

## **“Anglers Team Trail” Rules & Regulations**

Anglers Team Trail will hold a yearly registration at **Miller's Ale House, 1151 Lee Road, Winter Park, FL** and is operated as a member's only team tournament trail. Points Tournaments will run from September – April with a 2 day classic in May, membership fee (\$80 per team) is for issue of team ID #; ID # will stay with you for the entire season. Team ID numbers will be assigned at registration or at one of the first two tournaments.

Entry Fee per Tournament Event is \$80.00 per boat, includes \$5.00 per boat Big Fish Pot. **Membership dues must be paid before competing in any monthly tournament.**

**If a team is unable to fish at any trail site, they will be allowed to pre-pay for an absentee entry, so they can still earn points toward angler of the year. However, this can only be done twice during the season. Anglers wishing to pay for the absentee entry may mail, email (rcamp@hnj.org), or call (321-271-4369) the tournament director, Robert Camp and let him know they will be paying the absentee entry and arrange a way to make the payment. Payments must be received before tournament starts.**

Entry fee for guest will be additional \$20.00, Failure to disclose and pay for guest at said tournament will result in disqualification. Each team will be allowed 2 guests for the 8 regular season events; a Guest is not allowed to fish the Classic. Same guest can fish twice during the season.

Registration for each tournament is to be completed after live well check and by posted end of registration time. Captains meeting at ramp to be held 15 min before launch time. In the event that a Team is late to any event it is the Teams responsibility to find a Board Member on the water (Not a competing team!) to have their live wells checked and entry fee taken before they fish.

(Optional) The Wayne Swindle Heavyweight Challenge is a Winner Take All Side Pot (\$20 per team for the whole season). The single heaviest day's bag of the season wins (Classic days count). This entry fee must be paid when signing up.

Any Pro Angler who fishes in a Tour level (FLW Tour, BASS Elite) event within the past 12 months will be ineligible to participate in ATT. Open level Pro Anglers and Co-Anglers are eligible to participate in ATT events.

All boats are to be checked and tagged prior to launch, it is the Teams responsibility to get a boat check by tournament official, boats will be marked with ribbon; failure to get a boat check may result in disqualification for the days tournament.

Pay outs per monthly tournament event only will be 1st (\$23 per boat), 2nd (\$18 per boat), 3rd (\$12 per boat), 4th (\$8 per boat) remaining of total event money will go to the Classic Funds and Big Bass will be paid at the end of each monthly event. If you make money for any place or Big Bass you must be present to claim your payout.

A Guest will be defined as any angler other than your registered team member that enters the said tournament with you, regardless if they might be registered with another team. When they become a guest for another team they give up their points and status of a member with their present team to be considered a guest for the day of said registered team and pay the guest fee of \$20.00.

A single angler may represent the team. At least one of the team members must be present to fish; any points earned will go to team. All guests must check in at ramp prior to meeting and pay the guest fee of \$20.00.

Launch numbers will be drawn at time of boat inspection. **Do not go to registration at the trail site before you receive your boat launch number.** Make sure you give your boat launch number once you get to the registration table (not your team #).

Number tokens are to be returned to designated check in locations; anyone without token at designated check-in table by weigh in time will be considered late and will have 1lb per minute deducted up until 5 minutes (5lbs total deduction from days catch) before Disqualified for the day. Anyone who departs early must place number on said location by Tournament Director, failure to do so could result in point's penalty or disqualification.

Off limits for a trail site will begin at 12:01 am. the day tournament is to be held.

There will be a five fish limit. No team may possess more than tournament limit (5 fish) at any time unless in the process of culling.

Any Team that experiences mechanical breakdown during tournament hours may transport fish to weigh-in with another competitors boat. Fish must be marked with culling kit, or equivalent, before entering transportation boat. Fish markers will be removed at scales. Tournament director must be called and advised of breakdown and what arrangements have been made prior to entering transport boat.

All fish in consideration for Big Bass, or special programs must be weighed alive; any fish that fails to demonstrate the ability to remain upright & swim off on its own power will be checked using the gag reflex method. A finger will be inserted in the fish's throat to check for a gag reaction. Any fish in question that fails this test will be determined to be dead. Decision of the Tank Master at the scales is final. Any fish called live at scales that fails to swim off when released will not affect the call made at the scales, and no penalty will be assessed.

No trolling or wading is allowed, artificial baits only may be used. Pole platforms may not be used during tournament competition.

Fish must be a minimum 12 inches by Golden rule. There will be a .25 (quarter pound) deduction for each dead fish weighed-in. Trail limit is five fish unless otherwise noted.

There will be NO courtesy measurements; anyone who weighs in a short fish will be disqualified.

Anglers may only use 1 rod at a time during tournament competition.

While sight-fishing, any bass caught must be caught in the mouth, any fish foul hooked outside of the mouth area is to be returned to the water immediately, NO Snagging Allowed.

The tournament board reserves the right to postpone launch or reschedule tournaments due to weather, safety or other emergency situations as they see fit.

