

# 2008 OZARK MOUNTAIN TEAM TRAIL RULES AND REGULATIONS

**PREFACE-RULES:** These rules will remain unchanged during the 2008 season for all qualifying Ozark Mountain Team Trail Tournaments. Interpretation and enforcement of the following rules and regulations will be left exclusively to the Tournament Directors. **PROTESTS MUST BE MADE IN WRITING WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF THE OFFICIAL CHECK-IN TIME OF THE FINAL FLIGHT.** Rules are in effect during competition days of all 2008 Team Tournaments. Decisions of the Tournament Director and Tournament Officials shall be final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. **It is every angler's responsibility to know these rules. All Anglers must have a current fishing license in the state waters fished. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.** Cheating of any kind will no way be tolerated and will lead to immediate disqualification.

**ELIGIBILITY:** To maintain the highest standards possible, participation in this tournament will be by entry invitation only. Anyone male or female whose entry has been accepted that is 18 years of age or older and paid the appropriate entry fee by the official deadline date is eligible. **Only one partner must be at least 18 years of age.** Ozark Mountain Team Trail, (herein after referred to as OMTT), reserves the right to refuse any entries received. Partners will fish together. Only two people per boat and **NO FISHING ALONE.**

**MEMBERSHIPS, ENTRY FEES, DEPOSITS & DEADLINES:** One time \$20.00 yearly membership fee per angler, which includes a subscription to Respoolin' Magazine. The entry fee for OMTT's 2008 Team Tournaments will be \$250.00 per team (\$50 deposit). Completed signed entry forms and entry fees or balance of deposit for the Tournament must be paid in full, (cash, check or credit card), by official registration. Deposits may be transferred to another tournament in the same tournament year, but are **Non Refundable.** Transferred deposits may only be transferred with tournament director approval. Boat order will be determined by entry. **No Late Entries** will be accepted unless pre-approved by the tournament director.

**INSURANCE:** Boating Liability Insurance (\$100,000) is required of all competitors in Ozark Mountain Team Trail events.

**OFF LIMITS/OFFICIAL PRACTICE:** Off limits will be Monday starting at 12:01 a.m. prior to the tournament and ending midnight on Thursday preceding the event. Official Practice will begin on the Friday preceding the event. All contestants must be off the water by 5:30 p.m. the evening prior to the tournament.

**COMPETITION PERIODS:** Tournament Hours on competition days will begin as listed on the schedule and/or stated at official registration. The Tournament Director reserves the right to change the Tournament Hours on competition days if need be. Competitor's must know and observe the official times, dates and rules. During competition, tournament anglers **may not** procure the service of guides or local experts, participate in the practice of "hole sitting", follow a non-competitor's boat to fishing locations, use preset markers or buoys for determining fishing areas, use mobile communication devices to communicate fishing locations or information during tournament hours, fish in the designated off limit areas given in the pre-take-off announcements, **nor may they practice on official practice day with anyone not entered in the tournament without prior approval of OMTT's Tournament Director.** Violations of this rule may result in immediate disqualification from the tournament.

**PRE-TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION:** Official registration will be available on the Friday prior to the tournament for anglers that have not pre-registered. Go to [www.ozarkmountainteamtrail.com](http://www.ozarkmountainteamtrail.com) to view schedule of events. Registration will be from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. **Failure to register properly may result in disqualification from the tournament. Boat number will be determined by the date and time you register.** Tournament officials will be on hand to answer any questions anglers might have during registration hours. Anglers who have pre-registered do not have to be present at registration but, it is every anglers responsibility to know take off times, boat numbers and rules.

**SAFETY:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast-Guard approved personal flotation device fully strapped, snapped or zipped securely anytime the combustion engine is running during official practice and competition days. Violation of this rule will be grounds for disqualification. All boats must be equipped with an engine shut-off device securely attached to the boat operator when the combustion engine is on during official practice and fishing OMTT Tournaments. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament times may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. **Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in boats during official practice or during tournament hours.**

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, conservation, care and courtesy at all times. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the boat or used by the competitors during official practice, tournament hours or at the official weigh-in. No drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a physician) shall be used by any competitor during official practice, tournament hours or at the official weigh-in. Any competitor not practicing the highest standards of sportsmanship, conservation, care and courtesy at all times will be subject to disqualification.

**BOATS AND MOTORS:** All boats must meet B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements; no boat may exceed the horsepower limitations set by the U.S. Coast Guard. Boats with stick steering may not be used in OMTT tournaments. House boats, barges, or other cumbersome crafts will not be allowed at the Tournament Director's discretion. Each boat must have all the required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must be equipped with an ignition "kill switch" device which must be attached to the driver anytime the combustion engine is running during official practice and tournament competition days. Each boat is required to have an operational bilge pump and a properly aerated live well adequate to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by the fishing team. Running lights, if required by OMTT Officials, must be operational. **Trailing of a boat during tournament hours is prohibited unless approved by the Tournament Officials.** Electric trolling motors may be used for maneuvering but, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Refusal to submit to an inspection or violation on any of the rules in this section will be cause for disqualification.

**TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Pork style baits are allowed. No live bait or prepared bait allowed. All bass must be caught on rod and reel. Only one rod and reel in use is allowed per angler. Trolling, as a method of fishing is not allowed. Underwater cameras or bugging devices are not allowed during official practice or tournament hours. Dip nets are allowed to assist in landing fish caught on a rod and reel only. Snagging or snatching bass on spawning beds is prohibited. All bass must be caught alive and in a sporting manner.

**PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50-yards of a public gas dock, within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position (with the trolling motor out of the water), unless that competitor specifically allows any and all tournament boats the right to fish within 50-yard radius claimed by him; within any area designated by state or federal agencies as a "no fishing" area; within the buoyed areas of the take-off cove. Other specific off limits shall be addressed at the pre-tournament meeting. **No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director.**

**SPECIAL SITUATIONS:** Contestants must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must land all fish from inside the boat. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Neither competitor may depart from the boat except in the case of a dire emergency. In such an emergency, one or both competitors may be removed from their boat to another boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. It is the responsibility of the anglers to keep their fish separated and in water during transport to the tournament weigh-in site. Anglers must notify an official tournament staff member of the situation upon arrival to weigh-in.

**TAKE-OFF ANNOUNCEMENTS & INSPECTION:** There will be mandatory pre-take-off announcements 15 minutes prior to take-off. Boats will take off in order of event entry. Failure to respond to the call of your boat number will result in the loss of take-off position. No boat is allowed to leave the take-off area until boat number is called by an OMTT official. An idle by inspection will be conducted at take-off. Boat operator will be asked to pull "kill switch" after he/she idles by the last check point. No boat will leave the take-off with a faulty "kill switch". All Coast-Guard approved life jackets must be fully zipped, snapped or strapped on both contestants. Live wells must be opened and aerators on during idle by. Failure to comply by these rules may result in forfeiture or loss of take-off position. No jockeying for position will be tolerated during take-off. Safety is the number one factor at OMTT events.

**OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** Take-off and check-in site will be determined by OMTT Officials. At the time of the morning inspection, all competitors must be in full compliance of all rules set forth by the Tournament Officials and continue to abide by those rules until the weigh-in is completed. All boats will identify their selves at check-in site by means of boat number and proceed **immediately** to the designated weigh-in area to weigh fish. Failure to receive morning boat inspection or turn in your boat number at the check point will result in disqualification. Please return all boat number paddles during check in time.

**SCORING:** Largemouth, Kentucky (spotted), Smallmouth and Meanmouth Bass will be counted. **Five Fish** per team may be weighed in at each event. Fish must be brought to the scales in an OMTT bag with water. The official length limit for bass will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be announced at the pre-take-off meeting. Bass should be measured on a flat board with mouth closed and the tail of the fish must touch the legal length line to qualify. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length will not be counted and will cause a **1.00 pound** penalty for each such bass presented to be deducted from the contestant's total score. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor's shall be penalized **0.50 pounds** to be deducted from their daily score. The Tournament Director and his designated officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. **At no time during tournament hours shall a contestant possess more than a 5-fish limit. If contestants weigh in more than a five fish limit, they will be disqualified.**

**LATE PENALTY:** Contestants not at designated check-in site by official designated time will be penalized one pound for each minute late up to a maximum of ten minutes (ten pounds). Penalized weight will be deducted from the team's total weight. If the maximum of ten minutes is exceeded, contestants will forfeit all weight for that day's competition. Flights, take-off times and check-in times will be posted at the tournament site.

**CULLING:** At no time shall anglers possess more than a five fish limit. Culling inside the host marina buoys or designated take-off areas shall be reason for immediate disqualification.

**PAYBACK:** \$10,000 guaranteed to first place each tournament (based on 100 boats). 100% pay back of entries at each event. Pay back is based on 25% of the field. Total payback will be announced at take-off.

**TIES:** In the case of a tie, OMTT Tournament Officials will combine and divide equally the prize money between the spots that are tied. Trophy position shall be determined by entry position.

**OMTT YEAR END INCENTIVES:** Angler's must fish **4 of 5 tournaments, including the final tournament,** to be eligible for all year end draw prizes. Each angler will receive one entry per tournament towards the drawprizes. If no anglers qualify for the draw prizes, it will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director how prizes are awarded.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE TEST:** By his or her signature on this entry form and/or participation in any tournament event, anglers agree to submit to quality assurance tests if required by the Tournament Director. They may include all or part of the following; polygraph test, urinalysis, blood test, and an observer in or out of the boat. Refusal to submit by anglers will result in immediate disqualification and subsequent disqualification from any future OMTT Tournaments. If the anglers are unsuccessful with any or all of the above tests, the angler's weight shall be 0.00 pounds. None of the above rules shall prohibit an OMTT Tournament Official from observing, approaching or boarding any competitor's boat during official practice periods or during tournament competition days.