



To: 2025 Bass Fishing State Final Qualifiers
From: Chris Schwarz
Re.: Congratulations
Date: May 23, 2025

On behalf of the Illinois High School Association, Board of Directors, and Bass Fishing Advisory Committee, congratulations on qualifying for the 2025 IHSA Bass Fishing State Finals.

Enclosed in this State Finals Qualifier packet you will find information that will assist you in your preparation for the state finals. Should you have questions regarding the state finals, please feel free to contact the IHSA. Included in this packet are the following items:

- Cover letter
- State Final Meet Contact Information
- State Final Time Schedule
- State Final Meet Personnel
- State Final Information
- State Final Safety Meeting Agenda
- State Tournament Boat Safety Checklist
- Map of Lake Shelbyville
- Additional Resources
- 'Do What's Right' Sportsmanship Announcement

Good luck at state finals!



State Final Contacts

1. **Tournament Inquiries**

If your school should have questions about the state final, you may call the IHSA office.

2. **Other State Final Contacts**

Chris Schwarz	IHSA Assistant Executive Director	(309) 663-6377
Emma Carstens	IHSA Administrative Assistant	(309) 663-6377

3. **Press Credentials Prior to State Finals**

Matt Troha	IHSA Assistant Executive Director	(309) 663-6377
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4. **School Press Credentials**

Matt Troha	IHSA Assistant Executive Director	(309) 663-6377
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BASS FISHING STATE FINAL SCHEDULE – 2025

LAKE SHELBYVILLE

THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2025

7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.	Check in for pre-fishing at the 9 th Street Boat Ramp/West Dam Access
	Pre-fishing begins immediately after boat has been safety checked
4:00 p.m.	Pre-fishing ends – all boats must be off the water
5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.	Additional boat checks at 9 th Street Boat Ramp/West Dam Access

FRIDAY, JUNE 6, 2025

5:30 a.m.	Additional boat safety check at High Water Boat Ramp
6:00 a.m.	Tournament check in at the 9 th Street Boat Ramp/West Dam Access
7:00 a.m.	Tournament begins Day 1
3:00 p.m.	Boats 1-20 and all Unified Boats return to docks for weigh in
3:15 p.m.	Weigh in begins on Main Stage
3:15 p.m.	Boats 21-40 return to docks
3:30 p.m.	Boats 41-60 return to docks

SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 2025

6:00 a.m.	Tournament check in at the 9 th Street Boat Ramp/West Dam Access
7:00 a.m.	Tournament begins Day 2
3:00 p.m.	Boats 41-60 and all Unified Boats return to docks for weigh in
3:15 p.m.	Weigh in begins on Main Stage
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Top 10 boats from Day 1 weigh in last on Day 2
3:15 p.m.	Boats 21-40 return to docks
3:30 p.m.	Boats 1-20 return to docks
4:30 p.m.	Awards presentation



2025 State Final Tournament Personnel

Master of Ceremonies:	Major League Fishing Staff
Weigh-In Supervisors:	Major League Fishing Staff
Weigh-In Organizers:	IHSA, Shelbyville High School, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Boat Release:	Major League Fishing Staff
Boat Ramp Supervisor:	Greg Harkins, Shelbyville High School
Boat Check-In:	IHSA, Shelbyville High School
Boat Safety Check:	Lake Shelbyville Corp of Engineers, U.S. Coast Guard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Communications:	Chris Schwarz, IHSA
Launch Service:	Greg Harkins, Shelbyville High School



