



# BASS WAREHOUSE

## TEAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL

### TOURNAMENT RULES

2025 / 2026

#### 1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions made by the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Protests are to be made in writing before 15.20 on the day of the tournament.

#### 2. GENERAL

All anglers enter the Bass Warehouse Team Tournament Trail do so voluntarily and at their own risk. Bass Warehouse and staff, the Bass Warehouse TTT tournament organisers, tournament sponsors, 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 travelling to, or from, or during the tournament.

A team consists of maximum two persons on one boat, but a team may however consist of just one person.

#### 3. DATES & VENUES

The tournament season will be from August 2025 to June 2026 and the venue for each competition will be announced at the preceding month's captains meeting and on the BWTTT WhatsApp group.

Bass Warehouse Team Tournament Trail organisers cannot be held responsible if dates and venues need to be changed because of influences beyond their control. Notice will be given by notifying participants via the BWTTT WhatsApp Group.

At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

#### 4. PRIZE MONEY

Prizes for each event will be awarded based on the total bag weight for the day. Prize money is based on the number of paid entries for each tournament and paid for the top three heaviest bags. In the event of a tie, the tie breaker will be the biggest fish in the bag, followed by the second biggest fish and so on.

Biggest fish for the day will be awarded a R1500 Bass Warehouse gift voucher which can be redeemed at any Bass Warehouse branch or online.

#### 5. PARTICIPATION



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Participation is open to any angler, irrespective of creed, colour, or race. No angler under the age of 16 (sixteen) is permitted to participate, unless accompanied by an adult. Bass Warehouse TTT Management reserve the right of admission to any participant.

Teams are made up of a maximum of three members, two main anglers and one reserve angler. If two of the three cannot attend, the remaining third member must fish alone.

All teams will have to nominate their team members before 23 August 2025; nominations cannot change or be added for the rest of the season. If any member cannot fish the rest of the season, then the remaining two partners may complete the season. Should any member of a team be replaced at any time during a season it would constitute the start of new team and lose all accumulated points for the season and start over from zero on the log. Grand Prix Points are NOT transferrable to a NEW team.

## **6. POINT STANDINGS**

A Teams' Season League Points will be determined by their best nine (9) Grand Prix scores for the season.

A Grand Prix-system will be used as follows: the winner of each tournament receives 100 points with following positions receiving points on a decreasing scale (i.e.: 99 for 2<sup>nd</sup>; 98 for 3<sup>rd</sup>; 97 for 4<sup>th</sup>; and so on).

In the event of a tie on the End-of-Season-Points standing for the top position, the team with the most event wins during the current season will be the Champions. If there is still a tie, the team with the heavier total combined bag weight through the entire season will be the winner. If there is still a tie, the team with the heaviest single event bag for the current season will be declared the winner.

If a team, or multiple teams, fail to catch or weigh any fish on a given tournament day, they will be awarded the lowest Grand Prix score for that day. This score will be determined based on the total number of entries for that specific event. For example, if 30 teams enter the tournament, the lowest possible Grand Prix score that can be awarded is 71 points.

If a team who has entered an event cannot compete on the day of the event, for whatever reason, they will not be awarded any points.

## **7. CUT-OFF PERIOD**

There is no cut-off period prior to Bass Warehouse TTT events, however no fishing is permitted on the morning of the Tournament, before its commencement.

## **8. BASS WAREHOUSE TTT COMPETITION TIMES**

*Fishing sessions: 07:00 to 15:00 (or as announced by the tournament organiser at the pre-tournament meeting)*

*Weigh station - KeepNet*

Please ensure that your KeepNet app is active, and all necessary checks have been done before the event.



*Prize giving:* Every effort will be made to host prize giving at 15.30.

## **9. REGISTRATION**

Each team has to access and complete the online event registration (available at [www.basswarehouse.co.za/tournaments](http://www.basswarehouse.co.za/tournaments)), and send through their completed registration and proof of event payment to [orders@basswarehouse.co.za](mailto:orders@basswarehouse.co.za). A team consists of maximum two persons per boat.

All tournament entries are to be done in full (regardless of if the team consists of only one person) preferable by means of EFT payment into the bank account given by the event organiser at least (1) one day prior to the event.

Cash entries can be accepted by the event organiser's discretion.

## **10. STARTING POSITIONS**

All starting positions for Tournament Day will be done by means of an online randomizer, with live video footage of the draw supplied on Facebook and the link posted on the BWTTT WhatsApp group.

Every registered team must collect their corresponding boat flag number for display when boats are lining up for the start. Skippers must separate themselves on the water and each co-angler must display his team's starting number so that all skippers can arrange themselves for a single boat start. Teams will only be allowed to set off once the team number is called. Teams failing to comply with the starting procedure will be disqualified immediately and no tournament entry fees will be refunded. When a team's number is called out, the team must idle out and is only allowed to go on the plane from the point the organiser has appointed.

## **11. SAFETY**

Safe boating must be always observed and remains the responsibility of every skipper. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened personal flotation device when the main engine is running. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body.

Each boat must have all required safety equipment.

## **12. BOAT OPERATION**

In 'no wake zone' areas, at any venue, anglers must line up in single file at idle speed and may not overtake another competitor. They may only pass the boat ahead of them once that boat has peeled off to the side or stopped to start fishing. Contravention of this rule will result in that team or teams' catch for the day being disqualified.

At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters.

