

Southern Collegiate Bass Trail Tournament Rules

PRESENTED BY TRADER BILLS

1. **WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY OF ANY APPLICANT AT OUR DISCRETION.**

2. **PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY:** PARTICIPATION IN EACH TOURNAMENT IS OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS IN GOOD STANDING. NON-MEMBERS MAY JOIN BY ENCLOSING A \$80.00 MEMBERSHIP FEE PER TEAM AND DECLARING A PARTNER. ENTRY FEE IS \$100.00, PER QUALIFYING TOURNAMENT. IF A TEAM DID NOT ATTEND THE FIRST MANDATORY MEETING & WANTS TO FISH A MID SEASON EVENT, THE TEAM MUST ATTEND A MANDATORY 1 HOUR ORIENTATION AND PAY MEMBERSHIPS AND TOURNAMENT FEE.

Participation is open to college students who are enrolled full-time based on their school's definition of a full-time student for their degree program. They also must be a full-time student in an accredited college or university as recognized by the ACA as well as be members in good standing of that college or university's institutionally recognized fishing club that has been cleared to compete and represent their college or university. Participants must have an overall GPA of 2.0 or higher.

Students who graduated within five (5) months of the tournament date are eligible to compete. All participants will be required to show a current student ID and a state issued photo ID at registration. No student angler may compete in more than five (5) years of Championship events during his/her schooling period. All contestants must be able to provide a complete transcript upon request to prove their eligibility to compete in this event to show they were enrolled full-time.

Each team must provide its own equipment including, without limitation, fishing equipment and a boat, all subject to the restrictions contained in these Official Rules.

All contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the specified tournament waters being fished. Licenses must be purchased prior to official practice days.

3. **REGISTRATION:** EACH TEAM CAN REGISTER AT TRADER BILL'S HOT SPRINGS OR LITTLE ROCK AND ONLINE. WE ACCEPT ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS WITH A \$10.00 PER TOURNAMENT HANDLING FEE. **ENTRY FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE, OR IN STORE AT TRADER BILLS. MEMBERSHIPS ARE \$80 PER TEAM. ALL QUALIFIER TOURNAMENTS ARE A \$100 ENTRY. TEAMS MUST BE REGISTERED BY THE WEDNESDAY BEFORE EACH TOURNAMENT BY 11:59PM . A \$25 LATE FEE WILL BE ESTABLISHED FOR ANYONE REGISTERED AFTER THE CUT OFF PERIOD.**

4. **SAFETY:** SAFE BOATING WILL BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES. EACH PARTICIPANT IS REQUIRED TO WEAR A FASTENED U.S. COAST GUARD APPROVED LIFE PRESERVER ANYTIME THE BOAT IS ON PLANE. ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A KILL SWITCH AND THE KILL SWITCH MUST BE IN USE AND ATTACHED TO THE ANGLER ANYTIME THE BIG MOTOR IS RUNNING.

5. **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CODE OF CONDUCT:** **TRADER BILL'S HAS THE RIGHT TO REFUSE or DISQUALIFY ANY PARTICIPANT TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY TRADER BILL'S TOURNAMENT. ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE REQUIRED TO FOLLOW THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONSERVATION. Anglers participating in any Trader Bill's event shall observe this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the specific event in which they are participating. Anglers and**

family members of anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on Trader Bill's, its members, officers, representatives, tournaments, or sponsors. This includes social media of all kinds. Integrity, honor and the respect for others for all members, family and the Trader Bill's organization will be strictly upheld. Trader Bill's reserves the right to make all judgment calls on negative actions and all decisions are final. Anglers have the right to make a complaint or grievance, but must be done in writing and within 10 minutes of the closing of the scales during a tournament.

6. **BOAT AND MOTOR REGULATIONS:** EACH BOAT MUST MEET ALL U.S. COAST GUARD AND STATE REGULATIONS. A KILL SWITCH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE DRIVER AND IN USE ANY TIME THE BIG MOTOR IS IN OPERATION.

7. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** WE WILL LAUNCH AT SAFE LIGHT DETERMINED BY THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR AND POSTED TOURNAMENT WEEK. WE WILL HOLD A TAKE OFF AND ENSURE EVERYONE HAS THEIR LIFE JACKETS ON AND THE KILL SWITCHES ATTACHED AND IN USE BEFORE THE ANGLERS ARE ALLOWED TO TAKE OFF.

WE WILL WEIGH IN AT 3PM FOR EACH TOURNAMENT DAY.

8. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** PARTICIPANTS MAY FISH ANYWHERE ACCESSIBLE BY BOAT, EXCEPT AREAS DESIGNATED AS OFF LIMITS, KEEP OUT OR NO BOATS BY FEDERAL, STATE OR LOCAL OFFICIALS OR WITHIN 50 YARDS OF OTHER COMPETITORS WHO WERE FIRST ANCHORED. ALL ANGLING MUST BE FROM THE BOAT. PARTICIPANTS MUST LEAVE FROM AND RETURN TO THE OFFICIAL CHECK POINT, THERE IS ONLY ONE CHECK POINT. FAILURE TO DO SO WILL CAUSE DISQUALIFICATION.

9. **PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:** ALL BASS MUST BE CAUGHT IN A CONVENTIONAL SPORTING MANNER. ONLY ARTIFICIAL LURES OR PORK TRAILERS MAY BE USED. **NO BAITING ALLOWED.**

10. **PRE-FISHING:** YOU MAY ONLY PRE-FISH THE DAY BEFORE THE CHAMPIONSHIP.

11. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** TOURNAMENT WILL BE SAFE LIGHT UNTIL 3 PM. OFF LIMITS WILL BE MONDAY- FRIDAY THE WEEK OF THE TOURNAMENT UNTIL SUNRISE THE DAY OF THE TOURNAMENT. **No fishing information may be purchased, bartered, solicited or otherwise received from any person who entered official tournament waters during the established off-limits periods for all Trader Bill's Team Trail Tournaments.**

12. **TOURNAMENT SCORING:** ONLY TEAMS THAT HAVE CHECKED IN AT THE OFFICIAL CHECK POINT, BEFORE THE OFFICIAL ENDING TIME OF THE TOURNAMENT, WILL BE ALLOWED TO WEIGH THEIR CATCH. IF YOU DO NOT CHECK IN BY THE CHECK IN TIME YOUR WEIGHT WILL BE ZEROED. CHECK IN IS AT 3PM EACH DAY. ONLY LARGEMOUTH, SMALLMOUTH AND SPOTTED BASS WILL BE ACCEPTED. THERE WILL BE A 5 FISH LIMIT PER TEAM ON EVERY LAKE. THE OFFICIAL LENGTH FOR BASS WILL BE 12 INCHES, OR THE LAKE LIMIT. THE LENGTH LIMIT WILL BE THE SAME LENGTH FOR ALL WEIGHABLE FISH FOR EACH LAKE (12" FOR KENTUCKYS, 12" FOR LARGEMOUTH") IF A TEAM PRESENTS A FISH THAT FAILS TO MEASURE, THE FISH WILL BE RELEASED AND TEAM WILL BE PENALIZED 1 POUND FOR EACH FISH FAILING TO MEASURE. EACH TEAM'S CATCH MUST BE PRESENTED IN WATER FILLED WEIGH-IN BAG WITH AMPLE ROOM FOR THE FISH. WE WILL USE OUR WEIGH IN BAGS AT THE TOURNAMENT. **ONLY ONE DEAD FISH PER TEAM WILL BE ALLOWED, AND TEAM WILL RECEIVE A .50 POUND PENALTY.** EACH WILL BE GIVEN A CHIP AT TOURNAMENT CHECK IN THE MORNING OF THE EVENT- THIS CHIP MUST BE IN THE BUCKET AT WEIGH IN FOR A TEAM TO BE ELIGIBLE TO WEIGH. AFTER A TEAM'S CATCH IS WEIGHED, ANGLERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR PUTTING THEIR FISH BACK INTO THE LAKE. IF A TEAM DOES NOT, THEY WILL LOSE THEIR POINTS FOR THE DAY.

ONLY 5 FISH ARE ALLOWED IN THE BOAT AT ONE TIME. WHEN YOU CATCH YOUR FIFTH FISH YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY CULL. ANY TEAM WEIGHING IN 6 FISH MUST THROW BACK THEIR LARGEST FISH AND ALSO WILL RECEIVE A ONE POUND PENALTY.

13. **TIES**: IN CASE OF TIES, POSITIONS WILL BE RESOLVED BY COMBINING THE AWARDS AND POINTS AND DIVIDED EQUALLY. WHEN PRIZES CANNOT BE DIVIDED, THE WINNER WILL BE DECIDED BY A COIN TOSS.

14. **LIABILITY INSURANCE**: ALL PARTICIPATING TEAMS ARE REQUIRED TO HAVE LIABILITY INSURANCE AS DESCRIBED BY ARKANSAS LAW.

15. **ALTERNATES**: ALTERNATES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.

16. **SCORING & QUALIFICATION**: A TEAM'S SCORE WILL BE THE WEIGHT OF THEIR CATCH PLUS POINTS, FIRST RECEIVING 200 POINTS, SECOND RECEIVING 199, ETC. THE TEAM WITH THE HIGHEST AMOUNT OF POINTS AT THE END OF THE YEAR WILL BE THE TEAM OF THE YEAR.

17. **ALCOHOL OR DRUGS**: ALCOHOL OR ILLEGAL DRUGS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS.

18. **PROTEST**: A FIVE-PERSON FISHERMAN'S COMMITTEE WILL BE ELECTED TO REPRESENT THE FISHERMAN'S INTEREST. ANY AND ALL PROTEST MUST BE PRESENTED IN WRITING WITHIN 10 MINUTES OF COMPLETION OF WEIGH-IN.

19. **A TEAM CANNOT WIN 1ST & 2ND BIG BASS IN ONE TOURNAMENT.**

20. CONTESTANTS MAY NOT USE MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, CELL PHONES, TABLETS, MARINE RADIOS, WALKIE-TALKIES, CBs, ETC., TO COMMUNICATE WITH ANYONE ABOUT LOCATING OR CATCHING FISH ON TOURNAMENT WATERS DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS. MOBILE COMMUNICATION DEVICES MAY BE USED DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS TO COMMUNICATE WITH LOCKMASTERS ABOUT LOCKING OR TO COMMUNICATE WITH THE TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR. BOATERS MAY USE SMART PHONES AND/OR TABLETS DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS FOR GPS, MAPPING, WEATHER, POWER GENERATION, BARGE TRAFFICE UPDATES, PERSONAL FISHING NOTES AND RELATED DATA. **AT NO TIME DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS MAY CONTESTANTS READ OR DISCUSS SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS FROM OTHER CONTESTANTS.**

21. EACH COMPETITOR AGREES TO SUBMIT TO POLYGRAPH TEST. THE ADMINISTRATION AND INTERPRETATION OF A POLYGRAPH TEST SHALL BE SOLELY THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS, AND ITS AGENT. VIOLATION OF RULES OR A FAILURE OF POLYGRAPH WILL RESULT IN DISQUALIFICATION.