



## 2009 BUD LIGHT TRAIL BIG BASS TOURNAMENT RULES for Lake Ray Hubbard



**RULE VIOLATIONS:** Great effort, study and research have gone into the formulation of these rules. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director (T D) may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including without limitation, disqualification, and forfeiture of prizes, entry fees and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decision of the T D is final.

**PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** \*BLT Big Bass Tournaments are designed primarily for amateurs. Anyone who has fished in a Bass tournament as a boater/pro-angler with an entry fee in excess of \$500 or who has guided on the tournament lake within 90 days prior to the tournament is not eligible to participate in the BLT Big Bass Tournament. Only contestants who have paid to enter the BLT Big Bass tournament may be in the contestant's boat. Participation in BLT Big Bass tournaments are open to contestants who are 16 years of age or older. A waiver must be signed by a parent or guardian for contestants under the age of 16. The TD will provide these forms. The BLT T D will reserve the right to disqualify entries. During Tournament hours, every boat must have [Boat Liability Insurance with effective dates](#). This will be a polygraph question.

**PRE-FISHING, FISH LOCATING and POLYGRAPH:** Contestants may not fish the morning of the tournament before the Start Fishing Time. Start, Stop and Weigh in cut off times are posted on the BLT Big Bass [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site for early entries and provided to late entries at the Registration Check in location. Otherwise, pre-fishing may be done on any day prior to the Tournament days. During the Tournament hours Contestants may not have the assistance or advice of anyone for the purpose of locating or catching Bass other than from another contestant. No one is permitted to hole sit for Contestants. By entering the BLT Big Bass Tournaments each contestant agrees to abide by all BLT Big Bass rules, State and Local laws. No micro chips in the fish or other electronic tracking devices may be used to locate fish. Each contestant understands that a polygraph may be given to the winners, at random or in the event of a protest and agrees to submit or risk disqualification.

**SAFETY:** Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament contestants. During Tournament hours, each contestant is required to wear a Coast Guard chest type life preserver. This life preserver must be worn anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the contestant reaches his or her fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. The T D may cancel and reschedule the Tournament based on severe weather or other factors that might endanger the safety of the Contestants. Contestants will be notified on the BLT Big Bass [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site. It is the Contestants responsibility to check the web site.

**SPORTSMANSHIP:** Contestants are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. During all Tournament hours no contestant shall use alcohol or drugs other than those prescribed by a physician. This will be immediate disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially in the vicinity of any other boaters.

**TACKLE, EQUIPMENT and LANDING FISH:** Dip nets are allowed to land fish caught by the contestant. Vinyl or rubber coated nets are recommended. Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one rod and one reel may be used, with bait in the water, by the contestant at any one time. All Bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will be disqualified. All visible or bedding fish must be hooked inside the mouth. No gaffing or grippers may be used to land fish. During Tournament hours, Contestants cannot leave the boat to land a fish but may leave the boat to retrieve a bait or for other necessary reasons.

**HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** No boats may exceed the maximum Coast Guard rating. No altered motors to increase the horsepower over the factory rating allowed.

**BOAT, MOTOR and BREAKDOWNS:** For the safety of all, boats must be equipped with some type of ignition kill switch. This device must be attached to the driver any time the combustion engine is operating. All boats must be 15 feet or more in length. No jet drive or air boats are permitted. An electric trolling motor may be used for positioning only. No trolling for the purposes of fishing. Only manufacturer approved gas tanks are permitted. No stick steering boats may be used. In the event of a break down, Contestants may contact another Contestant to bring them and their catch back to weigh in. Contestants may contact the T D by phone or wave down other boaters to ask for assistance. However, the Contestant's disabled boat catch must be brought back to the Weigh in location by another Tournament Contestants' boat either trailered or by water, and each contestant must weigh in their own catch before the Weigh in cut off time.

**BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all required safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain a limit catch of Bass.

**PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND HOURS:** All contestants may only fish on the Tournament Lake specified on their entry form. No fishing within 25 yards of another contestant's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position with the trolling motor out of the water. BLT Contestants must be at least 25 yards away from all Tournament Contestants when the trolling motor is down. All such boats are required to advise any other contestant of being too close. Contestants cannot use this rule in boat lanes or other narrow passages to block passage to commonly fished areas. All angling must be done from the Contestants' boat. Contestants cannot leave their boat to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must observe all posted State and local off limits areas.



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**TRAILERING:** Contestants will be allowed to trailer.

**CANCELTION:** For emergency reasons due to weather, lake level or other severe reasons, the T D may cancel a Tournament. If this is done, the rescheduling information will be posted on the [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site.

