

BASS Pro Rules 2009.

Entry Fees: BASS Pro

\$165 (GST included) – Boater

\$330 (GST included) – Pro

\$100 (GST included) – NonBoater

Prize Money is calculated for a field of 100 anglers (50 boats) and will be adjusted up or down according to the number of entries.

Boater Prize Pool Breakdown

Place	Amount	Percentage %
1st	\$3,011	25
2nd	\$1,566	13
3rd	\$1,205	10
4th	\$964	8
5th	\$843	7
6th	\$723	6
7th	\$602	5
8th	\$482	4
9th	\$361	3
10th	\$361	3
Big Bass	\$482	4
Stocking	\$241	2
Total	\$10,841	90

+ Product Prize Pool \$5,000

Pro Prize Pool Breakdown

Place	Amount	Percentage %
1st	\$1,200	40
2nd	\$750	25
3rd	\$450	15
4th	\$300	10
5th	\$300	10
Total	\$3,000	100

Pre Entry Requirements

- All anglers participating in BASS Pro events must be current, financial members of ABT.
- Anglers must be 16 years of age or older at the time of the tournament.
- Anglers should use the entry form found in the 2009 ABT Tournament Anglers' Guide and on the www.australianbass.com.au website.

BASS Pro Qualifying Events

- Australian Bass Tournaments P/L (ABT) conducts four BASS Pro Qualifying Events throughout the 2009 BASS Pro season.

- BASS Pro Qualifying Events are contested by a field of Boaters and Non-boaters. Daily, Non-boaters are randomly paired with Boaters. ABT may send out boaters without non-boaters or place camera persons on boats at its discretion.
- BASS boats must be 3.7m in length or greater. Horsepower and beam must be sufficient to plane the craft with two anglers and full livewell/s, 20hp is the minimum accepted. If in doubt, check with ABT staff.
- All outboards must not exceed the maximum horsepower rating stipulated on the boat's compliance plate.
- Boat drivers must wear their engine's safety lanyard strap that connects to the kill switch at all times while the engine is running. Additionally, all competitors are required to wear personal flotation devices while their boat is planing.
- Entries to the BASS Pro Qualifying tournaments will be filed in order of receipt of correctly completed entry forms and payment. Entering as a boater guarantees a place in the tournament (at least as a nonboater), whereas non-boaters are placed with boaters on a firstcome, first-served basis.
- Entry is guaranteed for boaters/non-boaters whose entries are received together, fully paid, in a single envelope at ABT's mailing address before the close of entries. If either the boater or non-boater withdraws, guaranteed entry for the other angler is then revoked. No late additions to entries will be considered as a team entry. For example do not ring up and say, "I forgot to enter as Joe Blow's non-boater," or "I forgot to enter Albert Einstein as my non-boaters." Ensure the entries come together in the one package. ABT may allow boaters to find non-boaters at the last minute to ensure their status if numbers are not equal.
- Cancellation of an entry before the closing date will result in a refund or entry credits. Cancellation of an entry after the closing date will incur a 20% cancellation fee.
- All BASS Pro rule enquiries can be directed to ABT on (07) 3387 0888 during business hours.

Practice Fishing

There will be a practice fishing and boating ban for all competition waterways from dawn on the Monday the week prior to the competition until dawn on the Friday immediately before the tournament. An example is if a tournament is held over the weekend of

Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st of a month, the pre-fish ban will extend from dawn on Monday the 8th until dawn on Friday the 18th. From dawn on Friday, anglers are able to practice fish within the state's Freshwater Fisheries guidelines.

Briefing

On the Friday night briefing, boats will be allocated a starting position for Day 1 that is determined by the receipt of a fully completed and paid entry. **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. Briefings start at 6.00pm the evening prior to day 1. Competitors are required to pre-register at the briefing location BEFORE the 6.00pm start, late-comers may be subject to penalty after this time.

Everyday prior to the start-time, competitors must go to the pre-arranged location to have their boats checked by an ABT official. The official will check that the live well is empty and the safety gear/lanyard meets the tournament safety requirements. Once the boat is approved, the angler is given their key-tag with their start position number. ABT reserves the right to disallow unsafe boats (for either anglers or fish) to compete.

Session 1

The first session will start with boat one approaching the start area, where it will be held until the designated start time. When released, boat two can approach the start area, be identified and released, and so on until all competitors are released.

