





PRESENTED BY **LOWRANCE**[®]

explore
LA CROSSE
.com

 **MERCURY**

BASSMASTER

B.A.S.S. NATION SERIES

 TM

PRESENTED BY **LOWRANCE**[®]

OFFICIAL SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS





2026 B.A.S.S. Nation Qualifier

Mississippi River
May 8-10, 2026

Takeoffs: 6:00 am Weigh-ins: 2:00 pm

Official Host
Explore La Crosse



- La Crosse Lodging: <https://www.playeasy.com/events/5d700443-1143-47d9-a7e5-60c0731f454f/hotels/specials>
- Explore La Crosse Fishing Resources: explorelacrosse.com/fishing-resources

Tournament Information

TD Contact: GL Compton 205-313-0940

<i>Pre-Tournament Off-Limits</i>	Off-limits will begin on Monday, April 27 th and extends until Monday, May 4 th at safe light.
<i>Official Practice Days</i>	May 4 th to May 7 th All competitors must be off tournament waters at 12:00 noon local time on Thursday, May 7 th
<i>Official Tournament Check-in</i>	May 7 th from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm via time slots. <u>Check-In Reminder:</u> All anglers must check-in in person with B.A.S.S. staff onsite. This will be the only check-in period. See <i>Rule No. 6</i> You will be fined for being late.
<i>Check-in Location</i>	Onalaska Omni Center 255 Riders Club Rd, Onalaska, WI 54650
<i>Tournament Briefing</i>	In-person following angler check-in - mandatory
<i>Tournament Waters</i>	Mississippi River Pools 7, 8 & 9 and all rivers, creeks and canals connecting to the Mississippi River Pools 7, 8 & 9. The Northern boundary is Lock & Dam #6 at Mile Marker 714. The Southern Boundary is Lock & Dam #9 at Mile Marker 648. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any waters within these boundaries closed to public fishing will be closed to this tournament's contestants.
<i>Official Launch</i>	Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch 120 Clinton St, La Crosse, WI 54603
<i>Fishing Limits</i>	5 fish boaters, 3 fish non-boater – 14 inch min length
<i>Fishing License Requirements</i>	WI, MN or IA license is required There is a reciprocal agreement between Wisconsin, Minnesota and Iowa between the railroad tracks. The RR tracks parallel both sides of the river. If you go past the tracks on either side, you must have that states license. It is your responsibility to have the proper license.



Restroom

Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch

Weigh in

Copeland Park

Veterans Freedom Park

Black River

Copeland Park Dr

Copeland Park Dr

Copeland Park Dr

Windsor St

Launch Flow and Parking

NO Parking

Parking

Parking

Ramp

Parking

No parking on two concrete slabs here

Parking

NO Parking

Alternative Ramps will need to be used. There are several others in the area. Please see the Angler Resource document to locate alternative ramps.



Angler Check-in Reminders

- ✓ **IMPORTANT:** All Anglers must be off the water by 12:00 pm noon local time on registration day.
- ✓ Please come at your designated time to keep the flow of registration going and get you in and out as quickly as possible.
- ✓ Once you have registered you may then leave.
- ✓ Online Video Briefing is delivered via email.
- ✓ **IMPORTANT:** All paperwork should already be completed – if for some reason it is not you will be notified at the registration table.
- ✓ Direct any pre-tournament questions to the following email address:
bn@bassmaster.com



Onsite Angler Check-in Times

Group (first letter of last name)	Check-in Time
A,B,C,D,E	2:00 pm
F,G,H,I	2:25 pm
J,K,L,M	2:50 pm
N,O,P,Q	3:15 pm
R,S,T,U,V,W,X,Y,Z	3:40 pm



Take-Off Procedures

- 6:00 am or safe light from Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch.
- Other ramps can be used, but you must travel directly to and from take-off.
- Only competitors and B.A.S.S. tournament staff in take-off area at the end of the dock.
- Spread out boats with later flights staying back to allow early flight room to navigate.
- All navigation lights must be on and in working order prior to take off.
- PFD must be worn and the kill switch hooked up all times the combustion engine **is running in practice and competition.**
- Please check inflatable PFD's for your own safety.
- Single File Take-off- The following will be checked:
 - Life Jackets zipped and fastened completely
 - Kill switch attached
 - Lights – Red/Green front and white 360 degrees in the rear
 - Livewells – OPEN, Turned on and circulating
 - Your Check-in time



