



SHOW ME Tournaments, LLC

Full Tournament Rules (apply to all SMT events)

Updated January 2026

1) Eligibility & Membership

a. Teams

- i. SMT teams consist of **one (1) person or a maximum of two (2) persons**.
- ii. All participants must have a **valid, current state fishing license**.
- iii. It is the angler's responsibility to comply with all state and local fishing and wildlife laws. Any angler caught fishing without a valid license or violating state/local law may be **disqualified**.

b. Membership Requirement

- i. **Active SMT membership is required** to participate in any SMT Trail or Series event tournament (including Just Fish Team Trail and River Series), unless designated an "open tournament". This applies to **boaters, co-anglers, minors, and alternates**.
- ii. 2026 memberships run through **December 31, 2026**.

2) Boats & Safety

a. Boats

- i. All boats must meet **U.S. Coast Guard and state regulations**.
- ii. Boats must have:
 1. a functioning **emergency kill switch**
 2. a functioning **aerated livewell** suitable to sustain a healthy tournament limit

b. Safety Requirements

- i. A U.S. Coast Guard-approved **chest-type life preserver (PFD)** must be worn and properly fastened **any time the combustible engine is running**.
- ii. The **kill switch must be attached** to the driver with a lanyard **no longer than 48 inches**.

c. Insurance

- i. The boater must carry **liability insurance** on any boat used in an SMT event, with a minimum of **\$100,000 liability coverage**.
- ii. SMT may require proof of insurance at registration or check-in.

3) Registration & Event Day Procedures

a. Registration

- i. On-site registration typically begins **one (1) hour or more** before tournament start.
- ii. Entry fees paid after posted registration time may be accepted **only at the Tournament Director's discretion**.
- iii. **Online pre-registration** is available for select events.

b. Refunds & Rollovers

- i. **No refunds** for registration cancellations.
- ii. Entry fees may be **rolled over** to a future tournament **within the same season** only if the Director is contacted **prior to the start of the tournament**.
- iii. Failure to contact the Director prior to tournament start will result in **forfeiture** of entry fee.

c. Boat Numbers

- i. Boat numbers are assigned in order of **paid registration**, or payment of a **\$30 non-refundable deposit per tournament**.

d. Pre-Tournament Meeting

- i. A pre-tournament meeting will be held **5 minutes before each tournament**.
- ii. Additional tournament-specific rules and/or off-limits may be announced at this meeting. Anglers are responsible for following **all tournament-specific announcements**, even if not listed in this document.

4) Weigh-In & Fish Handling

a. Weigh-In Procedures

- i. Fish must be weighed using **bags provided by SMT**.
- ii. Early weigh-in may be permitted **at the Tournament Director's discretion**.
- iii. Detailed weigh-in instructions will be provided at the pre-tournament meeting.

b. Fish Handling & Equipment

- i. Each team must present their own catch to the weigh-in official.
- ii. No person other than a weigh-in official may:



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1. handle fish once presented for weigh-in
2. touch the scales, weigh-in basket, or any weigh-in equipment

c. **Culling & Livewell Limits**

- i. No more than **five (5) fish** are allowed in a livewell at any time, except during the culling process.
- ii. **Dead fish may not be culled.**
- iii. **No culling is allowed in the host marina.**

5) Scoring, Length, Penalties, Ties

a. **Daily Limit & Length**

- i. Each team may weigh in **five (5) fish per day**.
- ii. Minimum lengths:
 1. Largemouth & Smallmouth: **15 inches**
 2. Kentucky ("spotted bass"): **12 inches**
- iii. Fish will be measured on a **Golden Rule** measuring board.
- iv. The Tournament Director has final discretion on all length assessments.

b. **Short Fish Penalty**

- i. Any short fish will be culled from the sack and a **one (1) pound penalty** will be applied to total weight.
Make sure your fish is legal length before coming to the scale.

c. **Dead Fish Penalty**

- i. For each dead fish, a **one (1) pound penalty** will be deducted from total weight.
- ii. A dead fish will **not** be weighed as big bass.
- iii. The Tournament Director makes the final decision on whether a fish is dead.
- iv. Fish that appear altered or mangled may be weighed or disallowed at the Tournament Director's discretion.

d. **Ties**

- i. Ties will be broken in this order:
 1. Big Bass
 2. Most Fish Weighed In
 3. Earliest Entry Into Tournament

e. **Late to Weigh-In**

- i. Any team returning to checkpoint late will **have no weight recorded**.

