

**Register to host an event or register to fish an event**  
**[bassfederation.com](http://bassfederation.com) - 580.765.9031- [dreamteam@bassfederation.com](mailto:dreamteam@bassfederation.com)**



**Official Dream Team Tournament Entry Form and Rules 2012:** The following rules governing the TBF Dream Team Rallies will remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by The Bass Federation, Inc., herein after (TBF). **All TBF Dream Team qualifying events MUST follow and use this same set of rules, event hosts agree to abide by and use these rules.** Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Officials. We reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone for any reason. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Officials may impose such sanctions, as deemed appropriate including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the TBF National Tournament Officials shall be final in all matters.

**1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY:** These events are open only to TBF Members. **However, You may join TBF at any time or as a part of your tournament registration.** TBF Dream Team Rally events are strictly **TEAM tournaments open to all TBF members.** Some of these events may be defined as "specialty" team rallies. (*Guy/Gal only or Adult /Youth or College or over 55 only, etc as defined by demand and the Rally host.*) Regardless, all teams must consist of **2 person teams only. No one is allowed to compete alone.** Any competitor under the age of 18 must submit signature of permission from a parent of legal guardian over 18 years of age on the entry form and waiver. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters to be fished. **During the official Off-limits, Practice, & Competition Days of any TBF Dream Team Rally event no contestant may operate a boat unless that contestant has proof of a liability insurance policy with coverage in reasonable amounts in force, that cover the event dates. PROOF OF INSURANCE MUST BE WITH THE BOAT BEING USED AND MUST COVER THE COMPETITOR USING THAT BOAT. RANDOM CHECKS WILL BE CONDUCTED.** PROPERLY COMPLETED AND EXECUTED REGISTRATION & OFFICIAL ENTRY DOCUMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY TBF BEFORE THE EVENT DEADLINE. Tournament Officials reserves the right to discontinue or extend the acceptance of applications prior to or after this deadline. Each contestant also agrees to use while at the event any and all official products and equipment so specified and/or provided by TBF.

**2. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE & OFF-LIMITS :** The tournament lake MAY have an off-limits period as defined by the event host. All competitors must know and observe these dates which will be published in the tournament registration document. **During any OFF-LIMITS or any official PRACTICE DAY of a TBF Dream Team Rally event, A COMPETITOR MAY NOT SEEK THE ASSISTANCE OR ADVICE OF ANYONE FOR THE PURPOSES OF LOCATING OR CATCHING BASS, NOR ENTER THE TOURNAMENT WATERS WITH ANYONE WHO IS NOT A CONTESTANT IN THE EVENT.** During the official practice and during the tournament, a competitor may not "SKIN DIVE" or "SCUBA DIVE" on the tournament waters. During the tournament a competitor may not use a CB radio, a VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contestants are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in an emergency. If so equipped, contestants may listen to marine band weather information. **EACH CONTESTANT AGREES TO REPORT TO TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS ANY VIOLATION OR INFRACTION OF THESE TOURNAMENT RULES. THE FAILURE TO REPORT VIOLATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO VIOLATE THESE RULES, FALSE VERIFICATION OF WEIGH-IN SLIPS OR WEIGHING IN OR ATTEMPTING TO WEIGH-IN ANY ILLEGAL FISH WILL BE CAUSE FOR DISQUALIFICATION.**

**3. TRUTH VERIFICATION TESTS:** As a participant in any TBF sanctioned event you agree to submit, by your registration into the event and/or signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination by a qualified examiner and to abide by its conclusion. **At any state or local level sanctioned TBF Dream Team Rally** these tests may not only be given "for cause" but **WILL** be scheduled randomly by TBF National Office at different events unannounced. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification. Additionally, at all **Nationally conducted** TBF Dream Team Rally events truth verification tests **will be given "For Cause" and random test WILL** be given **EVERY DAY** of multi-day National Championship event. Failure to pass any examination will result in disqualification. The administration and interpretation of the truth verification test shall be the sole responsibility of TBF and our agent(s), and shall be used (or not used) at TBF's sole discretion. Without limiting anything herein, TBF shall have sole discretion to select the place at which such a truth verification test shall be administered, the individual who administers such a truth verification test, and the scope of the questions which may be asked during such test. The participant shall be available, at their own expense, at the location selected by TBF and shall cooperate in all respects with the examination.

