

2016 OMTT OFFICIAL RULES

1. PREFACE-RULES: These rules and regulations remain unchanged during the 2016 season for all Ozark Mountain Team Trail Events. Interpretation and enforcement of the following rules and regulations is left exclusively to the Tournament Directors and are not subject to appeal. **PROTESTS** must be made in writing within 30 minutes after the official check-in-time of the final flight. All protests in writing will stand up unless a witness disagrees, where final decisions are made by tournament director. Anglers being protested may not be witnesses. Witness does not have to be a tournament angler. **Once anglers have been protested and notified, those protested anglers may not protest the team that protested them.** Rules are in effect during competition days of all 2016 Ozark Mountain Team Trail Events. It is every angler's responsibility to know these rules and you will be held accountable. All Anglers must have a **current fishing license** in the state waters fished. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. **Cheating** of any kind will not be tolerated and will lead to immediate disqualification. **Trailing of Boats is prohibited** during OMTT tournament hours unless approved by Tournament Officials.

2. ELIGIBILITY: To maintain the highest standards possible, participation in Ozark Mountain Team Trail Events, (herein after referred to as OMTT), will be by entry invitation only. Any male or female whose entry has been accepted and has paid the appropriate entry fee and membership by the official deadline date is eligible. **Boater must be at least 18 years of age.** OMTT reserves the right to refuse any entries.

3. ALTERNATES: Each **team** allowed **1 alternate** to qualify for the Championship, Anglers of the Year or any other year end Incentives. **Alternates pay a \$10 membership fee.** An individual angler can fish all 4 tournaments with a different alternate and be eligible to win draw prizes, but **no year-end incentive awards**, (such as AOY or Championship). **No alternates may be used in Championship and no angler is allowed to fish alone, see rule #24.**

4. SPLIT TEAM: After the first tournament fished, if a team decides to split up and get new partners for remainder of season, the team decides who boater is. If they can't decide who boater is, OMTT officials use angler listed as boater on entry form in first tournament fished in that season. The boater assumes the points and the non-boater starts with **show points only** at the next tournament in that season. The boater is not allowed an alternate for remainder of season and the non-boater will be allowed one alternate to be used for remainder of that season. Both teams get credit for fishing that event towards year end incentives.

5. MEMBERSHIPS, ENTRY FEES, DEPOSITS & DEADLINES: **\$40 yearly membership** fee per angler. Membership qualifies your team for BassMaster Team Championship eligibility. 2016 OMTT Team Event entry fee is \$200.00 per team. Optional Big Bass fee per tournament is \$20.00 per boat. Completed signed entry forms and all entry fees for the Tournament must be paid in full, (cash, check or credit card), at registration. Call if you can't make it to registration. Entries may be transferred to another tournament only in the same tournament year by Tournament Director's approval. Late Entries subject to approval by the tournament director. No Show \$50 Deposits are Non Refundable. No Show Entries are non-refundable unless emergency situation is approved. No deposits transferred to the next year. \$50 deposits hold take off position for a single event and \$200 deposit for all four. NO buy ins are allowed, you must be present at event to get credit fishing that event.

6. INSURANCE: Boating Liability Insurance (\$100,000 minimum) is required of all competitors in Ozark Mountain Team Trail events.

7. OFF LIMITS: During the 2016 OMTT **regular season**, there are no off limits. There is off limits during 2016 OMTT **Championship**.

8. COMPETITION PERIODS: Tournament hours begin as listed on the schedule and/or stated at official registration. The Tournament Director reserves the right to change the Tournament Hours on competition days if need be. Competitor's must know and observe the official times, dates and rules. During **competition hours/official practice days**, tournament anglers **may not** procure the service of guides or local experts, participate in the practice of "hole sitting", follow a non-competitor's boat to fishing locations, use mobile communication devices to communicate fishing locations or information during tournament hours, fish in the designated off limit areas given in the pre-take-off announcements. Breaking of the for mentioned rule results in immediate disqualification from OMTT event. **No wake zones & no fishing zones on all lakes must be followed.** If angler admits fault, is warned/ticketed by law enforcement or is found guilty in a protest, anglers breaking the no wake/no fish rule will be disqualified immediately. During a two day event, anglers lose that days weight only.

9. PRE-TOURNAMENT REGISTRATION: Official registration will be available on **Friday** prior to the tournament for anglers that have not pre-registered. Go to www.respoolin.com to view schedule of events and rules. **Pre-registration is from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.** Boat number determined by the date and time of registration. Pre-registered anglers do not have to be present at registration, but it is every anglers responsibility to know take off times, boat numbers and rules.