State Final Information

1. **State Final Housing:** Sectional champions advancing to the State Final tournament need to make their own hotel/motel arrangements or the weekend. A list of area hotels can be found on the IHSA Bass Fishing page. It is our suggestion you make reservations immediately upon completion of the Sectional.
2. **School Packets:** Head Coaches can pick up their school packets during boat checks on Thursday. School packets will include participant passes for the teams and coaches. (See Terms and Conditions for details.)
3. **Passes:** Schools will be allowed to have personnel on site in accordance with the IHSA Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions. Only rostered participants will be allowed on site and on boats.
4. **Admission Prices:** There is no admission price to the IHSA Bass Fishing State Finals.
5. **Safety Check:** All boats must meet the safety check as designated by the DNR.
6. **Equipment Check:** All coaches and participants must wear a coast guard approved life jacket and protective eye wear the entire time on the boat.
7. **Lake Restrictions:** Lake information will be provided to coaches at the safety meeting held virtually on Monday evening, June 2, 2025.
8. **Exact fishing times:** On each day of the state tournament, fishing is scheduled to begin at 7:00 a.m. On each day, boats will return to the docks in flights based on their release time beginning at 3:00 p.m. in order to avoid any weight deduction penalty. The only variance to these fishing times would occur if a weather alert has been issued by tournament management.
9. **Limits:** Each boat must have a bump board and no fish under 12 inches may be kept. Only 5 fish may be in the live well at any one time in the boat. The five fish limit applies to the team on that boat. The participants may release one fish to replace it with a larger one, if they have met the 5 fish limit. All fish must be kept alive. Penalty will be assessed for any dead fish. (See Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions.)
10. **Communication:** All boats are required to have a cell phone and must provide the tournament manager the number of that cell phone in case of an emergency or bad weather conditions.
11. **Uniforms:** School uniforms can only have the school's name and/or logo and the student's name on them. Any sponsorship the school has secured cannot be displayed on the uniforms or on the coach/driver of the boat. Sponsorship logos may be displayed on the boats that are in the tournament.
12. **License:** All participants must have a current Illinois fishing license, unless under the minimum age requirement.
13. **State Final Tournament:** The Bass Fishing Tournament will be held at Lake Shelbyville on Friday and Saturday, June 6-7, 2025. Up to sixty (60) teams will compete in the State Final Tournament.
14. **Opening Ceremonies:** On each day of competition, boats will be released to Lake Shelbyville for fishing following the National Anthem. On day one of the state finals, boats will be released in order of the random drawing conducted by IHSA staff in advance of the tournament. On day two of the state finals, the boats will be released in reverse order of the day one release (Ex.: the last boat released on day one of the state finals will be the first boat released on day two).
15. **Results:** Results of the state finals, members of the advisory committee, and additional bass fishing information can be found on the IHSA web page www.ihsa.org. Click on Bass Fishing.
16. **Concessions:** Concessions will be available during the tournament.

Have a great state final! Let us know if we can make your experience even better!



The Safety Meeting for the 2025 IHSA Bass Fishing State Finals will be conducted virtually on Monday, June 2, 2025, beginning at 7:30 p.m. Qualifiers will be sent a link to the meeting prior to this date.

Safety Meeting Agenda

- I. Welcome/Introductions
- II. Schedule of Events
- III. Boat Release
- IV. Weigh-ins
- V. Alternates
- VI. Awards
- VII. Sportsmanship
- VIII. Safety/Lake Evacuation

All qualifiers should make sure of the following:

- They have provided cell phone number(s) for phones that will be on boat during competition
- They have informed tournament management if there are any boats that will need to be boat checked on Friday



Illinois High School State Tournament Boat Safety Check

School Name _____

Boat (Please circle) 1 or 2

Vessel Registration No. _____

Tournament Date: _____

Number of Occupants _____

Inspector: _____

Vessel Owner: _____

Boat Dismissal # _____

Name of adult boat captain: _____

Cell Phone # _____

Safety Inspection: (Teams should have everything ready and out in the boat)

PFDs (1 per occupant) _____

Throwable PFD device (boats 16 feet and over) _____

Fire Extinguisher _____

Sounding Device _____

Battery cover _____

Anchor _____

First Aid Kit _____

Flashlight _____

Protective eye cover for each occupant _____

Visually check all boat compartments/live wells _____

Navigation lights (if after dark)

NA all tournaments end at 3:00 pm

Please give to tournament manager when completed.