**3. RALLY TOURNAMENT FORMAT, REGISTRATION AND PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING AND PAYOUTS:** All state or local events must consist of AT LEAST 25 boats\teams MINIMUM to advance a team to the TBF Dream Team Championship Rally. There is no maximum. Prize structure is the same nationwide and will be paid out based on every 25th team entered. (1-25, 50, 75, 100, etc.) Three (3) places will be paid on-site for each 25<sup>th</sup> team entered as well as 2 big fish awards for any event with 25 boats or more.. One (1) Team for each 25 Teams entered will advance to the TBF Dream Team Championship Rally and receive an additional award defined in section 4 below. Any events with less than 25 teams registered by the deadline date may be rescheduled or combined with another scheduled state/local event. These events are fun and designed to advance a team to a national championship with travel, hotel and boat gas stipends. There is really no reason to hold one with less than 25 boats. They are NOT designed as a money trail. Any event held with less than 25 boats will not be allowed to advance a team and payout will be adjusted. All state and local TBF Dream Team Rally sanctioned events will be one (1) day events. Registration will **CLOSE** for all sanctioned TBF Dream Team Rally events at 8am CST on the Monday prior to the weekend event. (or five days prior for non weekend events). Any Dream Team Rally that wishes to allow (with prior approval) allows anglers to sign up after this deadline will not receive prize checks \awards until the event is over. Each TEAM must check-in onsite prior to the event with the rally official as outlined in your team confirmation email, all rally event information will also be posted to [bassfederation.com](http://bassfederation.com). At least one team member of each registered team is REQUIRED to check-in in person during the prescribed time(s).

**4. TBF Dream Team National Championship Rally:** Teams may qualify anytime in 2012 for the 2013 TBF Dream Team National Championship Rally. You may attempt to qualify as many times as you wish. Those teams that qualify to attend will receive an additional "Qualifying Team" award paid upon arrival to the event consisting of; 1.) A mileage stipend to offset the cost of travel to and from the Dream Team National Championship wherever it is at in the US. 2.) Boat gas stipend for each day the team is qualified to compete, 3.) a lodging stipend, for each day the team is qualified to compete, 4.) as well as some meals/ banquets will be provided. The Dream Team National Championship Rally will contained with-in one (1) week and will only be held on a fabled fishery that you would want to go to for a fishing vacation. Lakes you have heard about all your life and wanted to fish where you can have a real chance at catching TEN pound largemouth or FIVE pound smallmouth. TBF will issue a set of special TBF Dream Team National Championship Rally rules prior to the cutoff for the event. TBF reserves the right to limit what you can fish with at the TBF Dream Team Championship Rally (with plenty of advance notice) to completely level the playing field.

**5. SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by all competitors. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved, Type III, chest-type life preserver. This preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. This preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitor reaches their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Tournament Officials have the right to delay or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time. Tournament Officials further reserves the right to impose boat speed limits on any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director. Tournament Officials will announce emergency contact numbers and instructions at the pre tournament briefing.

**6. SPORTSMANSHIP:** *Competitors in all TBF sanctioned events are expected to follow the very highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.* Any violation of these basic sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those drugs purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any competitor during the official practice, during the tournament or during the weigh-in will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future TBF tournaments. The "Federation" is the "grassroots ambassadors" of fishing. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of any competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by prevailing state statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during official practice, competition days or when in the weigh-in area. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes 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 rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification

or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding, any tournament or fishing organization, may be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

**7. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only ONE (1) fishing rod (8-foot maximum length from butt of the handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Other rigs as specified may be in the boat ready to use, however, only ONE is permitted in use at any given time. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional and sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When fishing for bass you can see, all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and *must be verified* by your partner before being unhooked to be counted as a legal fish. Event host may define their event as a "special" event and limit what you can fish with (MUST be noted at the time the event is set up in our system) so everyone knows in advance before signing up.