**CONTESTANT REFUNDS:** No refunds will be made after 1 week prior to the Tournament.

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION & WEIGH IN LOCATION:** All Contestants must be registered to obtain Boat numbers and to get Start fishing, Stop fishing and hourly weigh in cut off information. Boat numbers will be assigned in the order received by mail first and then resumed at the morning Registration location. **BLT Big Bass Tournament early entries, post marked by Monday before the Tournament, may get their information prior to the Tournament date off the [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site and do not have to come by the late registration location.** Tournament Officials suggest early entry Contestants print a copy of their information or write it down. Contestants will need their assigned boat numbers at the weigh in line. If Contestants mailed their paid entry but are not posted on the [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site before the Tournament date, the Contestants can call the T D to resolve the problem. If the situation cannot be resolved with proof of paid entry, before the Monday post marked date, the Contestants must come to the late Tournament Registration and register again. Whatever caused the problem will be cleared up at the late Tournament Registration site the morning of the tournament or as soon as possible at a later date. **BLT Big Bass Contestants who enter the BLT Tournament late (after the Monday before the tournament) will be charged an additional \$20 late entry fee.**

**OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND WEIGH IN TIMES:** Tournament Officials will be at the Tournament Registration location on the Friday before the tournament between noon and 7pm and two hours before the start fishing time on the day of the tournament. **Official time will be set to match the official cell phone network time for Early and Late Entry Contestants.** Tournament Officials will be available at the Weigh in location to accept hourly weigh ins until the 2pm cut off time. **Contestants who are eligible for hourly prize money should not leave the Weigh in location before the weigh in is completed without notifying the T D.** Prize money will be handed out at the conclusion of each hourly weigh in. Pictures will be taken and a polygraph may be given to any of the Contestants.

**START AND STOP FISHING TIMES:** **Official time will be set to match cell phone time. An Official Clock will be visible at the Registration and Weigh in line locations.** Contestants who are posted on the BLT Big Bass [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site as early entries may leave their launch sites on the Tournament days at any time prior to the Start fishing time. All Contestants may start fishing at the "Safe Light" Start fishing time given on the [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site and at morning Registration. Contestants who are registering on the mornings of the Tournament will get their Boat number tags, Start fishing, Stop fishing, and hourly weigh in cut off times at the Registration Location beginning two hours prior to safe light. **All Contestants must stop fishing before 2pm, be checked in by the Tournament Official at the Official Weigh in check point and in line with their catch, before the 2pm Weigh in deadline.** All three times are on the Boat number tags given out at the morning registration. Early entries may write down or print off their boat numbers, start fishing, stop fishing and hourly weigh in cut off times information from the BLT Big Bass [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site. All contestants will check in at the weigh in location by assigned boat number. All fish will be put in chemically treated aerated tanks and returned to the Tournament Lake at the conclusion of the weigh in. Contestants may use their own weigh bags or get one to use at the weigh in location. All fish must be brought to the weigh in with water in the bags. Fish will be taken from the weigh bag and placed in a mesh bag to be weighed. **Contestants must be checked in by a tournament official before the designated hourly weigh in times to be included in that hours weigh in. We caution Contestants to be careful, if they choose to travel on the water before safe light.**

**SCORING:** Weights will be documented in pounds to the nearest one hundredth of a pound. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass will be weighed. Only Bass 14" or larger, measured from closed mouth to squeezed tail by the T D or Tournament Official, will be allowed. A courtesy board will be available at the beginning of the weigh in line for Contestants to check their fish before weighing in. Only one fish per weigh in bag is allowed and only one fish per hour per contestant is allowed. All fish caught on any tournament day can only be weighed in on that day. All bass being weighed in must be weighed in by the contestant who caught the bass. No more than a five fish limit may be weighed in during each tournament day by one contestant. No more than 5 bass per angler or 10 per boat may be kept in the live well at any time during tournament hours. This rule is to help preserve the fish.

**DEAD FISH:** No dead fish will be weighed in.

**TIES:** In case of a tie, the monies, prizes and or awards will be given to the first angler to weigh in. There will be no ties.

**PROTESTS:** All protests must be signed and submitted in writing within 15 minutes of the final weigh in. If warranted, the T D may require all parties to take a polygraph. The T D decision is final.

**INFORMATION:** Any and all announcements concerning emergencies and hourly results will be conveyed by messages left on the official cell phone number. Be sure to check the [www.budlighttrail.com](http://www.budlighttrail.com) web site for the official cell phone number that will be used. Contestants will need a cell phone to check the hourly information.