



## Official Rules & Regulations

1. The White Pine Marine Tournament Trail (WPMTT) is an invitational tournament. The tournament director may disallow any entry as seen best to up hold the character and values set forth by tournament rules, both for the tournament and participating anglers. The tournament director reserve the right to place an observer or escort with any team submitting an entry for the invitational tournaments or the classic tournament.
2. **Rule Changes:** It is the responsibility of each contestant to familiarize themselves with and by all rules established by WPMTT. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the tournament director and the rules committee. The decision of these officials shall be final in all matters and not subject to appeal.
3. **Participation and Eligibility:**
  - a. Each Contestant must be 16 years of age or older. Contestants less than 16 years of age must fish with an adult over 21 years of age. Each parent or legal guardian must sign a release for the minor.
  - b. The tournament will not be open to a competitor who has been convicted of a felony in the last 36 months.
  - c. Anyone that has been disqualified or banned from any other tournament event or charged with an offense of attempting to fraud or rig a fishing event is not eligible.
  - d. Anyone who has paid for or fished more than one tournament, within the last 12 months, with an entry fee greater than \$1,900.00 is not eligible
4. **Entry Limitations:**
  - a. You may pay anytime up to the morning of the tournament. All mailed entries must be received by the Friday before the tournament. You may pay the entry fee at White Pine Marine either by going to their location or calling in.
  - b. Tournaments may be bought after the scheduled event. Payment must be made by 5:00pm the following Friday, to qualify for classic.
5. **Teams:**
  - a. Teams will be established at the first event. Once team partners are declared, that team may not split to fish the same event separate. If a team splits, the original team's number and points will be lost.
  - b. All entries and memberships must be paid in full before the start of each tournament.
  - c. Permanent partner changes may only happen if there is a hardship situation. At which point, it must be discussed with the director one day prior to the tournament date.
  - d. If you start the trail alone and wish to pick up a permanent partner to fish the rest of the season, this must be done prior to the fourth tournament. After the fourth tournament, you will not be able to pick up a new partner. (Alternate rule does not apply.)
6. **Alternates:**
  - a. A team will be able to use one alternate for two events. It must be the same alternate. The alternate does not have to pay membership. The alternate cannot fish alone for the team.



- b. Alternate in the championship will only be allowed in case of death of partner or extreme hardship. (Hardship circumstances will be at the tournament director's discretion.) Alternate will have had to fish in at least one regular season tournament.
- 7. Membership:** The membership fee is \$50.00 per person, per tournament season. Membership fee must be paid prior to fishing teams first tournament.
- 8. Point System:** All tournaments are scored in pounds and hundreds of pounds with points awarded for the place of finish. Tournaments are worth a total of 300 points each. There is one point difference between places of finish for teams weighing in fish at tournaments. Teams that do not weigh in fish will receive 75 points.
- 9. Limit Regulations – Dead Fish:**
  - a. Tournament limit is five fish per team. Only five fish can be presented at the weigh in. All culling must be done before check in. You are not allowed to have more than six fish in the boat at one time.
  - b. VIOLATION PENALTY: Beginning with your largest fish, officials will cull your catch to the five fish limit and assess a penalty of one pound.
  - c. One dead fish is allowed per team, with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound penalty for that fish.
- 10. Official Check Point:**
  - a. There will be one official checkpoint for boat check-in in the morning and one official checkpoint boat for check-in in the afternoon. Failure to go through these check points could result in disqualification.
  - b. Unless announced prior, teams **MUST weigh fish BEFORE trailering or will be disqualified. If assistance is needed, please notify the tournament director or a staff member.**
- 11. Closing of the Scales:** Scales will close 30 minutes after the last flight is due in. Due to certain weigh-in locations, this time may be lengthened or shortened at the Tournament Director's sole and absolute discretion. Any change to the above stated official scale closing time will be announced during boat check-out, or during weigh-in. It is the angler's responsibility to verify the official scale closing time and to be in the weigh-in line by such time.
- 12. Late Penalty:**
  - a. Teams who are not officially checked in at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of one pound per minute to be deducted from their total weight.
  - b. Any team more than five minutes late shall lose credit for the days catch.
- 13. Scoring:** Only Largemouth, Smallmouth and Kentucky Bass will be weighed. **The minimum length is 12 inches or state regulation per species, per lake.** Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length and identification will be penalized with the loss of that fish and one pound.
- 14. Sportsmanship:**
  - a. All contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation.
  - b. At no time during tournament hours are alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescribed) allowed in the boat or to be consumed. Tournament hours are safe light until closing of the scales.



