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aka BAMTT Pro Am

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## 2024 BAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL PRO/AM OFFICIAL RULES OF PRO/AM COMPETITION

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The following rules shall apply to all BAM Tournament Trail Pro Am (BAMTT) events. BAMTT expects strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants. These rules will remain unchanged during the current BAMTT tournament season (Jan-Dec). Federal, state, local, lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede BAMTT rules when in conflict. All Anglers must Acknowledge and understand these rules for the BAMTT Tournament(s) they participate in.

## INTERPRETATION AND ENFORCEMENT:

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to BAMTT and its tournament directors. Decisions of the tournament director are final in most every matter, in rare instances there may be a need for a rule / violations committee. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation (s) to the tournament director within 30 minutes after the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day or as soon as it is discovered. Failure to report violations (Pro or Co-anglers) may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, reduction of competition hours, loss of catch for the day of the violation, reduction in the days weight, loss of the heaviest bass for the day, disqualification from the current tournament, forfeiture of prizes

and entry fee, monetary fines and/or reduction of Angler of Year points, disqualification from future BAMTT events, which may be a specific number of events, a specific period of time, or lifetime disqualification. BAMTT reserves the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered after a tournament has ended and may assess penalties for future events up to and including denying entry to compete in future BAMTT events. BAMTT may appoint an Advisory Board for input on various items regarding tournaments, rules, and other related issues. This Advisory Board may be asked to help resolve appeals/protests with regards to rules violations.

BAMTT contestants are required to police themselves each competition day. If contestants have a concern regarding his/her catch, they should consult with the tournament director immediately for clarification.

## 1. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS COMMITTEE:

An appeals committee may be established by BAMTT which may be comprised of the tournament director and individuals from the advisory board in the event in question. Appeals for penalties assessed must be presented in writing 24 hours from the time and date of ruling to the tournament director. Appeals hearings should generally be resolved within seven (7) business days from the date of receipt of the written appeal. If BAMTT requires additional time, they will notify all involved parties. BAMTT requires all parties to make themselves available at the prescribed time of hearing.

If contestants admit to a rule's violation, they may not file an appeal of either the finding that they have violated the rules, or the penalty imposed for the violation. Decisions of the appeals committee shall be final. Contestants may be allowed to compete under appeal, however, penalties assessed will remain until the final ruling by Appeals Committee has been determined. Appeals of non-competition rulings must be presented in writing to the Tournament director within 48 hours from the time and date of ruling for review. The Tournament director may seek the advisement of the BAMTT Advisory Board and/or Rules Committee for any final decision made.

## 2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:

A BAMTT membership is required to participate in any BAMTT Pro/Am event. Failure to have an active/paid membership is grounds for disqualification and/or restriction from participating in any BAMTT event. Memberships are valid for a calendar year. Note: Members signing up in October will automatically extend to the next calendar year at no extra charge. The membership fee is \$69.00 per contestant per year.

Contestants competing in the Pro Division must be 18 years of age or older. Contestants competing in the Co-angler Division must be a minimum of 16 years of age or older. Any

contestant who is under the age of 18, must have signed/written approval from their parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. The parent or legal guardian must be present at each pre-tournament check-in meeting to sign any the waiver and consent forms. Proof of age to the tournament officials is the responsibility of the potential contestant.

Any person who, in the judgment of the tournament director, is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his or her Pro or Co-angler partner or compromise his or her safety or the safety of other competitors or the boating public may not be eligible to participate in a BAMTT event.

All contestants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. CA Residents Pro anglers under the age of 60 must have a valid California Boater Card. BAMTT will conduct random checks may be conducted at each pre-tournament meeting. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license or California Boater Card within a reasonable amount of time when requested by the tournament director will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license and card was required for the tournament.

### 3. LIABILITY INSURANCE:

During both open practice and competition days of any BAMTT tournament, no contestant may operate a boat unless he/she has proof of liability insurance with coverage not less than \$300,000 per occurrence. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers on or in the boat. BAMTT will conduct random checks at the mandatory pre-tournament meetings. Failure to provide proof of the required insurance when requested by the tournament director or BAMTT staff, may result in a contestant being denied participation in the BAMTT event, until proof of said insurance can be provided. If proof cannot be provided, the contestant will be disqualified from the current event, and their entry fees will be forfeited.

### 4. REGISTRATION/PAYMENT:

Pro entry fees are \$785.00 per tournament, and Co-angler entry fees are \$385.00 per tournament. A Pro's deposit is \$100.00 per tournament and Co-anglers deposit is \$50.00 per tournament, followed by a payment for the balance due of the total entry fee according to the payment schedule outlined below.

