

## COMPETITION RULES, INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to LONE STAR BASS TRAIL. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each Angler agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, weight loss, the loss of weight up to a specific time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day and or disqualification from the entire tournament.

### 1. LAWS, BOATS, SAFETY AND WEATHER

- LONE STAR BASS TRAIL Anglers must adhere to all federal, state and local laws. Anglers are required to contact the LONE STAR BASS TRAIL tournament director in charge with any questions or concerns.
- Each Angler/Team will be permitted to use their boat for tournament competition and should be fully equipped with all essentials to meet state water safety requirements including proper insurance.
- The Angler/Team must have his boat's Kill Switch connected any time the combustion engine is in gear. If the Angler/Team does not comply with the Kill Switch rule the boat must be shut down until Angler attaches the Kill Switch.
- Personal floatation device. Each Angler/Team must wear a Coast Guard-approved chest-type life preserver and must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition any time the combustion engine is in gear. If the Angler does not comply with the above the boat must be shut down until all passengers have met the Flotation Device rule.
- The tournament director or his designee has the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an event because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors.

### 2. ELIGIBILITY

- This tournament is open to all individuals age 16 years old or over with the below exceptions
- Anyone age 18 or under must be accompanied by an adult (over 18 years old) and must complete a Minor Liability Release Form
- This tournament is for the weekend angler and guides/Pros are not permitted to fish. A guide is defined as anyone that has been on tournament waters fishing or locating **BASS (defined as largemouth, smallmouth, spotted bass or mean mouth)** in exchange for a monetary fee in the previous 14 days. Guiding for other species is allowed however it must be public knowledge that you guide for a particular species and do not cross over to any kind of guiding for BASS as defined above.
- Any angler that has competed, within the previous 12 months, in a B.A.S.S. Elite Series Event, MLF Tour Event or Bass Pro Tour Event are not eligible to compete
- In order to qualify to fish the championship you must fish 2 out of 4 events.
- Championship entry fee is \$100.00/team
- The Tournament Director reserves the right to refuse entry to any angler

### **3. OFF LIMITS**

- There is no official off limits for these events, unless designated by state or federal agencies “no fishing”

### **4. SPORTSMANSHIP**

- LONE STAR BASS TRAIL Competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any violation of the standards may be deemed cause for disqualification.
- Maximum courtesy must always be practiced, especially regarding boating and angling in the vicinity of competitors and non-competitors who may be on tournament waters.

### **5. REGISTRATION**

- Online registration will remain open until 12 am the night before each event
- Onsite registration will be open 2 hours prior to first cast.

### **6. TRAILERING**

- Every Lone Star Trail event will be trailering events
- Every team should be aware of start and stop times that will be announced prior to each event
- Each team should be in the weigh in line at the designated time announced prior to each event

### **7. LONE STAR TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR’S ROLE**

- Interpretation and enforcement of rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director and/or his assigned designees at the competition.
- In the event of a rule violation, the tournament director and/or his designees may impose such sanctions as disqualification and/or prohibition from participation in subsequent LONE STAR BASS TRAIL competitions.
- Subject to appeal, the decision of the tournament directors and/or his designees, or a special rules committee established by the tournament director shall be final in all matters.
- Serves as the on-site liaison between the anglers as required

### **8. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**

- **Use of nets for landing bass is permitted.**
- Only artificial lures can be used and must follow state guidelines.
- Only one rod/reel combo may be used at a time
- All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner.

### **9. SCORABLE FISH**

- A scorable fish must be a minimum of 14”
- The limit is 5 fish and once the 6<sup>th</sup> fish is caught it must be culled immediately
- No dead fish may be culled
- Any dead fish brought to weigh in will result in a ½ pound penalty. (.50 lb)

## 10. POINT SYSTEM

- Each team will receive points based on position of finish. Overall winner will receive 200 points
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers will receive 190 points and each place finish after 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive 1 point less
- Teams that enter prior to midnight the Friday before each scheduled event will receive 10 bonus points
- Any team not weighing any fish will receive 5 points lower than the last team to weigh fish
- Championship points will be as follows:
  - 300 points to the winners
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishers will receive 290 points and each place finish after 2<sup>nd</sup> will receive 1 point less
  - Any team not weighing any fish will receive 5 points lower than the last team to weigh fish
- The point system is in place to determine the Team of the Year
- To be eligible to fish the Championship a team must fish at least 3 out of the 4 qualifying events
- Teams are allowed to purchase one event for \$150 and still qualify for the championship
- Championship entry fee is \$0/team for the top 5 teams in the overall points standing
- Teams out of the top five the entry fee is \$150.00

## 11. "ON FISH" Award

- The team that accumulates the most points during the course of the season will be deemed Team of the Year and will receive the "ON FISH" Award (in memory of "Honest" Mike Shields 1944-2017).
- The winners of the "ON FISH" Award will receive \$2,000 in prize money
- In the event of a tie for the "ON FISH" award there will be a 3 hour fish off to determine the winner immediately following the championship round.

## 12. TEAM DEFINITION

- A team is defined as two anglers fishing as a pair or if desired an angler can fish alone as a team but must fish this way the whole season with no alternate or team member
- A team is allowed **ONE** alternate fisherman to substitute if one of the original team is not able to fish
- That alternate will remain as the only alternate for that team and may substitute for either teammate
- In the event either original team member is unable to finish the season the alternate can take their place

- All points will be awarded under the original team members names
- If one team member and the alternate are not able to fish an event then one original team member can fish alone. (ALTERNATES CAN NOT FISH ALONE)