



OFFICIAL RULES

The rules contained herein pertain to the 2024 season of Brandon Belt Fishing's THE SHOW TEAM SERIES.

Interpretation and implementation of these rules will be made exclusively by the Brandon Belt Fishing (BBF) Board of Directors. The BBF Board of Directors reserves the right to make changes to these rules as deemed appropriate. Any rule change made will immediately supersede all previously published versions of rules.

The BBF Board of Directors delegates the oversight and enforcement of these rules to the on-site Tournament Director.

In the event of a rule violation, the BBF Board of Directors may impose sanctions including, but not limited to, disqualifications, forfeiture of prizes, and/or prohibition from participation in subsequent BBF tournaments. Decisions of the BBF Board of Directors are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

Anglers will be required upon registration to acknowledge that they have read, understand, and agree to adhere to all rules.

1. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY

- a. Participation in regular season events is open to all anglers regardless of their amateur, professional, or guide status.
- b. Anglers are required to become members of the BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES tournament trail to be eligible to participate.
- c. Any competitor under the age of 18 years must be paired with a partner who is 18 years or older. Competitors under the age of 18 years will be required to submit an official minor release form signed by a parent or legal guardian before the tournament.
- d. The BBF Board of Directors reserves the right to deny participation to any individual or team in any and all BBF events.

2. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS

- a. All contestants must have a valid fishing license and are required to obey all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

3. TEAM FORMAT

- a. THE SHOW TEAM SERIES is a team tournament platform. A team can be made up of one (1) or two (2) anglers. Only registered tournament anglers are allowed to be in a team's boat during tournament hours.

- b. Each team is allowed one (1) alternate partner for one (1) regular season tournament during the year. Alternates are NOT ALLOWED to compete in the Championship. To ensure that a team receives series points when using an alternate, please adhere to the following procedures:
 - i. Register for the tournament with the ORIGINAL PARTNER.
 - ii. Contact BBF at 936-465-0503 and request the use of an alternate as soon as possible and BEFORE the event.
 - iii. Alternates will be required to become members of the BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES tournament trail to be eligible to participate.

4. OFFICIAL OFF-LIMITS PERIOD & PRACTICE PERIOD

TOURNAMENT DATES		OFF-LIMITS DATES	PRACTICE DATES
Stop 1 - Sam Rayburn	Saturday-Sunday Jan. 27-28	Monday-Wednesday Jan. 22-24	Thursday-Friday Jan. 25-26
Stop 2 - Lake Conroe	Saturday-Sunday Feb. 24-25	Monday-Wednesday Feb. 19-21	Thursday-Friday Feb. 22-23
Stop 3 - Cedar Creek	Saturday-Sunday Apr. 6-7	Monday-Wednesday Apr. 1-3	Thursday-Friday Apr. 4-5
Stop 4 - Lake of the Pines	Saturday-Sunday May 18-19	Monday-Wednesday May 13-15	Thursday-Friday May 16-17
Championship - Toledo Bend	Friday-Sunday July 12-14	Monday-Tuesday July 8-9	Wednesday-Thursday July 10-11

- a. All regular season tournaments will have a THREE (3)-DAY off-limits period leading up to 30 minutes prior to official sunrise on the morning of the first day of official practice.
- b. The championship tournament will have a TWO (2)-DAY off-limits period leading up to 30 minutes prior to official sunrise on the morning of the first day of official practice.
- c. During the official off-limits period for each tournament, all BBF anglers are prohibited from being on tournament waters or gathering or receiving any information from any source (other than competitors) that is not publicly available.
- d. All regular season and championship tournaments will begin official practice TWO (2) DAYS prior to the official tournament start date.
- e. Teams must register BEFORE being on or in tournament waters on official practice dates.
- f. Anglers may only be on the water from 30 minutes before sunrise through 30 minutes after sunset on practice dates.
- g. Only paid contestants and their immediate family members (spouse, children, parents, siblings) may be in the team's boat during the official practice period.
- h. Team members are allowed to practice in separate boats.

5. **INFORMATION**

- a. From the time the off-limits period begins through the end of each tournament, contestants may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except other registered teams in the tournament and through publicly available sources. Quasi-public websites, blogs and social media pages, or any such page set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a group of individuals are NOT considered to be publicly available sources.
- b. Teams may not solicit or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone who has dropped out of or has been eliminated from the tournament.
- c. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, pagers, or any electronic device to obtain fishing information from anyone during tournament hours is strictly prohibited.

