



Maryland Bass Nation
COVID-19 Pandemic
Best Practices for MBN Tournaments
Tournament Operations Guidelines
(May 9, 2020)

Introduction

The Maryland Bass Nation, along with other state Bass Nations, is part of the greater B.A.S.S. Nation, a global network of locally organized clubs whose members participate in and support a range of activities, including tournaments, scholarship programs, conservation initiatives, as well as college, high school and youth programs. There are thousands of B.A.S.S. members and close to 50 Nation clubs located in the state of Maryland.

Problem Statement & Objective

Bass Angler Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.) hosts regional and national championship tournaments through a series of state-based qualifying tournaments. Qualifying state tournaments occur in the current year for B.A.S.S. regional and national championship tournaments that occur in the following year (e.g. 2020 tournament winners qualify for championship tournaments scheduled to occur in 2021).

This proposal is intended to present 'Best in Class' safety standard guidelines in a 'Covid-19 Pandemic' environment that will permit MBN qualifying tournaments to occur, thus facilitating a pathway for MBN members to participate in upcoming regional and national championship venues,.

Solutions Proposal

CDC, Federal and State guidelines will be followed during tournaments. There will be strict adherence to interpretive guidelines laid out by state government officials and any additional restrictions imposed by local authorities. CDC guidelines on social distancing, sanitizing, wearing masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) will be followed. Anglers and Staff are asked to stay home if they are sick. We encourage and welcome oversight of MBN tournaments by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

The following guidelines outline the process 'end to end' (i.e. tournament registration, communication, travel, launch, competition day, weigh-in, results, awards, etc.):



Registration / Communication

- Provide online tournament registration documents via MBN website, www.mdbassnation.com
- Post pairings (i.e. Boater / Co-angler) and boat numbers 'on-line' via MBN Message Board
- Email pairings and boat numbers to competitors prior to tournament day
- No 'in person' registration will be permitted

Tournament Day Travel

- Anglers are encouraged to travel to and from the launch area in separate vehicles

Tournament Morning Check-in

- Tournament staff will check in competitors at the ramp while the boats are being launched
- Competitors are responsible for notifying the tournament staff of their arrival
- Competitors and tournament staff to follow guidelines on numbers allowed in a group setting.
- Competitors and tournament staff keep 6-foot distancing during the check-in
- Competitors and staff required to wear masks during check-in
- Group gathering onshore will not be permitted

Launch & Blast-off

- Only the boater is allowed to drive their personal tow vehicle
- Only the boater and the co-angler are allowed in the boat
- Minimize activity on the dock to loading tackle, rods, food, etc.
- The Tournament Director's Captain's meeting will occur 'on the water'
- Boat & Live-well inspections will occur 'on the water' prior to blast off
 - Includes first aid kit, sanitizer, disinfectant wipes
- Approximately 10 boats per flight, 15 minutes between blast-off times.

On The Water

- All competitors are expected to wear masks (face-covering) while boat is under power
- Boats must be equipped with hand sanitizer and disinfectant wipes or soap & water
- Each competitor is responsible for having their own sanitizer, disinfectant wipes or soap & water
- Boats must be equipped with a first aid kit
- Anglers will disinfect with sanitizer or wipes after contacting common equipment (Net, Latch, etc.)
- Anglers will maintain 'safe distancing' while fishing



End of Day / Weigh-In

- Maximize the number of flights to reduce crowding at the docks and ramp during weigh-in
- Weigh-Ins will be conducted 'dock side' or via 'drive through', depending on location
- Dock-side weigh-in (preferred)
 - Anglers will wait in boats on the water until their boat number is called.
 - Boat is Idled to the dock and secured
 - The anglers and the tournament staff will wear PPE during the weigh-in exchange
 - The anglers will bag their fish and present the bag for weigh-in
 - Weights will be measured and recorded by tournament staff
 - Only the boater is allowed to drive their personal tow vehicle for boat reloading
- Drive through weigh-in
 - Only the boater is allowed to drive their personal tow vehicle for boat reloading
 - Trailer boats with fish in live-wells, aerators running.
 - One boat allowed to the scales at a time
 - The anglers and the tournament staff will wear PPE during the weigh-in exchange
 - The anglers will bag their fish and present the bag for weigh-in
 - Weights will be measured and recorded by tournament staff
- There will be no public announcing of weights by the weigh-master
- Crowds and Observers will be discouraged
- Follow 'safe distancing' and 'PPE protocol' at all times during weigh-in.
- All equipment used by the tournament staff will be cleaned and disinfected after use.
- Weigh-in tubs have been eliminated
- Weigh-in lines have been eliminated
- At the conclusion of weigh-in anglers are encouraged not to gather in groups
- At the conclusion of boat loading and clean up, anglers are encouraged to go home

End of Day / Results & Awards

- There will not be a results or awards ceremony after the tournament
- The results will be tabulated by the tournament director within 24 hours
- The tournament results will be posted on the MBN website & message board
- Winners will be notified via email
- Payout checks will be mailed to the winners via USPS along with Winning Acceptance Forms



Conclusion Summary

The Maryland Bass Nation acknowledges the critical nature of the Covid-19 Pandemic. These proposed guidelines for conducting MBN tournaments in the State of Maryland are intended to demonstrate our commitment and support to operate in a safe environment consistent with the guidelines set forth by the CDC, Federal, State and Local jurisdictions. We believe in many cases, our proposed process exceed the established requirements.

It is our position that this proposed tournament guideline document is 'Best in Class' and can be used by other organizations that wish to conduct bass fishing tournaments in the state of Maryland.

We ask for your consideration and approval in this matter so that our members who aspire to compete at the Regional and National championship venues are not disadvantaged as compared to other states that no longer face similar challenges.

We are very much open to any suggestions on your part to further enhance these proposed guidelines. We welcome your input. Our intention is remain 'Best in Class'.

Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully,

Maryland Bass Nation – Executive Board

- Roger Trageser, President
- Richard Brown, 1st Vice President
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