

Tri-Bay Bass Association

Rule Book

1. Registration

A

- \$200.00 + \$26.00(HST) per team per qualifier for pre registration. (4 qualifiers)
- \$300.00 + \$39.00(HST) per team when registering on the qualifier day or after the Monday night deadline (11:59PM) week of the Qualifier.
- Entry fee balance to be paid no later than 11:59 pm on May 15th, 2025.
- \$250.00 + \$32.50(HST) per team for the TBBA Top 40 Classic
- Full payment date determines Qualifier #1 Blast off. Anglers fishing all 4 qualifiers will be placed over teams fishing 1,2 or 3 qualifiers only.
- E-transfer to tbbafishing@gmail.com

B

- Team registration with the initial deposit and boat insurance, boat license and fishing licenses must be signed and submitted with the final tournament payment prior to May 15th, 2025 11:59 PM or with preregistration.
- Registration deposit is non refundable. Five days prior to Blast Off refunds may be given at the discretion of the TBBA directors in the event of personal emergency.
- Copy of boat insurance, boat license, and all fishing licenses must be sent in with final tournament payments. (Ontario, Michigan and New York if you have them. Rivers will be on the USA and Canada side. If not sent in a team will be disqualified if caught fishing on the USA side. If pre fishing and have purchased a USA fishing license a photo copy or picture must be submitted before blast off.

C

- 80 Team cap for qualifiers
- 40 Team field for Classic.

D

- Points for Team of the Year (TOY) and Classic qualifications:
- Previous year TOY and Classic winners are guaranteed slots at the TBBA Top Forty Classic but still must fish 2 qualifiers in 2026 to confirm their positions. Exemptions for not fishing 2 qualifiers are medical or if out of the country. Proof will be required. The four qualifier winners get an automatic bid to the Classic for that calendar year but are required to have registered for 2 qualifiers for that year.
- A team must fish a minimum of 2 qualifiers together. A registered team member may fish one qualifier with another angler of their choice. This can not be registered pro.
- If fishing with a substitute team mate the original registered team will not accumulate points towards the TOY but will count towards TBBA Classic. All paperwork for the substitute angler must be submitted as per rule 1(B). Teams must fish the TBBA Classic with the original registered angler.

E

- Automatic bid to TBBA Classic are:
- Previous year Team of the Year (TOY).
- Top Prospect Angler (TPA) for 2026
- Previous year TBBA Classic Team Champion
- (4) TBBA qualifier winners from the calendar year. (see rule 1 d)
- Balance of the 40 boat field will be made from team positions 1-80. All teams must have fished 2 qualifiers. For exemptions see rule 1-d.

F

- TOY team award will be calculated using the following points system. The points are totalled from the 4 qualifiers and day one of the TBBA Classic.

Points system:

1st - 85 pts

2nd - 83 pts

3rd - 81 pts.

4th - 79 pts

5th - 77pts

6th - 75 pts

7th - 74pts

8th - 73 pts

9th - 72 pts

10th - 71 pts

11th - 70 pts

12-80 Every spot minus a point.

Big fish is 2 pts.

G

- The TBBA Classic Champion will be awarded based on a combined 2 day total weight. If a day has to be cancelled due to weather or other circumstances, the TBBA Classic Champion will be crowned by a one day total weight. There will be a Big Fish cash prize each day.

H

- Minimum payout for 80 boat/team field:
 - 1st - \$3500
 - 2nd - \$2000
 - 3rd - \$1500
 - 4th - \$1000
 - 5th - \$750
 - 6th - \$400
 - 7th - \$400
 - 8th - \$300
 - 9th - \$300
 - 10th - \$300

\$550 - Big Fish

Classic Minimum payout with full 40 Boat/Team Field

1st- \$4000.00.

2nd -\$2000.00

3rd -\$1500.00

4th - \$1000.00

5th - \$1000.00

\$500.00 - Big Fish Day 1

\$500.00 - Big Fish Day 2

J

- TBBA has the right to adjust payouts accordingly.

K

- Prizes to be announced such as:
- Team of the Year (TOY)
- Top Prospect Award (TPA) - Under the age of 21 as of January 1, 2025 to the most promising young angler
- Classic and Qualifiers

2. Safety Rules

A

Must have a minimum 1 million dollar boat insurance. Proof of insurance must be submitted by final deposit or with registration along with proof of boat license and fish license (Ontario, Michigan or New York). If a USA license is not submitted and you are caught fishing in USA waters you will be disqualified.

B

A life jacket or automatic PDF must be worn at all times while the main boat engine is running during an event or while pre-fishing. If a competitor submits photos of an angler not wearing a life jacket or automatic PDF the guilty team will have a delayed blast off of 1 hour or possible disqualification. Pre Fishing begins at midnight the Monday of the week leading up to a TBBA event. If wearing an automatic PDF or floatation suspenders there must also be a certified Canadian Coast Guard or USA approved life jacket on board.

C

All boats over 40hp must have a kill switch and tether connecting to the driver's floatation.

D

Anglers under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult (18+) on the day of the event. The adult must sign the insurance waiver for the accompanying minor.

