



NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TEAM TRAIL

2023 Rules and Regulations

- 1. ELIGIBILITY:** Limit 2 anglers per boat. At least one member of the team must be 18 years of age or older. Youth entries must be 16 years of age or younger as of the first NWATT qualifying tournament to compete in the Youth Division, all year, and fish with a parent/guardian/boat captain and/or approved partner at least 18 years of age or older. A boat captain/approved partner must be approved prior to the first NWATT qualifying tournament by the NWATT Tournament Director. Any angler 16 years of age or older must carry a valid Arkansas fishing license. Anglers must be present at each weigh-in to win any gift giveaways or drawings. **If anglers are in the winning payout places, it is the Angler's Responsibility to pick up their winnings from the NWATT Tournament Director.**
 - **Boat Captains can be used in the Youth Division, with 2 youth anglers. Tournament director is Not Responsible for assigning the boat captains. Boat captain must have his/her signature, on the youth entry forms! (see rule # 21)**
- 2. REGISTRATION AND ENTRY:** Every team must register in person at Bradford Marine & ATV, Hook Line & Sinker, or Southtown Sporting Goods. All members must complete a W-9 form, prior to receiving any winnings. The W-9's Forms are available on www.fishnwatt.com and from the Tournament Director. Boater's must have boater's liability insurance in the amount of \$100,000, prior to the tournament. **Entry fees for the 4 qualifying tournaments will be \$125.00 per boat and an annual \$50.00 membership per angler. Entry fee for the two-day NWATT Classic will be \$250.00. All entries must be received by 5pm on Tuesday prior to the tournament. Late entries will be allowed at the boat ramp, the entry fee will be \$250.00 for qualifying tournaments and \$500.00 for the NWATT Classic. Ramp entries must be accepted 30 minutes prior to official take off times. Any entry taken after 5pm on the Tuesday prior to the tournament will automatically be in the last flight out and will be due to check-in in the first flight. All questions in regard to the tournament rules and/or tournaments, contact Shannan Moseley, Cell # (479) 409-1172.**
- 3. TOURNAMENT TIMES:** Take off times will be **First Safe-Light**. Departure will be drawn in random sequence, by computer. Official starting times and return check-in times are shown on a schedule, posted on www.fishnwatt.com and NWATT Facebook Page. The NWATT Tournament Director will call off boats and check live wells. Boaters are to be in line per their assigned *take off* number (**not your team number**). Boats must be within marina buoys by their flight check-in time for afternoon check-in. Teams will use their **Team Numbers** for afternoon check-ins.
- 4. LATE CHECK-IN PENALTY:** DISQUALIFICATION. No excuses! Boats must be inside the buoys, located at Prairie Creek, No Wake Zone, **before your designated check in time.**

5. **FISHING LOCATION:** Anywhere on the tournament lake, except within 50 feet of another contestant's boat without consent, or any public marinas. No fishing inside the buoys of Prairie Creek, or any off-limits areas, or no boating areas. No sitting outside of no boating areas and casting inside of buoyed area.
6. **BOATS AND MOTORS:** Any boat 14 ft. or longer will be accepted if powered by an engine of 10 hp or more and equipped with a kill switch and an aerated live well. Boats may not be trailered during tournament hours. Trailering refers to hauling the boat from ramp to another ramp. If you launch at Prairie Creek you may load your boat to the parking lot and retrieve your fish.
7. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT:** Only artificial lures may be used. Pork-style lures are allowed. All bass must be caught on one rod and reel at a time. Trolling and live bait are not allowed. **NO Alabama Rigs, Umbrella Rigs, or this style of baits allowed, for explanation, see rule #20.**
8. **SAFETY AND SPORTSMANSHIP:** Safe boating and fishing practices must always be observed. Life jackets must be worn when the boat is on plane. **All anglers will follow, all Game & Fish rules and regulations!!** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. Intoxication will be cause for **immediate disqualification**. No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed in the boats during the tournament hours, extending through the signing of the weigh-in form. Illegal use of drugs, commitment of a crime, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules are grounds for disqualification and/or rejection of any application for participation.
9. **WEIGH-IN:** Teams will use only **Northwest Arkansas Team Trail weigh-in bags** provided at each tournament to bring fish to the scales. A courtesy board will be provided.
10. **SCORING:** Largemouth Bass, Spotted Bass (Kentucky), Meanmouth Bass, and Smallmouth Bass will be counted for total weight. The total stringer weight per team will determine finishing place. **Any Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, or Meanmouth Bass under 15" and any Spotted Bass (Kentucky) under 12" presented for weigh-in will result in a one-pound penalty plus the loss of the fish. A dead fish will result in a .50-pound penalty. According to AGFC any bass that is brown in color or has any hue of brown in coloration will constitute a "Meanmouth" and must be 15" in length.** Bass will be measured on a Golden Rule, mouth closed and tail to touch the line. Five (5) FISH LIMIT PER TEAM. No more than 5 legal fish in the live well at any time. Any team presenting more than 5 fish at the weigh in will be disqualified. Any frozen or iced fish presented for weigh-in will result in immediate DISQUALIFICATION. Snagging is illegal, any bass caught by method of sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth. The use of any electronic implanted device(s) (bugging) used to locate fish will result in team DISQUALIFICATION.
11. *****ANGLER OF THE YEAR***** – Points will be determined by PLACE FINISHED (i.e., 1st place will receive 300 points, 2nd place 299 points...) **Angler of the Year champions will be determined by the 4 NWATT qualifying tournaments. AOY will be determined prior to the NWATT Classic. You will only receive AOY points, if you fish with your regular season partner, or if you fish with an alternate approved by the NWATT Tournament Director (only if an emergency arises) or fish alone. If an approved alternate is used, points will count towards AOY for that tournament.** Each team that pays an entry fee will receive 25 points if no fish are weighed-in.

