



RULES, REGULATIONS AND CONTRACT

This tournament trail is open to all persons, both male and female, to participate as a team and are subject to these rules and regulations. Each person operating the combustion engine must be 18 years of age or older. **Any adult choosing a minor as a partner assumes full responsibility for the minor, and the Tournament Entry Form must be signed by the minor child and their parent or legal guardian.** All state and local laws will apply.

1 - POLYGRAPH FEE: Everyone, 18 years of age or older, must pay an annual \$10.00 Polygraph Fee.

2 - RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS: In consideration of acceptance of entry into a Berry's Tournament Trail Tournament all participants - and parents or guardians of any minor child participant - by signing an Entry Form, waive any and all claims for themselves and their heirs against officials, sponsors, employees, owners, and host of Berry's Tournament Trail for injury or illness which may directly or indirectly result from participating in the tournament. By signing the Tournament Entry Form. All participants acknowledge the following:

- (1) They are in proper physical condition to participate in the tournament,
- (2) That they know the dangers of participating in bass tournaments,
- (3) That they understand and appreciate the risks associated with participating in the tournament,
- (4) That the knowingly and voluntarily expose themselves to such a risk,
- (5) That any injury sustained by participant amounts to participant's failure to exercise ordinary care for participant's own safety,
- (6) That participant holds harmless officials, sponsors, employees, owners and hosts of Berry's Tournament Trail in the event that participants or any other person is injured or sustains property damage as a result of participant's action or failure to act.

3 - SAFETY AND BOAT EQUIPMENT: Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Carelessness or unsafe operation of any boat will be grounds for disqualification. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved life vest securely fastened when the combustion engine is in gear. Safety equipment adequate to pass Coast Guard regulations must be in the boat at all times. All boats are required to have FUNCTIONAL emergency cut-off devices (kill switches). All kill switches must be attached to the driver at all times when the combustion engine is in gear. Failure to abide by this rule will cause the team to be disqualified. Both the driver and the passenger who participate in boats equipped with engines exceeding the BIA horsepower rating will accept full responsibility for any and all personal injury or property damage (both personal and private) which may occur. Each boat must be equipped with an aerated live well with space adequate to maintain a tournament limit of fish. For your own protection, you shall have liability insurance coverage on your boat.

4 – REGISTRATION: Competitors may register by phone, fax, mail or in person at the tournament site. Registration forms must be filled out completely and signed by both team members. Each competitor must check in at the tournament site at least one hour prior to “ooze off” time and have a boat check and rules briefing. Failure to check in may result in disqualification. Tournament fees are payable by cash or check and must be paid at the time of registration. NO REFUNDS will be given after registration and fees are received. Returned checks will constitute grounds for disqualification from future events and a \$30 fee will be assessed for every returned check. Registration at the ramp will be Cash Only.

5 – SPORTSMANSHIP: All competitors must show courtesy and good sportsmanship to other competitors and non-competitors alike. This includes crowding another competitor. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol during the tournament hours will be disqualified. No firearms are permitted.

6 – OFF LIMITS: There are no off limits periods for these tournaments.

7 – TACKLE & FISHING METHODS: Only artificial lures may be used. Pork type lures and add-ons may also be used. All bass must be caught in a legal, live, conventional manner using a rod and reel. Each competitor may have only one rod in use at a time. TROLLING IS NOT ALLOWED.

8 – TOURNAMENT HOURS: The hours of competition will be safe light, as determined by the Tournament Director, until 3:00 p.m. Any variation of tournament hours will be announced prior to “ooze off”.

9 – “OOZE OFF” SEQUENCE: Boats will be started off using the “ooze off” method. This will be determined by when the entry and registration are received. **All participants proceed at their own risk.**

10 – PERMITTED FISHING: Fishing is permitted anywhere on tournament water, except within 50 yards of any marina (any business that sells gasoline), spillway locks. No fishing is allowed within 25 yards of a non-anchored tournament boat without that boats permission. No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of another anchored or tied tournament boat with trolling motor out of the water, without the anchored boats permission. Other no-fishing areas will be announced at the morning rules briefing. Markers or any obstruction cannot be placed so as to block entry to any creek or canal. No competitors will have anyone “hole sit” or protect any fishing area. **No communication devices can be used to locate fish during tournament hours.**

11 – EMERGENCIES: Competitors shall remain with their partner and in their boats at all times during the tournament hours, except in the event of sickness, call of nature, severe weather or other such hazards. **One team member may momentarily exit the boat to refuel, retrieve lure, repair boat, etc.; but not to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.** If, for any reason, a team member leaves the tournament water early, that team member or members bear the full responsibility for notifying a tournament official. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

12 – WEIGH-IN: Teams may remove their boat at the weigh in site before weighing their catch. Trailering of fish from another site is prohibited.