Sign up/registration dates and payment schedules for each BAMTT tournament will be posted on the BAMTT website. Unless otherwise stated by the BAMTT tournament director, each BAMTT Pro/Am event will be limited to the first 150 boats (150 Pros and 150 Co-anglers). When the first 150 Pro and Co-anglers register for an event, they are given immediate confirmed entry into the event as long as they meet the payment schedule requirements for deposit and full payment due dates. If there are less than 150 Pro anglers registered for an event, the number of Co-anglers confirmed for the event will be based on the total number of Pro's registered for that event. For example: If 125 Pros register for an event, 125 Co-anglers will be

confirmed. If there are more Co-anglers than Pros registered for an event, Co-anglers will be put on a waiting list and will receive a priority based on the date they registered for the event. If there are more Pros than Cos, some Pro anglers will fish alone. Those contestants placed on the waiting list who are not accepted into the tournament will receive a full refund after the tournament. BAMTT has the right to increase the maximum number of participants for any event. Contestants who register/make deposit payments for an entire season of BAMTT Pro/Am events, shall be granted priority entry based on the date they registered contingent on the contestant meeting the payment schedule due dates as required.

Partial payments/deposits are nontransferable or refundable once an angler is confirmed into a tournament and/or after the final entry deadline. All confirmed entries are contingent upon the contestant meeting the payment schedule for balances due. Any final entry balances not received by the final entry deadline will result in a contestant being denied participation in the event. These contestants will forfeit their deposit. Any final balance payments made after the entry deadline will incur a \$100.00 late fee for the Pro and \$50.00 late fee for the Co.

BAMTT encourages contestants to utilize the BAMTT website to submit registration payments. Credit card payments may also be done over the phone by calling 925-362-3190 during normal business hours. \*Mailed checks will be accepted, however it is the responsibility of each contestant to mail payments early enough to meet payment deadlines. All USPS entries must be received by the BAMTT office by the published deadline date. \*Checks mailed in will not incur a credit card convenience fee.

## 5. MANDATORY TOURNAMENT BRIEFING:

Notification of your first day partner shall be made at the Tournament Briefing which **MUST BE ATTENDED** by all contestants.

Pre-Tournament VIP Express Check in. Attendance at the registration and pre-tournament meeting is mandatory. However, BAMTT realizes that circumstances may arise that prevent contestants from attending the mandatory meeting. In these cases, a contestant can select the VIP Express Check in for the meeting by paying the VIP amount of \$50.00. This is a per event designation and must be approved by BAMTT officials. Pre-tournament Express Check in must be identified ASAP or no later than 24 hours prior to the tournament meeting.

Contestants who are unable to attend the pre-tournament meeting are fully responsible to know and adhere to all the announcements made during the pre-tournament meeting. It is the contestant's responsibility to seek out tournament officials to sign the waiver prior to competing in the event. Failure to have a signed waiver for that event on record is grounds for disqualification.

It shall be the responsibility of each partner to appear at a mutually agreed upon location with enough time remaining to check out at the official checkpoint and start on time. Tournament officials shall have no responsibility for finding missing partners. The Tournament Director, at

his/her sole discretion, may reassign partners prior to the morning take off. It is suggested that a minimum of 30 minutes is required for preparation to depart to the check-out point.

## 6. WAIVER AND LIABILITY FORMS:

As a condition of participation in each BAMTT event, each contestant must execute/sign a waiver, release of liability and invasive mussel form at each event. By signing the waiver/release of liability form, the contestant understands and agrees that as consideration for being allowed to participate in any BAMTT event, whether prior to commencement, during the actual event and/or during any post-event festivities, he or she is doing so at his or her own risk. BAMTT and its owners, managers, employees, agents and sponsors (Collectively "BAMTT"), shall not be liable for any damages, claims or causes of action arising from personal injuries or property damage sustained in, on or about the premises or waterways used for any BAMTT event, specifically including, but not limited to, all boat launches, bodies of water, parking lots or other public or private areas used for any BAMTT event. It is the contestant's responsibility to sign the waiver form prior to competing in the event. Failure to have a signed waiver form on record for the event they are participating in will result in the contestant being disqualified from participating in the tournament event and will forfeit his/her entry fees. Invasive mussel forms must be kept with each boat during each of the competition days.

## 7. PAYBACK/PRIZES:

Unless otherwise announced, payback is approximately 87.5% and is based on the number of paid entries for each tournament. BAMTT will make every attempt to award payment winnings at the tournament site, otherwise payments will be mailed within five to seven business days after the event. Prizes and trophies will be awarded at the conclusion of each BAMTT event. Contestants must be present at the official stage at the end of the event to be eligible for contingency prizes. Winning contestants must complete a W-9 form with their correct tax identification information before winnings can be received. Winning contestants who are not present after the tournament will be required to submit a completed W9 form before they receive their winnings through the USPS mail system. Participants are responsible for all applicable taxes related to their winnings as well as the execution of all tax forms.

