

More sports, law, and military news...

132 anglers are set to compete in 2026 Nitro Boats Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers presented by Bass Pro Shops this Fall

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., September 21, 2026 — The road to the Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series enters its final stretch this week as 132 anglers prepare to compete in the 2026 Nitro Boats Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers presented by Bass Pro Shops, a three-event postseason that will determine the next group of anglers to advance to bass fishing’s highest level.

The 2026 EQ field features a mix of rising stars, veteran professionals and accomplished anglers from across the country and Japan, all pursuing one of 10 invitations to the 2027 Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series. The roster was assembled through several qualification pathways, including the Turtlebox Bassmaster Opens presented by Battery Tender and the Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series and the reigning Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour champion.

The three-event season begins Sept. 23-25 on Norfolk Lake in Mountain Home, Arkansas, before moving to Toledo Bend Reservoir in Many, Louisiana, Oct. 21-23. The postseason concludes



Nov. 11-13 on Lake Guntersville in Guntersville, Alabama. The diverse schedule moves competitors from a deep, clear Ozarks reservoir to the sprawling waters of Toledo Bend before finishing on one of the Tennessee River’s most celebrated bass fisheries.

“This field represents exactly what the Elite Qualifiers were created to showcase — talented anglers who have earned the opportunity to compete head-to-head with a place on the Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series at stake,” said Hank Welton, B.A.S.S. Executive Director of Tournaments. “Over three

events, they’re going to have to prove they can adapt to very different fisheries, changing fall conditions and the added pressure that comes with knowing every fish matters. With only 10 Elite Series invitations available, consistency will be critical from the first day at Norfolk through the final weigh-in at Guntersville.”

Adding another layer to the postseason will be the use of forward-facing sonar. The 2026 EQ format was established with one tournament allowing forward-facing sonar, one prohibiting its use and the status of the final event determined by a coin flip. The results have produced a schedule that will require competitors to demonstrate their abilities with and without the technology.

Forward-facing sonar will not be permitted at Norfolk Lake, while anglers will be allowed to use forward-facing sonar at Toledo Bend Reservoir. The coin flip for the season finale resulted in forward-facing sonar also being prohibited at Lake Guntersville. That balance could make versatility particularly important

during the three-event sprint. Norfolk’s clear water and current drought conditions will open the season Sept. 23-25, with daily takeoffs scheduled for 7 a.m. CT from Buzzard Roost Boat Dock and weigh-ins at the same location at 3 p.m. Toledo Bend follows Oct. 21-23, bringing competitors to a massive reservoir known for hydrilla, submerged timber and trophy largemouth before Lake Guntersville provides the final test Nov. 11-13.

The EQs were introduced as a postseason-style pathway to the Elite Series, requiring anglers to carry their performance from the Opens into three additional high-pressure tournaments. At the conclusion of the Lake Guntersville event, the Top 10 anglers in the EQ standings will receive invitations to compete on the 2027 Progressive Bassmaster Elite Series.

For more information and complete coverage of the 2026 Nitro Boats Bassmaster Elite Qualifiers presented by Bass Pro Shops, visit Bassmaster.com.

USCCA joins SAF as newest Diamond-Level Corporate Partner

BELLEVUE, Wash. — Sept. 22, 2026 — The Second Amendment Foundation (SAF) is pleased to announce that the U.S. Concealed Carry Association (USCCA) has joined SAF as a corporate partner at the Diamond level.

The new partnership highlights the ability for citizens to fully exercise their Second Amendment freedoms across the nation. SAF provides aggressive legal action to ensure our right to keep and bear arms remains steadfast through landmark legal battles protecting the Second Amendment, while USCCA follows a concealed carry holder throughout their life to educate, train and provide legal defense services in the event they’re needed.

“The right to defend yourself and those you love is God-given. The Constitution affirms that. SAF fights to protect that right in court while the USCCA helps responsible Americans exercise it wisely,” said Mike Lowney, president of Delta Defense. “By bringing these complementary missions together, we can better protect and empower Americans

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who choose to take responsibility for their own safety and the safety of those they love.”

The USCCA provides responsibly armed Americans with world-class education, training and self-defense resources designed to help them protect themselves and those they love. Through comprehensive training, education and member benefits, the USCCA promotes the safe, responsible exercise of the right to self-defense and is trusted by more than 860,000 Members nationwide. In addition to its new

“This collaboration highlights the ability for a partnership to cover the gamut of an individual’s Second Amendment rights,” said SAF Executive Director Adam Kraut. “It begins with SAF’s aggressive litigation strategy protecting Second Amendment rights, and follows with USCCA’s education, training and legal defense protection. As an added bonus, SAF’s Director of Legal Research and Education Kostas Moros will also author a column in each issue of USCCA’s member magazine...”

