



## Louisiana Youth B.A.S.S. Nation

### Louisiana BASS Nation Youth Facts

- **LYBN is the only Louisiana BASS Nation sanctioned trail in Louisiana.**
- LYBN has over 1200 members, and around 400 teams across the state of Louisiana that actively participate in our qualifiers. That number is expected to rise dramatically in the 2026 season.
- Junior teams from 7 years old to 8<sup>th</sup> grade can compete in every tournament as Junior Bassmasters in their own divisions. Points are accrued for all tournaments that each team fishes and a points champion is crowned and awarded a bid to the Jr Bassmaster National Championship.
- **Costs to participate.**
  - \$12 BASS membership (Goes to BASS) per year and they can join anytime. None of these funds go to our state organization.
  - \$30 BASS Nation membership (Goes to BASS and is applied to insurance costs, and operating expenses). Need to be paid after September 1<sup>st</sup> but before the 2<sup>nd</sup> qualifier for the 2026 Season. None of these funds go to our state organization.
  - Louisiana Youth BASS Nation does not charge a membership fee like other states to raise funds and chooses to pass that savings on to our teams. **That is over a \$24,000 saving to our teams.**
  - LYBN know that many tournament series charge upwards of \$100 or more but we only charge \$62 entry fee per team for each tournament (fees may be added to entry fees), because we know how expensive the
  - All prizes and gifts given at LYBN tournaments are bought and funded by LYBN except for a small amount of “special” donated items.
  - All money received is applied to expenses to run LYBN. All funds left at the end of the season are retained for the next season and as a buffer for unexpected cost that may arise.
  - No LYBN officer, director, president, or board member takes any monies except for operating expenses to recoup their personal cost to run the organization.
- **General Information**
  - For 2026 there will be 9 state qualifying tournaments and one championship.
  - Any team can fish as few, or as many tournaments as they want in any trail.
  - The top 10% of finishing teams in a qualifier will receive prizes or scholarships.
  - The top finishing, 5% of teams participating in each individual tournament, qualify for the state championship.
    - If teams in the top 5% have already qualified for the state championship, their spot goes to the next team in the standings not already qualified.
    - 5% of new state qualifying teams are guaranteed at each qualifier.

- The state champions get an automatic bid to the Bassmaster High School National Championship and receive scholarships and national champ. expense funds.
- The overall AOY points champions receive a bid to nationals and also receives an LYBN scholarship and expense funds to travel to nationals.
- For the 2025 season LHSBN had three trails.
  - 13 high school teams qualified for the national championship either through our state trails or a BASS High School open event.
  - 3 Junior Bassmaster teams qualified for nationals through our trails and BASS High School open events.
  - Those numbers are not set in stone but are determined by participation in our state events as well as placement at the BASS High School events.
  - **Every high school team that qualified for nationals received a \$1000. expense check from LYBN and every Junior team received a \$750 expense check from LYBN.**
  - In 2023, Our largest qualifying year in history, **LYBN paid out \$57,750.00 in expense checks** for our 58 teams that made nationals.
  - Teams must fish at least three tournaments in our LYBN series to receive expense funds.
- In 2026 there will be 3 trails or divisions. North, West, East, and consisting of three tournaments from all areas of the state plus a state championship.
  - Each division stands alone for the points trail.
  - Each of the three trail, points champion gets an automatic bid to nationals. (3 Teams)
  - Teams accrue points at each qualifier in each trail that count for that trail only .
    - 300 points goes to 1<sup>st</sup> place and its one less point, per place for each finishing spot below that. (2<sup>nd</sup> gets 299, 3<sup>rd</sup> gets 298, and so on)
    - Teams will receive 50 points for showing up at an event even if they don't record a catch.
- The overall points champion gets an automatic bid to nationals. (The sum of all points gained for every tournament that they fish in all trails)
- Teams can also compete in four Bassmaster High School national opens to qualify for the national championship by finishing in the top 10% of any individual tournament.
  - Any Louisiana team that qualifies through a Bassmaster High School Open will also receive expense funds from Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation Youth as long as they fished two of our qualifiers.
  - Additionally, if a team qualifies for nationals at an open, they get an automatic bid to the Louisiana state championship as long as they fished at least two qualifiers.
- Scholarships are given at the state level but more importantly, a large number of colleges work directly with LYBN to fit the right angler with the right college.
  - Around 12 to 20 anglers that fish LYBN annually, move on to fish in college with some form of financial assistance.

- Bassmaster has one national championship usually held in July every year.
  - BASS believes that **you must fish your way** and qualify via the state trails and opens.
  - There are no free passes, you must qualify to get the honor to go.