## 8. FISHING HOURS:

Fishing hours will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting and posted on the Tournament Information page.

## 9. PRACTICE:

There will be 2 official practice days prior to the start of any BAMTT Pro/Am tournament. The practice period/days will be the two (2) consecutive days prior to the first day of competition.

On day 1 practice, participants will be allowed on the water 30 minutes prior to the published time of sunrise and must be off the water no later than 30 minutes past the published time of sunset. On day 2 practice, participants will be allowed on the water 30 minutes prior to the published time of sunrise and must be off the water no later than 3:00pm local time. During the two official practice days, BAMTT participants may only fish with other confirmed BAMTT tournament participants. Any other passengers or media are not allowed without the pre-authorization of the tournament director.

## 10. OFF LIMITS:

Unless otherwise notified by BAMTT, the off-limit period for all BAMTT Pro/Am tournaments will be the two (2) consecutive days prior to the two (2) day practice period. No contestants will be allowed on tournament waters after the pre-tournament meeting until the first day of competition. Unless otherwise specified by BAMTT, all official times are specific to local host community time. All BAMTT contestants must know and observe these dates and time periods. During both the official practice days and the tournament, a contestant may not receive assistance or advice from anyone except another confirmed BAMTT contestant for the purposes of locating or catching bass, nor shall any contestant enter the tournament waters with anyone who has been on the tournament waters during the off-limits period. Co-anglers may not share fishing locations with any pro contestant once the tournament has begun. Once the off-limits period has started, flying over tournament waters or the use of drones is not allowed.

## 11. NO INFO RULE:

Regardless of when a contestant enters/registers for an event, they must have adhered to the off-limits period and the no information rule. By signing the waiver and entry form, each contestant is attesting to adhering to the no information and off-limits rules.

Other than using publicly available information (e.g., newspaper and Internet reports) contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means about locating or catching fish on tournament waters. All information must be accessed prior to official off-limits periods. THERE SHALL BE NO EXCEPTIONS.

During practice and competition, contestants cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information from anyone other than another confirmed contestant in the tournament. Co-anglers shall not share any information they may have received from their previous day(s) Pro with any other Pro contestant. This is to include information obtained during the practice period. Quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Periscope, set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are NOT publicly available sources.

Co-anglers that have practiced on their own or have local knowledge of the tournament waters, may share their spot (s) with a Pro, but once that area is shown to that Pro, the water *then* becomes that pro for the remainder of the tournament. Pro contestants are allowed to share baits, tackle, and fishing information with other confirmed BAMTT contestants. BAMTT encourages Pro contestants to share information and assist Co-anglers. In the event unsolicited information is offered to a contestant in any fashion, constants must cease and discontinue immediately. If there are any questions about potential infractions, contestants should notify the Tournament director within 30 minutes after the last flight checks in.

Unless otherwise approved by the tournament director, contestants are expected to compete every day for which they are qualified; failure to do so may result in fines and ineligibility to compete in future BAMTT tournaments.

## 12. FISHABLE WATERS:

Fishable tournament waters will be determined and announced at the pre-tournament meeting by the tournament director for each BAMTT event. Unless otherwise announced by the tournament director, no fishing is allowed inside the host marina or within 50 yards of any operating gas pump/dock. As a courtesy, anglers must refrain from fishing within 50 feet of another competitor's boat without verbal consent. A safe and courteous distance of 50 feet should be maintained when trolling motors are in use. Boats may fish anywhere except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" as posted by local, State or Federal officials, or as posted on the Tournament Information page or announced by the Tournament director during the pre-tournament meeting. After the tournament begins, fishing in tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours.

Once the off-limits period begins, and all the way through the conclusion of the tournament, contestants may not cut, dig, or remove obstructions requiring the use of any tools to access any waterways. Nor shall contestants have non-contestants cut, dig, or remove obstructions during the off-limits period and all the way through the conclusions of the tournament to access any waterways. Contestants may not receive the assistance of another boat, person, or apparatus (push poles are the exception) to access any waterways. Contestant's boats must access fishable water under its own power and only with the assistance of the Pro and Co-anglers assigned to that boat. All angling must be done from within the boat. Any areas in question must be brought to the attention of the tournament director prior to or during the pre-tournament meeting so that they can be clarified and be announced in the meeting for all to hear. Contestants must only fish in areas that are accessible by BAMTT staff, media, and camera personnel or as deemed by the tournament director. If contestants have questions regarding what areas are accessible, they must address it with the tournament director before or during the pre-tournament meeting. Tournament officials reserve the right to restrict or enhance tournament waters. Federal, state, and local lake laws and rules must be obeyed at all times and shall supersede BAMTT rules when in conflict.



