



EVENT RULES & INFORMATION

Welcome to the Utah TBF Tournament Trail!

This trail has been formulated for the grass-roots weekend angler. As such, we are encouraging the participation of anglers who want once again to fish a tournament to learn and have a good time. Unfortunately, it is required to have some rules with which all must comply to insure fairness and safety. This trail has no interest in competing with others, only in helping to grow the sport and increasing participation for those who are currently left out.

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION AND REGISTRATION:

Participation in any federation event is open to all members of the organization. The pre-event pairing meeting is a MANDATORY MEETING. Each participant is required to fill out and sign an application and waiver for each tournament. Each boater will be required to submit a copy of their boat insurance (minimum \$300,000 liability) prior to fishing their first tournament of the year. Tournament entries must be postmarked ten (10) days prior to the tournament. (Tournament Director and committee may, at their discretion, allow late entries.)

REFUNDS:

Anglers who chose to withdraw from a tournament on or prior to the Tuesday immediately before the tournament, will be automatically reimbursed their entry fees. People who choose to withdraw from a tournament after the Tuesday before the tournament will be reimbursed only after approval of the Board of Directors at the next regularly scheduled T.B.F, monthly meeting (contestant must petition for the reimbursement at this meeting). Any monies which are not reimbursed will be utilized (at the Board of Directors approval) for the tournament trail, and or trophies.

TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS:

For all tournaments, there will be a random pairing of the contestants by the tournament committee at the pairings meeting.

BOAT EQUIPMENT:

All boats must be in full compliance with state laws and Coast Guard regulations. All boats must have working kill switches (which must be worn at all times when the internal combustion motor is running). All boats must

have a working mechanically aerated live well capable of holding and sustaining two limits of fish (Bass). Boats must be large enough to be safe and comfortable for two anglers and their equipment (as determined by the Tournament Director and committee). All boats must be equipped with a seat for the non-boater partner.

SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:

Life jackets shall be worn by both competitors at all times when the internal combustion motor is running. The "kill switch" shall be affixed to the driver at all times when the internal combustion motor is running. All competitors shall comply with state laws (speeding etc.) at all times. When boating and fishing near other boats and people, maximum courtesy should be extended to all. Anglers in the same boat shall not fish or handle the boat in a method which will put the other angler at a disadvantage. Use of alcohol or illegal drugs during tournament competition hours, will result in immediate disqualification. Drunkenness and unsportsmanlike conduct at any tournament will be cause for disqualification and may result in disqualification from future tournaments (As determined by Tournament director, tournament committee and Board of Directors).

METHODS, TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

While sight fishing for bass, the following rules must be observed: All fish caught must be hooked inside the mouth (Inside / out). The caught fish must be verified by the other competitor in the boat. Any fish caught sight fishing other than inside the mouth, must be immediately released. Any angler attempting to snag a fish outside the mouth, will be immediately disqualified.

All fishing shall be with artificial baits only. Live bait (worms, minnows, crayfish etc.) shall not be allowed. Rods over 8 foot (96") long are not allowed. Spinning, Bait-casting and Spin-casting are all allowable fishing techniques. Fly fishing is not. Fishermen are allowed to have a number of rods rigged and available for use but only one "wet-line" is allowed. Trolling (hands free fishing using only a motor to move the bait) is not allowed in any tournament. All fish must be caught in a legal sporting manner. While the presence of communication devices is recommended (for emergency purposes), they are not to be used to converse with other competitors except for emergencies, as deemed by the Tournament Director and committee. All tools of the boat used by the boat owner during the allotted time at the front of the boat will be available for use the non-boater (depth finder)

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:

OFF LIMITS will be specific to the event. Please see the registration form.

Fishing is allowed anywhere on the tournament lake (where legal), except within 50 yards of another competitor who's trolling motor is up. Anglers who feel that another boat is encroaching on the 50 yard rule must warn the offending anglers at that time. Anglers who allow one other person (within the tournament) to fish within the 50 yard zone are then obligated to allow any other boat or angler the same courtesy. No angler or boat may stop others from passing on otherwise

navigable waters. Anglers may not leave the boat for the purpose of catching a fish, or fishing an area which is otherwise inaccessible by boat. Leaving the boat for dire circumstances (as determined by the Tournament Director and committee) is acceptable, but whenever possible the anglers should remain within sight of each other. All tournament boats must remain on the tournament water throughout the tournament day and all contestants must depart from and return to the check in point by boat (no trailering from other launch sites).