**8. BOAT / MOTOR & HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** All competition boats must be propeller driven. For the safety of all contestants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH SAFETY DEVICE. This engine stop device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Fishing boats may be used that are 15 feet in length or longer. In no case may the horsepower of your outboard exceed the rating specified on the rating plate or the horsepower limit set by TBF. WHERE REQUIRED, EACH BOAT MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH A U.S. COAST GUARD RATING PLATE, WHICH MUST BE ATTACHED TO THE BOAT BY THE MANUFACTURER. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower rating numbers on the motor or ratings plate also would be cause for immediate disqualification from TBF Sanctioned Events. Any raised platforms or decks cannot be higher than the gunnel of the boat. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Any type of AUXILIARY gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Additional gas tanks that are factory options and installed by an authorized dealer are legal. Boats that do not have factory installed gas tanks are restricted to a maximum of 18 gallons of gasoline in tanks that meet U.S. Coast Guard regulations. Gas tanks must be properly secured or strapped in a boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to all contenders and/or the public. NO BOAT EQUIPPED WITH "STICK STEERING" SHALL BE PERMITTED TO BE USED DURING THE TOURNAMENT BY ANY COMPETITOR. The definition of "stick steering" shall be made by the Tournament Director.

**9. BASIC BOAT & SAFETY EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all the required Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and livewell space, properly aerated, to sufficiently maintain, in a healthy condition a limit catch. TBF recommends the use of livewell additives to promote the healthy release of all fish to their natural habitat. Further TBF recommends the use of ICE to cool livewell water and improve oxygen levels during "summer" months. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining if aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate".

**10. BOAT IDENTIFICATION:** Each boat MUST be given, prior to each day's start, a livewell and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament official and a boat marker which MUST remain in the boat and be turned in during check-in at the end of each day.

**11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each tournament. Each Team must obtain this information from tournament officials. Fishing on tournament waters is permitted anywhere except water within tournament boundaries posted "off-limits or no fishing" by state or federal agencies which will be OFF-LIMITS. No contestant may "Buy" or "Barter" a fishing location. Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. Any water closed to public fishing will be closed to tournament contestants. All angling must be done from the boat.

**12. CONTESTANTS MUST REMAIN TOGETHER IN THE BOAT:** 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 and teams must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat unless otherwise instructed by the tournament director. Both competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT. Team members must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and their days catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a Tournament Official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency situation is resolved by Tournament Officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

**13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be an official safety checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all safety and tournament rules set forth by the Tournament Director. At check-in all boats shall identify themselves, and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH TO WEIGH.

**14. RESTRICTING, SEEDING, OR BAITING:** No restricting bass by any method which disallows natural movement throughout the entire impoundment, no seeding bass from one impoundment to the tournament impoundment, or any coordinated effort in the use of live bait, in baiting holes for the means of attracting or maintaining bass.

**15. SCORING, AWARDS & ADVANCEMENT:** STATE/LOCAL TBF Dream Team Rally awards and final standings shall be based on each 25<sup>th</sup> Team entered. A minimum of 25 teams is required to advance a team to the championship. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be five (5) of the above species and varieties per team, unless the prevailing state limit is less than five (5), or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the Tournament Director, in which case the state limit, or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall any team have in possession more than the tournament limit. One team member must immediately attend to culling anytime additional fish enters the boat. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by Tournament Officials and announced at the tournament briefing. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal bass. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of Tournament Officials. After a competitor checks in at the official checkpoint he MUST present all LEGAL fish in his possession to a Tournament Official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a competitor's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a Tournament Official, that contestant may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament.

**16. CATCH AND RELEASE:** For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

**17. LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official safety checkpoint area as described in rule 12 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day, including any "Big Bass Award". Any competitors more than fifteen (15) minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness and in no case will a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time". After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must stop upon check-in. After the pre-tournament briefing begins, fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced in the tournament briefing.

**18. TIES:** In case of a tie for an advancement team the following tie breakers will be used in order: 1.) The team with the largest number of legal fish weighed-in during the competition; 2.) The team with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed-in during the competition; 3.) The team first entered into the event by date. In the unlikely event a tie remains after these three tiebreakers are employed; a flip of a coin will be used to determine the winner(s). Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

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