### 13. NON-SHARED WEIGHT FORMAT:

Both Pro and Co-anglers are responsible for their own fish. The Co-angler must buoy or tag each of their fish for identification before placing them in their designated live well. A contestant must not allow any bass caught by him/her to be scored by another contestant. In such a case, both contestants will be disqualified from the tournament and from all future tournaments conducted by BAMTT.

COMPETITION DAYS 1 & 2: BAMTT Pro/Am tournaments will span three (3) consecutive days with the full field of Pros and Co-anglers participating on days one and two. For events which have 100 or more Pro and/or Co-anglers, the top 20 Pros and Co-anglers will advance to the final day. Events which have less than 100 Pro and/or Co-anglers, BAMTT will establish the day three advancement "cut line" at the "money or last check line." i.e., an event which has 95 Pro and/or Co-anglers will advance nineteen Pros and nineteen Co-anglers. An event which has 80 Pro and/or Co-anglers will advance sixteen Pros and sixteen Co-anglers, etc. The established "cut line" will be announced at the pre-tournament meeting.

All qualifying Pro and Co-anglers who advance to day 3 are REQUIRED to attend a mandatory meeting at the weigh-in trailer immediately following the conclusion of the Day 2 weigh-ins. NO EXCEPTIONS! Any angler(s) not present for the mandatory meeting will automatically be replaced in the rankings with the next angler in the standings. (example if one angler is not present the 11<sup>th</sup> place angler would then advance to the top ten and the angler not present would move to the 11<sup>th</sup> place spot) Contestants may not fish, scout, or practice at any time after they have weighed their catch in for each day.

### 14. COMPETITION DAY 3:

The top 20, (or established cut line number) of Pros and Co-anglers will advance to Championship Day 3. Pro and Co-anglers will be paired based on their final standings after the first 2 days of competition, i.e., 1st place Pro will be paired on day 3 with the 1st place Co-angler; 2nd place Pro will be paired with the 2nd place Co-angler, etc. through the remainder of the field for day 3.

Contestants who qualify within the top 20 (or established cut line), and cannot participate for Day 3, will automatically be moved to one place in the standings below the established "cut line" and will receive those points and awards associated with their new placement/finish, and is also considered withdrawn from the event. The next place in the event standings will advance to Championship Day 3 accordingly. BAMTT will work down the event standings list to ensure there are an adequate number of anglers who should advance to the Day 3 competition.

### 15. OTHER EQUIPMENT/RESTRICTIONS:

- a) Any other special rule(s) as deemed by the tournament director and announced prior to blastoff.

- b) BAMTT allows the use of nets.
- c) No underwater cameras will be allowed during tournament days; however, they may be used during the official practice period.
- d) Binoculars are not allowed during the official practice period or during competition days.
- e) Contestants must have a valid fishing license for all tournament waters they are fishing in.
- f) No contestant may buy or barter fishing locations or information from anyone for use during any competition day.
- g) Contestants renting boat slips may launch boats and proceed immediately to their slip location during competition days.
- h) Testing of engines on tournament waters during the off-limits period or after the weigh-ins during competition days is not permitted unless first approved by the tournament director.
- i) Scouting, pre-fishing, or other “practice” related activities prior to or after weigh-ins is not allowed once the tournament has begun.
- j) After the off-limits period has begun, and throughout the tournament, a contestant may not enter or dive in tournament waters; also known as skin or scuba diving.
- k) During the official competition days of the tournament, a contestant may not use a CB radio, VHF marine band radio, cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to communicate with others by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency, or to deal with urgent matters. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine-band weather information.
- l) Co-anglers are not allowed to use or carry GPS systems or use cell phones during competition to track or locate fishing locations.
- m) In all cases where communications are necessary or required by a contestant, the tournament director must be notified prior. A phone call, voicemail or text message to the tournament director constitutes such notification.
- n) Contestants may call lockmasters for the purpose of discussing lock or locking issues only.
- o) BAMTT tournament officials must be granted access to the contestant’s boat at any time during the open practice period and/or competition days. Failure to grant such access may result in a contestant being disqualified or issued other sanctions.
- p) Nothing may be placed into the water to attract baitfish, or any other forage type. This includes, but is not limited to structure, brush piles, dog food, fish habitat, bait balls or any substance that would enhance, attract, or hold fish in a particular area.

## 16. PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE:

Protests and/or alleged rule violations are to be made verbally to the Tournament director, and then in writing by the witness within 30 minutes after the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day. BAMTT reserves the right to consider rule violations reported or discovered after a tournament has ended and may assess penalties to contestants for future events, including denying entry to compete. If there is a question with regards to verifying the protest, the witness may be subject to a truth verification test and agree to testify in a court of law to defend their claim if necessary.