The use of cell phones or any other attempt to pass along fishing info to other anglers during tournament hours is prohibited & doing so will result in disqualification. No underwater cameras or other electronic tracking devices other than your depth finders may be used during tournament competition.

Anglers must keep a distance equal to 2 casting lengths from other boats, with or without permission from fellow anglers, and 50 yards away from any boat anchored with trolling motor up. Anglers may not block any waterway to prevent anglers from passing. Upon appeal Board reserves the right to make final decision.

Each team will receive points for finishing positions towards Anglers of the Year. Points awarded start at 200 and decrease by 2 points per position through last place. In the case of a tie the points for each of the tied spots will be added together and divided by the number of teams tied. For example, if 2 teams tie for 2<sup>nd</sup> place you will add together the points for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place which would be (198+196=394) and then you divide that

number by the number of teams tied (394 divided by 2 = 197) so each team would receive 197 points. The team that finishes next in the standings will finish 4<sup>th</sup> and so on and so forth until all teams that caught fish at the trail site have been placed in the standings and received their appropriate number of points. If there are teams that did not catch fish at the site, they will be placed in the standings after the last team that caught fish and their points will be divided equally the same way as if they were tied in the standings. After the teams that didn't catch any fish have been placed in the standings, any teams that paid the absentee entry will all receive the points for one spot in the standings below the number of boats that fished at the trail site. For any anglers that get disqualified for any reason they will receive the points for one place below all other paid anglers. For example:

**33 teams pay the entry fee for the trail site**

**28 teams actually fish at the trial site**

**5 teams pay the absentee entry fee**

**1 of the teams that fished was disqualified**

**Of the 28 teams that fish:**

**21 catch fish and are placed in the standings 1-21 earning points from 200 (for 1<sup>st</sup> place) down to 160 (for 21<sup>st</sup> place)**

**7 teams did not catch any fish and they will be placed from 22-28 all earning 152 points (158+156+154+152+150+148+146 = 1064 divided by the number of teams tied which is 7 = 152)**

**5 teams pay the absentee entry fee and they will all receive the points for 29<sup>th</sup> place which is 144 points**

**The 1 team that was disqualified will receive the points for 33rd place (last place in event) which is 136 points**

Points awarded will be calculated as a team and listed as such in standings. In the event a team splits, the points will stay with the registered boater

Anglers may replace a partner 1 time during a season. Partner change will not be allowed after the 6th tournament of the season. All partner changes will be addressed on a case by case basis. Board reserves the right to make final decision.

Teams need to maintain good attendance in this trail, any team who misses 3 events without pre pay or contact with tournament director will not be allowed to finish the season events. Board reserves the right to make final decision.

No new teams will be allowed to join after the 3rd tournament (if Trial is at full 50) and no walk up teams joining trail at the ramp. Board reserves the right to make final decision.

Any angler who conducts himself in an unsportsmanlike manner, or who conducts himself in a manner that is detrimental to the sport of bass fishing may be disqualified or banned from competition. This will be at the discretion of the tournament board.

All anglers are to practice safe boating, life vest must be worn while boat is on plane, anglers are to obey all navigational signs, and any angler who receives any citation while on the water may be disqualified for the day's tournament. Board reserves the right to make final decision.

The use of drugs or alcohol during official tournament hours will result in disqualification. Alcohol may be consumed only after posted weigh-in time has passed.

Any protest for disqualification must be presented to the tournament director in writing within 5 minutes of weigh in; any violation up for protest must be viewed by Board members to be valid. Tournament board will review all protests and rule accordingly. Decision of the tournament Board is final.

Disqualification may occur before start, during, or immediately following the event. Proper notification must follow guidelines of protest..... However, point penalty may be assessed for any team found in violation of rules and regulations during said tournament.

Anglers of the Year, in the case of a points tie for AOY, the tie breakers will go as followed. 1st which team had the heaviest bag for the season. If that happens to be a tie then 2nd which team caught the most alive fish throughout the season. If that happens to be a tie then 3rd a coin toss will determine the winner.

Invitational Classic will be held in May. Teams have 3 options to be eligible for the Classic. First: Fish all 8 tournaments, Second: Finish in the top 25 in points. Third: Pre-pay absentee entry for up to two tournaments missed prior to the Classic. Also if for some reason your partner can't make the Classic you can fish with another qualified Classic member to make a team. The Board needs to know about this change before the date of the Classic to be held. Circumstances beyond your control such as medical emergency, death in the family, and other personal issues will be reviewed by the board and a fair and just decision will be made. All consideration for hardship excuse will require a phone call to **Robert Camp, 321-271-4369** prior to start of event.

Qualified members will fish the no entry fee Classic at end of season. Big Bass pot for two days will be \$20.00 per boat. Big Fish pot will go to LARGEST fish each of the two days... Classic will be a two day tournament with the highest weight total declared the winner. Ties will be broken by largest stringer of the two days.

Classic Boat Launch order will be determined by finishing order in Angler of The Year standings for both days.

Two Day Classic to be held anywhere the Board picks!!! Remember, this is not our full time jobs. We all love to compete in bass tournaments and want something better for the weekend Anglers. Enjoy your time together this season with all of your fellow Anglers.