



A.

**National Bass Fishing Trail Inc.  
Team Trail Rules and Entry Form.**

**Schedule**

Alabama North District  
Director: Mike Raney  
Phone: 256 762-1152

Date	Lake	Launch
2/24	Wheeler	RiverWalk
3/24	Wheeler	RiverWalk
4/7	Guntersville	WaterFront
5/12	Wheeler	RiverWalk
6/9	Wheeler	RiverWalk
7/21	Wilson	Safety Harbor
8/25	Wheeler	RiverWalk
9/23,24	Wheeler	RiverWalk

The Rules set forth below are to be used at all tournaments. The responsibility for interpretation of these rules lies solely with the Tournament Director and all decisions rendered by the Tournament Director are final. Participation in any National Bass Fishing Club Inc. function is at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director. Membership in this organization may be revoked for cause.

**I. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:**

All bass anglers, with membership in good standing, are eligible to participate in any and all NBT fishing tournaments. The field in each tournament shall be limited to the first 250 entries, unless a smaller or larger field is deemed appropriate by NBT, and announced in advance of the tournament date.

**2. TEAMS**

Two anglers shall constitute a team. Each member of a participating "Team", including an alternate, must be a member in good standing of NBT. Each team may have *one alternate* to fish in place of either member of the team at any team event. A team alternate must be named and designated as such prior to the first tournament of the season. Alternate participation actively fishing is limited to two (2) tournaments in any season. In the event an alternate or the other team member cannot fish, each member will be allowed to fish no more than 1 tournament per year as a single fisherman. Alternates other than the initially named individual are not eligible to fish. All points awarded from placement in the qualifying events will go to the primary team members.

**3. MEMBERSHIP & TOURNAMENT FEES/TOURNAMENT PAYBACK**

Annual membership fees for The *NBT BASS CLUB, Inc.* are \$20/year and run from January 1<sup>st</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> annually. Tournament entry fees for each event are \$130. this includes \$110 tournament fee, a "Big Bass" pot of \$15 per team, and the remaining \$5 will be put in an escrow and paid back to the top points leader at the end of the year. Tournament entry fees and pay backs are doubled at the district championships. The "Big Bass" pot for all tournaments is 100% pay back. The \$110 entry fee is paid back as follows:

- \$88.00 is paid back to the anglers at the ramp.
  - \$12.00 is paid to the district tournament director.
  - \$8.00 is paid to NBT to offset expenses.
  - \$2.00 will go to the Championship fund
  - \$5.00 is paid to the end of the year top points leaders (could be 1,2,3 places)
- District Championship fees will be doubled with 70% paid at the district and 20% will be paid back to the winners of the Bass Cat Championship.

**4. PRE-REGISTRATION:**

Pre-registration is required for any team that does not compete in the first tournament of the season. The tournament fees must be received by the District Director no later than fourteen (14) days prior to the next event. Once a team has fished a team tournament, they will not be required to pre-register and they will be allowed to pay at the ramp. A pre-tournament meeting will be held immediately before starting the event. Starting order will be determined registration sign in. First to sign in first to take off. At least one participating member of each team **MUST** be present for the pre-tournament meeting.

**5. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND OFF LIMITS**

For tournaments other than the National Finals the lake is considered OFF LIMITS from sunset the day before the tournament until the pre-tournament meeting on the morning of the tournament Participants may not be on the water during this time period. Additionally, the use of guides on any

tournament lake is prohibited for a period of fourteen days prior to any tournament

**6. TOURNAMENT REQUIREMENTS**

A minimum of five qualifying tournaments will be held in each district. Each district will hold a two-day district championship at the end of the season.

**7. NATIONAL STANDINGS AND POINTS SYSTEM**

Points will be awarded to participating teams according to their finish placement for their top four district qualifying tournaments and district championship tournament Points are awarded for full field events as follows:

Qualifying tournaments: First place is awarded two-hundred (200) points. Each place thereafter decreases by two (2) points for all teams that weigh-in a fish. A minimum of fifty (50) points is awarded to all teams that compete and finish with no weight  
 District championship tournaments: First place is awarded four hundred (400) points. Each place thereafter decreases by four (4) points for all teams that weigh-in a fish. A minimum of one-hundred (100) points is awarded to all that compete and finish with no weight  
 A full field for full points is required for all tournaments. A full field for points is ten (10) teams. The maximum points for any tournament with less than a full field of participation is equal to one increment decrease for each missing element in the field.

