

2025 Rules **TEAM TRAIL**

Entry Form: Entry form, waiver form, and BASS team trail form can be found on www.haysbass.com. Entry forms must be filled out in full by both team members.

Check In: Check in will start at 5:00 AM with registration. Entry form, Waiver Form, BASS team trail form, boat insurance all required at check in. Computer generated random draw will determine boat numbers. Live well check will be conducted on boat ramp before launch. Last place boat will be the official starter.

Trail Fee: \$20 per person. \$10 to join BASS team trail includes a subscription to BASS Times. \$10 to go into pot to assist team/teams that qualify for the BASS Team Championship. A BASS membership is not required to fish the team trail. The team/teams that qualify for the team champions will be required to join BASS before they will be eligible to fish the team championship.

Tournament Fee: Entry fee is \$150 per boat. Optional: Big bass side pot with 100% payback is \$10/boat. Optional: High stakes side pot with 100% payout is \$100/team with 60/40 payout for two places.

Payout: The event will pay out 80% with one place paid for every seven boats entered. Five live fish 15" minimum length will be weighed per team.

Rules: Anglers must be 16 years of age or older. Non-penetrating cull clips are required. Dead fish penalty of 1 lb per dead fish. Short fish penalty is 2lbs plus loss of short fish. Late penalty is 1 lb per min with DQ after 15 mins. Any KDWPT infraction will result in DQ. No culling of dead fish. No dead fish will be weighed for big bass.

Rule Decisions: Decisions of the tournament director are final and are not subject to appeal. Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director in his/her sole and absolute discretion. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. The violation of the tournament rules may result in loss of weight, the loss of weight up to a specific time during the tournament day, total loss of weight of the particular day, the ineligibility to participate in future Hays Bass Anglers Association Team Trail (HBAATT) events, the ineligibility to participate in future HBAATT events, or any other penalty deemed appropriate by the tournament director in his/her sole and absolute discretion. Protests must be made in writing within 15 minutes of the official closing of scales at each tournament, and any written protests must be provided to the tournament director in writing within said time period. If a protest is not made in writing within the required 15-minute time period, the contestant waives his/her right to submit a written protest.

Substitute policy: This is a team event and contestants are not allowed to fish individually. Each team will be allowed to designate one substitute angler per team for the 2022 trail season and retain all HBAATT points. Substitute angler will be required to pay the trail fees.

Boat Requirements: Boats must be 14-feet or longer and meet BASS requirements. Boats must be equipped with a working livewell and shall contain Catch-N-Release or a similar electrolyte solution.

Safety: Safe boating must be observed at all times. 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 operation from boat check to weigh in. 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 in operation. The driver must be seated in the driver's seat anytime the combustion engine is engaged in gear. In the event of inclement weather, the tournament director will make the decision of when the date will be made up. Competitors are allowed to leave the boat and seek shelter in bad weather, at which time no fishing may occur.

In the event of equipment failure or emergency the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are then two permitted methods of returning to check-in: (1) by both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed by water, or (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one or both anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant. Under these two conditions both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided each team's fish are adequately marked so as to provide clear distinction to the tournament director. Contestants who elect to return to check-in by any means other than those cited will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day's weight. Whether or not contestants may be disqualified for improperly "abandoning" a boat is in the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

Insurance: Proof of liability insurance coverage in the amount of \$300,000 or more is required. If you don't have proof of insurance at sign up you will not be allowed to fish.

Permitted Areas: Fishing is allowed anywhere on the lake except within 50 feet of other anglers, anchored boats, any areas designated off limits by the regulatory agency, 50 feet from the gas pump in the marina, behind the outlet on the dam. All no boat buoys should be treated as a brick wall.

Permitted Fishing Methods: Only artificial lures may be used. 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. Trolling with the combustion engine as a method of fishing is prohibited. Switching or sharing fish with other teams or individuals is a violation of these rules and will result in immediate disqualification. All bass must be caught alive, in a conventional, sporting manner. When sight fishing for bass, all fish must be hooked inside the mouth to be counted as a legal fish. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time shall a contestant leave the boat to land a fish, or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. No Alabama rigs, or any other umbrella rigs will be allowed in HBAATT tournaments. All contestants must comply with all applicable state and federal laws, and any contestants' failure to comply with all applicable state and federal laws are subject to disqualification and/or other disciplinary action that is at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director.

Weigh-in: Weigh-in will be conducted at the state park boat ramp. Fish shall be brought in weigh-in bags and placed in pre-weigh-in holding tank. Fish will be transferred to the bump station before being weighed. You must declare if you have a fish to weigh for big bass. All live fish become possession of the weigh master and will be placed into post weigh-in holding tank before being transferred to live release boats. Pictures can be taken at the holding tank. Weigh master will announce last call for fish and start a 10 min clock. No fish will be allowed to be weighed after this time.

Points: Points will be awarded per team. Tie breaker per tournament will be big fish. Points will start at 200 and decline 1 point per finish. Any team that participates but fails to weigh in a fish will be awarded 15 points less than the last team to weigh in a fish.

Team of the year: Team of the year will be based on total point using the best 4 finishes out of 6 tournaments. Tie breaker is total team weight in the top 4 tournaments with highest total winning. HBAATT determines the number of teams that qualify for the BASS Team Championship determined by the total number of boats entered. Team Championship pot money will be distributed once qualifying team has entered BASS Team Championship entry.