Diamond-level corporate partnership with SAF, the USCCA is also a sponsor of the 41st annual Gun Rights Policy Conference.

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For more information visit saf.org.

Award-winning NFL Race to End Zone Powered by Verizon on NFL YouTube... from sports page 1

WILDCAT, Agent00 and LuluLuvly, with additional NFL players and creators revealed throughout the season.

New for Season Two:

- All-new lineup of 20 NFL players and 20 gaming creators with a combined social reach of 115 million followers.
- The NFL Celly Studio, inspired by the NFL’s new Kickoff campaign “The Season is Your Stage,” features NFL players and content creators celebrating the season in unique, team-spirited ways.
- New games and challenges at team facilities across the NFL.

“Season One of NFL Race to the End Zone put us in a great position to connect Gen Z and Gen Alpha fans to their favorite NFL players and gaming creators,” said Ed Kiang, vice president of video games at the NFL. “Season Two builds on that connection with new challenges and stories from across the league.”

“Gaming is a mainstream media

“Gaming is a mainstream media channel, and Season One showed what happens when brands meet fans there with premium content. Pairing NFL players with top gaming creators generates attention no traditional buy can match, and inbound demand for Season Two reflects that. This season we raise the stakes, all the way to Super Bowl LXI week in Los Angeles,” said Indy Khabra, Livewire co-CEO and co-founder.

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Throughout the season, the series spotlights community change-makers supporting NFL initiatives including NFL FLAG, the official flag football program of the NFL; Crucial Catch, the NFL’s mission to fight cancer through early detection and risk reduction in partnership with the American Cancer Society; and Salute to Service, the league’s commitment to honor, empower and connect with the country’s military community.

The season concludes with NFL Race to the End Zone LIVE, a multi-player invitational tournament featuring gaming and physical football-inspired activities that will be livestreamed on NFL YouTube during Super Bowl LXI week in Los Angeles. The gaming creators who earn their spot in the Super Bowl finale will

compete alongside NFL players, and the winner will be crowned the NFL Race to the End Zone Season Two Champion.

Episodes premiere on NFL YouTube (@NFL), with companion content, clips and interactive drops across Instagram and TikTok (@NFLRaceToTheEndZone). NFL Race to the End Zone Powered by Verizon is produced under the multi-year strategic partnership between the NFL and Livewire.

Fewer Americans in Europe, but more in Poland!... from sports-Military 2

US already has infrastructure supporting its rotational presence in this part of the country, while Wrocław plays an important logistics role. Western Poland also offers something obvious: good connections with Western Europe and the rest of NATO, while still allowing troops to move east quickly if needed.

There is also the question of cost. Preliminary estimates put the price of building the necessary infrastructure at PLN 15–17 billion, with Poland expected to cover a large part of it. This would include much more than barracks: housing, schools and

facilities for soldiers’ families would also be needed. Under the EDCA framework, Poland provides infrastructure and host-nation support, while the United States pays for its personnel, equipment, transport and military operations. A permanent US presence in Poland has broad political support, and for understandable reasons. It would strengthen deterrence, shorten reaction times, and make it harder to treat Poland as a peripheral part of NATO’s defense system. But Poland should not think of an American base as a substitute for its own military. Quite the oppo-

site.

America will not stay in Poland out of sentiment. It will stay if Poland matters to American strategy. That is the real task for Warsaw: not to ask the US to remain, but to make Poland a place from which leaving would make little strategic sense.

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A Memphis Safe Task Force Report (MSTF)

From sports-Military 2

County so that he can face the charges against him and allow the judicial process to move forward.”

“I’m pleased the Marshals Service was able to find the defendant, even as far as Slovenia,” said DA Steve Mulroy. “It demonstrates that no matter where people are in the world the Marshals can find them. I also appreciate the cooperation of the FBI and other law enforcement agencies. Our office will work with the Sheriff’s Office to extradite him as soon as practicable, so the criminal justice process can proceed without delay.”

“The City of Millington extends its sincere appreciation to the U.S. Marshals Service, District Attorney’s Office, and all law enforcement personnel who have worked diligently on this case,”

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said Gary Graves, City of Millington Director of Public Safety. “Justice for Ms. Reedy has been a priority since the tragic day and we are glad that our law enforce-

ment partners made it clear that Mr. Walls has nowhere on this Earth to run to.”

“The tragic murder of Haley Reedy has deeply affected her family, friends, and the whole Millington Community,” said Larry Dagen, City of Millington Mayor. “We recognize that no action can undo that loss, but we hope this significant development in the case provides an opportunity for justice to be done and brings the family, and our community, closer to healing.”

The Gulf Shores Alabama Police Department, Homeland Security Investigations, Millington Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation assisted in the investigation.

More information about the U.S. Marshals Service can be found at

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