



2009 Panhandle Region Tournament Trail Rules

1. Rules Changes: The following rules shall remain unchanged throughout the events, but the tournament official/s shall have the right to make changes for safety considerations. All decisions of the tournament official/s are final in all matters.

2. Participation & Eligibility: Anyone who is a member in good standing with the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society (B.A.S.S.), Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation (TXBFN), and an active member of a TXBFN affiliated club, is 16 years of age or older and has paid the entry fee may participate. A minor (*17 years of age or younger*) must be a non-boater. Only Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Members or an observer appointed by tournament official/s are allowed in the boat during tournament hours.

3. Alcoholic Beverages & Drugs: No alcoholic beverages or drugs (unless prescribed) are allowed in the boat or may be consumed during tournament hours.

4. Sportsmanship: Any contestant who displays poor sportsmanship, violates the rules of any federal, state or local laws, or brings unfavorable publicity to the sport of bass fishing will be disqualified and shall forfeit all entry fees and/or prize money.

5. Boat & Motor: All boats and motors must meet all U.S. Coast Guard and State regulations. No motors shall exceed the Boating Industry Association (BIA) rating for that boat and no horsepower shall exceed 250 HP. All boats must have a working kill switch and an adequate aerated livewell.

6. Safety: A U.S. Coast Guard approved chest-type life preserver must be worn and fully fastened by all boat's members and the kill switch must be attached to the operator any time the combustion engine is in operation.

7. Emergency/Leave Early: If a contestant wishes to leave the lake prior to weigh-in, that contestant MUST notify the a tournament official, leave a note at the designated check-in area, or notify another tournament contestant that will be present at the weigh-in in order to receive points for the tournament. This is a safety requirement that all contestants must adhere to.

8. Tackle & Equipment: Dip nets are allowed. Dip nets cannot exceed 6½ feet in overall length. B.A.S.S.

recommends the use of a rubber or vinyl-coated net. No protests will be allowed regarding netting of a partner's fish. All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner on artificial lures. No trolling with the combustion engine or snagging of fish is permitted. No live or prepared bait is permitted with the exception of pork rind trailers. Only one rod may be used at one time. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Only rods 8 feet or shorter in length may be used. The use of electronic tracking equipment is not allowed at any time.

9. Protests: All protests must be submitted in writing, including name or state boat number, to any tournament official/s within 15 minutes of the final weigh-in.

10. Polygraph: All contestants are subject to a polygraph examination at the request of the tournament official/s. Failure to submit to or pass a polygraph examination will result in immediate disqualification and forfeit of any entry fees and claims to any prizes.

11. Tournament Official/s: All contestants are required to cooperate with all requests from any tournament official/s whether on or off the water.

12. Official Check-in: All contestants will leave from the same designated area determined by tournament official/s. During the competition days, competitors must not depart the boat to land or to make the boat more accessible to fishing water. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament hours. Contestants must leave and return to the same designated area by water.

13. Scoring: Will be based on a points system. (Example 200 points for 1st, 199 points for 2nd, 198 points for 3rd and so on through the placements). Contestants with no fish shall be awarded 10 points less that the points awarded for the smallest stringer of fish weighed in. Each contestant should ask to have his/her big fish weighed. Each contestant may weigh-in a 5-fish limit with a minimum length of 14 inches (courtesy check is allowed) unless the lake minimum is greater. (The Gator Grip Golden Rule will be the official tournament measuring board). For each legal, dead bass, presented to weigh-in official/s, the competitor shall be penalized the following, to be deducted from



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their daily score: 1 dead fish ½ lb., 2 dead fish ¾ lb., 3 dead fish 1 ½ lbs., 4 dead fish 2 ½ lbs., 5 dead fish 3 ¾ lbs. Culling of dead fish is not allowed. Bass presented at weigh-in that fall short of the official length shall accrue a penalty of that contestants big fish for the day. (Courtesy check is allowed). Any contestant returning to the checkpoint late will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no weight will be allowed. Contestants with no fish returning to the check-in late will be penalized at the rate of 1 point per minute late up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes no points will be awarded. Culling of fish is each contestant's responsibility and no more than 5 fish may be kept in the livewell. Only Largemouth, Guadalupe, Smallmouth and Kentucky Spotted Bass will be weighed in.

14. Ties: In case of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used: (1) The individual with the most fish weighed in. (2) The individual with the largest single fish. (3) If a tie still remains, the flip of a coin will determine the winner. (All contestants must have their big fish weighed).

15. Off Limits: There will be NO off limits for the 6 qualifiers. There will be an off limits period beginning Sunday night at mid-night the Sunday prior to the championship and ending the Friday morning at safe light preceding the championship.

16. Entry Fee/Payback: Entry fee for each tournament will be \$40.00 with \$5.00 going for Big Bass. Payback will be figured on 80% of the regular entry fees with one place paid per five (5) entries. Payback for the largest bass by net weight is 100%. All paybacks (and any prizes) will be issued at the weigh-in site.

17. Angler of the Year: The "Angler of the Year" will be awarded to the contestant having the greatest number of points totaled from 4 tournaments. In the event of a tie, the following tiebreakers will be used: (1) The total weight of the 4 tournaments, (2) The best total weight from one of the 4 tournaments, (3) The biggest bass of the 4 tournaments, (4) A coin toss.

18. Championship: The Panhandle Regional State Team Representative (contestant who goes to the divisional tournament) will be determined at a draw

tournament after the Regional Trail is concluded. Contestants for the Championship must fish at least 4 of the 6 Regional Trail tournaments to qualify. The Top Six in Angler of the Year Points will be invited to the Championship. Contestants finishing in the positions 1 through 3 shall be boaters and contestants in positions 4 through 6 shall be non-boaters. In the event that an contestant must withdraw from the championship the next contestant down the points list will be invited. The lake for the Championship will be chosen from a blind draw consisting of the lakes that were fished as a part of the qualifying process. This drawing will take place at least 30 days prior to the Championship date.

19. Other Rules: The Texas B.A.S.S. Federation Nation Tournament Rules and Regulations will be used if a rule is not specifically covered in these rules. The Panhandle Regional Tournament Committee reserves the right to make final decisions on any other rule/issue.