In the event of equipment failure, there are 2 ways to have your catch recorded:

A) Being towed by water leaving the catch in the live well.

B) Being transported by a pre-approved individual with the catch (one team member remains with the boat.)

Late penalties will apply also.

13 – LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute late; to be deducted from the total weight for the day. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late will be disqualified. One (1) pound per minute will also apply to the Big Bass Competition.

14 – SCORING: Largemouth, Smallmouth, Shoal and Spotted Bass will be weighed. The limit will be five (5) fish per boat. Culling will begin as soon as the sixth fish is caught. Any team found to have more than the five (5) fish limit will be disqualified. All fish will be measured on a Gator Grip Golden Rule Tournament Board, (flat) with the mouth closed and by moving the tail to the side. A penalty of three (3) pounds will be assessed for each short fish brought to the scales. In addition, that fish will not be weighed and that team will be disqualified from the Big Bass Competition. Any team bringing more than one short fish to the scales will be disqualified from competition for that day. A four (4) ounce (.25 pound) penalty will be assessed for each dead fish brought to the scales. The four (4) ounce dead fish rule will also apply to the Big Bass Competition. There will be no courtesy length checks at the weigh-in site. In accordance with the Georgia Law, DEAD FISH MAY NOT BE CULLED. Any culling at the weigh-in site will result in disqualification. All live fish will be released at the weigh-in site. THE LENGTH LIMIT OF THE FISH MUST COMPLY WITH EACH LAKE’S LENGTH REGULATIONS.

15 – PROTEST AND POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION: Protests may be registered at two times during a tournament:

- 1 - After the early morning briefing and before “ooze off”.
- 2 - After the weigh-in and before the awards presentations.

All protests must be registered personally with the Tournament Director and must be accompanied by \$100 cash. After the awards presentations the results of the tournament will be final. Any competitor (who has not registered a formal protest) found or heard accusing another competitor of a violation of the rules will be exhibiting unsportsman-like conduct and will be disqualified from that tournament and future tournaments. All contestants agree that, in the event of a dispute or protest of any kind, or if requested to do so by the Tournament Director, both team members will submit to a polygraph examination. Contestants further agree that the results of the polygraph examination will be accepted without appeal and will be the final decision in said tournament.

16 – POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION: Polygraph examinations may be required for any contestant at any tournament at the Tournament Director’s discretion. All contestants understand and agree that all prizes and awards will not be presented until such polygraphs are administered. The polygraph must be PASSED at the tournament site on the day of the tournament. INCONCLUSIVE RESULTS ON A POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION WILL BE CONSIDERED TO BE A FAILURE TO PASS AND WILL BE ACCEPTED AS SUCH BY THE EXAMINEE. Failure to pass a polygraph examination will result in disqualification from all future tournaments. Anyone who has been disqualified for failure to pass a polygraph examination will not be allowed to participate in any tournament.

17 – RULES INTERPRETATION: Interpretation of these rules shall be left solely to the Tournament Director. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters. Infractions of these rules could result in disqualification from this and future tournaments.

18 – CONSERVATION: This should be a primary concern for all competitive fishermen. Adequate live wells are mandatory on each boat and must provide aeration to maintain fish in good condition. We recommend the use of chemical live well additives that promotes the healthy return of fish to their natural habitat.

19 – ANGLER OF THE YEAR WINNERS: **To qualify a team must fish 5 tournaments together.** The total weight of all 8 tournaments will determine the winners. The top five teams will receive rewards.

20 - CLASSIC: The Tournament waters will be off limits Wednesday, Thursday and Friday prior to the classic. The Classic will be a two-day tournament. A team must be represented by one or more members in 5 of the 8 tournaments. A team member can fish alone or have an alternate. The entry fee for the Classic is \$220.00 per boat, which includes Big Bass. **Alternates cannot be used in the Classic.**

21 - RIGHT TO REFUSE: The Tournament Director reserves the right to deny registration to any Angler wishing to participate in the trail.