## 17. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST:

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament as well as other sanctions being issued, to include, but not limited to denial of future BAMTT events or loss of fees/dues. Truth verification tests will be used at BAMTT's sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by BAMTT.

## 18. DISQUALIFICATION SUSPENSION:

As deemed by the tournament director, any angler who has been disqualified, suspended, or has received any other disciplinary action from any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for disqualification and/or being denied participation in BAMTT events.

## 19. PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING:

There will be an in-person pre-tournament meeting prior to each BAMTT event. It is each contestant's responsibility to check the schedule of events for meeting time and location and/or obtain meeting time and location from the BAMTT tournament director or officials. Each contestant must check-in in person with official BAMTT staff at the meeting. Contestants failing to check-in in person during the pre-tournament meeting may result in being denied participation in the event, fines or other sanctions being issued, and entry fees forfeited. Any contestant who has not contacted the BAMTT tournament director 15 minutes prior to the pre-tournament meeting, may be disqualified from participating in the tournament and their entry fees forfeited.

In the event of an emergency or due to a BAMTT sponsor obligation, contestants may request permission from the tournament director to be excused from the meeting and pay a \$50 fee (per event). Regardless of whether a contestant attends the meeting or not, all contestants are responsible for adhering to all announcements made during the pre-tournament meeting.

## 20. SAFETY:

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from the time of boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with a factory-installed emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body with a standard-length, factory tether whenever the combustion engine is running. Pro and Co-anglers may fish and charge batteries using an onboard charger by letting the combustion engine idle in neutral only if the boat is equipped with a certified and functioning wireless ignition-shutoff device and everyone in the boat is wearing a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. All individuals must be seated, and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever the combustion engine is on and it is underway., No pets are permitted in boats during tournament hours. Documented service animals may be permitted with prior approval from the tournament director.

IN THE EVENT OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY, CONTESTANTS SHOULD CALL 911 FIRST AND ONCE SAFE, NOTIFY TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is imminent, however must stay within sight of each other. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of a tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the contestants. Contestants involved in boating accidents and/or safety incidents may be required to complete a BoatUS Foundation boating safety course before participating in future BAMTT tournaments. A free course for each state is available at [boatus.org](http://boatus.org).

## 21. ANGLER CODE OF CONDUCT & SPORTSMANSHIP:

Contestants participating in any BAMTT event shall abide by this code of conduct and the applicable rules for the event in which they are participating. Contestants shall, always, conduct themselves in a professional manner and that will not reflect unfavorably on BAMTT, its members, sponsors, events, or representatives. It is the obligation of contestants to refrain from public comments that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of BAMTT tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow contestants and/or the BAMTT organization. Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of BAMTT, BAMTT officials or sponsors shall be considered unacceptable conduct and may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to, permanent removal from all future BAMTT events. Contestants shall refrain from arguing, yelling, demeaning, using profanity, or challenging any tournament official. Anglers will be notified of any known rules infractions at the moment they are discovered or as soon as they are ruled upon by the tournament director. Any angler who violates any portion of the Angler Code of Conduct may be subject to sanctions including, but not limited to, permanent disqualification from the current event and/or future BAMTT

events. All contestants are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Contestants are responsible for research of fishing and boating regulations for the waters they are fishing.

## 22. LOGOS AND/OR SIGNAGE:

Contestants are encouraged to wear their own clothing which may bear patches, logos and other signage promoting the angler's sponsors. BAMTT may, however, restrict the use of certain patches, logos, signage, etc. which are, in BAMTT's sole judgment, display poor taste or are deemed offensive. BAMTT will provide as much advance notice as possible to the contestants in such instances. Contestants are encouraged to wear BAMTT's logo on their tournament jerseys and decals on their boats. (Decals will be provided by BAMTT)

## 23. MEDIA:

All participants of a BAMTT event are required to cooperate with the media personnel that cover the event. Contestants do not have the option of not being filmed or interviewed during the official event days. BAMTT personnel must be granted access to film and be able to board any contestants boat at will. Any act deemed by BAMTT officials to have the intention of preventing media coverage will result in disqualification from the event. Any questions regarding media coverage/access can be brought to the tournament director for clarification. Anytime cameras are present or when contestants are specifically being filmed, they are encouraged to wear a tournament jersey. In the cases where contestants do not have a tournament jersey of their own, BAMTT will provide a BAMTT jersey to the contestant. Though not mandatory BAMTT may opt to film only anglers who wear proper attire.