## **13. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS**

All bass must be caught in a conventional sporting manner. All fishing must be conducted from a boat or kick boat and only artificial lures may be used. Only one wet rod with one main line and one lure / bait per angler at any given time is allowed. The rod must be handheld (no rod holder may be used). Rigs like



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the double rig where multiple lures / baits are attached to one main line are not allowed, except for commercially available “Alabama” rigs. Trolling, as a method of fishing, is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the main engine or using the trolling motor to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught must be hooked inside the mouth. Creating feeding spots by dumping bait either artificial or natural, or any other attractant in order to attract fish to a specific location is strictly prohibited. Tournament ethics, courtesy and good conduct are unwritten “golden rules” and core responsibilities of all anglers on all levels.

#### **14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS**

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 metres of a competitor’s boat.

#### **15. LIMITS**

The daily bag limit is five (5) bass per team on the boat at any one time. There is no minimum size limit on bass to be weighed at any Bass Warehouse TTT event.

The introduction of any foreign materials (including vegetation) to increase the fish’s weight will be just cause for an immediate disqualification from all Bass Warehouse TTT tournaments.

#### **16. PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS**

- Failure to wear an approved personal flotation device anytime the outboard motor is running will result in a warning for first offence but instant disqualification for 2nd offense.
- No angler may hand to, or exchange, any article with any other boat and, excepting in an emergency, may not leave the boat during the fishing session.
- A lip-grip (instead of a hook) must be used when weighing fish during the competition. Any angler found not using a lip-grip when weighing fish during the competition could face disqualification.
- *Disqualification*
  - Going on the plane or passing another a boat within a no wake zone.
  - Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours.
- *Suspension/disqualification or ban.*
  - The intentional introduction of materials that cause an increase in weight/mass of a fish by an angler.
  - Fishing in an off-limits area and/or No Fishing Zone.

If a team is found guilty of cheating, the team members will be immediately banned from all Bass Warehouse TTT tournaments and legal action will be taken against the team members.

#### **17. SPORTSMANSHIP**

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 Bass Warehouse TTT, Bass Warehouse TTT sponsors, the sport of fishing and Bass Warehouse’s efforts to promote the sport.



In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined in these rules, Bass Warehouse TTT shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee, to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in these rules. All disputes will be handled and finalised immediately. The Tournament Director may at his/her discretion co-opt persons to assist in settling disputes.

## **18. MISBEHAVIOURS**

- a. Fighting, pulling, pushing, and threatening each other and abusive language will not be tolerated. (Minimum 3 months ban up to 12 months).
- b. Deliberate or intentional actions of a member, official, competitor (including the competitor's family, relatives, or friends), publishing negative comments towards fellow competitors, administrators, officials, or tournament partners on social media, using foul language towards spectators, officials, competitors, tournament partners or employees of the venue. The competitor may be banned for a period of minimum 3 months up to 12 months if found guilty by a special committee appointed to investigate the matter. The decision of the special committee is final.

## **19. COMMUNICATION and SOCIAL MEDIA**

Contestants may not use mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with the tournament organiser.

## **20. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS**

The favourable public reputation of Bass Warehouse, and Bass Warehouse TTT as organizations in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for Bass Warehouse and Bass Warehouse TTT. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers, Bass Warehouse or Bass Warehouse TTT. Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with Bass Warehouse TTT policies are encouraged, as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Bass Warehouse, Bass Warehouse TTT, its officials or sponsors, shall be considered conduct unbecoming an angler and will result in disciplinary action.

## **21. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE**

Only official Bass Warehouse and Bass Warehouse TTT sponsors, and benefit providers, are entitled to publicity at tournaments as jointly agreed. No competitor may offer publicity, guaranteed or incidental, on behalf of Bass Warehouse, or Bass Warehouse TTT in exchange for sponsorship.

In the event of any television coverage of any Bass Warehouse TTT event, Bass Warehouse owns the rights to all camera footage. Bass Warehouse and Bass Warehouse TTT are under no obligation to remunerate, whether it be cash or any other means, whatsoever, to any competitors should they appear in the production.



## **22. RIGHT OF ADMISSION**

Right of admission is reserved: The Bass Warehouse Team 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 Bass Warehouse TTT, sponsors, the sport of fishing and Bass Warehouse's 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 Bass Warehouse Team Tournament Trail.

## **23. 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. Truth verification tests will be used at Bass Warehouse TTTs' sole discretion and the decision based on the findings will be made solely by Bass Warehouse TTT. All costs for such a polygraph test will be for the competitor's account, despite the outcome.

## **24. POWER OF DISQUALIFICATION**

The Tournament Director is empowered to disqualify any competitor, after due consideration of the facts, deemed to have broken these rules at their level and/or apply disciplinary measures as defined in the Bass Warehouse TTT rules. The Tournament Director may recommend the banning of any angler for serious breach of rules. In the event of a dispute Bass Warehouse TTT may make use of a polygraph test for both anglers on the boat.

By filling in the entry form, submitting and participating in the Bass Warehouse Team Tournament Trail, you have agreed to abide by all the rules and have acknowledged and have accepted the indemnity at the bottom of the entry form.

Any angler under the age of 16 (sixteen) entering must also have written permission that is signed by a parent or legal guardian.

## **25. RESERVE ANGLERS**

A Reserve Angler may only be used twice during a season, without affecting league points. If a reserve angler needs to be used more than twice per season, a new team must be created, and league points will start from 0. League points are not transferable.

In the event that the original team does not want to lose league points by creating a new team, one of the team members can fish the event alone, rather than using the reserve angler.