Take-off Procedure



- "Staging Area" is where boats will stage prior to take-off
- "X" is where we will check your safety equipment
- Direction arrows show you how takeoff will flow. Do not block flow of traffic once take-off starts

Off-Limits Area



Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch

Lazy River Guide Service

Veterans Freedom Park

Copeland Park

OFF LIMITS

Black River

Copeland Park Dr

Clinton St

Clinton St

Clinton St

Clinton St

Clinton St

Clinton St

Windsor St

Wall St

La Crosse Loggers Baseball

American Lock & Key

Marge's On Rose
American · S

Boat Ramp

Island Yacht Club



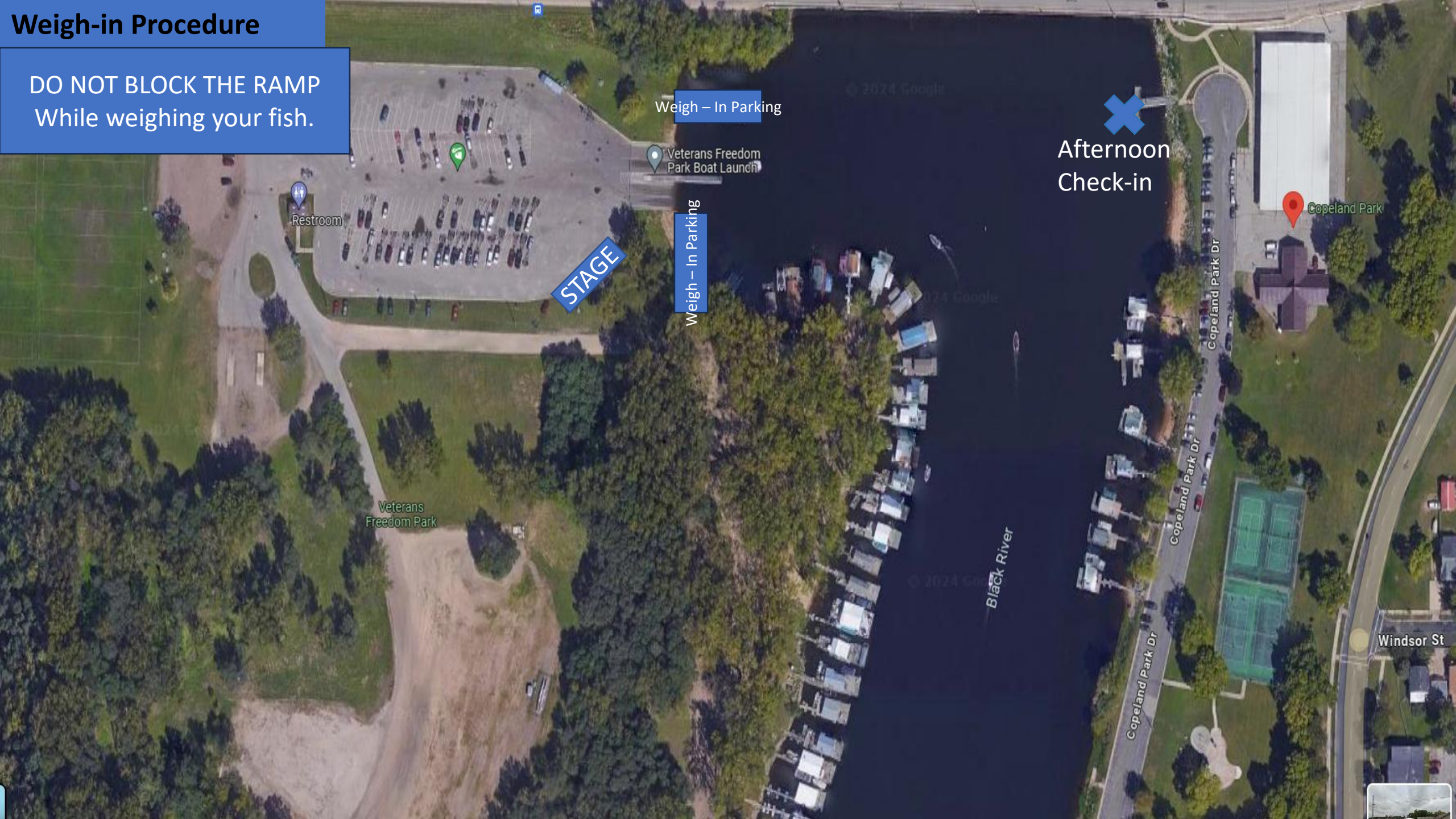
Weigh-In Procedures

- Check-in times may be more spread out. The goal is to have all anglers average a minimum 8 hours/day.
- Fewer weigh-in bags and please wait in or around your boat for your flight to be called.
- Once your weight is locked and called by the emcee, the angler will retrieve the bag and proceed to the dip tank.
- **For the weighing of Big Bass anglers must notify the weigh-master you would like to weigh a big bass immediately.**
- Dip mesh bag in tank and then proceed to YAMAHA/AFTCO B.A.S.S. live release boat.
- It is recommended for anglers to use social media post-weigh-in to talk about their day and thank sponsors **#Bassmaster #BASSNATION #BASS**
- LOOK AT YOUR WEIGH-IN TICKET FOR YOUR Day 2 PARTNER CONTACT INFO, BOAT NUMBER, AND CHECK-IN TIME. This information will also be texted to you.
- Please make contact with your next-day partner as soon as possible and discuss next morning's meeting spot.
- If you have "No Partner assigned" for your partner, then no co-angler will be assigned for said tournament day.
- **FALIURE TO PROPERLY DISPLAY THE B.A.S.S. SHEILD (see rule Rule 23) may result in a \$100 fine. If you do not have a logo we will have B.A.S.S. patches at registration.**



Weigh-in Procedure

DO NOT BLOCK THE RAMP
While weighing your fish.



Weigh - In Parking

Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch

Restroom

STAGE

Weigh - In Parking



Afternoon Check-in



Copeland Park

Veterans Freedom Park

Black River

Copeland Park Dr

Copeland Park Dr

Copeland Park Dr

Windsor St

Rules of Emphasis

1: Participants and eligibility

