



To help managers and participants safely navigate the 2021 IHSA Bass Fishing State Series, these guidelines have been developed in response to questions that have arisen this season and are intended to supplement the COVID-19 mitigations established in accordance with IDPH directives. The hope is that these guidelines will help provide some added direction for the administration of IHSA Bass Fishing Sectional Tournaments.

<b>State Series Dates</b>		
May 6 (rain date May 10)	Sectional Tournaments	25 locations around the state
May 21-22	State Finals	Carlyle Lake, Carlyle, Illinois

***School assignments for sectional tournaments will be posted on [ihsa.org](http://ihsa.org) no later than April 5, 2021***

1. Masks must be worn by all tournament staff, participants, coaches and captains at all times before, during, and after all state series competitions.
2. Per IDPH guidelines, gatherings on land for events like launch and weigh-ins have a capacity of 15 people per 1,000 sq. ft. (IDPH, "A Bridge to Phase 5", Festivals and general admission outdoor events). As a result, it is unlikely spectators will be able to attend. Managers are encouraged to stream weigh-ins online via social media (i.e., Facebook Live). (see #10 below – **Spectator Attendance**)
3. Due to limits on the size of off-boat gatherings, schools will only be able to send those students listed on boat rosters to the sectional tournaments, in addition to approved coaches and boat captains. Upon arrival, schools should identify an area that will serve as the team's 'home-base' for the event, and coaches will be responsible for ensuring that team members not fishing are not wandering about the facility while waiting for their turn to fish.
4. Upon arrival, while preparing for launch, and during weigh-ins, teams must remain separated from other teams by at least 10 feet.
5. Managers should limit the pre-tournament meeting to head coaches only and must make sure attendees are socially distanced by at least six feet/person.
6. When making a substitution or returning to the launch area for any other reason, coaches must contact the tournament manager or his/her designee and wait for the designee to be present before getting off the boat.



7. During weigh-ins, managers should limit each school to having only one student bring their bag of fish to the scales for weigh-in.
8. Upon conclusion of the event, managers can either send schools their awards, or managers can create a 'no contact' area where awards are placed on a table for schools to take any awards they may earn/win.
9. Managers will want to consider the following items when conducting weigh ins:
  - a. Clearly mark weigh-in lines to maintain a minimum 6-foot spacing between anglers.
  - b. If possible and if used, spread weigh-in tubs apart at least 6-foot from one another to maintain spacing.
  - c. Limit the number of weigh-in bags available and disinfect them after each use.
  - d. After providing the manager/weigh-in coordinator with fish, anglers should step away from the scale/weigh-in to a place designated by the manager. Once the weight of the fish is recorded, anglers should allow the manager/weigh-in coordinator to step away from the scale before stepping forward to get the fish.
  - e. Have hand sanitizer available for staff, anglers, and coaches.
10. **Spectator Attendance:** due to IDPH guidelines, gathering limits have a capacity of 15 people per 1,000 sq. ft. (IDPH, "A Bridge to Phase 5", Festivals and general admission outdoor events). so spectator attendance at sectional tournaments is unlikely and will ultimately be determined by the sectional manager/IHSA Office. Competing schools will only be allowed to bring anglers listed on one of the school's boat roster to the event. Remaining team members not on one of the school's boat rosters will not be able to attend. Due to the size of the field at the state finals, spectators will not be allowed at Carlyle Lake. State Finals weigh-ins will be streamed, and information regarding the availability of the stream will be announced at a later date. *If IDPH restrictions are loosened to allow for spectator attendance, schools will be notified by the IHSA Office of this change.*
11. The [Bass Fishing Terms and Conditions](#), which outlines the structure and rules for the state series, can be found on the IHSA Bass Fishing page.
12. The [School and Managers Manual](#) may also be a helpful document for managers and coaches to review.
13. For more information and a listing of all COVID-19 mitigations, individuals can access [the IHSA COVID-19 page](#).
14. Individuals with questions can contact Kurt Gibson ([kgibson@ihsa.org](mailto:kgibson@ihsa.org)) at the IHSA Office.