- c. **All contestants are expected to follow TVA regulations in regards to alcoholic beverages at all launch sites.** Any **actions or words** reflecting unfavorable upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules are grounds for disqualification and/or rejection of any entry for participation.
- 15. Cell Phones:** Emergency use only.
- 16. Safety, Boat & Horsepower Regulation:**
- The participation in the WPMTT events shall not be permitted for jet propulsion engines, or for tunnel hull vessels, or for boats modified to resemble the function of a jet tunnel or prop tunnel vessel. An unmodified vessel shall be defined by having a prop driven, outboard motor affixed directly to the hull, or the jackplate and prop driven outboard motor are bolted directly to the jack plate on the boats transom. Final decisions are left to the tournament director. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**
  - Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a US Coast Guard approved life preserver anytime the boat is on plane.
  - Engines that exceed US Cost Guard approved max horsepower rating are not permitted.
  - All boats must be equipped with emergency kill-switch securely attached to the driver's body whenever the boat is on plane.
  - Each boat must be 14 feet or more in length.
  - Each boat must have all required US Coast Guard approved safety equipment and a working live-well.
- 17. Permitted Fishing:**
- Contestants may fish anywhere on the tournament water accessible by boat, except-
    - Areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by state/federal officials or tournament director
    - Within 25 yards of any other competitor's boat, which was first anchored and the trolling motor is in the up position.
  - All angling must be done from the boat.
  - At no time may you enter a non-contestant's boat, unless for an emergency, which must be reported to the tournament director immediately.
  - Teams may not fish another event on the same day when fishing the White Pine Marine Tournament.
- 18.** At no time may a non-contestant hole sit for tournament contestants. This is grounds for immediate disqualification.
- 19.** Ramp areas are off limits one hour before first flight weigh-in. All TWRA rules must be followed.
- 20. Breakdowns:** In case of a breakdown, there are two permitted methods of returning to check-in:
- Both anglers remaining in their boat and being towed in.
  - One team member may return by another contestant's boat or boat designated by the tournament director as an official rescue boat. The other team member must remain with the disabled boat. Your catch must be kept separate from any



other. Your catch will be scored and any penalties will be deducted. (Dead fish, late, ect.) Otherwise, penalty will be a loss of that days catch. Fish must remain in one team members' possession for catch to weigh in.

**21. Tackle and Equipment:**

- a. Only artificial lures, with the exception of pork trailers, may be used.
- b. Each team member may fish with only one rod and with one line at any one time.
- c. All fish must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.
- d. Trolling or assisting bait presentation with combustion engine or trolling motor is illegal.

**22. Long Lining:** Long lining is not permitted.

**23. Ties:**

- a. In the event of a tie, during a regular scheduled event, positions shall be resolved by equal points for that position. Awards for the tied position and the next following position shall be combined and divided equally between tied contestants.
- b. Should two teams tie for first place for the championship, the tie will be broken with a one-hour fish off.
- c. Tie in points will be determined by overall season weight total.

**24. Polygraph Exams:** Each first-place winner and/or one random team will be subject to a polygraph exam prior to awards. Tournament director will select a team member to take the exam. Each team member agrees to submit to polygraph exam by their signature on the official membership form. You are disqualified if you fail or refuse the polygraph test.

**25. Protest:** Should a team be accused of a rule violation by written protest, both the accusing team members and the accused team members shall submit to a polygraph exam. The interpretation of the polygraph exam shall be solely the responsibility of the tournament committee, tournament director, tournament attorney and/or the polygraph examiner. Protest must be submitted within 15 minutes of the scales closing.

**26. Liability Insurance:** Liability insurance is required by all team boat owners utilizing their boats in the White Pine Marine Tournament Trail.

**27. Photography & Videography:** All photos and/or video taken at a tournament event are the property of White Pine Marine Tournament Trail and may be used for promotional purposes. If media approaches, you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and accommodate them within reason. During weigh-in, you are expected to present yourself in a professional manner and answer the questions to the best of your ability.

**28. Income Tax:** Contestants will receive a 1099 form and will be responsible for the income tax on any prize money over \$600 or \$1,200 per team.