

The Idaho Bass Federation Qualifier Series 2026, Qualifier #1

Entry Fee – \$250 Boater and \$125 Co-Angler

Tournament Dates:

CJ Strike Reservoir | Black Sands Ramp | April 11–12, 2026

This qualifier series is to qualify as an Idaho State Team Member and participate in the 2026 ID-MT Semi-Final Championship – Dworshak Reservoir, September 19–20, 2026

Rule Changes:

The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification.

Participants & Eligibility:

Contestants must submit entries in a Boater/Co-Angler pair. Only anglers who are members of The Idaho Bass Federation and TBF National Federation rosters for 2026 are eligible for the qualifier and paid up in advance of any qualifier tournament in which they fish. All State and National dues must be current.

Anglers must be at least 16 years of age. Any Angler under the age of 18 must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian on the entry form/release. The Official Entry Form must be properly completed, signed, and submitted no later than 7 PM, April 10, 2026.

State Team Selection:

At a minimum, the top 2 boaters and top 2 co-anglers at each qualifier will be selected for the State Team. However, if the field consists of more than 30 boats, the top 10% of the field will be selected for the state team. (Example: A 30 boat field will result in 3 boaters and 3 co-anglers selected for the state team. A 40 boat field will result in 4 boaters and 4 co-anglers selected for the state team, and so on.) At a minimum, 6 boaters and 6 co-anglers will be selected for the Idaho State Team and represent Idaho at the 2026 ID-MT Semi-Final Championship, Dworshak Reservoir, September 19–20, 2026.

State Champion / Angler of the Year:

The state champion (AOY) in each division will be determined by a point system. Points will be awarded at each qualifier event as follows: 1st Place finishers in each division will receive 100 points, 2nd Place finishers will receive 99 points, 3rd place will receive 98 points, and so on. The angler with the most points in their division at the conclusion of the third qualifier of the season shall be awarded the title of State Champion and will receive an automatic bid for the Federation National Championship in the spring of 2027. Dates and locations for the Federation National Championship will be announced by the TBF National Office once all State Federation chapters have completed their National Semi-Final events.

Entry Fees:

Entry fees are \$250 per boater and \$125 per co-angler for each qualifier. No refunds at any time. All boaters must attach proof of valid and current **marine/watercraft liability insurance with a minimum of \$300,000 liability** — umbrella-only policies are not accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS! The insurance policy must be in effect at the time of the event.

Prize / Payout Structure:

The main tournament purse will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting based on final field size. Payouts will be made to the top finishers in each division (Boater and Co-Angler) on a percentage basis determined by the Tournament Director. All payouts are subject to final entry counts. Option pot payouts are 100% payback and are separate from the main purse.

Draw & Pre-Tournament/Boater Meeting:

All Boaters and Co-Anglers will be paired by random drawing. The pairings and launch order will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting scheduled for 7 PM, Black Sands Resort, the evening prior to the first tournament day. Each contestant must be present or have a designated representative at the pre-tournament meeting. Boater and Co-Angler numbers will be even, and no one may fish alone.

Alternates:

Should an angler decide to skip an event for which they have already paid, it is the responsibility of the angler to find another angler to assume their spot in the event skipped, NO EXCEPTIONS. Tournament Director is not responsible for identifying replacement anglers. If an alternate/observer fishes, they must be a TBF member and meet the above eligibility rules. They would not pay an entry fee to fish but will have the opportunity to participate in option pots. Alternate anglers must check in at the pre-tournament meeting.

Registration:

Each competitor must register in person with official tournament staff no later than 7:00 PM the evening prior to the tournament day. If an angler is unable to do so during scheduled registration hours, it is the contestant's responsibility to designate someone to check them in.

Fish Limit:

Fish limit per boater is 5 fish of no less than 12" length. Fish limit for co-anglers is 3 fish of no less than 12" length. Any short fish (less than 12") brought to the official tournament scales will result in total bag disqualification for that day. Anglers may not cull dead fish. Culling a dead fish will result in disqualification.

