

TTZ STRIPED BASS TOURNAMENT RULES

1. PARTICIPANTS/ELIGIBILITY

- Participation is open only to current members of the TTZ Striped Bass Tournament Trail.
- Any member under the age of 18 must have signed approval from their parent or legal guardian.
- A team will consist of one to four 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.
- 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 team, per tournament
- There will be an optional \$25 Big Bass pot at each event paid back at 100%.
- All ties will be resolved by splitting that place and the next place's money.
- One place per every five boats will be paid out.

3. REGISTRATION/TOURNAMENT HOURS

- On-site registration (CASH ONLY, NO CHECKS) will begin at 5:00 am (unless otherwise stated by TTZ) 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. (there may be additional registration hours the night before on a case by case basis)
- Contestants may launch their boat from any ramp, but must come through the official check point and attend the Captains Meeting 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 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.
- It is the angler's responsibility to get the official first cast start time from the Tournament Director.

4. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- All legal means of fishing for striped bass are allowed, including live bait.
- All bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner. No snagging.
- All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish. No bank or dock fishing is allowed.
- Trolling with the combustion motor is permitted.

5. OFF LIMITS

- There are no off limit days for striped bass events
- 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
- The team that accumulates the greatest amount of points for the entire season will be declared "Anglers of the Year".
- Weigh-in will be back at the launch site. All contestants must be in the weigh-in line by 2PM.
- Any team checking in after their appointed time will be assessed a (1) 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.

7. FISH REGULATIONS

- A limit of five striped or hybrid striped bass may be weighed in per team. No team may have more than ten striped or hybrid striped bass in their possession in tournament hours, except during the short timeframe of culling a fish.
- All fish must be a minimum of 18 inches; short fish presented for weigh-in will result in the loss of that particular fish.
- Culling of dead bass is prohibited.
- Fish submitted at the weigh-in must be 'fit for the table', i.e., they must have red gills, clear eyes, and firm flesh. All fish must be in a container, bag or ice chest. All fish must be put on ice immediately after being caught.

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. POLYGRAPH/PROTESTS

- 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.

10. CAPTAINS MEETING

- Teams must have one representative attend the mandatory Captains Meeting. Captains Meetings will be at 6:00am the morning of events unless otherwise stated by TTZ. For every minute a team is late they will be penalized 1 pound from their total weight and big bass weight for that day.
- All teams must have their boat present at Captains Meeting. The Tournament Director has the option of performing boat inspections at this time.

*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).

I hereby have read and agree to the above rules

Signature

Print name