12. **TIES:** Total weight category, largest single bass will determine winner. If single bass ties, total number of fish will determine winner. If still tied, a coin flip will determine winner. For big bass tie, number of fish will determine winner. If still tied, a coin flip will determine winner.

13. **COMMUNICATION DEVICES:** The uses of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, C.B.'s, etc., to communicate fishing locations or fishing information during tournament hours is strictly prohibited and will result in team **DISQUALIFICATION**.

14. **QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:** By his/her signature on this entry form and/or participation in this tournament, contestants agree to submit to and pass a quality assurance test if required by the NWATT Tournament Director. Refusal to submit to a quality assurance test will result in immediate disqualification, plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments. Contestants disqualified by result of the test will forfeit all monies and prizes and may be banned from future tournaments. Tests will be random.

15. **PROTEST:** Protest must be filed in writing with the NWATT Tournament Director no later than 15 minutes after the conclusion of the weigh-in.

16. **TOURNAMENT CANCELLATION:** Northwest Arkansas Team Trail reserves the right to cancel any tournament. Tournament fees will be rolled to the next tournament automatically. If you do not wish to have the tournament fees rolled or have already paid for remaining NWATT tournaments, then a full refund can be requested. Please contact the Tournament Director. Decisions will be made by 6pm the day prior to the event on www.fishnwatt.com and NWATT Facebook Page. The Tournament Director reserves the right to cancel or delay a tournament due to inclement weather conditions and will communicate accordingly.

17. **CLASSIC QUALIFYING:** Prior to qualifying for the NWATT Classic, a team or an individual must pay or fish **4 out of 4** NWATT qualifying tournaments to qualify for the 2-day NWATT Classic (**No "back paying" allowed**). Whomever your sign-up with for the first NWATT qualifying tournament is considered your classic/regular season partner and cannot be changed without the NWATT Tournament Director's approval. You may use an alternate for the NWATT Classic (if an emergency arises), **but it must be approved by the NWATT Tournament Director! NO EXCEPTIONS!** However, you may fish the NWATT Classic alone if you choose. Anglers **CANNOT** pair up with another NWATT Angler, that has lost his/her partner for the Classic Championship.

18. **PARTICIPATION AND ALTERNATES:** Alternates are allowed for the 4 NWATT qualifying tournaments. **Alternates are not required to pay an annual membership, but is NOT considered AOY or NWATT Classic eligible, without the NWATT Tournament Director approval.** Remember: **You must have pre-paid or fished all the qualifying tournaments, to qualify for the AOY and/or NWATT Classic.**

19. **LATE:** If a team is going to be late for any tournament takeoff, it is required to notify the NWATT Tournament Director immediately, so arrangements can be made for boat check. NWATT Tournament Director - Shannan Moseley (479) 409-1172.

20. **UMBRELLA RIG / MULTIPLE LURE RULE:** During competition day or days, **no more than one artificial lure of “ANY KIND”** may be attached to a line at one time. One lure is defined as a single man-made device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time. If multiple fish are caught on a single man-made lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch. Any Umbrella-type rigging harness – **with or without hooks** – is **not** allowed. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits and buzz baits are allowed. Trailer Hooks and Plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait. If you are not sure about a lure, get it approved by the Tournament Director before fishing.
21. **YOUTH TEAMS WITH BOAT CAPTAINS:** The boat captain’s primary responsibility is always **SAFETY** of the youth anglers. Follow All the NWATT rules. Promote sportsmanship and conservation. **Boat Captains May at Any Time:** Coach or give advice, verbally explain techniques, assist with fish culling, assist with hook or lure removal of a landed fish. Operate a trolling motor when needed to keep boat safe from rocks, docks, off the bank during high winds or as needed to prevent boat damage and if youth is unable to operate trolling motor safely. **Boat Captains May Not at Any Time:** Fish or Teach by example, Tie knots, Land fish with or without a net, Cast for a Youth Angler. **BOAT CAPTAINS MUST SIGN, YOUTH ENTRY FORMS.**

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL ANGLERS TO KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE NORTHWEST ARKANSAS TEAM TRAIL RULES AND TURN IN THEIR W-9 FORMS.

Interpretation of the rules detailed above shall be the exclusive right of the NWATT Tournament Director. Decisions shall be final in all matters.

In completing the NWATT entry form (either electronic and/or paper), contestants confirm they will abide by all rules and regulations and are subject to a random quality assurance test. I also hereby waiver and release Northwest Arkansas Team Trail and all affiliated entities from all claims in this tournament series. Northwest Arkansas Team Trail, NWATT Tournament Director, NWATT Advisory Board will not be responsible for any accidents or lost/stolen items.

NWATT Tournament Director:

Shannan Moseley
(479) 409-1172

2023 NWATT Dates:

2/18/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm

3/4/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm

4/1/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm

4/22/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm

2023 NWATT Classic:

6/10/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm

6/11/2023- Prairie Creek – Safe Light – 3:00pm