

R & W NITRO TRACKER TEAM TOURNAMENT TRAIL RULES

1. **Participation:** Tournaments are open to anyone over 18 years of age. If under 18 years of age you must be accompanied in the boat by some over 18 years old. Individuals who fished in a tournament in the last 24 months that required an entry fee of \$700.00 or more, or if you have fished A Stren, Pro FLW, PRO Bassmaster or any PRO Circuits you are not eligible to fish in any R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail. If you are a professional guide on the waters that R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Trail holds its local tournament or Classic on, you are not eligible to fish our circuits on that particular water.
2. **R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail Membership and Classic:** Membership is \$40.00 per year. This entitles you to fish any R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Trail regular event. R & W Nitro Tracker Team Trail year ends with our classic.
3. **Qualifying for the Classic:** You must fish 4 out of 6 qualifying tournaments in the same division. You must be a current paid up member in R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail fishing in order to qualify for Classic. You can buy one (1) of the four tournaments (must pay before the tournament that you are buying). Open or Charity tournaments do count toward Classic qualification. Each member must fish at least two tournaments.
4. **Substitute: Each team is allowed to use only two substitutes during the regular tournament season.** Substitute must pay R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Trail substitute fee of \$20.00 but can substitute as many times as he wants for any number of teams. **Sub cannot qualify for R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Team Trail Classic.**
5. **Divisions:** Your \$40.00 membership entitles you to fish other R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Team Trail divisions by paying the tournament entry fees. You are entitled to win any cash pay-out in that tournament, but you can only qualify for the classic in one division.
6. **Classic Tournament Entry Fee:** There will be a mandatory \$120.00 per team entry fee. \$20.00 will go into the big bass pot.
7. **Limit:** This is a five (5) fish limit (Per Team or when fishing alone) tournament. Exceptions: State laws prevail when fishing on any body of water (size and limit). **All culling must be done on the water.** At any time you may not have more than the five (5) fish limit in your possession.
8. **Catch and Release:** R & W Nitro Tracker Tournament Team Trail is 100% catch and release—all live fish must be returned to the water that they were taken from.
9. **Big Bass:** Ties for big bass will split big bass pot.
10. **No Live Bait:** Only artificial lures can be used in all tournaments. The use of pork rind is permitted.
11. **Permitted Fishing Methods:** All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only 1 rod may be used at a time. Trolling method of fishing is absolutely prohibited.
12. **Short Fish Penalties:** A golden rule will be available for teams to check their fish. No courtesy bump by the director. All fish brought to weigh in must be of legal size determined by state law for that body of water fished. **Short fish will be culled from your sack and the large fish will also be culled from the remaining fish.**
13. **Dead Fish Penalty:** 8 ounces of weight per dead fish will be deducted from your total weight.
14. **Mangled Fish:** Fish that appear to be altered or mangled will only be weighed at the discretion of the local director.
15. **Late Weigh In:** There is no late weigh in. The team chip must be placed in bucket at said tournament event time. Chip bucket will be closed at said end time NO EXCEPTIONS. **Tournament Hours:** Starting and finish time of each tournament will be set by local director.
16. **Registration:** There will be registration at the tournament site prior to tournament; time will be set by local director.
17. **Take Off:** Take off position will be determined by draw or registration before start of tournament. There will be no Shot-Gun starts.
18. **Boat Inspection:** All live wells and all required safety equipment will be checked by the tournament director or assistant prior to start of tournament. If for some reason you need to change boats, it must be inspected and approved by a tournament official prior to the change.
19. **Safety:** During all tournaments contestants will wear their life jackets zipped and secured when combustion engine is in above idle position. During foul weather you may take closest shelter. During any emergency you must return to tournament site if possible.
20. **Sportsmanship:** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation
21. **Alcoholic Beverages or Drug Use:** The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during tournament hours (extending through close of weigh in) will be cause for immediate disqualification.
22. **Off Limits: Tournament Lakes will not be off limits prior to tournament.** The Classic Lake will only be off limits at 4 P.M. day prior to Classic. Only off limits water on any tournament lake is that which are off limits by Federal, State or Local Laws.
23. **Fishing Distance:** You may not fish closer than 50 yards from another competitor unless given permission.
24. **Cheating:** Anyone caught cheating in any tournament event will immediately be barred from fishing any R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail event. We reserve the right to have a random truth verification test performed at any time. Refusing to take the truth verification test is grounds for immediate disqualification.
25. **Protest:** All protest must be submitted in writing to tournament director before close of weigh in. Verbal protest will not be accepted. Tournament has final decision.
26. **R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail and State Rules:** All R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail rules and State rules and regulations where tournament is held must be followed. **R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament rules will apply when they are not in violation of any State rules and regulation.**
27. **Insurance:** All members must carry liability insurance on any boat they might use during any R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Trail Tournament. Failure to do so or reporting false information will result in disqualification. Participants must include the company name and either the policy number or the name of the agent binding the coverage on the membership form.
28. **Unfavorable Conduct:** Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament to promote fisheries conservation, clean water and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon this circuit efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and Compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification
29. **Citizens Band Radios, Marine Radios and Cellular Phones:** Are allowed in boats for emergency use only. Any transmission of information via any communication device concerning any aspect of fishing is prohibited during fishing hours.
30. **Tournament Rules are subject to review and change by R & W Nitro Tracker Team Tournament Rules Committee at any time.**
31. **All members are subject to a polygraph test at each tournament. Random polygraphs will be given.**

Change (4), November 7, 2011.