10. SAFETY: Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a U.S. Coast-Guard approved personal flotation device fully strapped, snapped or zipped securely **anytime the combustion engine is running** once competition day begins. Competition day begins after you receive your boat paddle and ends when you turn boat paddle in. Violators of this rule will be disqualified. All boats must be equipped with an engine shut-off device securely attached to the boat operator when the combustion engine is running during competition days. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament times may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

11. SPORTSMANSHIP, ALCOHOL & DRUGS: All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of sportsmanship, conservation, care and courtesy at all times. Alcoholic beverages are not allowed in the boat, used by competitors during competition hours, on tournament stage or at official weigh in area. No drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a physician) shall be used by any competitor during official practice, competition hours or at the official weigh-in. Respect fellow competitors on the water.

12. BOATS AND MOTORS: All boats must meet B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements; Boats with **stick steering**, house boats, barges or other cumbersome crafts are not allowed at the Tournament Director's discretion. All boats must be equipped with an ignition "kill switch" device. Each boat is required to have a properly aerated live well adequate to maintain alive, a limit catch of bass. Running lights, if required by OMTT Officials, must be operational. Electric trolling motors may be used for maneuvering.

13. TACKLE, EQUIPMENT & FISHING: Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Pork style baits are allowed. No live bait or prepared bait allowed. All bass must be caught on rod and reel, and only one rod and reel allowed in water per angler. If a competitor breaks his line while setting the hook or retrieving a fish, he is allowed to make an attempt with the rod or with his hands to secure the visible line and land the fish for it to be counted as legal. Trolling, as a method of fishing is not allowed. Underwater cameras are not allowed during **competition hours**. Dip nets are allowed to assist in landing fish. Snagging bass off spawning beds is prohibited and all bass caught off spawning beds must be hooked inside the mouth. All bass must be caught alive on rod and reel. **Umbrella rigs or Multiple baits are NOT allowed, for further explanation see rule #27.**

14. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS & COMMERCIAL DOCKS: Fishing on the tournament waters is permitted anywhere except: within 50-yards of a **public gas pump**, within 50 yards of another competitor's boat which was first anchored or secured in a fixed position (with the trolling motor in or out of the water), unless that competitor specifically allows any and all tournament boats the right to fish within 50-yard radius claimed by him; within any area designated by state or federal agencies as a "no fishing" area; within the buoyed areas of the take-off cove. Other specific off limits shall be addressed at the pre-takeoff meeting. **Corps of Engineer Lakes in the White River chain have specific off limits in and around "Concession Areas" (Marinas) and commercial docks. Anglers caught fishing or ticketed in non-permitted fishing areas, will be disqualified.**

15. SPECIAL SITUATIONS: Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must land all fish from inside the boat. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. Neither competitor may depart from the boat except in the case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, one or both competitors may be removed from their boat to another boat operated by other competitors or a rescue boat. It is the responsibility of anglers to keep their fish separated and in water during transport to the tournament weigh-in site. Anglers must notify an official tournament staff member of the situation upon arrival to weigh-in.

16. TAKE-OFF ANNOUNCEMENTS & INSPECTION: There will be mandatory pre-take-off announcements 10 minutes prior to take-off. Boats will take off in order of event entry by flights. Failure to respond to the call of your boat number will result in the loss of take-off position. No boat is allowed to leave the take-off area until boat number is called by an OMTT official. An idle by inspection will be conducted at take-off. Boat operator will be asked to show "kill switch" as he/she idles by the last check point. **No boat leaves the take-off with a faulty "kill switch"**. All Coast-Guard approved life jackets must be fully zipped, snapped or strapped on both contestants. Live wells must be opened and aerators on during idle by. Failure to comply by these rules may result in forfeiture or loss of take-off position. No jockeying for position.

17. OFFICIAL CHECK INN: Check-in site will be determined by OMTT Officials. During pre-tournament inspection, all competitors must be in full compliance of all rules set forth by the Tournament Officials and continue to abide by those rules until the weigh-in ceremony is completed. All boats will identify themselves at check-in site by means of boat number and proceed **immediately** to the designated weigh-in area to weigh fish. Failure to receive morning boat inspection or turn in your boat number/paddle at the check point will result in disqualification.

18. SCORING: Largemouth, Kentucky (spotted), Smallmouth and Meanmouth (Red Eye) Bass are counted. **Five Fish** per team may be weighed in at each event. Fish must be weighed on OMTT scales in an OMTT bag. The official length limit for bass will be determined by the Tournament Director and will be announced at the pre-take-off meeting. Bass should be measured on a flat board with mouth closed and the tail of the fish must touch the legal length line to qualify. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length will not be counted and will cause a **1.00 pound penalty** for each such bass presented to be deducted from the contestant's total score. For each legal **dead bass** presented to weigh-in official, the competitor's shall be penalized **0.50 pounds** to be deducted from their daily score. Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points. **At no time during tournament hours shall a contestant possess more than a 5-fish limit or weigh in more than a five fish limit.** Failure to comply with these rules will result in immediate disqualification.

