

New BASS Nation of VA State Tournament Format

Some exciting changes are coming from B.A.S.S. for 2024. Complete details forthcoming. The BASS format for 2023 remains the same. Virginia State team will still fish the last Southeastern Regional in May 2023 on Douglas Lake, TN.

2024 format will no longer have State Team regionals. Instead, each state's top teams will go straight to Nationals. The number of teams each state gets to send to Nationals is determined by membership across all states and foreign states as of August 31st each year. Based on August 31st, 2022, Virginia's number of teams is 5. Virginia's 2023 state tournaments will determine who goes straight to Nationals.

BASS also will provide 10 teams per state with early bird registration codes to fish one of the four new Qualifiers for the Nationals. These Qualifiers are replacing BASS's Opens.

After the early registration window is closed, BASS will fill any open spots in the 250-boat field with at-large members. At-large members are BASS members who are not affiliated with a club yet must pay state dues.

Because BASS allows each state to set up their own tournament format any way they choose, the board has motioned, seconded and voted as follows on the Virginia tournament format:

Virginia already has 4 tournaments scheduled. For these tournaments...

1. Motion by R7 Craig Owens to value standings by pounds and ounces versus a point system, seconded by R10 Bruce Shepherd. Vote results: regions 2, 5, 7, and 10 for pounds and ounces; regions 3, 4 (by proxy), 6, TD, YD and CD for point system, with VP abstaining. **Virginia will use a point system.**
2. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt, seconded by YD Jack Babcock to hold the 4 tournaments as fixed teams without change in partners versus teams switching partners with boater/non-boater points carrying individually. Vote results: all regions present for fixed teams. **Virginia will have fixed teams** meaning the same partners for all 4 tournaments. Any changes in partners constitutes a new team whose points start back at 0. The more tournaments the same team fishes, the more points will accumulate for that fixed team.
3. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to have a drop tournament, seconded by R5 Mike Bryant. Vote results: all regions present voted for a drop with VP abstaining. **Virginia will drop the lowest score per fixed team.**
4. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to not allow versus allow substitutes in a team, seconded by CD Melanie Barrow. Vote results: regions 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, VP and CD against substitutes, region 3, TD and YD for substitutes. **Virginia will not allow substitutes.** Any substitutions constitute a new team whose points start back at 0.
5. Motion by R7 Craig Owens to not allow a fixed team partner to fish by him/herself was not seconded.

6. Motion by R6 Chris Merritt to allow one partner of a fixed team to fish by him/herself for both days of one tournament only, seconded by R2 Ray Tweedy. Vote results: regions 2, 3, 5, 6, 10, TD, YD and CD for; region 7 against, VP abstained. **Virginia will allow a partner of a fixed team to fish one tournament by him/herself both days.**
7. Motion by VP Steve Woodroof to give teams participating but caught no fish both days 25 participation points, seconded by R5 Mike Bryant. Motion passed by majority voice vote. **Virginia teams will receive 25 participation points for fishing and not weighing in anything.**
8. Motion by YD Jack Babcock **to break a final standings tie first by their dropped tournament points, then by total weight for year, then by total number of fish for the year, and then by flip of the coin,** seconded by R6 Chris Merritt. Motion passed by majority voice vote. This means teams fishing all 4 tournaments have the upper hand in the event of a tie in final point standings.
9. Motion by R7 to hold the 4th tournament, our formerly scheduled "Fish Off" Oct 21-22, 2023, on the James River or Chick pending ramp availability, seconded by R6 Chris Merritt. Vote results: Regions 2, 3, 6, 7, TD, and YD for the James, region 10 against, region 5 abstaining. **Virginia will hold its final 4th tournament of 2023 on the James (or Chick).**

Virginia's 2024 tournament consideration: No 2 tournaments on the same body of water.

NEW FORMAT ADVANTAGE – By fishing BASS Nation of Virginia tournaments, instead of 10 teams fishing on the State Team at the former Southeastern Regionals for a chance at being the 1 team (top boater/top nonboater) that advances to the Nationals, we will have 5 teams going straight to Nationals AND 10 other teams with the opportunity to fish a Qualifier at a chance of being in the top 20 teams go to Nationals. That's the possibility of 25 teams going to Nationals versus 1 team!! Nationals will continue to provide 3 Classic berths and 1 Elite series berth!!

The state will contribute as much funds as are available to the teams going straight to Nationals from state tournaments.

Any team with early registration codes or at-large registration to a Qualifier shall pay their own way. Entry fee for boaters is \$400. Entry fee for non-boaters is \$200.

The top 20 teams of the BASS qualifier go to Nationals. Any team qualifying to the Nationals through BASS qualifiers shall pay their own way