Option Pots:

Option pots are not mandatory and are offered on a voluntary basis. Option pots will be for each day of competition and are 100% payback. Options may be paid at the pre-tournament meeting with **CASH ONLY**.

Boater option pots: \$80 for largest day's catch paid out to the top three boaters; \$20 for big fish of the day.

Co-Angler option pots: \$40 for largest day's catch paid out to the top three co-anglers; \$20 for big fish of the day.

Boaters will be competing against Boaters and Co-Anglers against Co-Anglers only. Alternates may participate in respective option pots.

Off Limits Period / No Information Window:

The tournament waters will be OFF-LIMITS to all competitors April 7 & 8. Official practice days will be April 9 & 10. All participants must be off the water by 6 PM on April 10th. The No Information Window will begin **Monday, April 6** through the last tournament day. This means a competitor may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor enter the tournament waters with a professional guide, state or federal wildlife agency employee, or any other person deemed an "expert" on these tournament waters by the Tournament Director, unless he is a contestant in the same tournament.

Each competitor agrees to report to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations, suggestions to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT, BY HIS SIGNATURE ON THIS

DOCUMENT, TO A POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD HE BE ACCUSED OF ANY RULE VIOLATION. The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall be solely the responsibility of the Tournament Director and his agents and shall be used (or not used) at his discretion. The Participant shall be available, at his expense, at the location selected by the Tournament Director and shall cooperate in all respects with such examination if deemed necessary.

Boat Operation:

Boaters will fish from the front deck of the boat only. Co-Anglers will fish from the back deck or seating area of the boat only. Boaters will have complete control of boat operation and waters to be fished. For safety concerns in rough water or swift current, in the event of an outboard or trolling motor breakdown, or during an emergency, Co-Anglers may operate the trolling motor or the outboard but may not fish anytime from the front deck. Boaters may NOT request that the Co-Angler not fish. Any Boater that, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, operates the boat in such a manner that unfairly handicaps his/her Co-Angler — and any Co-Angler who unfairly handicaps his/her Boater — may be disqualified. Co-Anglers are not allowed to record GPS waypoints or use any type of handheld GPS during any competition day, nor share information about their Boater's location or tactics with any other Boater.

Breakdowns / Equipment Failure:

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, the Tournament Director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are only two permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both paired anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) by one or both paired anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant, at which point all fishing must cease by all parties. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties, or other applicable penalties), provided that all contestants' fish are adequately marked to provide clear distinction between their catches to the Tournament Director. Contestants who elect to return by any other means will forfeit their day's catch to that point. Otherwise, contestants must always remain together and within sight of each other. The momentary condition of being out of sight for a restroom break is permitted; however, ALL FISHING MUST CEASE anytime partners are separated.

Penalties:

A ½ pound will be deducted from any competitor for each Dead Fish brought to the scales. No dead fish may be weighed as Big Fish. Any short fish (less than 12") will result in bag disqualification. Competitors who are not at the official safety check-in point by appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute deducted from the total weight of their day's catch. Any competitors who are more than 15 minutes late are disqualified. Return time shall be defined as off-plane, no longer fishing and plainly visible by the official timekeeper. NO EXCEPTIONS.

Horsepower Regulations:

Each boat must be equipped with a U.S. Coast Guard rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. In no case may the horsepower of your outboard exceed the rating specified on the rating plate. Each competitor agrees, by their signature on the official entry form, to submit the boat and motor to inspection by factory-trained personnel if there is any reason to suspect the horsepower exceeds the rating. Normal maintenance to increase the performance of your engine is allowed. Changing or altering standard factory parts to INCREASE THE HORSEPOWER OVER THE FACTORY RATING IS FORBIDDEN and will result in disqualification. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or ratings plate is also cause for immediate disqualification from all TIBF Sanctioned Events.