ii. During the official practice and competition days of any B.A.S.S. tournament, no competitor may operate a boat unless that contestant has documented proof of a minimum 300,000 liability insurance. The insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer rated A or better by A.M. Best and Company. Policy must include international waters, or a separate policy for international waters must be obtained if I choose to fish international waters during applicable B.A.S.S. events. I shall provide B.A.S.S. with proof of insurance covering the term of the Tournament series prior to my participation in any Tournament Series event or at any time requested by B.A.S.S. Tournament officials have sole authority to determine if insurance policies meet B.A.S.S. requirements.

5. PRACTICE AND COMPETITION:

i. There will be an off-limits period for all B.A.S.S. Nation tournaments prior to the first day of practice. These off-limits periods can be found at <https://www.bassmaster.com/b-a-s-s-nation/>. Special off-limits and practice periods for the Bassmaster Classic and the B.A.S.S. Nation Championship will be announced by B.A.S.S.

iii. The no-information rule will apply during any posted off-limits period, official practice, and competition. "Bartering" refers to the exchange of goods and services, with or without money. The purchase, solicitation, or bartering for any information on locating or catching fish in tournament waters—whether through GPS waypoints, hiring guides, or other means—is strictly prohibited. Sharing tournament winnings with competitors or non-competitors in exchange for such information is also banned. Purchasing or bartering for fishing locations or information from another competitor is not allowed and will result in disqualification for both parties.

iv. During official practice and competition, competitors may not solicit or intentionally receive assistance or advice for locating or catching bass, nor may they enter tournament waters with anyone who has been on the waters during the off-limits period. This includes professional guides, wildlife agency employees, or any individuals deemed "experts" on the waters.

xi. During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergency situations. Competitors are allowed to call lockmasters for locking purposes only. Competitors are allowed to use smartphones for global maps, weather, notes, Bassmaster.com updates, etc.; however, using smartphones during competition to log into daily tournament blogs or participate in social media is not permitted.