## 24. ALCOHOL, DRUGS AND TOBACCO:

Use of alcohol, marijuana, or other illegal drugs by any contestant during the open practice or tournament hours will not be permitted and shall be cause for automatic disqualification. Any contestant(s) deemed under the influence by the tournament director may be disqualified from competition. If deemed by the tournament director, any contestant(s) convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for disqualification and/or participation in BAMTT events. Contestants shall refrain from using tobacco and/or vaping products during morning blastoff, weigh-ins and while cameras are present. Violators are subject to fines and/or other sanctions as deemed by the tournament director.

## 25. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:

Only artificial lures and biodegradable artificial lures may be used. No “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted during open practice and competition hours, except for pork strips or rinds. Only ONE (1) casting, spin casting or spinning rod and reel may be used at any one time. Other rigs as specified above may be in boats ready for use; however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. Co-anglers may carry up to eight (8) fishing rods.

## 26. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner on each day of competition. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella type rigs are limited to having a maximum of five wires, five spinners, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail. Receiving, accepting, or taking of fish from another person during tournament hours is strictly prohibited. Stringers, ropes, caging, barrels, or use of any other type of device to hold fish with the intent of catching or utilizing them to count for your or anyone else’s daily catch is prohibited. Adding weight in any way to alter the natural state of any fish caught is prohibited. Moving or “stocking” fish from one location to another is prohibited. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their catch disqualified. When visually/sight fishing a bed or for bedding bass, to be counted as a legal fish, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked.

During competition hours/days, contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days.

Contestants must always leave the official launch/blastoff site and return to the check-in point by boat. Contestants must always remain in the boat except in case of an emergency. In the event a boat breaks down and needs to be towed back to the check-in location/marina, both anglers must remain in the boat while it is being towed by water.

## 27. BOAT AND MOTOR:

For the safety of all contestants during open practice and competition, all boats must be a minimum of 16 feet in length, must be propeller driven and equipped with an approved operable ignition kill switch and lanyard. The maximum horsepower for all outboard motorboats used in BAMTT tournament events will not exceed 300 hp or the limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Each boat must have a U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer. Changing or altering standard factory parts of a contestant’s engine to increase the horsepower over the factory horsepower rating is forbidden and will result in disqualification. The exception to the manufacturers lanyard is a factory or dealer installed Mercury 1st Mate wireless MOB system. BAMTT recognizes this

as an alternative kill switch system to the lanyard. No jet-propelled boats. No “barges” or similar craft will be permitted. No boat equipped with “stick steering” shall be permitted. “Stick steering” shall be as defined by the Tournament director.

Standing on the outboard engine or seats while fishing is not allowed. An electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. However, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

All bladder and/or other auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by a manufacturer’s authorized dealer are permitted. No portable gas tanks or containers capable of holding gasoline can be placed anywhere on the tournament waters or shoreline for use by any tournament contestant. Gas must be purchased from a retail gas station.

## 28. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:

During open practice and competition hours, every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment as well as a functional bilge pump. During open competition, every boat must have livewell space properly aerated to adequately maintain a limit catch of bass for two contestants. BAMTT recommends live wells be maintained at full level and aerators / recirculators on manual. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. Upon request, Pros must provide a back seat for Co-anglers each competition day. Pros are required to make one dry storage compartment available to Co-anglers as well as provide a Co-angler ample space to ice food and drinks.

## 29. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:

Prior to each day’s start, each boat MUST be inspected by a tournament official. Pros will be assigned a boat and flight number according to his/her take off position on Day 1. This number will remain with the Pro angler throughout Days 1 and 2. The blastoff order will be reversed on Day 2. New boat numbers will be assigned for Day 3. All boat numbers will be collected when each boat checks in after each day of fishing.

## 30. BOAT OPERATION AND EXPENSE:

During competition Pros may only fish/cast from the front deck. Pros may momentarily enter the seated/lower area while fishing as long as they are not utilizing this area as a primary fishing location/platform. Co-anglers may only fish/cast from the back deck or the lower passenger side seated position. Once a fish is hooked by either contestant, both contestants may move freely around the boat to land that hooked fish. If tournament officials determine a Pro has operated the boat in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Co-angler, they shall be disqualified. If tournament officials determine a Co-angler has

engaged in conduct in such a manner as to unfairly handicap their Pro, they shall be disqualified. At no time may a Pro contestant request/insinuate that the Co-angler not fish. Pros are expected to have one boat compartment empty so as Co anglers can store their gear or tackle. Co-anglers are expected to share/contribute a fair amount to the daily boat operating expenses with the Pro contestant.

### 31. CO-ANGLER BOAT OPERATION:

Co-anglers are allowed to drive a Pro's boat in cases of an emergency or with permission from tournament officials. Co-anglers may drive a Pro's boat to help load and unload boats from trailers.