6) Permitted Methods & Fishing Water Rules

a. **Bait & Equipment**

- i. **Artificial lures only.** Pork trailers are permitted.
- ii. **Alabama rigs (A-rigs)** and **Forward-Facing Sonar (FFS)** are permitted.
- iii. Cell phones may not be used to gain an advantage over other participants. (*Emergency/safety communication is always allowed.*)

b. **Permitted Waters & Off-Limits**

- i. No fishing is allowed:
 1. inside the host marina
 2. in coves immediately next to the host marina
 3. within marinas hosting other tournaments
- ii. No fishing is allowed within **50 yards** of another anchored or tied tournament boat with a trolling motor out of the water **without their approval**.
- iii. Fishing is not permitted in areas designated "off limits" or "no fishing" by the Corps of Engineers or local/state/federal officials.
- iv. The Director may announce additional off-limits at the pre-tournament meeting; anglers are responsible for following all announced off-limits areas.

c. **Boat & Fish Handling on the Water**

- i. Participants may not leave the boat to land a fish or gain access to a fishing area.
- ii. Restricting natural movement of fish by any means will result in disqualification.
- iii. Knowingly baiting a specific hole/brush pile prior to an SMT event (or having an outside source do so) to gain an advantage may result in disqualification from that event and future SMT events



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d. Leaving Your Boat / Emergencies / Boat Trouble

- i. During tournament hours, team members must remain together in the boat at all times **except** for brief, reasonable exceptions such as sickness, "nature calling," severe weather, or other **safety-related hazards**.
- ii. If a team leaves tournament waters early for any reason, the team must make a reasonable effort to **contact the Tournament Director before leaving**.
- iii. **Boat trouble procedure:** If a team experiences mechanical trouble or becomes disabled, **one team member must remain with the disabled boat** whenever practicable.
- iv. The other team member may accept assistance and may ride with another tournament participant to check in and/or weigh in the day's catch **only if:**
 1. the team's fish are **kept separate** from the assisting boat's fish at all times, and
 2. the team **contacts the Tournament Director prior to transferring** fish or transporting fish to weigh-in (when possible).
- v. "Leaving the boat" exceptions are for **safety and emergencies only** and may not be used to gain access to a fishing area or advantage.
- vi. SMT reserves the right to review these situations for fairness and rule compliance. The Tournament Director has final authority on resolution.

7) Conduct, Protests, and Enforcement

a. Sportsmanship

- i. All participants must demonstrate the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation.
- ii. **No alcohol or controlled substances** may be used or allowed in the boat during tournament hours.

b. Disqualification for Misconduct

- i. Physical or verbal abuse of SMT personnel or other contestants, possession of alcohol/illegal substances during tournament hours (including weigh-in), or other severe misconduct may result in **immediate disqualification without appeal**.

c. Cheating & Rule Violations

- i. Anyone found knowingly violating SMT rules may be disqualified from the current event (no refund) and may face permanent disqualification from future SMT events.
- ii. SMT reserves the right to request a **truth verification test** at any time. Refusal to voluntarily submit may result in disqualification from current and future events.

d. Protests

- i. All protests must be submitted **in writing** to the Director **before the close of weigh-in**.
- ii. Verbal protests will not be accepted.

e. Refusal of Entry / Director Authority

- i. SMT reserves the right to refuse entry into any SMT event.
- ii. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules is left exclusively to the Tournament Director.

8) Prizes, Media, and Tax Reporting

a. Photography & Media

- i. Participation in any SMT event constitutes permission for SMT to use a participant's name, photograph, and/or video for promotional, marketing, or reporting purposes.

b. Prize Disbursement & Tax Reporting

- i. If a participant wins a cash prize or a prize paid by check, the participant may be required to provide their **Social Security number** before payment is issued, for tax reporting and compliance purposes. Failure to provide required information in a timely manner may result in forfeiture of prize earnings.



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Trails and Series: additional rules addendum for Just Fish Team Trail and LOZ River Series

1) Teen Angler Team

- a. If both partners are under age 18, a parent or legal guardian must be in the boat as the driver and observer only.

2) Angler Team of the Year (Points Champions)

- a. Angler Team of the Year is awarded based on a points system using the best five (5) finishes out of seven (7) regular-season tournaments leading up to the championship.
- b. Points:
 - i. 1st = 100 points + weight
 - ii. Each place after declines by 1 point + weight (2nd = 99 + weight; 3rd = 98 + weight; etc.)
- c. If no fish are weighed, teams receive 10 points less than the last position weighed
- d. Updated points will be posted on the SMT website within two (2) weeks following each regular season event.
- e. Any disputes regarding points must be submitted to the Director before the next regular season event.
- f. Additional prizes and incentives may be announced during the season.

3) Team & Alternate Participation Policy

- a. A two-person team may fish up to two (2) events during the season using any combination of solos and/or alternates (two solo events, two alternate events, or one solo and one alternate) and still maintain team points and championship eligibility.
- b. An established solo team may bring an alternate up to two (2) times during the season and still qualify as a solo team for the championship and retain points as a solo team.
- c. Additional use beyond the two-event allowance will not count toward points or championship eligibility.
- d. Permanent partner/team changes must be communicated to the Director in advance.

4) 2026 Championship Eligibility

- a. Teams qualify for a series or trail championship by either:
 - i. Paid entries in 5 of the 7 regular-season events, regardless of points, OR
 - ii. Finishing in the top 40% of the field based on final points (points calculated using best 5 events)
- b. Additional notes:
 - i. Teams may pre-pay for regular season events, but may count only one (1) "pre-paid/not-fished" event as a qualifying tournament toward the championship.
 - ii. In those cases, the entry fee counts as a paid entry and counts toward boat number count and payout.