



The tournament format is boater/non-boater with ***NO DRAW. Boaters compete against boaters and non-boaters compete against non-boaters.*** Drawing will only be done to pair unpaired registrants.

The weekends selected are:

May 6, 2017	Conchas Lake	
May 7, 2017	Conchas Lake	
August 19, 2017	Navajo Lake	President's Cup banquet Saturday
August 20, 2017	Navajo Lake	

The lake off limits will begin at midnight on Sunday (Monday morning) before the tournament until Friday safe light.

New: Qualification for the 2017-2018 State Team will be based on the top 3 scores from the 4 qualifiers.

Official practice for both weekends will be the Friday prior to each weekend. See rule 9 below for further clarification.

Registration will only be available on the Friday prior to the tournament weekend. Boaters/non-boaters must register for either or both events on the Friday prior to the pairings meeting. All option pots are per event, i.e. two per weekend. Prior to registration, boaters must comply with state regulations for boat **inspection for aquatic invasive species**. This is especially important for boats registered outside of New Mexico or boats that have recently been out of state. Plan ahead as there may not be inspection personnel at Conchas.

Proof of \$300,000 liability insurance is required to be in the possession of the boater at all times during the tournament. The first three boats will be checked for insurance and at least one random boat after that.

Conchas does not allow glass containers in the state park - \$300 fine
Inflatable life jackets must be worn at all times unless there is a non-inflatable jacket in the boat for that person. (Coast Guard rules)
Expect State Parks to inspect for all safety equipment.

2017 NMBN QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT RULES

1. Bag limits will be announced at the registration depending on the tournament format. Size limits will be per state regulation as printed in the New Mexico Game and Fish Proclamation.
 - Navajo will be 12" – smallmouth and 14" – largemouth/spotted (State Regulation)
 - Conchas will be 14" –smallmouth, largemouth/spotted bass (State Regulation)
 - NMBN will use the red Wil-E-Go belly board (recessed) as the official measuring system.
2. Check-in times will be 3PM-first flight and 3:30PM-second flight.
3. No culling of dead fish will be allowed, PERIOD. Dead fish penalty is 4oz per fish. Penalty for culling a dead fish is **disqualification** from that tournament. Penetrating culling clips are prohibited.
4. Bass presented for weigh-in, which fail to measure the official length, shall result in a penalty of 1 pound for each such bass plus that fish removed.
5. You must have your number **turned in** at the check-in point by your check-in time.
6. Late check-in penalty will be one pound per minute late up to 15 minutes. After that, the angler's weight will be disqualified for that day.
7. All fish caught while sight fishing shall be hooked on the inside of the mouth and verified by that day's partner before unhooking.
8. Ties will be broken by 1)-total fish weighed, 2)-total live fish weighed, 3)-big fish weighed. If still unresolved, a flip of a coin will decide placement.
9. It shall be NMBN policy that the tournament waters are OFF-LIMITS starting on Monday at 12:00 midnight through Friday morning safe light of the week immediately preceding the tournament execution days. **YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO BE ON TOURNAMENT WATERS DURING COMPETITION DAYS IF NOT REGISTERED FOR THAT DAY.** The Tournament Director may modify the off-limits dates to accommodate holidays or other extenuating circumstances.
10. Individuals who operate a boat during any NMBN tournament must have documented proof of boating liability insurance meeting BASS Nation minimum requirements (currently \$300,000). Such documented proof must show an effective date and expiration date that includes the tournament dates they are fishing in and must be in possession of the boat operator.
11. This set of rules supersedes all other rules except when not specifically covered herein. If not covered, the next set of rules to follow will be the 2014 BASS Nation Tournament rules. It is the responsibility of all contestants to understand and abide by these rules. All contestants will be given a copy at the first event of the year. Other copies will be available at each event.
12. The entry fee for each tournament will be \$100.00- all contestants. Observers are allowed to fish but shall not control the boat at any time nor interfere with the boater's ability to fish. Observers do not pay an entry fee or non-boater expense fee and are not allowed to weigh in fish. Observers must sign an individual entry form and liability waiver at registration. B.A.S.S. insurance age limits apply. Ask the tournament director for clarification.
OPTION POTS – Check with Treasurer or Tournament Director for clarification.
13. \$10.00 optional fee for tournament Big Bass is 100% paid back. Big Bass is open to boaters & non-boaters.

PAIRING

Starting position will be decided by the tournament director using either the certified computer program or drawing numbers from a "hat".

One exception to the draw exist:

- The tournament director may designate a boater pairing (including fishing alone) as needed to mitigate physical impairments requested by the contestant (to the tournament director) prior to the drawing. This may include allowing the boater to fish alone or assigning a non-boater that has agreed to help the boater as needed. Service Dogs may be allowed.