

Arkansas Youth Fishing Foundation LLC

Arkansas Youth Team Trail

Official Tournament Rules

Effective August 25, 2017

The following rules of this tournament will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by the Arkansas Youth Fishing Foundation LLC and the Arkansas Youth Team Trail, and herein after AYFF and AYTT, and Bradford Marine. **Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director.** In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. **The decisions of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters No Appeal.**

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament series is open Anglers who are between the ages of 7 years of age and 18 years of age or any High School Senior who have not started their first year of college or entered the full-time work force,. Proof of age is the responsibility of the potential competitor. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters to be fished. DURING THE COMPETITION DAYS OF ANY AYFF/AYTT EVENT NO CONTESTANT MAY OPERATE A BOAT UNLESS THAT CONTESTANT HAS DOCUMENTED PROOF OF AN INSURANCE POLICY IN FORCE, THAT COVER THE EVENT DATES WITH A **REASONABLE AMOUNT OFBOATING LIABILITY** COVERAGE ON THAT PARTICULAR BOAT. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE BOAT CAPTAIN USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED. EACH POLICY MUST SHOW A REASONABLE AMOUNT LIABILITY AND A VALID EXPIRATION DATE. NOTE: Statements of "No fixed expiration date" are NOT acceptable. Any candidate for competition who, in the judgment of the Tournament Director, is handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder their partner or endanger the safety and well-being of their partner or their self shall not be eligible. PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY AYFF/AYTT BEFORE THE EVENT. **During the tournament, a competitor or Boat Captain may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish or communicating with other teams.** Contestants and Boat Captains are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in an emergency. If so equipped, contestants and Boat Captains may listen to marine band weather information. EACH CONTESTANT AND BOAT CAPTAIN AGREES TO REPORT TO THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION. **EACH BOAT CAPTAIN AGREES BY THEIR SIGNATURE ON THE TOURNAMENT WAIVER FORM TO SUBMIT TO A TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST OR POLYGRAPH TEST SHOULD THEY BE ASKED TO FOR ANY REASON** and abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification in that team.

2. REGISTRATION: Participants/teams must register EITHER ON LINE OR AT THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION POINT. Participants/teams may register and pay entry fees on the A.Y.F.F. website OR AT Tournament Trail Ink. Participants/teams will be responsible bringing all tournament paperwork to the Pre-tournament check-in and rules meeting. Each competitor must register in person with official AYFF/AYTT tournament staff at the time and place selected for the pretournament meeting.

The tournament waters will be off limits to any unpaid participants/teams ten (10) days prior to the tournament date. The lake is off limits to all boat captains and participants seven (7) days prior to the tournament. Any unpaid team or boat captain without a paid team member, found on the tournament waters during this period, the team will be disqualified and unable to fish the event.

Tournament waters will be off limits to all team members, boat captains or any club member/relative beginning midnight the Sunday before the tournament until 5:00 am the day before the tournament on those waters. Tournament waters will go off-limits again at 3:00 pm that afternoon and will remain off-limits until the start of the tournament.

3. SAFETY: Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors. During the official practice and during the tournament, each competitor and boat captain are required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament Officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. In the event of a thunderstorm, lightning, severe weather or any unsafe condition, participants should remove themselves from the competition and seek safety or shelter until it is safe to continue fishing. Participants may not leave their boats during tournament hours except in case of emergency. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. The AYFF/AYFA will announce emergency contact numbers and instructions at the pre-tournament briefing.

There shall be no less the three people in a boat at any time during tournament hours. If a team member is unable to compete in any tournament, there must be a qualified observer (ages 13 or above) present in the boat. This observer is not allowed to fish or be involved in any tournament activities during tournament hours. At no time will a junior/high angler be allowed to be in a boat alone with any adult during tournament hours. NO EXCEPTIONS

4. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors, Parents and boat captains participating in AYFF/AYTT tournaments are expected to follow the very highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any violation of these basic sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future AYFF/AYTT tournaments. Use of any Tobacco products by anglers is prohibited. Any Angler found using any tobacco products during tournament hours, the team will be disqualified. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of none competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of any competitor or boat captain which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors and boat captains are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during competition days or during the weigh-in. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, may be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

PARENTS: Parents/Guardians will be held to the same standards as boat captains and anglers. **ANY UNSPORTSMAN LIKE CONDUCT BY ANY PARENT/GUARDIAN DURING THE TOURNAMENT DAY OR ON ANY SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORM THAT CAST A NEGITIVE LIGHT ON THE AYFF/AYTT WILL BE CAUSE FOR IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE TEAM.**

5. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or "prepared bait" will be permitted, with the exception of pork rinds, strips, etc. Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8- foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish.

6. HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS: Maximum horsepower for all outboard motors used in tournament competition will be 250hp. WHERE REQUIRED, EACH BOAT MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. In no case may the horsepower of your outboard exceed the rating specified on the rating plate or the horsepower limit set by AYFF.

7. BOAT AND MOTOR: For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH SAFETY DEVICE. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 16 feet in length or longer and must have a rear deck. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Boats shorter than 17 feet will be permitted on a case by case basis determined by tournament director one week prior to the tournament. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Any type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to all contenders and/or the public. No "barges" or similar cumbersome craft will be permitted. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE OFFICIAL PRACTICE OR DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR.

8. BASIC BOAT & SAFETY EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch by BOTH competitors using the boat.

9. BOAT IDENTIFICATION: Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a live well and SAFETY INSPECTION CHECK by a tournament official.

