

TTZ TOURNAMENT TRAIL RULES

1: PARTICIPANTS/ELIGIBILITY

- Participation is open only to current members of the TTZ Tournament Trail.
- Any member under the age of 18 must have the signature of their parent or legal guardian.
- A team will consist of one or two anglers per boat; only registered contestants may be in the boat during official tournament hours. A contestant may fish alone as a single person team.
- There will be no partner substitution during regular season events. A new combination of partners creates a new team and the points from the prior team are not carried forward.
- Texas Tournament Zone reserves the right to refuse any membership or tournament entry fees or entry forms for any reason.

2. ENTRY FEES/PAYOUTS

- Entry fee is \$150 per adult team per tournament or \$100 per adult/youth (under 18) team per tournament. Any angler turning the age of 18 after February 4, 2012 will be grandfathered as a youth throughout the entire season. The junior angler must be present in the boat to receive the above stated discount.
- 90% will be the base payback less polygraph fees. There will be an optional \$10 Big Bass pot at each event paid back at 100%.
- First place at each regular season event will be a GUARANTEED minimum of \$3,000; all payouts increase after 60 boats.
- All ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money.

3. REGISTRATION/TOURNAMENT HOURS

- Registration via credit card will be available online at **www.ttz1.com** until midnight before the day of the tournament.
- On site registration (CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS) will begin at 5:00 am the morning of the event. Each team must register in person at the designated site; a completed and signed entry form must be received before the start of each competition day.
- Contestants will draw flight numbers at registration and must leave from the official check point location in numbered order. Contestants may launch their boat from any ramp, but must come through the official check point before leaving to fish.
- Trailering is not allowed. In the event of severe weather alternate take off instructions will be provided by the Tournament Director.
- Tournament hours are safe light to 3:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- It is the angler's responsibility to get the official time from the Tournament Director.

4. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- Only artificial baits may be used. No live or cut bait is permitted (pork baits are permitted).

- All bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner. No snagging.
- Each contestant may only use 1 rod at a time. No more than 1 line in the water at a time per angler.
- All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish.
- Trolling with the combustion motor is not permitted.

5. OFF LIMITS

- All TTZ regular season events have a 5 day off limits period, which consists of the Monday-Friday prior to the tournament. No contestant may be on designated tournament waters for any reason during the official off limits period.
- No fishing information may be purchased, bartered or solicited from any person who entered official tournament waters during the established off limits period.
- If either partner enters tournament waters during the official five day off limits period such partner shall be ineligible for the event and may not enter or register for the event; the eligible partner may enter the event. However, all previous points acquired will be forfeited and the eligible partner's points will start from zero.
- Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight with the trolling motor in the up position), or within 25 yards of a non-anchored competitor's boat unless otherwise agreed upon by the other tournament angler.

6. SCORING

- Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths of ounces. The highest weight will be declared 1st place and receive points equal to the total number of teams that fished the given event.
- Each descending weight will receive (1) point less than the previous weight. All teams that do not weigh fish will receive (10) points less than the last team that weighs fish.
- If a team is disqualified for any reason they will receive (0) points for that tournament, BUT WILL RECEIVE CREDIT FOR FISHING THE TOURNAMENT.
- The team that accumulates the greatest amount of points for the entire season will be declared "Anglers of the Year". The AOY will receive free entry fees the following season.

7. LIVE FISH/WEIGH-IN

- A limit of five bass (Largemouth, Smallmouth and Guadalupe/Spotted) may be weighed in per team. No team may have more than the tournament limit (5 bass) in the live well at any time during the tournament except during the short timeframe of culling a fish.
- All fish must be a minimum of 14"; short fish presented for weigh-in will result in the loss of that particular fish.

- There will be a ONE POUND fish care penalty for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Culling of dead bass is prohibited.
- Weigh-in will be back at the launch site according to the appointed time. All contestants must check in with a Tournament Director prior to weighing fish.
- Any team checking in after their appointed time will be assessed a ONE pound per minute penalty from their total weight including any weight to be counted toward a Big Bass award. Any team more than 15 minutes late will forfeit that day's catch.
- Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in unless otherwise noted by a Tournament Director.

8. SPORTSMANSHIP/SAFETY

- All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.
- Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened) U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device any time the boat is above idle. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device, which must be securely attached to the driver's body any time the boat is above idle.
- Tournament hours may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion.
- In case of inclement weather it will be the contestant's decision to stay and fish or seek shelter/leave. Once tournament fees are paid and the tournament has begun there will be no refunds for any reason.
- Mobile communication devices are encouraged for safety reasons but their use is prohibited during tournament hours for the purposes of finding or locating fish.

9. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION

- All teams registering for all four regular season events will qualify to fish the year end Championship.
- The year end Championship entry fee will be \$150 per adult team or \$100 per adult/youth team. There will be an optional \$20 per team Big Bass pot.
- Anglers that registered for all four regular season events may fish together as a new team.
- The top three teams from the AOY standings will have their Championship entry fees waived.

*** All contestants may be subject to a polygraph exam before the prizes are distributed at each event. Contestants must pass the polygraph exam at the tournament site to receive prize money, awards and points for the event. The Tournament Director reserves the rights to waive any violation of these rules that are disclosed to him before the polygraph exam, in his sole and absolute discretion.**

*** Protests must be made in writing within 10 minutes of the official closing of the scales at each tournament.**

*** Decisions of the Tournament Director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director.**

*** All participants expressly assume all risk(s) associated with each tournament event and hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless Texas Tournament Zone, the host, all sponsors and Tournament Directors from all claims or injury and/or damage arising out of, or related to and/or incurred in connection with any TTZ sponsored event(s).**