

# Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas

## 2023-2024 Official Tournament Rules

*In case of an emergency, please call 911 first, and then notify the Tournament Director*

### **1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT**

ALL LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS MUST BE FOLLOWED, INCLUDING BOATING LAWS. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Violation of a tournament rule will result in disqualification or withdrawal from the entire tournament and/or, in extreme circumstances, ineligibility to participate in future CBTT tournaments.

### **2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

Each angler must be a member in good standing of the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas. Each student angler is REQUIRED to be a member of B.A.S.S. to participate as the CBTT is the B.A.S.S. National Championship qualifying trail for Texas. Participation is open only to members that are full-time students currently enrolled and are active members of their fishing club. Full-time students are deemed as taking 12 hours of classes in each semester of competition. If a student requires less than a full-time schedule to graduate, eligibility may be granted. A letter requesting eligibility must be provided before tournament registration deadline to be considered. Each club must be an official organization on campus with a minimum of two (2) members. Only one club from an institution is allowed. Each member is eligible for up to five (5) years of competition.

### **3. ENTRIES, MEMBERSHIP & PAYBACK**

Entries are \$130 per boat, per tournament, which will go towards the stringer payout. Additionally, an optional side pot of \$20 with 100% payback will cover Big Bass, with the payback split 60/40 for the Top 2 Big Bass at each CBTT tournament. Membership dues are \$50 per angler. Payback at each event will be 80% of all entries received and will be paid back 1 spot for every 7 entries. All payouts will be rounded down to the nearest dollar. After all tournament expenses are deducted. The remainder will go towards the CBTT Championship.

### **4. OFF LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION**

For all regular season tournaments and the Championship, there will be no off-limits. Competitors must be off the tournament lake waters by 6pm on the day immediately prior to the start of any CBTT tournament. On competition day(s), anglers are prohibited from using electronic devices for the purpose of sharing fishing information. Cell phones may be used only in emergency situations during competition. On competition day(s), anglers may not solicit/intentionally receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except other tournament competitors via face-to-face contact only. On competition day(s), teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers by non-contestants or the practice of "hole-sitting" by anyone. Only competitors are allowed in tournament boats during tournament hours. The use of drones during competition are strictly prohibited.

## **5. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION**

For all events, individual anglers and/or teams may not solicit, purchase, barter, or intentionally receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters other than anyone other than other competitor(s) confirmed in the same tournament, including GPS waypoints, Monday-Friday prior to any Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas tournaments, and including tournament day(s). Social media sites, fishing blogs, public forums, fishing apps and other such public sites are available to any participant and therefore are NOT considered off-limits. However, receiving private information, asking questions on such sites, making in-app purchases, or intentionally participating in threads regarding any tournament related information during the “no information” period is considered intentionally soliciting/purchasing/bartering or receiving of information and therefore is a violation of this rule. The hiring of guides on tournament waters within 60 days of an event is not permitted.

## **6. REGISTRATION AND PRE-TOURNAMENT CHECK-IN**

Tournament registration must be completed on the CBTT website, [www.collegiatebasstrailoftexas.com](http://www.collegiatebasstrailoftexas.com), by the Wednesday, 3 days prior to each tournament. If you are competing in your first CBTT tournament, you must enter online by the Wednesday, 3 days before each tournament and complete the Release of Liability form found on the CBTT website and turn in to tournament officials at the Friday night registration located on the tournament itinerary. Each competitor/team must sign-up and/or check-in, in person on the Friday prior to each event to receive their boat number and/or attend a pre-tournament meeting. If one angler cannot make a tournament, his/her fishing partner may fish solo to retain AOY points (sign both anglers up). Time and place for each tournament check-in will be posted 2 weeks prior to each tournament on the tournament itinerary. Teams may also enter the optional Big Bass side pot during check-in.