### About us

- There is no limit on the number of teams that can compete, per club or school.
- Two student angler teams per boat. They qualify as a team for the state championship and nationals. They remain partners and accrue points as a team for the year.
  - They can switch partners throughout the year but will lose any points that they accrued before the switch.
  - They may fish an individual qualifier alone as long as they have a registered partner and that partner fishes at least one qualifier during a given season.
- Captains cannot fish, or net fish on tournament day but can on any practice days.
- A basic rules document will be provided for each event.
- Louisiana Youth BASS Nation is a registered 501c3 non-profit organization.
- Louisiana Youth BASS Nation is 100% staffed by **unpaid** volunteers including the director.
  - Most of those volunteers pay all their own travel expenses.
- Bassmaster receives no state money collected by ours, or any other state organization.
- All revenue including entry fees and merchandise sales is kept in Louisiana and used for Louisiana tournaments and operations.
- 100% of any funds collected through entry fees or sponsorship are used locally.
- Tommy Abbott is the current Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation Youth Director.
  - He was appointed by the Louisiana BASS Nation Officers/ board.
  - He also serves on the board of Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation.
  - He oversees all youth activity within the state including Junior Bassmaster, High School, and College operations.
  - The LYBN board and La BASS Nation are all involved with any major decisions, **financial oversight, violation rulings, or rules changes**. This was established to remove bias within the organization.
- Louisiana Youth B.A.S.S. Nation - Operates with the oversight of an 8-person board of directors.
- There is a checks and balances system in place with the board of directors oversight for officers protection and to keep everyone honest.
- Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation operates under the umbrella of B.A.S.S. Nation, a global network of locally organized clubs whose members participate in and support a range of activities, including tournaments, conservation initiatives, and youth programs.
- Strict safety requirements are observed and failure to comply with Coast Guard, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, or Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation safety regulations is subject to disqualification from current and/or future events.
- All LBNY volunteers receive Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act training and are required to sign a waiver stating that they have read and understand their guidelines and responsibilities

regarding, recognizing the signs of abuse and prevention. Additionally, guidelines to keep both children and adults out of situations where abuse could occur, or accusations could be made.

- All B.A.S.S. Nation clubs or teams are covered under third party liability insurance with \$1,000,000. in coverage. This includes individual members of B.A.S.S. Nation which all participants in Louisiana B.A.S.S. Nation Youth events, are required to be members. This is secondary to their personal liability coverage.
- **This same insurance covers individual school or club events as well. (Tournaments and events)**
- Current insurance is provided K&K Insurance Group, Inc., 712 Magnavox Way, Fort Wayne, IN 46804 and Nationwide Insurance Company, policy number: KRO-86128-00
- See diagram below for addition insurance information.

**B.A.S.S. Nation**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)**  
**\$1,000,000 General Liability Policy Coverage**

1. **Does the liability insurance cover events? I.E. B.A.S.S. Nation, State or Club, tournaments, meetings, functions, banquets, charity events, board meetings, youth events, conservation events, and other social events?**

ANSWER: Yes. Members of the B.A.S.S. Nation and its member state organizations, affiliated clubs and Junior Clubs are covered while participating in B.A.S.S. sanctioned events or during chapter meetings and activities that are not open to the public.

2. **Does it provide Indemnification of officers?**

ANSWER: Officers are Insureds under the policy. The policy responds to claims arising from bodily injury, property damage, personal injury and/or advertising injury to third parties.

3. **Who is covered, B.A.S.S. Nation affiliated Individuals, Clubs, Officers, State Chapters, all of the above?**

ANSWER: All of the above as B.A.S.S. Nation members for actions relating to activities being performed on behalf of or in conjunction with B.A.S.S. Nation, state affiliates and affiliated clubs.

- All boat captains must obtain a minimum of \$300,000 in personal liability on their boat to compete.
- Any insurance claim uses the individual captain's liability insurance first and BN insurance second.
- Any Louisiana High School BASS Nation angler who is over 16 years old is eligible to fish in the adult Louisiana BASS Nation events as a co-angler. This offers a path for an angler to qualify for the Bassmaster Classic. **One Louisiana high school angler won his region a few years ago year and fished for the national championship for a shot to compete in the Bassmasters Classic.**

## Goals

- The number one goal is to get young people fishing.
- Have fun competing in the sport they love.
- Promote and educate on conservation of natural resources and aquatic species.
- Help anglers who want to go to the next level, get there.
  - Fishing against top competition.

- Getting them outside their comfort zone and expanding their fishing skills.
- Get anglers away from their home waters (Sometimes).
- Offer tournaments in diverse areas and estuaries to help them become well rounded and more experienced in what they will see at the next level.
  - Reservoirs
  - River systems
  - Cypress swamps
  - Marsh and tidal areas
  - Oxbows
- Provide tournament trails that colleges want anglers fishing so they can see a body of work showing an angler can fish, away from his/her home water and outside their comfort zone.
  - Colleges are realizing that an angler who can win tournaments at a local level often cannot compete at the college level which is diverse.
- Provide an environment similar to national, adult tournament trails, where teams travel and experience many places, spend time with friends and family, as well as understand what the next level brings as far as traveling from place to place to fish.
  - They need this experience for college, or if they choose to fish opens after they graduate high school.
- Make sure that every angler gets what they want out of this organization. From those young people who want to go out to have fun with family and friends to the hardcore anglers trying to get to the next level. They all matter!

**Additional information can be found here:**

- Website: [www.lhsbn.com](http://www.lhsbn.com)
- Facebook: @LHSBNFishing
- Instagram: @louisiana\_high\_school\_bass
- Youtube: Louisiana High School BASS Nation
- Bassmaster High School Website: [www.bassmaster.com/high-school-bass-fishing](http://www.bassmaster.com/high-school-bass-fishing)

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