Example: Qualifying tournament with nineteen (9) teams participating; first place drops to 198 points.

**8. National Championships**

The national championship will be organized and conducted by Bass Cat Boats and in accordance with their rules and policies. National Championship qualification for the NBT Teams shall be based upon the following percentage numbers of entry base (Average Regional Participation). Districts will be placed in either of two regions. Outer for those districts over 500 miles from the Championship location, and Inner for those within 500 miles of the Championship location.

A minimum of 35% of the anglers in each Inner Region District will qualify for the Championship

A minimum of 10% of the anglers in the Outer Region Districts will qualify for the Championship.

Entry fee for the national finals is \$300/team. Maximum field for the national finals will be 400 teams with a maximum prize package of eight boat and motor packages.

The exact purse and prize distribution shall be established by Bass Cat boats. In accordance with the Bass Cat National format there will be a minimum of one boat & motor package for first 50 boats entered and one package for each fifty boats entered thereafter. At a level of 200 boats participating in the national finals, the package is upgraded to a 20' boat with a 225 outboard package.

**9. SAFETY**

Safe boating and fishing practices must be observed at all times. All boats must have the appropriate Coast Guard approved safety devices as required by law. A "Kill" switch is mandatory. Contestants are required to wear properly fastened USCG approved flotation devices at all times when the boat is operated under engine power. The "Kill" switch is to

be attached to the boat operator. All boat motors must not exceed the B.I.A. plate rating.

#### 10. SPORTSMANSHIP

All competitors are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles will be deemed cause for disqualification. The use or possession of any alcoholic beverages or illicit drugs on a competitor's person or in a competitor's boat during the tournament is prohibited, grounds for disqualification and banning from further participation in future NBT events. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially while boating and angling in the vicinity of other competitors as well as non-competitors. Any act by a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters and/or courtesy shall be deemed unacceptable and considered grounds for disqualification and/or protest. Failure to observe a "No Wake" area will be grounds for disqualification and/or protest. Additionally, passing of other competitors in a "No Wake" zone is prohibited, unless the competitor has stopped to fish or has a mechanical breakdown.

#### 11. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Only artificial baits and lures may be used. No live bait or prepared bait other than pork type baits may be used. Trolling is not permitted. Anglers may use only one rod at a time. All bass must be caught using rod and reel. Snagging of shallow water bass is not permitted. Use of landing nets is permitted. Fish must be caught and landed from the boat. Boats may not be trailored until anglers have ceased fishing for the day. Boats must meet the following requirements:

Must be fourteen (14) feet or longer in length.

Must have a twenty horsepower or larger motor.

Must have an operational "Kill Switch".

Must have an aerated live well or fish container.

#### 12. BOAT IDENTIFICATION

Prior to the start of any tournament the boat will be given a numbered chip/plate, tag etc depicting the starting position. This ID is to be turned in at the conclusion of the tournament. Any team leaving early from a tournament early must contact director or leave boat number in designated area. Failure to do so will result in lost of any points for that day.

#### 13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND TIMES

No late starts are permitted. Team members must both be present at the start and finish of each event. Fishing is permitted anywhere within the tournament waters that is accessible to All contestants during tournament hours with the following exceptions:

Within fifty (50) yards of tournament headquarters.

Within fifty (50) yards of another contestant who is anchored or has a buoy marker out (see rule 21)

Within any legally posted off-limits areas as regulated by local agencies.

#### 14. LATE PENALTY

No excuses. There is a one (1) pound penalty assessed for each one (1) minute an angler is late for weigh-in. The penalty is assessed against the entire stringer weight and the big bass weight. After fifteen (15) minutes your weight for the day is disqualified.

#### 15. TIES

The greater number of fish breaks heavy stringer ties and heavy stringer will break big bass ties. If ties cannot be broken on this basis, each team will receive full points and the prize monies for that place along with the next lowest place will be divided equally among the tied teams. Any trophies will be awarded by a flip of a coin. If more than two teams are involved, then odd team out wins.

#### 16. SCORING

All black bass species will be counted. The total stringer weight of five (5) bass will determine the teams finish in the tournament. All bass must measure a minimum of twelve (12) inches or longer, amendable to meet local regulations.

