

General Rules

Start times for competitions will be announced prior to the competition on TBC website ([The Bass Challenge](#)) and TBC Facebook page ([TBC Facebook Page](#)). Some venues open at different hours and will push out proceedings by the allotted time. However, on these special instances TBC media platforms will be notified and updated accordingly

Registration starts 1 hour before the competition start time. Once registered, anglers are required to wait for the debriefing before setting off. No fishing is permitted before the debriefing or the allocated start time

If you wish to join later you are to communicate with the organisers in advance to make the necessary plans

Any anglers arriving after the initial registration time will need to wait until after the competition start time to register

All anglers must propel their own craft and are not allowed to pull (or be pulled) by another angler, UNLESS in an emergency situation. In such situations the angler being pulled is to remain on their craft (If it is in a safe condition) as well as their catch for the day and should contact the organisers.

- If an angler has any technical issues with his boat and is unable to get back to the launch on his own, he will be allowed to be towed in by another angler or by one of the safety marshals, but will only be allowed to weigh in 2 fish, the angler needs to contact the organisers before being towed in.
- If there was extreme weather conditions or it was a real emergency issue, a committee will be chosen, the organiser and the committee's decision will be final.

Anglers who do not register and have not paid their entry fees, will not be eligible for prize giving nor will their scores reflect on the tournament scoring.

Registration opens at 6:00am and will run until 6:30am (Dependant on venue)

Follow-me bags and live well checks will be performed from registration to 6:40am (Dependant on venue)

Debriefing takes place from 6:40am for kick boats and 06h45am for all other craft to 7:00am (Dependant on venue)

Competition starts at 06:45am for kick boats and 7:00am for all other small craft (Dependant on venue)

No loud music may be played prior to, during or after a competition in the vicinity of the competition grounds. Anglers are however allowed to use MP3 players with headphones

The use of alcohol and/or non-medical drugs during competitions is prohibited. Violation of this rule will result in competition disqualification

Littering will not be tolerated. Angler's found littering will be asked to clean up their mess. If they refuse they will be disqualified from the day's proceedings and possibly banned from future tournaments

Participants may "Pre-Fish" a body of water at any time prior to the competition as long as the owner's permission has been obtained

The organisers of TBC, their sponsors and/or representatives cannot be held responsible for the loss, damage or injury to the competitor's or spectators or any other person related to the TBC competitions property whatsoever.

Many of the TBC competitions will be held on property belonging to private individuals. Such properties have their own rules and regulations, which must be adhered to at all times prior to, during, and after a competition

The competition organisers and marshals are responsible for the fair and impartial application of the rules. The decisions of the organisers and marshals are final. In the event that an interpretation of the rules are necessary, the organisers and marshals may, at his or her sole discretion, request the organisers, marshals and competitors present at the competition to vote on the issue for a final resolution.

Tournament Rules

The organizers of the TBC competitions would like to promote a sense of sportsmanship, respect and proper conduct prior to, during and after competitions. If anyone from the public, a marshal, or competitor, view a TBC competitor exhibiting un-sportsman like conduct, or in any way conduct him/herself in breach of the competition's rules prior to, during, or after a competition, they could be disqualified from that competition, and future competitions

- Any angler wishing to raise an infringement matter should do so once all weigh-ins are completed and before prize giving in writing.
- **If any infringements are found on social media after the competition, any angler wishing to raise this matter will only have 48 hours to do so.**
- Should any infringement on these rules be brought to the attention of TBC organizers, the TBC organizers will take all evidence into account, call up a committee, deliberate and pass their verdict before prize giving. The committee and TBC organizers verdicts are final.

All fishing must be conducted from a watercraft of sorts by means of oars, fins or trolling motor propulsion. You are permitted to have two Trolling motors on the boat and are allowed to use them at the same time. Under no circumstances are Outboard type motors to be used during TBC tournaments. Watercraft permitted in TBC events are as follows:

- Float-tubes
- Kick-boats
- Belly-boats
- Pontoon kick-boats (Electrically propelled or by means of Kicking)
- Inflatable boats electrically propelled or by means of oars (Length Limit 4,5m)
- Kayak's (No size limit)
- Semi-Rigid's electrically propelled or by means of oars (Length Limit 4,5m)
- Fibre-glass hull's electrically propelled or by means of oars (Length Limit 4,5m)
- Aluminium hull's electrically propelled or by means of oars (length Limit 4,5m)

Should you wish to join TBC and you have a craft not on the list and within the 4,5m cut-off, please contact the organisers prior to attending a tournament to confirm that your craft is permitted to enter.

