WVBF Tournament Rules

Rules Interpretation: In the event of a rules violation the tournament director or assistant may impose such sanctions as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The tournament director shall have the exclusive right to interpret these rules and may, without prior notice, institute rule changes, as deemed advisable for the good of the field.

Entry/Participation/Registration: Buddy Trail- Entry fee is $125 for each event. Entries must be received the Wednesday prior to the tournament. Must belong to an active club and be an active TBF member. Must use Official Entry Form to register for these events. Must fish all five tournaments, with same partner, to be eligible for the top two teams moving on the State Team (can fish by yourself in one event). Must pay for all 5 tournaments, with same partner, to be eligible to fish the no-entry fee Buddy Trail Championship.

Division Qualifiers: Top six members for each active club will be eligible to fish these events (3-boaters and 3 co-anglers). If a club can't send six members, it must send even amounts (4 or 2).

Liability Waiver: All participants/members must sign the WVBF Liability waiver, as a condition of fishing in these events, and shall hold as harmless all parties, participants thereto.

Insurance: As a condition of fishing, each boater shall carry a minimum of $200,000.00 liability insurance on any vessel used in these events.

Limits/Ties/Late Check In: The limit shall be 5 fish per team (5 fish per person outside the Buddy Trail). Ties will be broken as follows: 1st number of fished weighed and 2nd by coin toss. This applies to **all** of our events, including the Buddy Trail Championship and the State Championship. Late check- ins will be disqualified.

Culling: Must cull on the 6th fish. Only 5 fish in the live well at one time.

Dead/Short Fish: An eight (8) once penalty for dead fish. You can not weigh a dead fish for big fish. WV law is that a black bass must be a minimum of twelve inches in length. So, if you possess a shorter than 12" black bass, you or your team will be disqualified.

Sportsmanship: Any infraction of the following fundamental sporting principal shall be cause for disqualification; use of alcohol or drugs, coarse or other harmful effects to promote conservation and clean waters and courtesy to ALL other users of the resource. Arguing or failure to settle differences in a gentlemanly manner shall result in immediate sanctions, as will failure to treat others in a manner in which YOU would expect to be treated. All anglers must have a current/valid fishing license, and, if operating a boat, must have a current/valid boat registration.

Safety/Rules: Boating Safety must be observed at all times during competition. A US Coast Guard approved chest type Life Preserver (PDF) type III or higher, must be worn and properly fastened any

time the combustible engine is operating and the kill switch must be attached to the driver with a lanyard no longer than 48 inches.

Polygraph Tests: Polygraph tests will be administered to any competitors as the Tournament Director deems fit. Any contestant refusing the polygraph will be immediately disqualified from the event.

No Wake: obey all no wake zones. No wake means, no wake! No passing in a no wake zone.

Trolling: Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited.

Protests: All protests must be made within 15 minutes of the end of the tournament day in written form. Verbal Protests will be allowed but followed up immediately by written form.

No Fishing Permitted: No fishing will be permitted behind long walls off each dam on the Ohio River (or any other river), in the approach area, or on entrance or exit of locks, and no fishing beyond marker buoys set out above or below dams. Any posted no fishing, will be off limits. No casting into off limits.

Operation of boat and waters: This only applies to Division Qualifiers and State Championship. Co-Angler gets half a day on his water and half the day fishing from the front of the boat.

Tournament hours: 7am to 3pm (unless posted differently).