Rules of Emphasis

5. SAFETY:

i. Safe boat conduct must always be observed by competitors. During the official practice and competition, each boat passenger must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver anytime the combustion engine is running. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely, worn outside the outermost clothing, and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Inflatable life vest indicators should be checked daily. Violation of this rule may be the reason for disqualification. Inflatable PFD's are allowed as long as U.S. Coast Guard regulations are met. The Coast Guard requires that Inflatable PFDs be worn at all times unless there is an equal number of non-inflatable Coast Guard approved PFD's on board. B.A.S.S. Nation anglers must carry two Coast Guard approved chest-type life preservers per boat. It is required that each contestant prior to official practice successfully complete a boating safety course, boating safety certification, or possess a USCG Captain's license. Boating safety courses are available online and should carry an endorsement by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators or NASBLA.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP:

Competitors in B.A.S.S. tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification.

i. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over-the-counter or prescribed by a licensed physician – as long as such prescribed drug does not impede the ability to operate a vehicle) by any competitor during official practice or the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future events B.A.S.S. tournament officials sole discretion. No alcoholic beverages or prohibited drugs shall be allowed in the boats during the official practice or competition days or when in the weigh-in area.

ii. Maximum courtesy must be always be practiced, especially with regard to boating and angling on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and courtesy may result in disqualification.

iii. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states in which they fish. Some regulations may differ from these rules resulting in fines, citations or other penalties at the discretion of law enforcement and may or may not result in tournament penalties. Competitors are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations.

iv. In both official practice and competition, competitors are required to have all licenses and permits required on the tournament waters in which they fish.



Rules of Emphasis

8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

- i. Use of landing nets landing bass is allowed during tournament competition unless specified by tournament director. Use of grippers for landing bass is prohibited. During official practice and competition no more than one artificial or biodegradable artificial lure may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. Adding trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. The use of braid or other line to attach one stinger hook (single or treble) is allowed but the line cannot be over two inches in length. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch subject to scoring rules (see Rule 18 below). No “live bait,” “dead bait,” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during official practice and competition, except for pork strips, rinds or like products.*
- ii. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time – with or without hooks – is not allowed. Rigging, harness or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above.*

10. BOAT AND MOTOR:

- iv. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnels of the boat. Each competitor’s boat shall be restricted to one (1) electric motor to be mounted at the bow of the boat. Electric motor(s) mounted at the stern of the boat are prohibited. Each competitor may keep a spare trolling motor in the boat in case one malfunctions. Trolling motor brackets and electronics are not considered “raised platforms.” Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. The “long lining” or “strolling” technique is NOT allowed in either practice or competition and is defined as intentionally using a trolling motor or outboard to mechanically extend a cast. NO EXCEPTIONS.*



Rules of Emphasis

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Officials for each tournament. Each competitor must obtain this information from the B.A.S.S. Tournament Department.

i. Any waters within these boundaries that are legally and obviously posted "Off-Limits," "No Fishing," "no boats," "restricted," or "no trespassing," by state or federal authorities as well as the live-bass-release area established by the Tournament Officials, will be off-limits to tournament competitors. Only water open to all public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Waters deemed off-limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind that boundary while fishing.

iii. Prior to 8 am local time the day before the tournament is scheduled to begin, any questionable areas or areas with language or markings intended to restrict public access must be brought to the attention of the tournament director. Questionable areas will be off limits until a determination can be made with the authorities and may be announced in the briefing or via text for all to know unless determined otherwise by tournament officials. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters based on conversations with local authorities.

iv. Once the schedule is announced and prior to the 10 day off limits period competitors must follow all local laws and regulations including but not limited to cutting or placing trees or brush or placing other physical attractors of any kind (including chum). Moving structure to include sawing of logs or other obstructions in the water for navigation is only allowed if laws permit. No competitor may place any object that may impede or cause danger to boaters.

17. Scoring

ii. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Redeye or Shoal bass will be weighed. The Boater limit shall be five (5) and the non-boater limit shall be three (3) of the above species and varieties per day unless specified otherwise by tournament officials (for example: hot weather/fish care concerns/championship events).

18. CATCH AND RELEASE

i. Culling dead bass is prohibited. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-ins officials, the competitor shall be penalized 4 ounces to be deducted from their daily score.

iv. Only nonpenetrating culling clips and culling beams are allowed for use. Any clip or device that penetrates or is designed to penetrate the skin or mouth of a fish is not allowed. A proper fizzaing technique is suggested when needed. For instructions on acceptable fizzaing practices, please contact tournament officials.





23. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE:

Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. B.A.S.S. may, however, restrict the use of patches, logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are, in B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official B.A.S.S. sponsors, or which are, in B.A.S.S.' sole judgment, in poor taste. B.A.S.S. will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each pro agrees to wear an official B.A.S.S. shield (minimum 2 1/4" X 2 3/4") on either left/right chest, with the top of the shield hitting the left/right collarbone during competition, including the weigh-in. This B.A.S.S. shield must be printed or embroidered. Co-anglers agree to wear a B.A.S.S. shield on their hat or front of their garment during competition, including the weigh-in. In addition, if B.A.S.S. provides any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests) bearing the logos of B.A.S.S. or the official sponsors of B.A.S.S., each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by B.A.S.S.