Any craft that is propelled by Trolling Motors or by oars are required to have a functional live well. Such a live well should meet TBC minimum requirements. Your livewell should be able to hold a minimum of 20L per 3 fish. Your livewell should at least have an aerator and preferably have a bilge pump as well, water has to be replaced regularly and the fish's health is the angler's responsibility. Should your live well not meet minimum specifications you will not be permitted to fish the tournament.

Only live, healthy fish will be weighed and added to the competitor's scorecard

The weigh-in time will be announced at the briefing prior to the competition start time. All anglers must be in the weigh-in queue at the announced time. A penalty of 100g per minute will be incurred for all anglers who are not in the queue at the predetermined weigh-in time. Any angler who joins the weigh-in queue 15 minutes or more after the weigh-in time will be disqualified

Any number of fish may be caught and released during tournament day, however only a maximum of 3 fish may be weighed by the weigh-in marshals. Weight will be measured in kilograms. Any fish weighed by a marshal before the weigh-in time will be noted on the competitor's score card and once it has been noted it cannot be removed for any reason whatsoever

Any craft that is propelled by kicking is to utilize an approved follow-me bag. However if the angler wishes to utilize a live well instead, please refer to the minimum live well requirements here. Should your follow-me bag or live well not meet minimum specifications you will not be permitted to fish the tournament.

Competition anglers may not fish outside of their CRAFT for any reason. Anglers must be in/on their CRAFT whilst fishing. If any angler needs to leave the water for any reason whatsoever during the competition, they must enter the water again at the same location as they left

Only members of the bass family may be weighed-in

Culling is permitted. Only a total of 3 fish per angler can be kept in a follow me bag or live well at any given time. Anglers with more than 3 fish per angler in a live well or follow-me bag will incur a 1000gram penalty

No stringers are permitted

Only artificial lures are allowed to be used

Scent sprays and additives are permitted

NO Live-Baiting permitted

Only one wet line per angler is permitted at any given time. Any angler(s) that are found to be making use of multiple wet lines will be warned, if caught again will be disqualified.

Intentional damaging of fish (Fin Clipping, illegal tagging, or disfiguration of any kind) will lead to instant disqualification.

A minimum radius of 20 meters (Casting Distance) must be kept between anglers at all times. No angler may cast into or move into another angler's area at any time during the competition unless invited by that angler, In which case you must also vacate the area on request. Any discretion against this rule must be brought to the attention of the organizers in writing. These discretions will be filed and taken up with the relevant offenders. Continuous discretions against this ruling can result in a competitor being banned from future TBC tournaments

Marker buoys are permitted by anglers.

Life jackets are compulsory at all TBC events. Each craft MUST have sufficient life jackets on board for its participants. Competitors under the age of 12 are required to wear their life jackets while underway

All vessels are to conform to the ruling SAMSA regulations

Series Format

TBC series consists of 8 legs, your best 6 legs of 8 will count towards your final season score. The top 15 anglers will qualify to compete in an exclusive "Classic", where the Bass Challenge Classic winner will be crowned.

TBC Classic will be subject to a wildcard entry. This wild card entry will be drawn out of positions 16-20 on the remainder of the log after the final leg of the season. This individual will be invited to join the top 15 at The Bass Challenge Classic

TBC has adopted the Grand Prix system of scoring.

All anglers who attend a tournament will receive 60 points even if they do not catch any fish. Anglers who do not attend a tournament day will receive 0 points

If there are a tie the angler below them will score two points less, for example: If there are two anglers that scores 109 points the angler below them will score 107 points and not 108 points.

In the event of a tied total weight the prize money will work as follows, for example: 1st place ties, the two 1st place anglers will share the 1st and 2nd place money, 2nd place will take 3rd places money and 3rd place

will win the trophy and receive their registration fee back. The same for 2nd and 3rd. An extra trophy will be made for the other angler. Regardless of a tie, 4th and 5th place will still receive their registration fee back.

Prizes for each leg will be awarded based on the total bag weight for the day. The total score you obtain on the day will accumulate towards the Grand Prix scoring system, which will determine the "Angler of the Year" at the end of the series.