### 32. RESTROOM BREAKS:

In the event of a needed restroom break, partners are allowed to leave the boat upon which all fishing must cease until partners are back together in the boat.

### 33. REPORTING AN EMERGENCY OR BREAKDOWN:

In the event of a medical emergency, contestants should call 911 first and then notify the tournament director immediately afterwards. When contacting a tournament official by phone or other means to report an emergency, contestants must cease fishing at this point and their catch must be verified by a tournament official to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency is resolved and enough time is left for the contestant to resume fishing, a RESTART may be allowed, and the contestant may continue, and their catch may be counted. This applies only to emergency situations as determined by the Tournament director or their designee.

In the event a boat breaks down during tournament competition/hours, Pro anglers should notify the tournament director immediately to inform them of the situation. If a Pro's boat needs to be towed back to the check-in point or marina, both anglers shall remain in the boat that is being towed by water. Both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty with the exception for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules.

If a boat breaks down and is able to get assistance of another Pro contestant to transport the paired contestants and their daily catch to the host marina or check in point, the Pro angler(s) must notify the tournament director immediately to inform them of the situation. If the broken-down boat must be left behind, it must first be properly secured and stationary. If unable to secure the broken-down boat the pro may stay with the boat while the Co angler returns to the weigh in with both the Pro's and Co's catch. Before the paired anglers of the broken-down boat can enter another tournament contestant's boat, both the Pro and Co-angler's fish must be adequately marked/tagged to provide clear distinction of



each individual's catch to the tournament director. Once competitors of the broken-down boat board another boat they may not continue to fish or aid anyone who is fishing in the event. Both contestants' catches may be counted without a penalty with the exception for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules.

Unless approved by the tournament director, towing boats on trailers during tournament hours is prohibited. When paired Pro and Co contestant's blastoff at the beginning of the day, they must stay together and within sight of each other and their catch throughout the day except in case of emergency or bathroom breaks.

#### 34. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS:

There shall be only one official location for boat-checks in the morning, and one official check-in site in the afternoon. Details and locations of the boat-check and check-in locations will be designated and announced at the pre-tournament meeting and on the online schedule of events. Failure to go through boat-check and blastoff in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in site in the afternoon will result in disqualification for that day. At the time of blastoff, all contestants and their boats must be in full conformity with all rules set forth herein and/or by the tournament director. Operational navigation lights must be illuminated during blastoff and must remain on until the first stop of each competitive day. Contestants who do not display operational navigation lights will be moved to the end of the blastoff line. Their check-in time will remain the same.

All boats must check-in at the designated check-in location by their pre-assigned check-in time. At check-in, all boats shall identify themselves to the BAMTT official, by identifying their boat number, and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Contestants who are not at the official check-in site at or before their assigned check-in time, shall be penalized at the rate of one (1) pound per minute they are late, up to 15 minutes where at which time they will be disqualified for that day. Any late penalties will be deducted from both Pro and Co-angler's total weight of his/her catch for the day and/or be deducted from the weight of a "big bass" entry/submission. It is the responsibility of each pairing (Pro and Co) to confirm check-in times each day. It is the responsibility of Pro anglers to ensure that they are at the check-in site at or before their assigned check-in time. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case shall a contestant be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, contestants will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. Contestants may not cull or discard any fish in their possession once they have checked in at the check-in point.

#### 35. TIME KEEPING:

Once the practice period begins, the official timekeeper for a tournament is the tournament director or a designee. The official time keeping rule shall apply: Until the official

tournament clock reads the following minute, contestants are not considered late for that minute in question, i.e., 3:00:59 is not considered late for a 3:00:00 check-in time. 3:01:00 is considered one minute late for a 3:00:00 check-in time, etc. During each blastoff, the tournament director will announce the tournament's official time.

### 36. SCORING:

Scoring is determined by the total pounds and weight fractions of each contestant's catch during each tournament. Co-anglers must mark each of their fish for identification before placing them in their designated livewell. Cull tags or clips are allowed. Puncture type cull rings/tags are NOT allowed in any BAMTT event. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit will be five bass. After possessing the daily limit, contestants must cull immediately upon their next catch. Pros and/or Co-anglers possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce his/her catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Anglers possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. Bass are considered in possession once placed in the boat and fishing or travel has resumed. Any angler who possesses over the allowed limit after the final check in shall be disqualified. Unless otherwise announced by the tournament director, the minimum length limit for bass will be 13 inches with mouth closed on a flat board. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized the loss of any short fish and the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. All anglers must bring to the weigh-in ALL fish that they have in their possession after check-in. If an angler has more than the 5 fish limit, they will be disqualified from the day's event and their total weight for the day will be zero. For each legal dead fish presented to weigh-in officials, the contestant shall be penalized a deduction of 0.25 pounds per dead fish from their total daily weight. Dead fish determinations will be made by BAMTT officials. Contestants will not argue, yell, demean, use profanity, or be disrespectful in any way toward this ruling. The tournament director or their designee shall have sole authority for assessing penalties.

