



2014
TOURNAMENT RULES

The SA Bass Cast-for-Cash bass angling Tournament Trail provides a fair and equal playing field for newcomers, the up-and-comers as well as established tournament bass anglers. What you put in, you get out!

Participation is open to all bass boat anglers irrespective of race, gender, colour or creed.

These rules are intended to further the best interests of bass angling in general and not to benefit any individual or competitor.

These rules will remain unchanged during this season (except under extreme conditions).

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to SA BASS. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

TOURNAMENT RULES:

1. GENERAL

- a. All anglers enter the Cast-for-Cash Tournament Trail voluntarily and at their own risk.
- b. The Cast-for-Cash tournament organisers, tournament sponsors, SA BASS and staff, BB Print and its proprietors and all resort proprietors and their employees at all levels, are indemnified from any personal liabilities whatsoever that may be incurred by any person while traveling to, or from, or during the tournament.
- c. The emphasis is on team, rather than individual, competition.
- d. A team consists of maximum two persons on one boat. (A team may however consist of just one person).
- e. No angler under the age of 16 is allowed to participate, unless accompanied by an adult.

2. DATES & VENUES

- a. The 2014 season will be from January to October 2014.
- b. The venue for each competition will be announced at the preceding month's captains meeting and on our website www.sabass.com
- c. In the event of a clash of dates or venues with other divisions of the Cast-for-Cash, the final decision will rest with the Cast-for-Cash organisers if a change of date or venue is required. Cast-for-Cash organisers cannot be held responsible if dates and venues need to be changed because of influences beyond their control.
- d. At the discretion of the tournament organiser, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- e. There is no cut-off date for Cast-for-Cash events during 2014.

3. COMPETITION TIMES

- a. **06:00** Entry and Registration
- b. No contestant may be on tournament waters for the purpose of locating fish or testing boats or equipment or be on potential fishing waters after the opening of registration except during tournament hours.
- c. **06:30** Live-well check followed by captains meeting (at least one member of each team must be present). It is the responsibility of every team to ensure their live-wells have been checked by a tournament official prior to the commencement of the tournament.
- d. There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check in and checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification.

- e. **Start of competition:** At organiser's discretion.
- f. **Late entries:** are allowed, but registration will take place after the official start, and will only be allowed to start after their live-wells have been checked.
- g. All fishing must cease upon check-in.
- h. **Check-in:** All tags must be returned and be back on the board at the weigh station by the time announced at the captains meeting. Even though a team's bag could have been weighed but their tag is not on the board at this time, the team will be deemed late and their catch will be disqualified.
- i. **Prize giving:** Follows immediately after the results are known and written complaints received have been sorted out.

4. REGISTRATION

- a. There is NO pre-registration for the Cast-for-Cash tournament - all teams enter and pay at the venue.
- b. The Cast-for-Cash entry fee is **R400.00** per team per tournament and a team consists of maximum 2 (two) persons, (regardless if the team consists of only one angler), payable only in CASH at the registration point, on the day of the tournament. **NO CHEQUES or CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**
- c. Entries must be made on the official entry form, which will be available at the registration point, and on our web site. (Please write clearly!). Teams are requested to complete their registration forms prior to the event to ensure a speedy registration process for all.
- d. The team name that is registered for the first time in a season is the official team for the duration of the particular season but can be changed within reason.
- e. During the season, an original team member may take on a new partner if one of the original team members cannot participate.

6. STARTING PROCEDURES

- a. Starting positions will be randomly drawn out of a hat ranging on a first come first serve basis by competitors.
- b. Competitors are allowed to re-draw, only if:
 - i. the first tag is put back into the bag,
 - ii. and a next number drawn.

(Please note): The second number drawn will be final and valid for the day.
- c. No team will be allowed to register another team.
- d. In the interests of safety, a single boat start will be conducted, determined by the order of entry. Teams will only be allowed to set off once the team

number is called and a GREEN flag has been raised. No team may set off whilst the RED flag is raised. Teams failing to comply with the starting procedure will be disqualified immediately and no tournament entry fees will be refunded.

7. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS

- a. All boats participating must be fitted with a minimum of 15hp (fifteen horsepower) outboard engine, must be propeller driven and be a minimum of 4 meter in length.
- b. Life-jackets must be worn any time the boat is at more than idle speed.
- c. All boats should be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that should be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation.

8. BOAT OPERATION

- a. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.
- b. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat.
- c. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in:
 - i. By both partners remaining in their boat and being towed, or
 - ii. By one partner boarding the boat of another tournament contestant with their entire catch kept in a weigh bag.
- d. Under these two conditions the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch.
- e. A 100 meter radius from the weigh station must be treated as a no-wake zone.
- f. Boats are not allowed to beach directly at the release point. A 1000 gram penalty will be deducted from a team's bag weight, for teams who do not comply.
- g. Tournament officials reserve the right to board any participating boat before, during or after the tournament.

9. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- a. All angling must be conducted from the boat.
- b. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only one wet rod with one main

line and one lure / bait per angler at any given time is allowed. Rigs like the Double rig or Alabama rig where multiple lures / baits are attached to one main line are not allowed.