10. BOAT OPERATION: This is a team event; both anglers will be permitted to fish from any deck of the boat. Anglers may move around the boat as needed to land a fish or retrieve a lure.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except water within tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies which will be OFF-LIMITS. OFF-LIMITS will be announced at the tournament briefing. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

12. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE BOAT: Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and their catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a Tournament Official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by Tournament Officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves, and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in, until weigh-in slips have been signed. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH. FAILURE TO RETURN BOAT NUMBER WILL RESULT IN THE TEAM BEING DISQUALIFIED AND NO POINTS AWARDED.**

14. SCORING: This is a five (5) fish limit tournament. The participant/team with the five (5) largest largemouth, or spotted bass will be declared the winner. At no time can any participant/team possess more than 5 fish.

The top 50% in Team of the Year point standings at the conclusion of the regular tournament schedule will be qualified to participate in the AYFF/AYTT State Championship.

The top 3 High School teams at the end of the year will be given automatic birth to the TBF National Championship.

17. CATCH AND RELEASE: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized four (4) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. No Dead fish will be allowed to be weighed for the Big Bass Award. NO DEAD FISH ARE TO BE CULLED AT ANY TIME. At no time during tournament hours, can any team possess more than 5 fish. The possession of more than 5 fish will be cause for immediate disqualification.

Any fish presented at weigh-in shorter than the legal limit set by tournament rules will be removed from the total catch and a penalty of 1 pound will be assessed to the daily total. The official measuring device used by the AYFF/AYTT is the "Golden Rule" measuring board.

18. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in rule 14 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Big Bass Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. After proper recognition at the check-in point, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the pre-tournament briefing begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the tournament briefing. Tournament waters will be off limits to all boat captains not accompanied by a tournament angler one week prior to the tournament date. Tournament waters will be off limits to any unpaid teams 10 days prior to tournament date.

19. TIES: In case of a tie during any tournament event the following tie breakers will be used in this order: 1.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The team with the heaviest big bass. (Providing both anglers weighed a fish for big bass). 4) In the event a tie remains after these three tiebreakers are employed; Points will go to both anglers and the prizes for both places will be combined and split. In the event the tie is for the last awarded place, prizes and will be split. Both tying teams will receive the points for that place.

20. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Team Pairings will consist of two High School Anglers ages 15-19 or two Junior Anglers ages 10-15. Pairings (teams) must remain the same throughout the entire series. No substitutes will be permitted in this team series. If a team member is unable to fish a particular event, the remaining team member must fish alone for that event. **Before any team member will be allowed to fish a event by themselves they must have prior approval by the tournament director before pre-tournament registration. There must be a qualified observer in the boat during tournament hours. It is the responsibility of the team to provide said observer. AT NO TIME WILL A JUNIOR OR HIGH SCHOOL ANGLER BE ALLOWED TO BE IN THE BOAT ALONE WITH AN ADULT. NO EXCEPTIONS** Team members will only be allowed to fish alone in ONE event during the 2017/2018 season. If for any reason a team member is unable to complete the season. The remaining team member will be able to complete the season with a new team member but will forfeit all points accumulated to that point in the series. At this point a new team will be created, and point accumulation will begin with the tournament that said

new team starts fishing together.

EXCEPTION 1: Competitors 15 years old have the option to fish either the Junior series or the High School Series. These anglers must declare to which series they will fish prior to the first tournament and remain in that series for the duration of the season.

EXCEPTION 2: Competitors 10-15 years of age that have older siblings fishing in the High School Series, have the option to move up and fish with their older sibling. Anglers must declare this prior to the first event, and remain in the High School series for the duration of the tournament season. Under no circumstance will the older sibling be allowed to move to the Junior tournament series to fish with a younger sibling.

21. CAPTAINS: Boat Captains must be 21 years of age or older. If required by law they must have taken and passed the Boaters Education Course given by the AGFC.

Boat captains must be in control of the boat any time the combustion engine is running. It is the boat captain's responsibility to make sure that both anglers are properly wearing their PFD when the combustion engine is running. Failure to do so will result in the disqualification of the participants in that particular boat

BOAT CAPTAINS OF EITHER DIVISION WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO FISH AT ANY TIME DURING TOURNAMENT HOURS. At no time during tournament hours will the boat captain be allowed to put fish of any species in a live well or ice chest. Any instance where the boat captain puts a fish of any species in the live well or ice chest, will result in disqualification of the participants in that boat and the boat captain will be suspended from any AYFF/AYTT event for the remainder of the tournament season. The boat captain may re-apply the following year, recommended by the representing club, and a unanimous vote from the AYFF Board of Directors.

AT NO TIME CAN ANY TEAM ACQUIRE/HIRE A BOAT CAPTAIN/GUIDE FROM THE TOURNAMENT WATERS OR AREA. BOAT CAPTAINS MUST BE FROM THE SAME AREA AS THE TEAM. AT NO TIME CAN ANY TEAM USE/HIRE A GUIDE FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRE-FISHING. An angler can however solicit information from any source available during the practice period. At no time during the tournament hours will an angler/boat captain be permitted to solicit any information. Any violation of this rule will result in immediate disqualification of the team and forfeiture of all points accumulated in the current tournament season.

22. PROTEST: Any protest must be made within a reasonable time. Any violation must be submitted in writing to the tournament director. Giving enough time to properly investigate the allegations. Protest made on tournament day must be made prior to weigh in. This also must be made in writing to the tournament director. Any protest brought after weigh-in will be considered on a case by case basis. All protest may be subject to a truth verification test or polygraph test, should the tournament director deem necessary.