E

Anglers must obey all boating and fishing laws/regulations of the body of water being fished. The rule exemption is regarding the number of rods an angler can use at one time. Every angler may only have 1 rod in hand. This is during tournament hours only. Disqualifications may apply if photos or videos are submitted showing the use of more than one rod in hand during competition.

F

Any unsafe or disrespectful actions towards staff, other anglers or citizens on the water may result in disqualification if video, photo or team partners provide evidence.

G

Maximum 350hp to a minimum of 20hp engines are allowed in competition. Minimum boat length is 14'.

H

No ALCOHOL or DRUGS of any kind shall be consumed the morning of or during tournament hours. Team will be disqualified and suspended from future TBBA events if this occurs. If an angler arrives at the boat launch and is suspected of being impaired from alcohol or drugs they will not be allowed to participate and will receive no refund.

I

It is up to the discretion of individual anglers as to whether or not they feel safe participating in an event due to weather or water conditions. No refunds will be given.

3. Blast Off Rules

A

Blast off will be at 7:00 a.m. on the day of the event unless delayed due to weather or other uncontrollable circumstances. All team members must have signed a waiver and all documentation as per rule (1b), have their team identification, and boat check must have been completed prior to blast off.

B

7:00 a.m. Blast off will begin with team #1 first and continue to #80. Weigh in will be staggered. (see rule 4 a-b). If a team is late they must sign in and fish till their slotted check in time (see rule 4b).

C

If a team is videoed, photographed, or witnessed by a blast off official leaving out of order or skipping ahead for the benefit of their team, the team will be docked 5lbs.

D

- Blast off order for TBBA Qualifiers:

- Qualifier 1 will be the date of registration for the Team
- Qualifier #2 TOY standings from qualifier #1
- Qualifier #3 reverse TOY points
- Qualifier #4 TOY points starting with leader

E

- Blast Off for TBBA Classic:
 - Day 1: 2024 TBBA Classic winner followed in order of the TOY points.
 - Day 2: Determined by the leader board from day one. If day one is cancelled then day two will be blasted off using day one order.

4. Weigh In Rules

A

- Weigh in will start at 3:05pm on the day of the event unless delayed for unforeseeable circumstances. There will be a check in point or check in boat for each event.

B

- Check in for qualifiers will be the day of qualifier:
 - 3:00pm - Teams #1-15
 - 3:10pm - Teams #16-30
 - 3:20pm - Teams #31-45
 - 3:30pm - Teams #46-60
 - 3:40pm - Teams #61-80

C

- Check in times for Classic each day:
 - 3:00pm - Teams #1-20
 - 3:15pm - Teams #21-40

D

Late check in penalty of 1lb per minute up to 10 minutes. Then after 10 minutes then team is automatically disqualified. Must be within approximately 50 yards of the check in location. Also see rule 5(c)

E

May only weigh in a maximum of (5) Largemouth, Smallmouth or Spotted Bass. 12" Length minimum. Must follow zone regulations if they differ from the maximum (5) or 12" length Bass. Example: Michigan or New York state.

F

- Dead fish penalty is .5lbs for each dead fish up to three fish.
- 4-5 dead fish is an automatic disqualification.

- Teams may not cull a dead fish. If videotaped culling a dead fish the team will be automatically disqualified and future discipline may follow.
- Dead fish may not be weighed in for Big Fish cash or prizes.
- After weigh in, dumping dead fish when releasing live fish will be an automatic disqualification and possible fine if viewed by a TBBA official, the marina personnel, partner or video recorded.
- Team will be disqualified for releasing fish within the marina's boundaries.

G

All competitors must have a working livewell within the boat's design. Portable livewells are not allowed, such as a cooler with an oxygenator.

H

Cull tags must be non-puncture cull tag style. Disqualification if found to have puncture style cull tags in use.

I

A team may require a second weigh in if they feel the scales are not accurate. The Team's first weight will be cleared and the second weight will be recorded. Only under the discretion of the TBBA weighmaster can a 3rd weigh in for the same team be provided.

J

Competitors must use TBBA bags that are provided to transport fish from their boat to the tanks. Teams using unauthorized bags will be penalized 2lbs, or if the bag is found to be weighted illegally the team will be disqualified. Further consequences will follow.

K

If fin clips or cull tags are found in the weigh in bag at the weigh in tank, the team will be penalized 2lbs and go to the end of line.

L

If a Competitor comes to check in/weigh in with more than the maximum (5) bass they will be disqualified. If fish under 12" in length are brought to the tank and discovered by the weighmaster the Competitor will be penalized 1lb per fish under 12". Three or more fish per team under 12" will be an automatic disqualification for the team.

M

No early weigh in for stressed fish. A stressed fish must be notified to the tank official. If you make a false claim, there will be a 1lb penalty.

N

If big fish are tied then both teams will split the prize money. If one team does not weigh in big fish then the team that weighed big fish wins automatically.