Any team presenting a short bass to the weigh master shall be penalized one (1) pound per short fish against the remaining stringer weight. Each team is expected to take the utmost care of their fish to insure that living fish will be returned to the tournament waters. No dead fish may be culled. A penalty of ½ pound will be assessed for presenting a dead fish to the weigh master. A dead fish may be weighed for big bass, but it will be assessed a penalty weight of 1/2 pound. All fish must be presented to the weigh master in a water-filled bag. Presentation of a mutilated fish is grounds for disqualification.

#### 17. PROTESTS

Any team wishing to protest the conduct or score of a fellow team must do so within thirty (30) minutes of their scheduled weigh-in time. All protests must be submitted to the tournament director in writing. The tournament director and/or NBT may decide issues relating to any protest, rules interpretation or misconduct whenever reported or observed and take appropriate action deemed necessary.

#### 18. NOTIFICATION OF DISQUALIFICATION

Any contestant who has been disqualified from any tournament within any organization must so note on their Membership Application to NBT. Failure to do so will result in automatic disqualification from that and all future NBT events and forfeiture of any entry fees already paid. Note that NBT may require a polygraph or other accepted means of truth test of any contestant in any event. Refusal of such test or failure of such test will be grounds for disqualification and subsequent banning from any future NBT activities.

#### 19. BANNED PARTICIPATION

There are a number of parameters through which a contestant may be banned from further participation in NBT events. They would include but not be limited to:

Failing a truth verification test.

Intentionally deceiving this or any other fishing organization.

The altering of any channel or lake bottom to gain unfair advantage of other contestants.

"Salting" or transferring of any fish to gain unfair advantage of other contestants.

#### 20. LIABILITY INSURANCE REDUIREMENT

All boaters must maintain a minimum boat liability insurance policy in an amount of \$100,000.00 and carry their policy or proof of insurance in their boat. Verification of insurance will be required prior to payment of winnings. All boats finishing in the money will be required to show proof of insurance. Boaters' are asked to bring a copy of their insurance policy for the director. This policy will be kept on file. Any boater fishing a team tournament for the first time that does not have his/her insurance policy must sign a waiver stating he/she has insurance at and during the times of that tournament. That boater must then bring a copy to the 2<sup>nd</sup> tournament or the team will not be allowed to fish.

#### 21. BUOY RULE

A team may mark their spot with a marker buoy under the following conditions.

A. The boat must be within 25 yards of the buoy.

B. If another boat is allowed in then the buoy must be retrieved.

C. An unattended buoy may be fished by any team.

D. Wave off any approaching team and identify your buoy.

On smaller bodies of water the tournament director may wave the buoy rule. The announcement will be made at the pre-tournament meeting.

## **TEAM TRAIL OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM**

Entry forms for each tournament that are not completed in full and signed by both parties will not be accepted. NO EXCEPTIONS. The tournament will be postponed if there is a National Weather Service Lake Wind Advisory prior to the launch of the tournament.

**Tournament Date & Lake:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Boater's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

**Non -Boater's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.# \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Boat Insurance Carrier: \_\_\_\_\_

Policy # \_\_\_\_\_

**Alternates Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Member # \_\_\_\_\_ Home District: \_\_\_\_\_

#### **Read Before signing**

In signing this form, I hereby release the host, National Bass Fishing Trail Inc., its owners, agents, and employees, sponsors, and tournament officials, from any and all damages, claims, demands, cost, or expenses relating to injury of any persons or damage to any property which I may sustain or which I may cause by reason of participating in or in connection with any National Bass Fishing Trail Inc. tournament.

I further agree that I will never sue any of the above for damages on account of any injury or damage I suffer or cause, whether known now or which may develop in the future, in connection with any National Bass Fishing Trail Inc. tournament. In the event any of the above are sued because of my actions, I expressly agree to indemnify and hold each harmless from any liability whatsoever, including court cost and attorney fees arising with respect to such actions.

I further agree to submit to a polygraph examination and abide by the Rules Committee of the polygraph test.

We further agree to abide by the Tournament Director's decision in all matters and further agree that there is not a right of appeal from their decision.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Boater Signature** **Date**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Non -Boater Signature** **Date**

Detach and fill out entry form and Mail to:

National Bass Fishing Trail Inc. - Team Trail

410 Point Rd.

Muscle Shoals, AL 35661