## **7. SAFETY**

Safe boating must be always observed and adhered to during each tournament and on Official Practice days. Each competitor is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal floatation device anytime the combustion motor is pushing the boat from boat launch until weigh-in on each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver’s body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer recommended on-plane seating location while the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats or on the front or rear decks while the combustion motor is in operation is not permitted. Any team that is observed violating any safety rule during tournament hours or during “Official Practice Days” will be withdrawn from that event. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

## **8. SPORTSMANSHIP**

All competitors in a Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas sanctioned event are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, the school they are representing, the Texas Collegiate Bass Association and its’ sponsors. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Violation of, and/or failure to comply with, any of the rules of the Texas Collegiate Bass Association
- b. Consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure
- c. Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months
- d. Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament trail or organization
- e. Any other words, conduct or actions, including social media posts, reflecting unfavorably upon the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas' efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, or compliance with tournament rules.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an entry to compete, to deny a confirmed entry to compete and/or to disqualify a contestant or team.

#### **9. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS**

All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. No air-cooled or jet drive motors allowed. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space able to maintain alive a limit of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards must not exceed the recommended horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" (or comparable titles) placard affixed to the boat. By signing the entry form, either electronically or otherwise, competitors agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on the entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for removal from that tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas tournaments. All fishing platforms must be factory installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used during tournament competition. Additional fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise securely fastened to the boat.

#### **10. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS**

All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, except for pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only one fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth. No portable platforms or ladders may be used. Alabama Rigs, A-Rigs, and Umbrella Rigs are allowed for use in Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas tournaments.

#### **11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES**

Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters with the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat from the main launch area as defined by the tournament director. Any area designated as "Off Limits", "No Boats Allowed", "Keep Out", "Restricted Area", "No Trespassing", "No Fishing Allowed" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) are strictly off limits to fishing or boating. Teams must maintain a 25-yard distance between boats unless mutually agreed upon by both parties. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a competitor leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

## **12. EMERGENCIES**

### **IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 911 FIRST, THEN CONTACT THE TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS.**

In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are 3 permitted methods of returning to weigh-in:

- a. Both competitors remain in their boat and being towed by water
- b. One competitor stays with the boat while the other enters the boat of another team with their daily creel
- c. Both competitors enter a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director

Under these three (3) conditions, the teams' catch may be counted without penalty, except for late penalties outlined in the tournament rules.

## **13. SCORING**

Scoring will be determined in pounds and hundredths of a pound (example 18.57 lbs) of each team's catch during the tournament hours. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted and Guadalupe (collectively, "Bass") are accepted species. The limit per tournament will be listed on the Tournament Itinerary page. Any contestant or team that possesses more than the tournament limit at any time will have their catch disqualified for that tournament. The official minimum length for all species of bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and Guadalupe) for each tournament will be listed on each tournament's itinerary page.

## **14. LATE PENALTY**

Teams must be checked into tournament officials on or before their return flight time. Teams will be penalized 1 pound per each minute late. Teams returning fifteen (15) minutes late or later will not be allowed to weigh-in their catch for that tournament day. In the event of a trailering tournament, teams must be checked in by the pre-determined check-in time as chosen by the Tournament Director. Any team not checked in by the pre-determined check-in time will not be allowed to weigh-in their catch.

## **15. LIVE FISH**

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive using a properly aerated livewell. Eight ounces (0.50 lbs) will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in. Once fish are presented to the "Bump Official", they are property of the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas. If they are alive when they are received, they will be counted as alive.

## **16. SHORT FISH**

The official minimum length for all species of bass (largemouth, smallmouth, spotted, Guadalupe) will be posted in each tournament itinerary. Any team that brings in a short fish or illegal sized fish to the scales will have their catch disqualified from that tournament. The official measuring board for the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas will be the Pro Rule. There will be a courtesy board at all events. The Tournament Director has final say pertaining to the legal size of a fish presented.

## **17. CLOSING OF THE SCALES**

Scales will close 15 minutes after the last flight is due to check in. Any teams in line to weigh-in fish when the scales officially close will be allowed to weigh in their catch. Any changes in this procedure will be announced at tournament registration.

## **18. POINTS**

### **Anglers of the Year Points:**

Points will be awarded in order of tournament placing.