Dam West Traffic

Flow from Ramp to Stage and Parking



Legend

Off Limits Areas

Dive Boat

Flagger Location

Direction

To Parking

To Weigh-in

Spectator Tent

Weigh-in Stage



0 0.07 0.15 0.3 0.45 Miles

Thursday Check Station

Locations for Boat Safety Checks 0700 - 0900



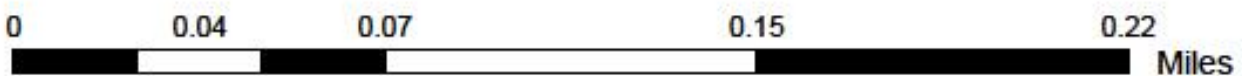
Legend

Off Limits Areas

Spectator Tent

Weigh-in Stage

Safety Check Stations



High Water Boat Ramp

Safety Check Station - Friday 0530 - 0645



Legend

Off Limits Areas

Flagger Location

Direction

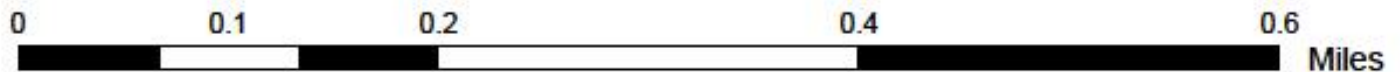
To Parking

To Weigh-in

Spectator Tent

Weigh-in Stage

Friday Safety Check Station



Additional Resources

- [Think Safe Personal Flotation Device \(PFD\) Booklet](#)
- [The Handbook of Illinois Boating Laws and Responsibilities](#)
- [Shelbyville Area dining](#)
- [Illinois Fishing – 2025 Regulation Information](#)
- [Lake Shelbyville Tourism](#)

IHSA Bass Fishing

Do What's Right!

Sportsmanship

Coaches and Participants:

1. Set a good example for spectators to follow.
2. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and accept their decisions graciously.
3. Respect the integrity and personality of the individual athletes and coaches.
4. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
5. Show respect for opponents before, during, and after contests.
6. Do What's Right! Represent your team, school and community with dignity.

Spectators:

1. During the National Anthem, students, participants and fans should remove any hats, face the flag, not talk, place the right hand on the heart, and remain still until the end of the anthem.
2. During the National Anthem, when singing, follow the music and lyrics precisely.
3. Show respect for opposing players, coaches, spectators, and support groups.
4. Respect the integrity and judgment of game officials and accept their decisions graciously.
5. Show respect for members of the coaching staff and team.
6. Display modesty in victory and graciousness in defeat.
7. Recognize and show appreciation for outstanding plays by either team.
8. Use only cheers that are positive in support of their team.
9. Encourage coaches, players, and other fans to Do What's Right!

Acceptable Behavior...

- Applause during introduction of players, coaches and officials.
- Players shaking hands with opponents while both sets of fans recognize player's performance with applause.
- Accept all decisions of game officials.
- Spirit Participants lead fans in positive support.
- Handshakes between participants and coaches at the end of contests, regardless of the outcome.
- Treat competition as a game, not a war.
- Coaches/players search out opposing participants to recognize them for outstanding performance or coaching.
- Applause at the end of the contest for performance of all participants.
- Everyone showing concern for an injured player, regardless of team.
- Encourage surrounding people to display only sportsmanlike conduct.

Unacceptable Behavior...

- Disrespectful or derogatory yells, chants, songs or gestures.
- Booing or heckling an official's decision.
- Criticizing officials in any way; displays of temper with an official's call.
- Yells that antagonize opponents.
- Refusing to shake hands or give recognition for good performances.
- Blaming the loss of the game on officials, coaches or participants.
- Laughing or name calling to distract an opponent.
- Use of profanity or displays of anger that draw attention away from the game.
- Doing own yells instead of following the lead of spirit participants.

