

Military, Law Enforcement News, and More...

B.A.S.S. announces Elite Angler Advisory Board, modifications to payouts, enhanced angler services

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. December 12, 2024— In an effort to facilitate better communication and collaboration with Elite Series anglers, the Bassmaster Elite Angler Board of Professionals (ABP) has been created, B.A.S.S. announced on December 12. The Advisory Board consists of six Elite anglers who were voted on by their peers and who will speak on behalf of the entire field in communicating with B.A.S.S. in order to provide a more direct and efficient way of discussing any current challenges and future opportunities.

The ABP was assembled to include competitors who represent every career phase within the Elite Series ranks: rookies, sophomores, multi-year competitors and veterans. The 2025 Advisory Board roster is comprised of Ben Milliken, Alex Wetherell, Lee Livesay, John Crews, Drew Benton and Mark Menendez. B.A.S.S. and the anglers who compete in the Elite Series recognize the importance of effective communication between the organization and the competitors in order to advance and promote the sport and better serve the fishing community. Challenges during the 2024 season revealed an opportunity to improve those communication channels, which led to the formation of the ABP.

"B.A.S.S. is the unquestionable leader in professional bass fishing and has been that way for over 50 years," said veteran Elite angler John Crews. "The professional bass angler has long been the tireless, passionate competitor that simply wants to catch the biggest bass possible. In the past, the competitors and the league have not found a lasting structure to work together to help each other. Until now. The formation of the ABP, Angler Board of Professionals, is an organically created group of Elite Series anglers trying to help B.A.S.S. and the anglers stay in consistent, productive, positive communication. After numerous roles as an angler representative over the years, I am very excited about



B.A.S.S. announces the creation of the Bassmaster Elite Angler Board of Professionals which will have six Elite anglers to speak on behalf of the entire field. The anglers were voted on by their peers. (Photo by Breanne Jackson/B.A.S.S.).

being selected as the leader of this inaugural group. It's a truly humbling honor that I do not take lightly."

The Advisory Board representatives and B.A.S.S. believe the formation of the ABP will ensure that anglers and the league can understand important topics from each other's point of view, which will help to restore a foundation of respect and trust. The Advisory Board recently had its first meeting with B.A.S.S. to primarily discuss the recently announced payout structure for the 2025 Elite Series. B.A.S.S. and the ABP agreed on multiple options to be presented to the full field of Elite anglers to vote on, which included boosting the payouts through an angler-deter-

mined contribution.

After constructive discussion and multiple rounds of voting, the payout for 2025 (which already included an additional investment of \$200,000 from B.A.S.S.), was restructured to better meet the current preference of a majority of Elite anglers. For 2025, the pros decided to make an angler contribution of \$10,000 for the season, which will be applied entirely to the Elite Series and Bassmaster Classic payouts. Moving forward, B.A.S.S. and the ABP will discuss if an angler contribution continues to be the preference of the majority of the Elite angler field.

See the 2025 Bassmaster Elite Series and AOY payout structure and 2026 Bassmaster Classic

payout structure at Bassmaster.com.

B.A.S.S. also announced the creation of a new Angler Services program to assist Elite Series pros with marketing, improvement of pitches to sponsors and professional development off the water. Former Elite Series pro and Classic champion Davy Hite has been named angler liaison lead to ensure that communication channels remain open between all Elite anglers and the league. B.A.S.S. Director of Marketing Will Flowers will spearhead the Angler Business Services program designed to provide angler marketing and brand support.

"We are excited to be working with the ABP to ensure consis-

tent and clear communication between B.A.S.S. and the Elite anglers," said Chase Anderson, B.A.S.S. CEO. "There have been challenges trying to communicate with 103 anglers who, understandably, have 103 different priorities when running their individual businesses. We consider the formation of the ABP an opportunity to build a more constructive relationship with anglers as we work together to advance and grow the sport of bass fishing. We remain committed to being the leader in the sport of bass fishing and believe that working with the ABP will strengthen our leadership position and better prepare us for the future."