Example:

300 points for 1<sup>st</sup> place

299 points for 2<sup>nd</sup> place

298 points for 3<sup>rd</sup> place

This point system will continue for all teams that weigh in fish. Any teams that fail to weigh in fish in a tournament will be awarded 25 points less than the last team that weighed in fish, providing that they check-in so we know that they are off the lake and safe. Teams that zero and fail to check-in will receive 0 total points for that event and will not be allowed to enter another CBTT tournament in that season. We must know that all teams are safe and off the water. The team with the highest point total at the end of the season (not counting the Championship) will be deemed the Anglers of the Year.

### **School of the Year Points:**

Points for the School of the Year competition for each event will be calculated by taking the points from the **Top 2** finishers from each school at each event, excluding the championship. The points used in the scoring for the School of the Year are the points that each team receives in the Angler of the Year calculations. The school with the highest point total at the end of the season (not counting the Championship) will be awarded the School of the Year trophy.

## **19. TRAILERING IS NOT ALLOWED**

All boats must leave the official checkpoint by boat in the numerical order designated at registration. Flights will consist of 25 boats per flight. Contestants may launch their boat at a ramp other than the designated take-off location, but all contestants must come through the official checkpoint location prior to leaving to fish. ***In the event of severe weather forecasted, trailering instructions will be given ahead of time or at registration, at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.***

## **20. CHECKPOINTS**

All teams must check-in prior to all events to receive their boat number and/or attend all pre-tournament meetings. For safety purposes, all teams must also check-in on or before their flight time at the designated check-in point, even if they fail to weigh-in any fish.

## **21. TIES**

In the event of a tie, all teams tied will be awarded the payouts for 2 places, divided equally between all teams involved. Example: if two teams are tied for 1<sup>st</sup> place, those two teams will be awarded the payouts for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place, divided equally. Prizes associated with any tie will be decided by a coin flip. The next team in line will be awarded the 3<sup>rd</sup> place payout. Teams tied will receive the same points for that event. Ties which involve Big Bass will be decided by the highest overall weight of the teams involved in the tie. In the event there is still after reviewing the highest overall weight, the tie will be broken by a coin flip.

## **22. LOGO DISPLAY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE**

Anglers may wear their own shirts and jerseys during Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas events. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any angler shirt or jersey to be found offensive. All decisions are at the tournament director's sole discretion.

**23. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO**

During days of competition, all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Anglers may not consume alcohol products during tournament hours, including weigh-in, at any event.

**24. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST**

Anglers agree to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials by properly licensed examiners, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

**25. INSURANCE**

Liability insurance with coverage of \$300,000 is required on all boats used in all Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director will result in withdrawal from that event.

**26. CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATIONS**

Teams that have fished in at least 4 of the 6 CBTT regular season tournaments AND finish in the Top 100 teams in the AOY standings at the end of the regular season will qualify for the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas Championship on Lake June 1-2, 2024.

**27. B.A.S.S. COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION**

The 2023-2024 season of the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas will serve as the B.A.S.S. College National Championship qualifier for Texas. Only those teams that are B.A.S.S. Nation **AND** Texas B.A.S.S. Nation members before competing in their first CBTT tournament can be eligible to qualify for the B.A.S.S. National Championship through the Collegiate Bass Trail of Texas. The actual number of collegiate B.A.S.S. teams fishing the CBTT will determine the number of B.A.S.S. College National Championship qualifiers.

1-49 Teams = AOY Team Qualifies (if they meet the qualifications listed above)

50-99 Teams = Top 2 in AOY Standings (if they meet the qualifications listed above)

100-149 Teams = Top 3 in AOY Standings (if they meet the qualifications listed above)

150-199 Teams = Top 4 in AOY Standings (if they meet the qualifications listed above)

\*If teams do not meet the criteria listed above to qualify for the B.A.S.S. National Championship, we will go down the list until the correct number of spots from the CBTT are filled from those that have met the qualifications for the B.A.S.S. National Championship