Session 2 and 3

The second and third sessions will be run as a chase start. That is, the Pro placed in first position after Session 1 and then Session 2 will be released first, then the second placed boat and so on until all boats are released. ABT Officials will distribute copies of the start order before the starts.

- Once released to fish, boaters may proceed to their chosen fishing spots with due care and attention to the safety of themselves, their Amateurs, other competing boats and the general public.
- Any speed restrictions, non-boating or non-fishing areas must be adhered to; failure to do this will result in either disqualification from the session, and or the tournament and a maximum penalty of 750 grams may be applied.

- Anglers finish a session by placing the key tag on the appropriate peg before the session finishes. Anglers placing their key tag on the peg after the finish time will incur penalties.

Fishing Rules

- Anglers must fish within the current Freshwater Fisheries guidelines of the state in which the event is being held and must be in possession of the necessary permits or licences. Anglers should bring all necessary permits to the briefing on Friday night.
- ABT must sight current boat insurance policies from all boaters competing in ABT sanctioned events. This can be faxed to ABT on (07)3387 0889.
- Anglers may fish any line class with spin, baitcast, spincast or fly-fishing tackle.
- Lure and fly casting only is permitted. Trolling is not permitted. Trolling is using the momentum of the boat to give the lure action. Casting along a stretch of bank under electric power is fine, as is using your electric motor to keep position; don't, however, leave your lines in the water when changing positions. ABT Staff reserve the right to disqualify anglers deemed to be purposely trolling in defiance of the spirit of BASS events.
- Only one rod per angler is allowed to be used at any one time. This includes instances where one rod is snagged and the angler picks up another rod to fish with. The angler is considered to be using two rods and will be disqualified for that session.
- Fishing is NOT permitted within any defined non-boating or non-fishing areas.
- Only Australian bass are eligible for points.
- Fish must be caught during the designated times and kept alive in a functioning livewell. Livewells must be at least 60 litres capacity, have a functioning aeration or recirculation system and be insulated if above deck.
- No more than two bass per angler are allowed to be kept at any one time. If you already have two fish and catch another, immediately release a fish. Anglers caught with more than the bag limit will be immediately disqualified and ABT staff reserve the right to check livewells for excess bass during competition hours
- All pairs of anglers are to stay with each other at all times, to ensure safety and to validate co-anglers catches. Additionally, anglers are not permitted to fish from outside their fishing vessels at any time during sessions, including fighting and landing fish.
- ABT reserves the right to place camerapersons on boats and swap non-boater positions to accommodate this need.

- In the case of physical or medical emergencies, ABT officials will judge the acceptability of catches.
- Any complaints regarding a breach of the rules must be addressed to the on-site Tournament Director within 24hrs of specific incidents. Penalties for rule and conduct violations may include the following:
 - i. Disqualification of catch for the day
 - ii. Disqualification from the tournament
 - iii. Disqualification from future ABT events
 - iv. A maximum penalty of 750 grams may be applied.
- Any concerns regarding clarification of rules can be discussed with ABT officials BEFORE the start of the tournament.

Code of Conduct

- During fishing sessions, no mobile phones or radios should be used, except in an emergency or to communicate with ABT staff.
- Non-boaters should bring their own PFD to tournaments.
- Boats should remain a cast apart (30metres) while fishing.
- ABT 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.
- ABT will encourage Fisheries and Boating Officers to attend all ABT 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 too, and ABT 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 ABT, its members, representatives and sponsors will subject the angler's catch to penalty or disqualification.

Weigh-in procedure and Points Scoring

- Each angler may bring in two bass per session to the weigh-in.
- Anglers are to present their bass to the weighmaster in the weighbags provided.

- Fish smaller than the minimum legal length to the fork of the tail (QLD -300mm, NSW - 300mm) are ineligible for tournament points.
- Big Bass will be weighed individually and it is the angler's responsibility to notify the weighmaster of a possible Big Bass.
- Dead fish, or those unable to swim away from the release point (as deemed by ABT officials) will not score points. At all times, bass are the responsibility of individual anglers.
- Late tags will be penalised at the rate of 50 grams per minute per angler. If a boat returns later than 15 minutes after weigh-in time both anglers will be penalised 750 grams and all fish caught will not be weighed. There will be no exceptions to this regardless of circumstance.
- Boats that start in an incorrect order will be penalized, in a decision to be made by tournament officials. Boats missing their call-up must wait until all boats have left to be started by ABT staff.
- Boats can return to the weigh-in area earlier than the allotted time, however, that's all the anglers in that craft can fish for the session. Weighing of fish will begin at the allotted time mentioned to anglers at the briefing by tournament officials.
- Boats are to beach in the order they return, or as directed by ABT staff, and their catch will be weighed in that order.

