

WELCOME TO WEST SUBURBAN BASS ANGLERS!

www.westsuburbanbassanglers.com

BEST ADVICE

- **COMMUNICATE!!**
 - If you ever have a question, do not hesitate to ask other members or leadership
 - Talk to your partner prior to an event to coordinate on fishing, driving, and lodging plans
- Attend as many meetings as you can. Not only will you be kept up to date on club news, but tournament events, winning patterns, partner draws, and valuable Angler-of-the-Year points.

MEETINGS

- Meetings will occur on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, barring any conflicts
- The meeting location and time will be confirmed by club leaders prior to the meeting
- Meeting attendees get priority when drawing for partners. If you miss a meeting, notify leadership that you plan on fishing an upcoming tournament PRIOR to the meeting to have your name entered in the partner draw.

ENTERING A TOURNAMENT

- Entry fees and big bass fees must be paid PRIOR to the event.
 - Dues can be paid at the meeting, or via Venmo to @greg-groves-1
- You must fish 5 events to qualify for the classic, or you can “buy in” up to 2 events for an additional \$100/event on top of the Classic entry fees..
- Any late-entrants to a tournament will have to pay an additional \$10 to enter.
 - No late fees will be applied if the Tournament Director is notified of your participation the Wednesday prior to a 1-day event, and one week prior to a 2-day event.
- When at a tournament, help out as much as you are able. Things like, helping backup a trailer to speed up take-off and take-out, helping out at weigh in with setting up the weigh station, releasing fish, taking pictures, cleaning up, etc.

WHAT TO BRING

- Boaters must have active insurance on their boat
- Be sure to purchase a fishing license for the state you’re fishing in, valid for the days you’re fishing
- **Bring Your Own Life Jacket**
- Penetrating cull tags are NOT allowed. If using cull tags, use only non-penetrating cull tags
- It’s recommended to wear eye protection when fishing in case a bait comes flying back at you
- Weigh-in bags will be made available by the club
- Tackle and technology is only restricted by state and local laws. For example, the Alabama Rig is allowed in certain states, but not in others. Also, the number of hooks, baits, and “attactors” may be limited by the state or fishery. The club allows the A-Rig based on those regulations.

COSTS

- Boaters and co-anglers typically split the cost of travel and gas. Expect to pay half of boat gas, truck gas, lodging, and possibly oil and tolls. Each boater is different. Talk to your boater on what they feel is a fair split. If you disagree with them, talk to them or ask for leadership to arbitrate
 - Co-anglers, you are expected to pay for half of the truck gas, even if you drive separately, again at the boaters discretion
- Co-anglers are typically expected to pay launch fees, talk to your boater if you have questions

- There are several perks you're eligible for, such as discounts on gear, available to you as a member of the Illinois Bass Nation, reach out to your Club President for more details.
- By participating in the annual IBN state tournament, this is your road to the **Bassmaster Classic**. Your participation is strongly encouraged, but not mandatory.
- The way the IBN is structured, a club can enter as many teams as they're capable of, but each team must have 6 participants (3 boaters and 3 non-boaters). Both boaters and non-boaters are eligible to fish, and many times our boaters volunteer to fish as non-boaters to help fill a team when we're short a guy or two. This is very much ENCOURAGED!

BASS CONSERVATION PROGRAM

- In order to maintain our eligibility as a BASS sanctioned club, we are required to do a "conservation" project each year. Typically, we host a pond fishing derby in Palatine with the help of the Park District for the local kids and give out tons of great prizes.
- It takes a lot of work and coordination to execute each year, so member participation is highly encouraged.
- For more information on the fishing derby, please check the [Palatine Park District webpage](#).