6. **EMERGENCIES**

- a. In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should first call 911, then notify the onsite BBF Tournament Director if possible.

7. **REGISTRATION**

- a. Registration for regular season events will be available through Fishing Chaos. Please visit <https://brandonbelfishing.com/register-today> or use the Fishing Chaos app to access registration.
- b. Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. At the discretion of the BBF Board of Directors, entry fees may be transferred to another BBF event in the case of a verifiable emergency.

8. **INSURANCE**

- a. A minimum of \$100,000 in liability insurance coverage is required of all contestants who utilize their boat in a BBF tournament. BBF reserves the right to check for proof of such coverage.

9. **SAFETY**

- a. Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- b. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened (fully zipped and/or all clips fastened), U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in gear during tournament hours.
- c. 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 combustion engine is on. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged and in gear.
- d. Competitors are allowed to leave their boats and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.
- e. At the discretion of the BBF Board of Directors, tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

10. **TACKLE AND FISHING METHODS**

- a. Only artificial lures may be used.

- b. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five spinners, five lures, and five hooks.
- c. Only one fishing rod per angler may be used at any one time. Additional rods may be in the boat and ready for use; however, each cast and retrieve must be completed before another cast is attempted or rod is used.
- d. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited.
- e. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is prohibited.
- f. All fish must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner.
- g. When sight fishing, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish.
- h. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish, or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

11. **SPORTSMANSHIP AND CONDUCT**

- a. All BBF contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification or denial of participation.
- b. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters.
- c. Past or present actions of any competitor which are deemed unacceptable by BBF may be grounds for denial of participation and/or disqualification. Examples of such conduct include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - i. Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages and/or illegal drugs during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
 - ii. Actions or words which reflect unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, and fair competition.
 - iii. Disqualification from other fishing organization events that resulted from rule violations, the outcome of which compromised a contestant's honesty, integrity, and/or character.
 - iv. Any previous conviction for a felony, a crime involving moral turpitude, or a crime related to, arising out of, or involving any fishing tournament or event, except with full, prior written disclosure under oath and by affidavit of all facts and circumstances surrounding such conviction. Written disclosure must be submitted to the BBF Director of Operations at cwillmon@brandonbeltfishing.com at least ten (10) days before the tournament being entered, and is thereafter subject to the BBF Board of Directors' discretion that such conviction does not result in the contestant's honesty, integrity, character or qualifications to enter the event being called into question.

12. **BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS**

- a. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.
- b. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well.

- c. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U. S. Coast Guard in such vessels. Altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate to conceal such limitations is prohibited.
- d. Platforms, raised decks, or ladders which are higher than the gunnel of the boat are not allowed.
- e. Standing on the fishing seats or outboard motor is not allowed in BBF events.
- f. No air or jet drive boats will be permitted.
- g. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Optional remote engine fuel tanks must be factory or installed by a factory-authorized dealer and be strapped or otherwise secured. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- a. Tournament waters and off-limits areas shall be established by BBF prior to each event. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, EXCEPT:
 - i. Areas designated as off-limits by BBF or marked as "no boats", "keep out", "restricted" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by local, state, or federal officials. Any such areas will be off-limits to anglers. Off-limits boundaries set by authorities or event officials should be treated as a wall, meaning anglers cannot cast over that boundary while fishing.
 - ii. Within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was first anchored. To be considered anchored, a boat must have the trolling motor in the stowed (up) position and be secured in a stable position by a line or anchor.

14. TRAILERING

- a. Trailering is NOT ALLOWED under normal tournament conditions.
- b. In the event of severe weather or location limitations, alternate take-off and check-in instructions will be communicated by BBF.

15. TAKE-OFF AND CHECK-IN

- a. All tournaments will utilize a numbered take-off format.
- b. Once registration closes for each regular season tournament, boat numbers will be generated randomly. The launch order for day 2 will be the reverse order of day 1.
- c. For the Championship, boat numbers will be based on the order of the series standings after the 4 regular season tournaments. The launch order for day 2 will be the reverse order of day 1. The launch order for day 3 will be based on the tournament standings after days 1 & 2.
- d. Boat numbers, take-off times, and check-in times will be sent to anglers electronically through e-mail and/or text the night before each tournament day.
- e. An official checkpoint for boat inspection in the morning and check-in in the afternoon will be designated for each tournament day. Failure to go through the checkpoint in both morning and afternoon on any tournament day will result in the forfeiture of that day's catch.

