West Australian Tournament Anglers Association

BOAT TOURNAMENT RULES FOR 2026

PRE-ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- The minimum age is 17 years (unless fishing with an official guardian or parent then minimum age is 13 years)
- The holder of the RST must have it with them for the duration of the event.
- The organisers reserve the right to have the final say in acceptance of entry – i.e. submitting an entry does not guarantee acceptance.
- **Entries close at 5pm AWST on the Wednesday the week of the tournament - $50 late fee will apply to all entries received after this time. Entries are not accepted without payment and payment is not accepted without an entry form.**

FIRST TIME ENTRANT OPTION:

- First time entrants are eligible to choose a one-time free entry fee.
- First time entrants who choose the free entry option will not be eligible for prizes, scores will not be officially recorded, and scores also won't contribute to TOY points.
- First time entrants are only eligible for one entry to one round. The first-time entry does not apply per year or per season.

BOAT INFORMATION:

- A copy of the boat insurance certificate must be submitted to the organisers to validate entry to the competition i.e. no insurance certificate no start.
- At least one member of each team must possess a Recreational Skippers Ticket (RST). A copy is to be provided to the event organisers.
- Boat Drivers must wear their engine's safety lanyard strap that connects to the kill switch at all times while the boat is moving under power.
- A Team must be made up of two anglers. The team is always controlled by the skipper (Angler 1) and the name stays with Angler 1.
- In the case of any split of a team then it is Angler 1 who has first rights to any ongoing benefits from prior years and team name.
- Prize money and prizes will be handed to the Skipper or Angler 1 on all occasions.
- Boats - minimum length of 3.7metres; registered and insured with an engine of at least 15hp. A copy of the insurance policy is to be submitted with your entry form.
- Boat motors must be fitted with a lanyard attached to the kill switch. The lanyard is to be connected to the driver anytime the engine is operating.
- Each competitor must have his or her own Australian Standards Level 100+ Lifejacket or Personal Floatation Device (PFD), former type 1 category and must be worn at the start and anytime the boat is on the plane.
- Inflatable lifejackets shall be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions or state regulations.
- Live wells shall have a minimum capacity of 60L and be fitted with a functioning, battery operated, recirculating pump or aerator.

GENERAL EVENT RULES

- The WA Bream Series is a lure and fly only, catch and release, Bream fishing competition. The use of baits is prohibited. Anyone caught using baits will be disqualified.
- Vessels are permitted to be dragged over shallow water lines and sand bars provided the water is covered during a high tide.
- Competitors under the age of 18 years will not be eligible for prizes consisting of alcohol. Other prizes will be made available at the tournament organiser's discretion.
- Anglers must fish within the current fisheries rules and regulations.
- Any speed restrictions, non-boating or non-fishing areas must be adhered to. It is the competitors' responsibility to obtain information on these items. The organisers will advise of any additional areas prior to the event.
- If you are caught speeding or fishing out of bounds areas, you are automatically disqualified.
- After registration and before the start, competitors' vessels will be checked for empty live wells, safety gear and then issued with a key tag;
- Anglers are not permitted to fish outside their vessel at any time during the competition; this includes fighting and landing fish.
- If you are asked to leave a private marina then you must do so immediately.
- Anglers may only use one rod at a time while fishing including when a lure is snagged but still attached to the rod.
- Trolling is not permitted - lure and fly CASTING only. Trolling is defined as using the momentum of a vessel to give the lure action.
- Be responsible at all times.
- You may return to the weigh in earlier than the designated time (usually 2.00pm but please confirm prior to the event) however no further fishing can be undertaken by that boat. It is imperative that those competitors that finish early advise the organisers to prevent an unnecessary search being instigated.
- All anglers must return their key tag to the tag board when they return to the event site before the designated time (usually 2.00pm but please confirm prior to the event). Organisers will search for late returns.
- The competition organisers accept no responsibility or liability for any accident, loss or injury.
- A 2-week pre-fishing ban is to commence preceding the competition until the start of the event. In other words, no fishing by competitors in the designated fishing areas from the Monday 2 weeks prior to the competition. For example:
    - Event Date: Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st January.
    - Pre-fish Ban starts and includes Monday the 18th January.
- Competitors are encouraged to have a first aid kit on their vessel.
- Any complaints regarding a breach of the rules must be addressed to a WATA official at the completion of the weigh- in. There will be an allocated time of 10 minutes for this after the final bag is weighed-in.
- Competition organisers reserve the right to disallow unsafe vessels from competing; they also reserve the right to disqualify whosoever does not abide by the rules.
- Penalties for rules violations will be at the sole discretion of the Tournament Director; these may include disqualification from the tournament or disqualification from future events.
- All decisions by the organisers are final – an explanation will not necessarily be provided.

