

HBA ***TEAM TRAIL***

Rules

Entry Form: Entry form and waiver form can be found on www.haysbass.com . Entry forms must be filled out fully by both team members.

Check-In: Check-in will start at 5:00 a.m. with registration. entry form, waiver form, and boat insurance all required at that time. Computer-generated random draw will determine boat numbers. Livewell check will be conducted on boat ramp before launch. The last place boat will be the official starter.

Trail Fee: \$20 per person. The team trail fees will be added to the pot for the Team Trail Championship tournament at 100%.

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 with a 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 is 1 lb per dead fish. Short fish penalty is 2 lbs plus loss of short fish. The late penalty is 1 lb per minute with DQ after 15 minutes. Any KDWP&T 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 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 on the particular day of the violation; 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 at the sole and absolute discretion of the tournament director. 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 their right to submit a written protest.

Substitute policy: This is a team event, and contestants will be allowed to fish individually. Each team will be allowed to designate one substitute angler per team for the 2026 trail season and retain all HBAATT points. Substitute anglers will be required to pay the trail fees.

Boat Requirements: Boats must be 16 feet or longer. Boats must be equipped with a working livewell and shall contain Catch-N-Release or a similar electrolyte solution. Boats shall be equipped with a working kill switch.

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 and passenger must be seated 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 dangerous weather, at which time no fishing may occur. Anglers must contact the tournament director to let them know they are seeking shelter.

Equipment Failure/Emergency: 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 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 do not 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, or at an official designation determined by the hosting park and/or tournament director. The official location will be shared with team anglers prior to the event. Fish shall be brought in using HBAA weigh-in bags and placed in pre-weigh-in holding tank. Anglers will not be allowed to go back to boat after weigh-in bag is at the 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 weighmaster and will be placed into a post weigh-in holding tank before being transferred to live release boats. Pictures can be taken at the holding tank. Weighmaster 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. Tiebreakers per tournament will be big fish. Points will start at 100 and decline by 1 point per finishing placement. 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 Championship: To qualify for the team championship, a team must fish a minimum of 4 tournaments and finish in the top 10 in cumulative points. Entry fee for the team championship will be reduced to \$100 per boat, and the championship will pay back a 90%. All the team trail dues collected throughout the year will be added to the purse. Any team that fishes a minimum of 4 tournaments but falls outside of the top 10 in cumulative points may buy their way into the championship by paying an entry fee of \$200 dollars as a second chance entry.