NOTE: Failure to properly display the B.A.S.S. shield may prevent an angler from being able to weigh-in or result in a \$100 fine



BASSTrakk

The app will be used for B.A.S.S. photographers to locate you on the water and is the preferred way for you to enter in fish weights.

1. Download BassTrakk app – Available on all devices
2. Select Tournament
3. **Enter code BMS526**
4. Scroll list of anglers and select yourself.
5. Leave running in the background.
6. Enter weights in TextTrakk per previous page of presentation.
7. B.A.S.S. media will use BassTrakk mapping so location must be enable for the duration of the event.



TextTrakk

Text-Trakk - B.A.S.S. has a new way for you to update the world on how your tournament is going,. We've made it simple so you can just text in your weight and Bass Trakk will be magically updated.

You will receive a text message from the number below on Wednesday evening. "Welcome to Text-Trakk! To submit your weights, reply to this message. Use this format: #fish lbs-oz. Good luck!"

The number is 860-390-4115. You should make it a contact on your phone for this event and future events.

When you reply to this text, let's say you have 3 fish for 6 pounds and 8 ounces in your livewell.

So your reply would be, "3 6-8"

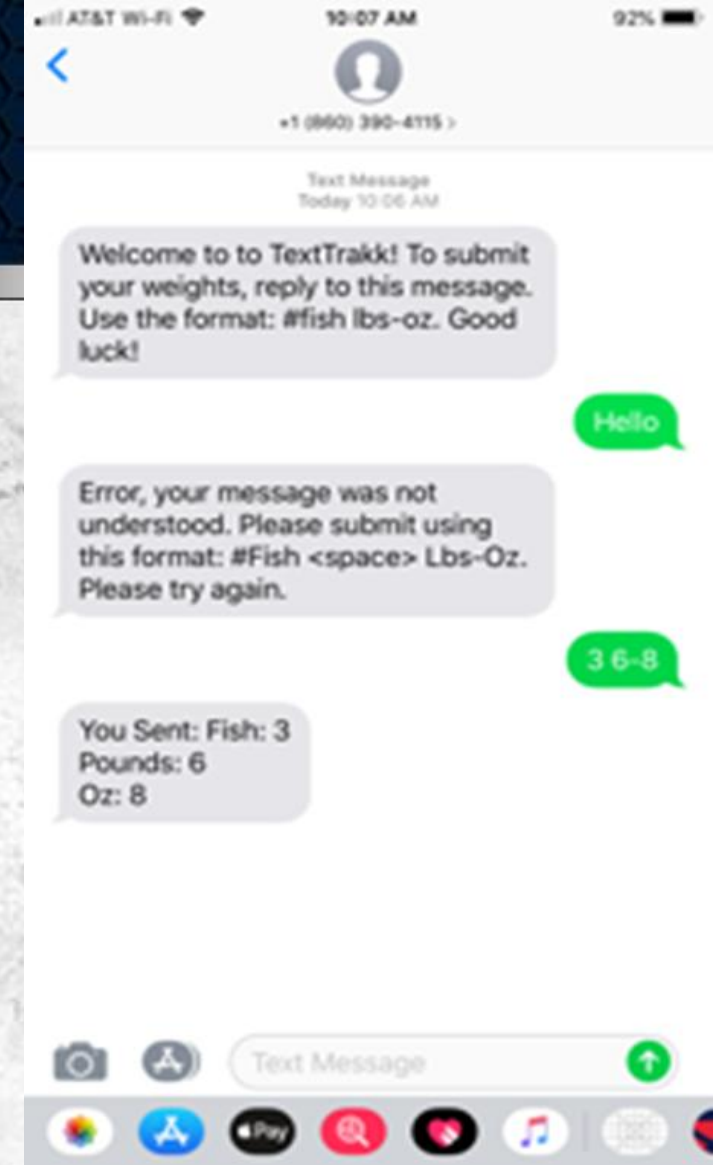
That's it. We will know who you are by your phone number. Your Bass Trakk total on the site will change to show that you have 3 fish for 6-8. We are not recording individual catches with this system so that you don't need to do it every time you catch a fish. But you can! Just remember it's your TOTAL, not each fish individually.