Only bass as described above which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line with the tail pinch or swished shall be weighed. Penalties shall be deducted from the total score of the contestant. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered may be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. Once contestants are in the bump tanks, they may not return to a boat to retrieve a bass mistakenly left behind. Each contestant's catch must be presented in official weigh-in bags only. These specially designed bags which increase a fish's survival rate will be furnished by BAMTT staff. Unless otherwise instructed by the tournament director, after a contestant's daily catch is weighed, it must be turned over to BAMTT officials for care and release. Based on the combined weight from days one and two, the top 20 Pros and Co's will compete on day three. Winners on day 3 are determined by the heaviest combined weight from days one, two and three. Plaques and trophies will be awarded to the top five places.

### 37. BIG FISH:

Each contestant will automatically be entered into the big fish option. While presenting their fish for weighing, anglers must notify tournament officials if they wish to have a fish weighed for Big Fish consideration. Big Fish format and payouts will be announced by the tournament director during the pre-tournament meeting. No dead fish can be eligible or considered for Big Bass awards or prizes. In the case where two contestants are tied with the weight of a Big Fish, BAMTT will combine the payout for those places and divide them equally by the number of tied contestants. There will be one big fish paid out each day for the pro and co. An overall trophy will go the largest fish of the event for the pro and co. In the case of a tie, the contestant with the higher weight will receive the big fish trophy. If this is still a tie, a coin flip will determine who receives the big fish trophy.

### 38. AOY POINT SYSTEM:

A one point per place system will be used for each BAMTT event. Points for each event will be based on a 200-point scale. 200 points are awarded to the winner of each event; 199 points to 2nd place; 198 points to 3rd place, etc. until the end of the field or points run out. All registered contestants shall also receive an additional 50 "participation" points.

For example:

Winner receives 200 points + 50 participation points = 250 points.

2nd place receives 199 points + 50 participation points = 249 points.

3rd place receives 198 points + 50 participation points = 248 points, etc.

Balance of field will receive increments of one point each until the end of the field or points run out. All participants who receive/earn zero points for their overall finish will receive 50 participation points each. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined as follows: (1) largest single day's weight, (2) if the tie is not broken, largest number of legal fish weighed during competition, (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition, (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the AOY standings. If the tie is still not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie and monetary prizes for each contestant will be awarded in equal amounts. Angler of the Year points will be awarded for the place of the tied position and each contestant will be awarded equal points. End of year point tiebreakers shall be total weights from full field days for season.

### 39. Pro/Am INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP:

To qualify for the Pro/Am Invitational Championship-

Pro and Co-anglers must participate in a minimum of four BAMTT Pro/Am events. The top 20\*\*\* Pro and Co-anglers based on the Angler of the Year (AOY) points will receive an

invitation to the Invitational Championship at the end of the season. Qualifications for being invited to the Championship are as follows:

Win and you are in. Contestants who win any regular season event and participate in 4 events for that season, will automatically qualify for the Championship for that season.

The previous year's Championship winners in both the Pro and Co-angler division will automatically qualify for the following year's championship in each respected division.

Those two contestants must participate in 4 regular season events in the following season to exercise their qualification.

BAMTT reserves the right to work down the AOY list to ensure a full field at the Championship provided those contestants participated in 4 regular season BAMTT events.

If a regular season event must be cancelled and cannot be rescheduled in that season, BAMTT will use the current AOY standings to determine qualifiers for the championship. Under this criterion, BAMTT may amend any previously written qualification rules to adapt to any scheduling, permitting, federal, state, city, or county restrictions/requests.

\*\*\* BAMTT reserves the right to invite sponsor exemptions for the Invitational Championship, provided those contestants participated in 4 regular season BAMTT events.

#### 40. CHAMPIONSHIP TIES:

In the event there is a tie in the Co-angler division, the tiebreaker will be determined as follows: (1) largest single day's weight, (2) if the tie is not broken, largest number of legal fish weighed during competition, (3) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the largest number of legal live fish weighed during competition, (4) if the tie is not broken, the next tiebreaker will be the AOY standings. If the tie is still not broken by applying the foregoing procedures, the tie will remain a tie and monetary prizes for each contestant will be awarded in equal amounts.

In the event there is a tie in the Pro division, the tournament director will schedule and coordinate a sudden death fish off. The details and parameters of the sudden death fish off will be determined at tournament director's discretion. All BAMTT rules apply during the sudden death fish off.