Tackle and Equipment:

Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" will be permitted. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be in use or used at any one time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as legal. No gaffs or grippers may be used to land bass, nor be permitted in the boat at any time. Alabama rigs and other similar types of baits will follow the most restrictive state laws covering any part of the tournament waters.

Boaters will utilize the front storage compartments, and the Boater will make available the back-storage compartments for the Co-Angler's use. **Co-Anglers are limited to a maximum of 7 rods.**

Alcohol / Drug Use:

The use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future TIBF tournaments.

Dispute Handling:

All protests must be presented in writing to the Tournament Director no more than 30 minutes after the last flight check-in. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules are the exclusive domain of the designated on-site Tournament Director.

Entry Fees / Travel Expense / State Team:

Boater entry fees (\$250) are divided as follows:

Travel funds to Semi-Finals	\$190
Travel funds to Nationals	\$30
Team apparel	\$20
Qualifier administration	\$10

Co-Angler entry fees (\$125) are divided as follows:

Travel funds to Semi-Finals	\$80
Travel funds to Nationals	\$15
Team apparel	\$20
Qualifier administration	\$10

Any state team qualifier member that does not go to the Semi-Final or National tournament must return any paid funds so that it can be forwarded to the next alternate member. Qualifier members receiving travel funds must attend the annual banquet, if applicable. If a member cannot attend, reimbursement may be requested from the TIBF board; exceptions will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Livewell / Boat Checks:

All boats must have a factory-installed live well system and must be ready for use. Live well checks will be done prior to tournament launch and will be discussed during the pre-tournament meeting.

Permitted Fishing Locations:

Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director and announced at the pre-tournament meeting. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: any water within tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies. No contestant may "buy" or "barter" a fish or a fishing location. Only water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Contestants may not depart

the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

Safety:

All boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch safety device. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. While the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Safe boat conduct must be always observed. A life preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped, or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches his fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. The Tournament Director has the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of competitors. Front and rear lights must be in place and functional prior to leaving the launch site.

Sportsmanship:

Competitors in TIBF tournaments are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be always practiced, especially in relation to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing statutes and regulations.

Please complete the following in its entirety. Type or print clearly so the information can be read. This portion of the entry must be turned in by **7 PM, April 10, 2026** to be eligible to fish in the State Qualifier. TBF membership will be verified prior to the first tournament. If you are not registered, you will not be able to compete.

Co-Angler Entry

Name

Mother TIBF Club

Date of Birth

Address

City / State

Zip

Phone

Email

TBF/FLW Member #

Expiration Date

Boater Entry

Name

Mother TIBF Club

Date of Birth

Address

City / State

Zip

Phone

Email

TBF/FLW Member #

Expiration Date

Boat Make/Model

Motor / H.P.

Having acquainted myself with the rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry in the TIBF Qualifier Series tournaments. By signing this application, I hereby agree to be bound by, and comply with, all tournament rules and regulations. I expressly assume all risk associated with the tournament and hereby release the TIBF, its sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims for injury and/or damages incurred in connection with these tournaments. I release rights to photographs, video, or any materials obtained in a lawful manner. I further agree to submit to a polygraph test upon request by tournament officials. Entries with anglers less than 18 years of age must also have parent or legal guardian signature.

Boater Signature

{_ '*42}

Co-Angler Signature

{_ '*42}

Parent or Legal Guardian (if under 18 years of age)

Print Name

{_ '*42}

Signature

{_ '*42}

• All Boaters must attach proof of valid marine/watercraft liability insurance to this form. • All entries must be submitted as a Boater/Co-Angler pair — only pairs will be accepted. • Entry forms and payment must be submitted to the Tournament Director no later than **7 PM, April 10, 2026**. • Checks payable to TIBF or Cash accepted.

Mail applications to:

Idaho Bass Federation
1112 S Bobby Ave
Kuna, ID 83634

For questions or concerns, contact Andrew (TIBF President) at **208-724-8907** or **idahobassfederation@gmail.com**.