Sen. Blackburn demands answers from VA Affairs Sec. McDonough on sexual harassment reports

"It is beyond reprehensible that no individual has been held meaningfully accountable"

"Transparency and accountability are not optional"

WASHINGTON, D.C. December 17, 2024 – U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn.) sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough regarding the disturbing reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and inappropriate workplace conduct involving multiple employees at the Mountain Home Veterans Affairs Medical Center (VAMC). The letter was sent on December 17.

Senator Blackburn requested an update on the status of the ongoing investigation, how many allegations have been made against the Mountain Home VAMC in recent years, what corrective actions will be taken, and how many employees have been terminated or reassigned as a result of the investigation.

Mountain Home VAMC Is Subject of Ongoing Investigation on Reports of Sexual Harassment, Sexual Assault, and Inappropriate Workplace Conduct

"I write to inquire about the ongoing investigation into allegations of misconduct at the James H. Quillen Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center (Mountain Home VAMC) in Johnson City, Tennessee. As you know, your staff briefed me regarding disturbing reports of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and inappropriate workplace conduct involving multiple employees at the Mountain Home VAMC."

Such Disgusting Misconduct Should Never Have Been Allowed to Occur

"It is beyond reprehensible that no individual has been held meaningfully accountable for their actions. Equally troubling are the leadership and oversight failures that may have allowed such misconduct to occur. The absence of clear answers, coupled with media reports, has caused unnecessary distress among the Mountain Home veteran community.

The VA must act urgently to address these concerns. Transparency and accountability are not optional—they are essential to restoring trust and ensuring my constituents feel that they can expect this facility to provide them with the highest standard of care."

TDEC invites citizens to submit nominations for 2025 Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards... from sports-Military page 2

reach; Materials Management; Natural Resources; Water Quality; Sustainable Performance; and Lifetime Achievement. Transportation Solutions is new to the Clean Air category, incorporating an award previously given in a different program.

Any individual, business, organization, educational institution, or

agency is eligible to be nominated. The nominee must be in Tennessee and the project fully implemented in the two years prior to Dec. 31, 2024, or for long-term projects finalized in the year prior to the nomination deadline. All nominees must have a minimum of three consecutive years of overall environmental

compliance with TDEC. Self-nominations are encouraged.

"Tennessee has outstanding stewards of the environment, and we want to recognize the best among them," said TDEC Commissioner David Salyers. "Nominations can bring attention to good work that might not other-

wise be noticed."

A panel of judges from the agricultural, conservation, forestry, environmental, and academic professions will select award recipients based on criteria including the level of project or program completion, innovation, and public education. The deadline for nominations is March

14, 2025. Award recipients will be announced in the summer of 2025.

More information about the Governor’s Environmental Stewardship Awards and nomination forms can be found online at the TDEC website.

NSSF denounces coordinated state effort to bring ‘lawfare’ against firearm manufacturer ... from sports page 1

the criminal misuse of firearms when criminals unlawfully attach an illegal "switch" to handguns. Everytown for Gun Safety is representing the City of Chicago in the lawsuit.

In previous demands for information, House Oversight Chair-

man James Comer (R-Ky.) noted, "On the very day the suit was filed, Everytown for Gun Safety President John Feinblatt posted on X, 'Federal officials recently contacted Glock to discuss implementing new ways to modify Glock pistols to make it harder for Glock switches to be

installed. Rather than help, Glock falsely insisted there is nothing they can do.'"

The devices are "autosears," which are illegal to make, import, possess and attach to a firearm or use without compliance with the 1934 National Firearms Act

(NFA). Attorneys General Platter and Ellison and the other colluding states ignore the fact that these devices aren't produced by GLOCK, Inc., or any other firearm manufacturer.

In fact, they are largely illegally

imported from China or illegally manufactured by criminals. GLOCK, Inc., has actively co-operated with federal, state and local law enforcement to combat this illegal activity.

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