- c. No trolling using the main motor or trolling motor is permitted, and the rod must be hand held (no rod holder may be used).
- d. Only artificial and bio-degradable lures as well as pork trailers are permitted. Fish are not to be jigged

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- a. Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local or provincial officials or within 45 meter of a competitor's boat.

11. LIVE FISH

- a. The Cast-for-Cash Tournament Trail is a catch, weigh and release event. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live-well of some sort. SA BASS and all its sponsors recommend the use of live-well additives that promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat.
(No stringers or keep nets are allowed).

12. WEIGH-IN SPECIFICATIONS

- a. The bag limit is FIVE bass per team, per day, on the boat at any one time. There is no minimum size limit on bass allowed to be weighed during a Cast-for-Cash event.
- b. No fish may be brought lip-landed to the scale. Any fish presented for weigh in must be brought in a weigh bag filled with water.
- c. All fish are weighed together to determine the total bag weight. (No points per fish)
- d. 1000 gram will be deducted from the total bag weight for each dead fish presented for weigh-in, as decided upon by the weigh master alone.
- e. It is the team's responsibility to nominate their heaviest fish for the day's heaviest fish prize.
- f. No culling of fish at the weigh station is allowed.

13. PRIZE MONEY

- a. Prize money is allocated only to teams and not individuals.
- b. In the event of a tie, the teams will share the prize money of the tied position for which they tied, plus the position immediately below that.
- c. Should the purse money be affected in any criminal way whatsoever, tournament organisers, tournament sponsors, SA BASS and staff, BB Print

and its proprietors and their employees at all levels, will not be held liable for any compensation.

- d. In the event that a portion of, or total amount, of the prize money is not won, the residual funds will be added to the total prize money pool for the following Champion-of-Champions Tournament.
- e. Cast-for-Cash Tournament Trail prizes consist of:
 - i. Five Heaviest Bag prizes
 - ii. One Heaviest Fish prize
 - iii. Cash Lucky Draws depending on the number of teams entered.

14. CHAMPIONS-of-CHAMPIONS

- a. **Date:** 25 / 26 October 2014 at a venue to be announced at the end of July 2014.
- b. Participation at the Champion-of-Champions is by invitation only.
- c. A Grand Prix system will be used to determine the end of season points standing, as follows: the winner of each monthly tournament receives 100 points with following positions receiving points on a decreasing scale (ie: 99 for 2nd, 98 for 3rd, 97 for 4th and so on). There is no minimum limit on how many events teams must attend to qualify for the Champion-of-Champions event.
- d. Each team will receive ten (10) additional attendance points for each tournament attended during the season and these attendance points will contribute to the Champion-of-Champions final qualification points.
- e. Thereafter, the top 30% teams on the final log in each region after a full season will be invited to fish the Champion-of-Champions. (Meaning that if there are 100 teams on the log, the top 30 teams in that region qualify to fish the Champion-of-Champions)
- f. All teams who are invited to the 2014 Champion-of-Champions event and who have confirmed their participation are required to pay the tournament registration no later than Friday, 10 October 2014.
- g. There is no cut off period prior to the Champion-of-Champions event.
- h. Prize money:
 - i. Three Heaviest Bag prizes
 - ii. Regional Bonuses
 - iii. Cash Lucky Draws
 - iv. Trophies
 - 1. Editor's Cup Floating Trophy for the Champion-of-Champions 1st place
 - 2. Grand Prix points winners

15. RIGHT OF ADMISSION

Right of admission is reserved - the Cast-for-Cash Tournament Trail is a showcase for bass angling! All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to SA Bass, SA Bass' sponsors, the sport of fishing and SA Bass' efforts to promote the sport examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the official rules for the Cast-for-Cash Tournament Trail.

16. SPORTSMANSHIP

- a. No angler may hand to, or exchange, any article with any other boat and, excepting in an emergency situation, may not leave the boat during the fishing session.
- b. Abuse of alcohol or mind-altering substances are not allowed during tournament hours, that is from opening registration until prize giving is done on the day, and can result in suspension / disqualification from any tournament or fishing organization.
- c. Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards, SA Bass shall have the right to disqualify a team for the day's tournament or even suspension for the rest of the season. Fines may be imposed and any fines paid will be added to the prize money of that day.
- d. Any complaint or objection must be lodged, in writing, to the tournament organiser within 10 minutes of the official check-in time for the day. All disputes will be handled and finalised immediately after each leg. The organisers may at their discretion co-opt persons to assist in settling disputes.

17. ENDORSEMENTS

No competitor may offer publicity, guaranteed or incidental, in SA Bass magazine in exchange for sponsorship. Such dealings must be made and approved by the publisher of SA Bass magazine.

Sponsorships that are brought in by participants will entitle them to a percentage of commission agreed to by SA BASS.

18. TRUTH VERIFICATION

Contestants agree to submit, by their signature on the

official tournament entry form, to a polygraph examination and abide by its conclusion. All costs for such a polygraph test will be for the competitor's account, despite the outcome. Failure to pass the examination will result in disqualification for the rest of the season. Polygraphs will be used at SA Bass' sole discretion and the decision based on the findings will be made solely by SA Bass.