- f. All contestants must leave the designated checkpoint by boat in the order assigned.
- g. All contestants must return to the designated checkpoint by boat by the designated time.
- h. In the event of a mechanical breakdown, three (3) methods of returning to the check-in are permitted:
 - i. by remaining in the boat and being towed by water.
 - ii. by entering the boat of another competitor.
 - iii. by entering a boat of designated BBF staff.

Contestants must return to the official check-in location by one of these methods no later than their assigned check-in time to avoid late penalty. Contestants who elect to return to the check-in by any other means will forfeit their catch as of that point in time of the tournament day.

- i. Contestants may be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the Tournament Director or a designated tournament official.
- j. All fishing must cease upon check-in.
- k. Contestants who are not at the official check-in point by the appointed time will be assessed a penalty of one (1) pound per minute which will be deducted from both their total weight for the day AND, if applicable, the weight of any single fish weighed in (ex. Big Bass). Any contestant not checked-in more than 15 minutes after the appointed time will forfeit that day's catch.

16. SCORING AND FISH CARE

- a. Scoring is based on the official weight of each team's catch during the tournament.
- b. Only Largemouth, Spotted, Red Eye, or Smallmouth Bass are accepted.
- c. The limit will be five (5) fish per team, per day. Any contestant who possesses more than the tournament limit, unless actively culling, will have their catch for that day disqualified. Culling must be done immediately.
- d. The minimum official length limit for any fish will be 14" (unless the lake limit is different, in which case the lake limit will prevail.) Fish presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the prescribed length limit will result in loss of that particular fish AND a one (1)-pound penalty assessed to the weight of the remaining fish. Fish will be measured with the mouth closed, tail compressed, and swiped to achieve the overall greatest length. A measuring board will be provided at weigh-in and will serve as the official measuring standard.
- e. Every effort must be made to keep fish alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. The use of chemical live well additives which promote the healthy return of fish to their natural habitat are recommended. A one (1)-pound penalty will be deducted for each dead fish presented for weigh-in. Culling of dead fish is prohibited. Dead fish will not be eligible for Big Bass awards or prizes.

17. CLOSING OF SCALES

- a. Scales will close thirty (30) minutes after the last flight is due in unless communicated otherwise.

- b. At the Tournament Director's discretion, this time may be lengthened or shortened. Any change to the official scale closing time will be communicated electronically through e-mail and/or text.

18. TIES

- a. In the event of a tie for first place in any tournament, the following tie-breakers will be used in the order listed to determine the winner:
 - i. The team with the heaviest single day's catch during the tournament.
 - ii. The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the tournament.
 - iii. A coin flip.
- b. In ties for places other than first, prize money will be combined and split evenly among contestants.

19. POLYGRAPH TESTING

- a. Polygraph testing will be used for all tournaments as deemed appropriate by BBF.
- b. By the submission of their registration, all contestants agree to submit to polygraph testing if deemed appropriate by BBF and to abide by its conclusion.
- c. The determination of the meaning of polygraph test results will be made solely by BBF.
- d. In the event a competitor refuses to take or fails a polygraph test, the competitor's team will be disqualified from the tournament and further disciplinary action will be directed by the BBF Board of Directors.
- e. Should a contestant be polygraph tested and receive an inconclusive result, the BBF Board of Directors will convene and determine a course of action.
- f. BBF reserves the right to place a hold on a team's tournament prizes should a contestant's polygraph test results be anything other than passing.

20. PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

- a. All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within fifteen (15) minutes of the scales closing.
- b. The protestor agrees that if there is a question in regard to verifying the protest charge, he or she may be subject to a polygraph exam and agree to testify in a court of law if necessary.

21. SERIES POINTS AND TEAM OF THE YEAR

- a. Points for regular season tournaments will be awarded as follows:
 - i. The winning team of each tournament will receive 250 points, the 2nd place team will receive 249 points, the 3rd place will receive 248 points, and so on. If you do not weigh-in a fish or if you pay the entry fee and do not participate in the tournament, you will still receive 50 points.

