S.A. BASSIN Regional Tournament solo or you may fish in another Regional using that partner.

## **5. The Next Generation Teams:**

Next Generation Teams may consist of either an adult and a youth or two youths (one of the youth's must be at least 16 years of age or older). All Next Generation teams that finish the season with 100 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in The Next Generation Classic event. Teams that finish the Season with 250 points or more shall be eligible to fish both the Next Generation Classic and the Regional event of their choice.

## **6. The Co-Ed Teams:**

Teams consisting of a male/female participant will be a Co-Ed. Team All Co-Ed teams that finish the season with 150 points or more in the National Point Standings shall be eligible to fish in The Co-Ed Classic event. Teams that finish the Season with 250 points or more shall be eligible to fish both the Co-Ed Classic and a Regional event of their choice.

## **7. Substitutes:**

A USA BASSIN member or a family member may serve as a substitute in a divisional tournament at any time and all points will be retained by partner #1. A family member is classified as Grandparents, Parent, Spouse, Sibling, Child, Grandchild, Uncles, Cousins or in-laws of the same. A team may use a substitute **only two times** during a division's season. A participant may fish any division solo or declare a partner prior to the start of the third Tournament within a Division.

**Next Generation Divisional Subs!!** An adult may not fish alone in a Next Generation Division. You can substitute only with a youth when fishing a Next Generation Division. Normal substitute rules apply when not fish in a Next Generation Division.

**The Co-Ed Divisional Subs:** Co-Ed Teams may only substitute with the same sex as the member that is absent when fishing a Co-Ed Division. Normal substitute rules apply when not fish in a Co-Ed Division.

**Regional or Classic Tournament Subs:** You can only fish a Regional or the Classic tournament with your declared partner. If your declared partner cannot fish a Regional event or a Classic event with you may still fish it solo. You cannot fish solo in the Next Generation Classic or the Co-Ed Classic Tournaments.

## **8. The USA BASSIN Tournament of Champions:**

The top 10 teams in this event will receive a cash paycheck. There is seven ways to qualify for this event.

1. Be the Divisional Champion of any USA BASSIN Division.
2. Catch the Biggest Bass in your Division.
3. Finish the season with 1000 points or finish the season in the top 200 in the National Points.
4. Finish in the top 3 at a Regional event
5. Catch the Biggest Bass in a Regional Event.
6. Finish in the top 3 (USA BASSIN Teams Only) at a USA BASSIN Open Event.
7. Catch the Biggest Bass (USA BASSIN Teams Only) at a USA BASSIN Open Event.

## **9. Ties:**

Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Divisional Champions will be broken by the team that has the heaviest total weight for the season. Ties for USA BASSIN TEAM TRAIL Regional & National Champions, Regional & National Points Champions and all place finishes will be broken by Big Bass.

## **10. Short Fish Penalties:**

All fish brought to weigh-in must be of legal size determined by state law for that body of water fished. Short fish will be culled from your sack and your largest fish will also be culled from the remaining fish. A courtesy measuring board will be available to be used by teams.

## **11. No Live Bait:**

Only artificial lures can be used in U.S.A. BASSIN tournaments. The use of pork trailers is permitted.

## **12. Trolling:**

Trolling with the use of a combustible engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. A team found to be doing this would be disqualified for that tournament and put on probation for the remaining season tournaments

## **13. Boat and Motor:**

Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. All boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Falsifying information on any entry form and/or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard shall be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future USA Bassin tournaments...

## **14. Limits:**

This is a 5-fish limit (per team or when fishing alone) at each tournament. Exceptions: State laws prevail when fishing on any body of water (size and limits). Anyone bringing in more than a 5-fish will have their sack culled to the 5-fish limit starting with their big fish first. All culling must be done on the water - Not on the bank.

## **15. Dead Fish Penalty:**

For each dead fish a ½ pound penalty will be deducted from your total weight. A dead fish will not be weighed-in as big fish. Tournament director will make final decision if fish is dead or not. Fish that appears altered or mangled shall be the tournament director's decision to weigh or not to weigh the fish.