WEIGH IN PROCEDURE AND POINT SCORING

- Each team may bring in four bream each tournament day to the weigh-in, and bream must a minimum of 26cm in size to the tip.
- You can upgrade. When an upgrade fish is caught, one of the five fish on the vessel is to be released leaving only four fish on the vessel.
- Fish must be alive to be considered for weighing. The organiser's decision is final.
- Fish are to be released alive after the weigh in. Any fish found not to be released in a healthy condition may be re-weighed and deducted from that anglers bag weight.
- All anglers must be at the weigh in by the designated time (usually 2.00pm, but competitors should confirm this) any late arrivals will be penalised 50 grams per minute and anglers returning later than

15 minutes after the finish time will be penalised 750 grams and all fish caught on that day shall not be weighed. The organiser may exercise discretion for exceptional circumstances.

- Teams will finish the session by placing the key tag back on the appropriate allocated number before the session finishes. Teams placing their key tag on the allocated number after the session finish time will incur a weight penalty. Generally, WATA officials are not permitted to place the key tag for anglers – it must be placed by one of the anglers competing.
- Dead fish, or those unable to swim away from the release point (as deemed by WATA officials) will not score points. At all times, bream are the responsibility of the anglers.
- 1 Day Tournaments - Ties will be settled by count back on each teams individual big bream (it is up to each team to have their biggest bream weighed), if neither team in the count back has weighed their biggest bream then a tie will be awarded.
- 2 Day Tournaments - Ties will be settled by count back on the teams largest individual bag weight – on any one day. If neither team has a larger single day bag then it will be settled by count back on each teams individual largest big bream (it is up to each angler to have their biggest bream weighed), if neither angler in the count back has weighed their biggest bream then a tie will be awarded.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to WATA, WATA's sponsors, the sport of fishing and WATA's efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the WATA events.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in the first sentence of this section. This includes verbal communication and social media.

TEAM OF THE YEAR (TOY)

- The Boat WA Bream Series Team of the Year (TOY) is one of WAs most prestigious awards a Bream team can achieve. It rewards the team that is the most consistent highly placed team throughout the qualifying events, with points per round including the Grand Final allocated according to placing.
- TOY will be based on your total points over the season including the Grand Final.
- During all Rounds the points will be allocated on the following basis, the first placed Team will receive 100 points, and each place below that receives one point less:

  1st - 100 2nd - 99 3rd - 98 4th - 97 5th - 96 etc.

- Teams do not need to catch a fish to receive TOY points, however, they do need to fish in an event to score, and teams who catch no fish for a tournament will incur a 10 TOY point penalty for that round.
- To be eligible for the TOY Title, you must fish with the same team member for at least three of the four events which includes the grand final.

- If you decide to change your non-boater multiple times throughout the series you will still accrue points so long as the skipper remains the same throughout the series however you will not be eligible for the final TOY Title.
- If there are equal weights with no countback then TOY points will also be equal, e.g. Equal 1st means both teams would get 100 points. In this scenario 3rd place would still obtain 98 points.
- At the end of the series when TOY is finalised if there is an equal score, then TOY will be settled by countback on the Grand Final result. If this is not the case, then the team with the best performance in the most recent event will gain the higher placing.

WA BREAM SERIES GRAND FINAL QUALIFICATION

- The top 5 placing teams in each of the three boat rounds will receive qualification to the relative Grand Final.
- If your team member is unavailable to fish the Grand Final then you can swap to another team member as long as they have fished a WA Bream Series events in the current season (including kayaks).
- Grand Final entries and payment must be received by the closing date on the entry form or your position will be reallocated to the next team in line, it is the angler's responsibility to ensure the entry has been received.
- Wildcard entries are given out based on the final confirmation of attendance from the qualifiers. Generally given based on current TOY standings after the 3 rounds however is at the full discretion of the organisers.