If you make a mistake, the system will let you know. If you send mixed up numbers, it's ok. Just send it again with the right ones. You'll get a reply from the system telling you what it thinks you meant.

Attached is a screenshot of a phone getting the intro text; and sending an invalid reply; and then confirming 3 fish for 6lbs 8oz.

A few more things we should mention:

1. Only send fish updates to THIS number, not the text you get about pairings. That will not work.
2. No need to send an update if you have zero fish. If you have less than 1 pound in the livewell, just round it up to 1.



Social Media

Blog – update@bassmaster.com

Competitors can send videos (60 seconds or less is preferred) or pictures w/ text to the producers email address - update@bassmaster.com. That content could be used for the event blogs and content can pull from that and use it for B.A.S.S. social media platforms.

If you don't want to email it and just want to post on your own platforms that is fine. You can tag B.A.S.S. in the image and then it can be shared. It may be impossible to share all the posts we are tagged in, but B.A.S.S. will try and share as many as possible.

If they are posting on their Instagram stories please tag B.A.S.S. and we will try to share those stories too.

Hashtags

The social posts the anglers post should include the hashtags below.

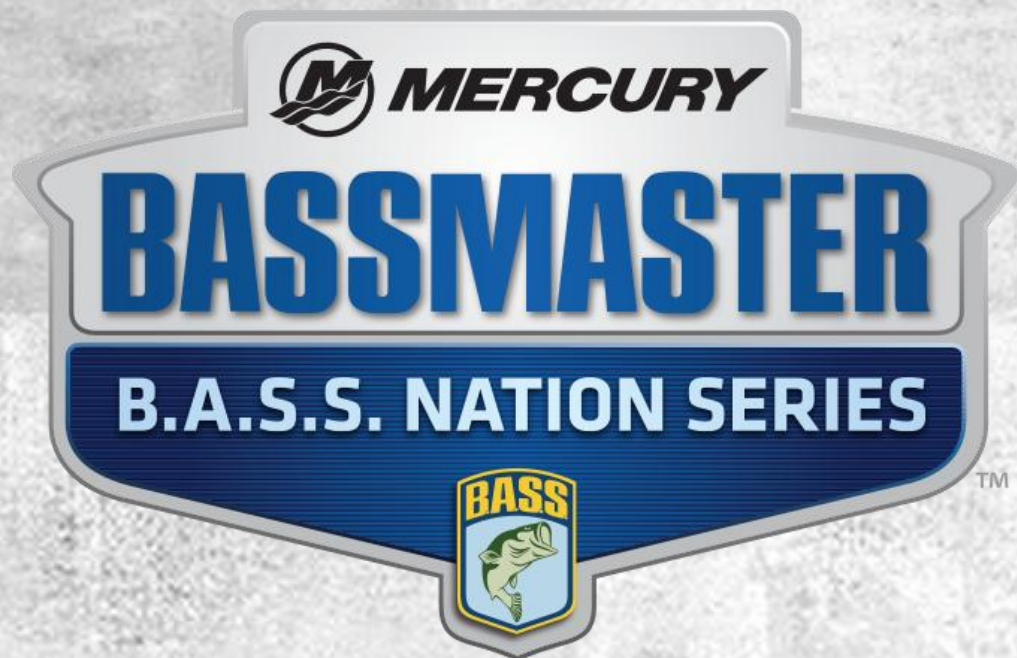
Mercury B.A.S.S. Nation Series Presented by Lowrance- **#Bassmaster #BASSNATION #BASS**



Final Day Competitors

- ❖ Day 3 will consist of the Top 20 boaters and Top 20 non-boaters
 - ❖ NO TOP 20 Meeting – Information will be texted.
 - ❖ IMPORTANT.... Once the cut is announced the Top 20 Boaters and Non-boaters cannot receive any information other than from the other 19 Boaters or Non-boaters.
 - ❖ Insurance will be checked.
- ❖ Top 10% of the boaters and equal number of non-boaters advance to the 2026 B.A.S.S. Nation Championship.
- ❖ Final weigh-in will be at Veterans Freedom Park Boat Launch.





PRESENTED BY **LOWRANCE**

B.A.S.S. Nation Tournament Director:

GL Compton – 864-872-0028

glcompton@bassmaster.com

2026 B.A.S.S. Nation Rules: [Click Here](#)