## **16. Late to weigh-in:**

There will be a deduction of 1 lb. per minute of your total weight for every minute late to weigh-in. After 15 minutes past weigh-in teams are disqualified. (Rule maybe different at some divisions. Please contact your director to verify)

## **17. Registration:**

There will be registration at the tournament site starting an hour and a half or more before the start of the tournament. All teams are required to be at the ramp 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Registration will close 30 minutes before the start of the tournament. Paying entries fees after the tournament registration time will be accepted only at the tournament Director's discretion. Tournament Directors will only accept cash at registration (NO Checks Please). All teams may pre-register by mail for a tournament. If pre-registering, entry forms must be post marked 10 days before the tournament you desire to fish. Entry fee may be refunded or rolled over to the next tournament, if the director is contacted before the start of the tournament. Failure to contact tournament director for a refund or roll over will result in a forfeit of entry fee and contestants will receive only half of the show up points. Send all entries to the tournament Director of the tournament you desire to fish. There will not be a late registration fee for registering at the ramp. Tournament take off positions will be determined by when the tournament director receives your entry or by draw at registration (please contact the director for take-off procedures). There will be a pre-tournament meeting 30-minutes prior DURING the 30 minutes before the start of each tournament. Divisions (due to state law) that have a limited number of participants will take entries on a first come first serve basis.

## **18. Weigh-in procedures:**

All contestants will be instructed at the pre-tournament meeting on weigh-in procedures. Each team must present his or her own catch to the weigh-in official. No other person shall then handle the fish except a weigh-in official. No person other than weigh-in officials may touch the scales; weigh-in basket or any part of the weigh-in equipment.

## **19. Live well Inspection:**

Boats must have a live well, either built into the boat or portable. Live wells must have some type of pump or circulator to keep fish alive. Prior to boat launch Divisional Tournament Director will check all live wells.

## **20. Life Preserver:**

During all U.S.A. BASSIN Tournaments, contestants not wearing their life jackets zipped and secured when the combustion engine is running and in gear will have that day's weight disqualified from the tournament.

## **21. Sportsmanship:**

All contestants are expected to demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. The following shall be cause for immediate disqualification with no appeal available. 1.) Drunkenness. 2.) Use of illegal substances. 3.) Physical or verbal abuse of USA BASSIN personnel or other contestants. 4.) Possession of alcohol or illegal substances in the boat or on your person during hours of the tournament.

## **22. Off-Limits:**

The tournament director will announce the off-limits areas at each pre-tournament meeting. Any team fishing in the off-limits areas will be disqualified from the tournament. Teams may not fish closer than 50 yards to another competitor who is anchored with the trolling motor up unless given permission. If permission is given to one, then all may fish same water. Having a non-contestant sit on a hole for you shall be cause for disqualification. All U.S.A. BASSIN Divisional, Regional & Classic Tournament locations will NOT be closed to pre-fishing

## **23. Leaving Your Boat:**

Competitors shall remain with the partners in the boat at all times during the tournament. Except in the event of sickness or brief excursions for "nature calling", a severe storm or other such hazards. If for any reason a team decides to leave the tournament waters early, competitors must try to contact the director, prior to leaving the tournament. If you have boat trouble, one member must remain with the disabled boat. The other team member may board another competitor's boat with that day's catch and bring fish to weigh-in. Please contact the tournament director prior to doing so.

## **24. Cheating:**

Anyone caught cheating in any tournament event will be immediately barred from fishing in any U.S.A. BASSIN event. We reserve the right to have a random truth verification test performed at any time. You may not use a cell phone to gain an advantage over the rest of the competitors. All protest must be submitted in writing to the Classic director before the close of weigh-in. Verbal protest will not be accepted.

## **25. Insurance:**

All members will carry liability insurance on any boat they might use during any of U.S.A. BASSIN Tournaments. Failure to do so or reporting of false information will result in disqualification.

## **26. Refusal of Membership:**

We reserve the right to refuse membership or entry into any of U.S.A. BASSIN Tournament Trail Events.

## **27. Tournament Rules**

All rules and regulations for all tournaments are subject to change at any time until the start of a tournament. Information given orally or printed on any publications, including but not limited to information on USA BASSIN'S website and flyers may not accurately represent the rules that will be used at the tournament and are merely indications of what USA BASSIN expects the rules to be. For the most current version of the rules, visit the USA BASSIN website or call the tournament director.

## Mail Membership form to Tournament Director

**Contact USA BASSIN at [info@usabassin.com](mailto:info@usabassin.com) for details on becoming a director!!**