ETIQUETTE/CODE OF CONDUCT

- Anglers will at all times abide by the rules and the organisers' discretionary powers.
- If you do arrive late please contact the tournament organisers (safety issue).
- You should not "drop in" on another vessel's drift.
- Both during and outside of the events anglers are expected to never make any derogatory comments towards fellow anglers, WATA and its organisers which includes any comments made verbally, by text messages or via any social media platforms.
- During fishing sessions, no mobile phones or radios should be used to communicate with other competitors, except in an emergency or to communicate with WATA Officials.
- Boats should remain a cast apart (30metres) while fishing.
- WATA sportsmanship would dictate that care of fellow competitors is of utmost importance. If an angler or boat is in distress it is expected that other competitors will assist. Remember that safety is more important than your day's catch.
- WATA will encourage Fisheries and Boating Officers to attend all WATA tournaments to police safety regulations, registration, relevant boating legislation as well as alcohol and drug laws.
- Anglers are not to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs while competing. Legally required blood alcohol levels must be adhered to, and WATA reserves the right to request a blood alcohol test prior to the start of competition.
- It is expected that Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming a professional sportsperson. Behaviour that will reflect unfavourably on WATA, its members, representatives and sponsors will subject the angler's catch to penalty or disqualification.

EVENT STARTS

- The competition commences at 7.00am usually (please confirm prior to the event). Please check in at least 30-60 minutes before the allocated event start time to allow for the checking of live wells, PFDs etc. and the briefing.
- Before the start of the event a briefing will be given to all competitors.
- BASIC ROUND STARTING PROCEDURE

    - The start order will be determined by random draw, the draw will take place the Friday or Thursday evening prior to the event and will be live streamed to our Facebook page “West Australian Tournament Anglers”, any entries received late will start at the last place after those who are in the random drawn in the order of entries received.
    - 2-day tournaments will be based on random draw day 1 and a chasing start (first place after day 1 goes first and so on) for day 2.
- GRAND FINAL STARTING PROCEDURE
    - The start order will be determined by TOY Positions after the 3 rounds, allocated to the 15 qualifying teams first with wildcard positions starting at the end in order of their own TOY positions. For example; If all 15 qualifying teams fish the Grand Final then 5 wildcard positions will be awarded. Of those 5 wildcard positions, even if one of those teams is higher than #15 on the TOY leaderboard, they will still start 16th and so on for the remaining wildcards rewarding those teams that fish all rounds and have qualified.
    - 2-day tournaments will be based on the above day 1 and a chasing start (first place after day 1 goes first and so on) for day 2.
- After your boat has been checked and approved, anglers are to position themselves according to their key tag number in preparation for the tournament start.
- A WATA Official will announce the beginning of the tournament by calling out the starting numbers. Once your number is called, raise your arm to notify your position and idle past the start location where your kill switch will be tested before you can go. Testing of the kill switch not only ensures that it is working however also helps to keep a safe distance between vessels underway.
- It is a requirement of entry that all anglers must attend the briefing. Failure to do so will result in a starting position penalty regardless of reason for absence.

MODEL RELEASE

I give West Australian Tournament Anglers the right to use my name, photographs and video of me for sale to any medium for the purposes of advertising, trade, display, exhibition, social media, television or editorial use.

LIABILITY WAIVER

The responsibility for a person to participate in WATA events is his or hers alone. I am conscious of the dangers inherent to boat fishing.

I agree that none of the organisations or persons involved with the WATA events including ABT, Hobie, sponsors, promoters, or any other involved persons or parties accepts liability for damages due in negligence or any other reason whatsoever while conducting or connected with this event for injury, to property or person, I may suffer while participating in the tournament and while upon the event premises.

I know the risks of danger to myself and my property while preparing for and participating in the tournament, and while upon the event premises, relying upon my own judgment and ability, assume all such risks of loss and hereby agree to reimburse all costs to those persons or organisations connected with this tournament for damages incurred as a result of my negligence.

Furthermore, I agree to be bound by the West Australian Tournament Anglers and any other rules that govern this tournament. The organising authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the tournament.

These terms do not operate to exclude any provision of the Australian Consumer Law that applies and cannot be excluded by agreement.

BREACH OF RULES

WATA and its organisers reserve the right to enforce a suitable punishment to any competitor who fails to follow these rules and/or breaks any code of conduct/s. This punishment can range from a verbal warning through to a life ban from all WATA run events and is up to the discretion of WATA and its organisers.

AMENDMENTS TO THE OFFICIAL RULES

The Tournament Director has the ability to change, amend or delete a rule as necessary. Changes will take place prior to the start of a session and will be announced at the session briefing or prior to the start time of any round or championship. Please remember that the emphasis is on having an enjoyable experience fishing in a competitive environment.

Rev 1: 25th January 2026