BASS Angler of the Year Award

The BASS Angler of the Year rates alongside the BASS Grand Final Winner as the most prestigious award a BASS angler can achieve. The BASS Angler of the Year (AOY) is rewarded by recognition on the perennial trophy, by free entry into the qualifying rounds of the next year's corresponding circuit and by being first away in Session 1 at each tournament the following year. It rewards the angler who is the most consistent highly placed angler throughout the qualifying rounds, with points per round allocated according to placing. The first placed angler in each event receives 100 points, and each place below that receives one less point eg.

- Anglers do not need to catch a fish to receive AOY points, however, they do need to fish both days in an event to score. This rewards anglers who have made the effort to attend and fish events to the best of their ability. Note that a negative score will impact on AOY points.

- Anglers catching no fish for a tournament will incur a 10 AOY point penalty to reward anglers who have landed a fish during a tournament.
- Ties will be settled by countback. The first angler to achieve their final score will gain the higher place. If still tied, the angler with the largest and subsequent largest bag etc will gain the higher place.
- Anglers with zero points will score equal AOY points.
- Anglers completing a competition with negative points will be placed below anglers scoring zero points in AOY calculations.
- At the end of the Qualifying Rounds, AOY points are tallied and the BASS Angler of the Year is determined. An angler's best three events will count towards their AOY calculations.

National BASS Rankings

ABT has reached a stage where we have derived a need to compile a "National Rankings" list for ABT BASS Tournament anglers. The following is a way we have devised to rank anglers against each other from different states and different events.

In future years, the rankings will also include the 'strength' of the fields – ie, how well ranked the anglers are that they are competing against and also size of fields.

This is our starting point, though, and will be updates after each event.

BASS RANKINGS FORMULA

- The Rankings will only measure data from individual events – not teams events.
- The Rankings will use tournament results from 2006 onwards. Moving forward, it will include the latest two years' worth of data.
- BASS Pros, Majors and Grand Final events will be counted.
- The ABR will use an angler's best 5 events per year from that two year period.
- Bonus points will be awarded for finishing in the top five anglers.

BASS GF

- The Grand Final will award 50 points (1st) through 1 point (50th) for the event.
- The top four anglers will also receive bonus points – 1st 20, 2nd 10, 3rd 7, 4th 4.
- Therefore, GF points are;

1st 70

2nd 59

3rd 55

4th 51

5th 46

6th 45

7th 44

8th 43

9th 42

10th 41 and so on.

BASS Major

- The BASS Major events will award 40 points (1st) through 1 point (39th).
- The top 5 anglers will receive bonus points per their position (10 for 1st through 2 for 5h – 10/8/6/4/2).
- Therefore, Major Points are:

1st 50

2nd 47

3rd 44

4th 41

5th 38

6th 34

7th 33

8th 32

9th 31 and so on.

BASS Pro

- BASS Pros will award 30 points (1st) through 1 point (29th).

- The top 5 will receive bonus points per their position (10 for 1st through 2 for 5th – 10/8/6/4/2).

- Therefore, BASS points are:

1st 40

2nd 37

3rd 34

4th 31

5th 28

6th 24

7th 23

8th 22

9th 21 and so on.

BASS Pro Grand Final Qualification

The field is limited to only 30 BASS Pro boaters and 30 BASS Pro non-boaters.

Boater Qualification.

- Finish first or second in a BASS Pro Qualifying Event (8 anglers).
- Top 21 anglers of the AOY Points Table who have not already qualified (21 anglers).
- Win the previous year's Grand Final (1 angler).

Unfilled BASS Pro Grand Final boater positions will be offered to the next best placed AOY point scorer. For example an angler wins a BASS Pro Qualifier but cannot make it to the Grand Final. That position is then offered to the next best AOY.

Non Boater Qualification.

- Win the previous year's Grand Final (1 angler).
- Win the 2009 BASS Pro Non-Boater AOY (1 angler).
- Finish in the top 7 in the non-boater division in any BASS Pro Qualifying event.

Unfilled BASS Pro Grand Final nonboater positions will be offered to the next best placed AOY point scorer.