BOAT IDENTIFICATION AND CHECKPOINTS:

Prior to the start of each tournament, there will be a check in for the contestants. At this point contestants will learn who their partners are (if they don't already know) and one contestant from each boat will draw a boat number (blind draw). These boat numbers are to remain with the boat throughout the day. All boats shall be in the water 30 minutes prior to the start of the tournament. Any boater who chooses to block the line and not launch their boat promptly will be sent to the back of the line - if the boater fails to comply he (she) will be disqualified and the entry fee will not be reimbursed. Boats will line up on the water and leave the launch site in numerical order. The first two boats and the last boat to leave will be Tournament Committee boats (the first two will be required to return to the ramp 10 minutes early to start the weigh in procedures). At the end of the day all boats must check in with the tournament committee, (regardless of whether they caught any fish) and return their boat number (more than anything else this a safety issue to make sure that no boats are left on the water, so full compliance is required). In the event that a boat has to leave the water prior to the end of the tournament day, contestants are required to notify the tournament official of their intent and return the boat number. It is the responsibility of the non-boating partner to remain with and help the boater at the end of the day until the boat is safely on the trailer and tied down (this does not apply if the boater chooses to launch at a different site and drive the boat to the tournament launch.) Failure of the non-boater to comply with this rule may result in disqualification from the current and future tournaments!

SCORING AND PENALTIES:

Tournament standings and final winners shall be determined by the weight of each anglers catch. Only Smallmouth and Largemouth Bass in compliance with state size limits may be weighed in. Any angler may request a "courtesy measure" to check a fishes compliance with size regulations and there will be no penalty (other than the loss of the questionable fish if it is short), however if an angler tries to weigh in a short fish the angler will be penalized 1lb for the day's weight. There will be a five fish limit for each angler (unless otherwise stated by the Tournament Director and committee prior to the start of the tournament).

In the event that an angler has more than the prescribed limit in possession at any time, the Tournament Director and committee shall cull down to the prescribed limit starting with the largest fish and working down to the smallest fish. Any fish which appears to have been

mangled, crushed or otherwise altered to give the appearance of being longer than 12 inches will be credited only at the discretion of the tournament committee. Any fish presented for weigh in which is dead or cannot be completely revived with a reasonable effort shall receive a .25 pound deduction as a "dead fish" penalty. All fish weighed in by any angler must be caught during the specified tournament hours on the specified tournament waters by the specified angler - any deviation from the above shall result in immediate disqualification and removal from the organization. Any angler who returns to the weigh in site late shall receive a penalty of 1 pound for each minute that they are late. Anglers who are fifteen or more minutes late will have their total catch disqualified. Only live fish can be weighed in to qualify for the big bass award. In the event of a tie between two or more contestants, the winner will be determined by: 1. Total number of fish. 2. Big fish. 3. Coin flip.

ENTRY FEES AND PAYOUTS:

Boater Entry Fee: 250.00

Co-Angler entry Fee: 150.00

The TBF of UT receives 25% from each angler, the remaining 75% goes to payouts.

Any checks written to members as payouts for tournaments awards must be cashed within 60 days. Checks which are not cashed within that time, will be null and void.

NATIONAL SEMI-FINAL QUALIFICATION:

Co-Anglers will not be competing against Boaters. Boaters will not be competing against Co-anglers. At the conclusion of the event, the TBF committee will advance the top 6 Boaters and the top 6 Co-Anglers by heaviest 2-day weight total to the District 22 - National Semi-Final vs. The State Of Nevada.

BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSES:

Co-Anglers are encouraged to pay the boater to help offset some of the expenses of running the boat. This amount should be determined by discussion before official launch. Any contestant who, in the judgment of the officials operates the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap the other angler shall be disqualified.

EVENT PROTESTS:

All protests must be filed with the Tournament Director prior to the closing of the scales. When a protest is filed the Tournament Director will choose a minimum of 3 uninvolved people (without ties to any of the parties concerned). These people will then listen to all sides of the story and make a determination as to the outcome. The decision of the Tournament Director and officials shall be final in all manners.

TBF - The Bass Federation Utah

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