O

If teams are tied for first place only, “Big Fish” will determine the winner. If “Big Fish” are tied then both teams will split the prize money. If one team does not weigh in “Big Fish” then the team that weighed their “Big Fish” wins automatically.

P

Teams must return their team identification to check in at the end of day or if they are leaving early. There will be a \$20.00 replacement fee if not returned or lost. It is important to check in at the end of the day to allow TBBA to know that all anglers have returned safely.

5. Event Rules

A

The TBBA directors have developed this series in best interest and fairness to all anglers, with the intent to have all anglers understand and abide by all rules, regulations, Government laws of Ontario, and guidelines set out by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry.

B

TBBA is promoting grassroots tournament fishing while giving back to the anglers. Any disrespectful conduct or unsafe behaviour towards any citizens, other anglers, marina personnel, event sponsors or TBBA staff may result in a fine and/or disqualification.

C

It is the responsibility of all anglers to abide by the fishing, boating and safety laws/regulations for the specific zone the angler is fishing (Example: ON, NY, OH or MI)

D

It is the responsibility of each individual angler to know and follow all TBBA rules, policies and boundaries. Anglers must supply documents, graph tracking or identification if requested by a TBBA official.

E

A maximum of 5 bass are allowed in the livewell at any one time. Other species of fish must be released alive and healthy as possible. If a video or photos clearly showing an angler disrespecting any species of fish or wildlife they will be disqualified (5(b)) from the event and possible future events.

F

No live bait or prepared bait is permitted (except pork rind).

G

Drones or underwater cameras are not allowed on a team's boat during the tournament hours. If a drone is found on a team's boat it is an automatic disqualification. If a manufactured camera is

designed for the purpose of finding fish, the team will also be disqualified. Floggers are acceptable.

F

Check in late penalty is 1lb per minute up to 10 minutes (maximum 10lbs). After 10 minutes the team will be disqualified from the day. If a team's boat breaks down one team member, with the team's fish only, may hitch a ride to weigh in with a competitor. The other team member must stay with the boat. The fish must be separated and identified by team. Video or photos are suggested to identify a team's catch.

I

Competitors may not board or approach another vessel during an event unless there is an emergency.

J

A team may be towed by a competitor or civilian. Other competing teams are not obligated to assist. Check in times are still in effect for both teams as well as the late penalty.

K

A team may return to the competition by repairing or borrowing a boat. A borrowed boat is required to be checked in by a TBBA official before proceeding back to competition.

L

No fishing is allowed within 50 yards of a gas station or marina (Erieau Channel from Rondeau Bay to Lake Erie). No fishing is allowed outside the boundaries or in posted no fishing zones. A team will be disqualified from the day's event for this infraction. No fishing within 100 yards of Ministry nets.

M

No trolling is allowed using the main boat engine, kicker motor or using downriggers. A team will be disqualified for the day of the tournament for this infraction.

N

If a team or angler assists, has knowledge of or holds evidence that shows a TBBA angler cheating, the team or individual may be disciplined which could be disqualification from the day's tournament or fishing under the TBBA association.

O

All protests or appeals must be in writing with all evidence submitted with a \$50.00 fee. The fee is returned if the submitting party wins their protest or appeal. TBBA staff and volunteers are instructed not to comment on any situations when accepting protests or appeals.

6. General Rules

A

Any detrimental behavior by anglers, their family members or anyone associated with that particular angler towards TBBA, Sponsors, Anglers or the fishing industry will not be tolerated. Examples are such things as disrespectful postings on social media sites or talking negatively to sponsors. Legal action may be taken or fines given that will be required to be paid before the angler is allowed to participate in TBBA events in the future. Extreme behavior may result in a lifetime ban from TBBA events.

B

Any assistance, knowledge or holding of evidence of a TBBA angler/team cheating may be disciplined by TBBA.

TBBA Pike Tournament Rules

1. Registration

- \$200.00 + \$26.00(HST) Per boat no cut off date.
- As many anglers that the boat stamp plate capacity states.
- Tournament hours are 7:00am till 2:00pm
- Under 20 Teams 100% - TBBA expenses to top 3. + Prizes
- Over 20 Teams 75% payback plus prizes to top 3. + (Prizes)
- Over 50 Teams will payback to 5th + Prizes
- Big Fish cash/prizes guaranteed.

2. Blast Off Rules

- 6:30 am Sign in starts . Must sign in to start fishing at 7:00am
- There is no fishing before 7:00 am on the day of the event.
- Anglers may start fishing anytime after 7:00 am.
- Anglers must sign in, receive team identification and have a livewell check before starting to fish.

3. Weigh in Rules

- Highest total weight of (3) Pike takes the win. Final weigh in will be at 3pm
- Anglers may weigh a pike in at any time during the day to keep the big pike as healthy as possible.
- The dead fish penalty will be 3lbs per pike.
- A dead fish can not be weighed in for Big Fish cash or prizes.

4. Safety/Event Rules

- All rules are the same as the TBBA Bass rule book if not stated otherwise.
- A livewell is not required but TBBA prefers you release fish alive. Dead fish must not be thrown back into the water but removed from the premises or the angler will be disqualified.