- b. Points for the Championship tournament will be awarded as follows:
 - i. After days 1 & 2 of the Championship, the team in 1st place will receive 250 points, the team in 2nd place will receive 249 points, the team in 3rd place will receive 248 points, and so on. If you do not weigh-in a fish or if you pay the entry fee and do not participate in the tournament, you will still receive 50 points.
- c. The team with the highest point total after all regular season tournaments and days 1 & 2 of the Championship will be awarded Team of the Year (TOY). In the event of a tie for TOY, the team with the highest combined weight from all regular season tournaments and days 1 & 2 of the Championship wins.
- d. The TOY will receive free entries for the 4 regular season tournaments the following year.

22. CHAMPIONSHIP

- a. The championship is NOT an entry fee free event. The entry fee will be the same as regular season tournaments.
- b. The top 75 teams in series points following the final regular season tournament will qualify for the Championship. In the event of a tie in series points, the team with the highest combined weight from all regular season tournaments will be placed ahead in the ranking.
- c. Teams in the top 75 must register and pay their entry fee for the Championship **no later than Monday, June 10, 2024**. Should a qualifying team not register and pay their entry fee by this time, they will FORFEIT their spot.
- d. Teams not in the top 75 will have the opportunity to be placed on a WAITING LIST for the Championship. Teams who would like to be placed on the WAITING LIST must notify BBF at 936-465-0503 or jkimble@brandonbeltfishing.com by **Monday, June 10, 2024**.
- e. On Tuesday, June 11, 2024, teams ON THE WAITING LIST will be ranked in order of the series standings. Forfeited spots will be offered in this order until all are filled.
- f. The three-day championship will consist of the top 75 teams fishing the first two days. The top ten teams based on the combined total weight from days 1 & 2 will qualify to fish day 3 of the Championship.

23. MEDIA COVERAGE

- a. Contestants are required to comply with all requests made by the BBF production crew for the purpose of gathering media coverage. Such requests may include, but are not limited to, taking live on-the-water or other video footage, taking still camera footage, accessing boats, and accessing fishing areas.
- b. BBF reserves the right to require the use of location-tracking technologies for the purpose of gathering media coverage.
- c. **Refusal to coordinate with and accommodate the BBF media production crew needs in any BBF tournament will result in disqualification from that event.**

Bass Cat Bonus Incentives Rules & Regulations

HIGHEST-FINISHING BASS CAT TEAM IN SERIES POINTS

The highest-finishing Bass Cat Team in the series standings for BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 after Days 1 & 2 of the Championship will be awarded a PREMIUM BASS CAT BOAT powered by a MERCURY 250 PRO XS OUTBOARD.

Eligibility requirements:

1. At least ONE team member must be the registered owner of a Bass Cat Boat.
2. At least ONE of the following must apply:
 - a. The registered team must fish **ALL** BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 regular season tournaments and the Championship tournament out of **ANY year model Bass Cat Boat.**
 - b. The registered team must fish **AT LEAST TWO** of the four BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 regular season tournaments out of a **NEW Bass Cat Boat purchased in 2024.** In this case, all of the team's series points accumulated for the 2024 season will count toward the total.

HIGHEST-FINISHING BASS CAT TEAM IN EACH TOURNAMENT

The highest-finishing Bass Cat Team in EACH of the BBF THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 regular season and Championship tournaments will be awarded a \$2,000 CASH PRIZE.

Eligibility requirements:

1. At least ONE team member must be the registered owner of a Bass Cat Boat.
2. The registered team must fish the tournament out of **ANY year model Bass Cat Boat.**

In the event of a mechanical breakdown or emergency situation that prevents the Bass Cat Owner's team from fishing out of the Bass Cat for any tournament, the BBF Board of Directors will consider the situation and determine if an exception will be granted.

CHAMPIONSHIP PANTERA CLASSIC QUALIFICATION

One eligible team in THE SHOW TEAM SERIES Championship will be awarded a Bass Cat Pantera Classic through random selection.

Eligibility requirements:

1. Must fish all regular season tournaments in THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024.
2. Must qualify and register to fish in THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 Championship.
3. Must weigh in at least ONE legal fish at THE SHOW TEAM SERIES 2024 Championship.