



State Trail Specific Rules

In addition to the Official rules set by the TBF the following rules apply to all Junior and High School qualifying events

1. All participants are required to follow all safety policies. Any competitor observed not following proper safety rules can have their catch disqualified for the event and receive 0 points for the event. In addition to the written rules site specific and event rules may be put in place due to weather or other factors as designated by the tournament director and will be treated as official rules for the event
2. **PARTICIPANTS:** There must be 3 people in the boat at all events **NO EXCEPTIONS**. No additional people can be in the boat unless there is medical need for an angler that requires additional support. This must be approved by the director prior to the event
3. **CHECK IN:** All participants are required to check in at the official checkpoint as designated by the tournament director at your designated check in time. Failure to do so will result in a 1 lb penalty per minute up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes the team will lose all credit for that event. Everyone must check in whether you are weighing fish or not.
4. **CAPTAINS:** No captain can handle a rod at anytime during the official event hours. Any captain observed with a rod in hand during the event will automatically disqualify their team for the day and they will receive 0 points. If an angler has backlash or other problem with a reel, the angler can remove the reel from the rod, hand it to the captain and the captain can attempt to get it in working order then hand the reel back to the angler who can then put it back on the rod
5. **TIES:** In the event of a tie for awards in a qualifying event, the team with the highest number of live fish weighed for the event will receive the higher finish. If there is still a tie then the largest single fish weight will be the tie breaker. If there is still a tie the tournament director will resolve the tie. It is important that all teams weigh a big fish at the scales if they feel they are in the top finishers. It is up to the anglers to present their big fish at the scales. The official at the scales **WILL NOT** choose the fish for the anglers
6. **COURTESY BOARD:** We will have a courtesy board at all events and it is up to the anglers to check their fish prior to presenting them to the official at the scales. The tournament official will not perform a courtesy measure. Once the fish are presented to the official any short fish penalties will apply
7. **SUBS:** A team may use a sub up to 2 times in one season and still accumulate points for the original team. Any team choosing to use a sub for a 3rd event will be considered a new team and will be awarded points accordingly

8. **BOAT REGULATION:** All boats must be a minimum of 16ft. in length and have proper safety equipment and a working kill switch. The use of jet boats are permitted in the local trail events but are not allowed at any state or national event.
9. **OFF LIMITS:** There are no designated off limit periods for qualifying trail events with the exception of events that are combined with the SAF
10. **DEAD FISH PENALTY:** Effective with the first event of the 2024-2025 season the penalty for a dead fish will be 1 LB. deduction from total weight for the day
11. **PROTESTS/COMPLAINTS:** All protests must be submitted to the tournament director in writing within 15 minutes of the official scale closing. No complaints will be heard or discussed during the weigh in as the tournament officials are working to get everyone weighed as quick as possible and the fish back in the water. Written protest must include the names of all parties involved in the dispute, the reason for the dispute and any other information directly related to the dispute including any witnesses if available
12. **BOAT CAPTAINS:** Teams are prohibited from recruiting local boat captains for specific events that would be an unfair advantage to other competitors. Captains may not have served as a guide on the tournament waters for prior 12 months unless the person is a legal guardian of a participant. Tournament director reserves the right to reject any boat captain.
FOR ALL SEASON ENDING CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS: The recruitment of a replacement captain is strictly prohibited if it creates an unfair advantage to other competitors. A captain that has participated in all season events is not allowed to "sit out" final events and bring in a more experienced person to serve as a replacement. The only exceptions that will be made is if the original boat captain has a medical issue that prevents them from attending the event, work related issue or a personal conflict that prevents them from attending the event. All captain changes for all championship events must be approved by the tournament director PRIOR to the event. If a captain change is made and not reported or approved by the tournament director entry to the event can be denied and/or the team will receive a zero for the day
13. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** All participants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation. Any participant that does not comply and exhibit high standards can be refused entry to any future events. Conduct included but not limited to eligibility to compete:
 - Consumption or possession of alcohol or drugs
 - Boat operation in an unsafe manner or repeated safety violations by captains or anglers
 - Public displays of poor sportsmanship or disruptive behavior during tournament activities
 - Public criticizing or questioning the integrity of the trail, TBF, SAF or any tournament official, including but not limited to rules, policies, procedures or any decision made by a tournament official