19. CULLING: Culling must be done immediately by one angler before culling angler makes another cast and not inside the host marina buoys or designated take-off areas. **Anglers may not cull a dead fish.** Culling of a dead fish will result in immediate disqualification. Anglers may put fish #6 in the live well before getting the cull fish out of live well as long as culling angler does not make a cast before culling the fish.

20. LATE PENALTY: Contestants not at designated check-in site by official designated time will be penalized **one pound** for each minute late up to a maximum of **ten minutes (ten pounds)**. Penalized weight will be deducted from the team's total weight. If the maximum of ten minutes is exceeded, contestants will forfeit all weight for that day's competition.

21. PAYBACK: 100% pay back of all paid entries at every event. **\$5000** guaranteed to first place at each regular event. Pay back rewarded to the first **20 places** guaranteed at each regular event. 100% of **Big Bass** money paid back at each regular event to two places in a 70/30 split. If a **Tie** occurs, OMTT Tournament Officials will combine and divide equally the prize money between the spots that are tied. Trophy position shall be determined by entry position on ties.

22. DRAW PRIZE QUALIFICATION: Anglers/Teams **must fish ALL 4** regular season tournaments with only **1 alternate** to be eligible for all year end draw prizes. If no anglers qualify for the draw prize, it will be left to the discretion of the Tournament Director how prizes are awarded.

23. 2016 CHAMPIONSHIP & AOY: Teams **must fish 3 of 4** tournaments with **1 alternate** to be eligible for Angler of Year, OMTT Championship and BassMaster Team Championship. Point system used to determine AOY. **100%** of all entry fees paid back. **100%** of Big Bass money paid back. **Top 50** in angler of year points automatically qualify for championship **AND** any team that fishes **ALL 4** events with only **1 alternate**. Any team in top 50 not able to fish the Championship will be replaced by the next **eligible team** in order of AOY points. **No Alternates** are allowed in OMTT Championship. **No fishing alone**, see Rule #24. Off limits and official practice days to be announced. **Tie** for first place only, broken by a 1 hour fish off immediately following weigh in. An observer appointed by OMTT will ride in each boat. Anglers may not acquire fishing advice from anyone before fish off. Tie for big bass will split winnings. All other regular season rules apply during competition days.

24. OMTT CHAMPIONSHIP OBSERVER RULE: This rule only applies to the **OMTT championship** qualifying teams. If one member of a championship qualifying team cannot fish in the championship due to extraordinary circumstance, an observer can be appointed or approved by an OMTT official. The observer will be in the boat with the angler during tournament hours each day for safety reasons only. The observer is not allowed to fish, give out information or assist the angler in any way except in an emergency situation. OMTT reserves the right to enforce this rule. OMTT reserves the right to allow angler to fish alone if an observer can't be found for championship only.

25. BASSMASTER TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP: OMTT teams/members are eligible to qualify for the BassMaster Team Championship and One angler's chance to qualify for the **2017 BASSMASTER CLASSIC. Full-time FLW Pros and BASS Elite Anglers are not eligible.** Teams are chosen in order of AOY points. If a team chooses not to participate, that team will be replaced by next team in AOY points. If one member of a team chooses not to participate, they will be replaced first by boater of next team in AOY points and then by non-boater in AOY points.

26. QUALITY ASSURANCE TEST: Random quality assurance test may be given at OMTT events. By his or her signature on entry form and/or participation in any OMTT tournament event, anglers agree to submit to any and all quality assurance tests. Refusal to submit to any or all test will result in immediate disqualification and possible ban from future OMTT events. If anglers fail any or all tests, the angler's weight shall be 0.00 pounds and they lose all winnings. None of the OMTT rules shall prohibit an OMTT Official from approaching, observing or boarding any competitor's boat during tournament competition periods.

27. UMBRELLA RIG / MULTIPLE LURE RULE: During competition 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 manmade device designed to attract and/or catch one fish at a time.** Attaching trailer hooks, plastic trailers, blades, etc., to a single lure is acceptable. If multiple fish are caught on a single manmade lure, on a single cast, all fish are considered legal and may be added to the daily catch. Any umbrella-type rigging, harness, or other device designed to hold more than one lure at a time - **with or without hooks – is not allowed.** Such rigging, harness, or device cannot be added to a single lure as described above. **Trailer hooks and plastic trailers must be on the main hook of the bait.** The head on the main stem may be hinged. Traditional twin arm spinnerbaits or buzz baits are allowed. On twin arm spinnerbaits or buzz baits, **no more than two wires** a maximum length of **6 inches each** may extend off the main arm or body of the lure. **Only spinner blades can be affixed to the arms, no hooks.** OMTT officials have the sole authority to determine whether a lure is considered a single lure as defined above. If you are not sure about a lure you are planning to use, you better get it approved by a Tournament Director before fishing.

Call Scott Berry @ 417-861-2983 with questions!