

OFFICIAL RULES FOR 2008 ILLINI TEAM TRAIL

- RULES:** Tournament Official's decision is final in all matters. The Official may impose disqualification, forfeiture of entry fees or prizes and prohibit participation in future events in the case of rule violations. Officials reserve the right to refuse entries!
- PROTESTS:** All protests must be submitted in writing before the Official closes the scales.
- MEMBERSHIP:** \$25 per angler per year - expire December 31 each year.
- ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND DRUGS:** No alcoholic beverages are allowed during tournament hours or near weigh-in site until scales are closed. No drugs are allowed except prescription drugs.
- BOATS & MOTORS:** No horsepower limit, however, no engine may exceed BIA horsepower rating. All boats must have emergency kill switch that is in proper working order.
- SAFETY:** Life Jackets with lanyard attached to emergency kill switch will be worn at all times that the combustion engine is in operation.
- TACKLE & EQUIPMENT:** Only one rod may be used at a time. Trolling with the aid of combustion or electric motors is not permitted. The "Golden Rule" is the official measuring board. No underwater cameras, cellular phones, or CB radios allowed except for emergency purposes only.
- OFFICIAL BOAT:** Take-off and check-in boat will be tied to "no wake" buoy or anchored near ramp with easily identified markers.
- LIMIT & PENALTIES:** 5 fish per boat (Shelbyville & Rend Lake - 14" length), (Ohio River - 12" length), (Lake of Egypt - 16" length) measured with mouth closed and tail compressed. No courtesy bump! Penalty of .20 lb. per dead fish. Short fish less than 14" brought to scale will be assessed a 1 lb. penalty plus loss of that fish, also subject to a fine from DNR. Any team bringing more than 5 fish to the scale is disqualified. **Late Check in penalty** - (1) lb. per minute - after 10 minutes, team is disqualified!
- CULLING FISH:** No Culling of fish at check-in area. Only 5 fish allowed in livewell during tournament hours.
- Off-LIMITS:** Northern Division: No fishing allowed in areas leased by the Sullivan Marina, Finley Marina or Lithia Springs Marina per permit instructions. Southern Division: Areas announced morning of tournament.
- SPORTSMANSHIP:** All teams are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation! Contestants can not leave a boat to land a fish. You may leave the boat for temporary restroom privileges provided that partner remains in boat.
- HOLE SITTING** - No hole sitting by any other contestant or outside party. NO EXCEPTIONS!
- BREAKDOWNS** - Only two methods permissible! Towed in by anyone available or both team members and their fish transferred to another contestant's boat and announced at check in of their emergency situation. Recovery of boat will be allowed after their catch is weighed in.
- GUIDES:** Guides must prepay all tournaments before season starts by deposit or payment in full.
- CONSERVATION:** Every effort must be taken to keep fish alive by full-time running of livewells, adding ice in hot weather, cracking lids to release heat in livewells and adding "Stay-Alive" solution. Handle fish by mouth and always with care!
- CLASSIC QUALIFICATION:** Top 30% of average field, based upon the participation in all events divided by 6 and announced on the end of Wild Card event will qualify for the classic determined by pounds and points standings. Also top 10% of the Wild Card event will qualify by pounds only who are **not** in the top 30% mentioned previously.

(2) by draw - must fish all (6) events

- Top 30% of average 50 boat field = Top 15 boats in standings.
- Top 10% of field in wild card of 50 boat field = 5 boats.
- Plus 2 by draw Total classic qualifiers= 22 boats

YOUR TEAM MUST FISH A MINIMUM OF 5 OUT OF THE 6 EVENTS TO QUALIFY FOR THE CLASSIC.

18. **CLASSIC LAKE:** Determined by the fisherman by secret ballot held in May. Revote top 5 (five) in June. Location chosen will be announced on July tournament. No off limits. Also on ballot - Classic sidepot, if chosen, payback 100% and mandatory participation is

required! Sidepot determined by majority vote.

19. **WILD CARD:** Second chance to qualify for Classic! Determined by pounds only on that day's event. Top 10% of field following the top 30% by points. Must fish 5 out of 6 events to qualify for the Classic by the Wild Card event. (2) Two teams by drawing at Wild Card for Classic, must fish all six events to qualify. Mandatory meeting following event for all qualifying teams.

20. **SCORING:** Based on the points plus pounds system - winner receives 100 points and each place thereafter drops by one point, then add total weight of that days catch to the points to determine total points earned. **Example:**

1st Place 15.80 lb. = 100 + 15.80 points

2nd Place 14.90 lb. = 99 + 14.90 points – Etc.

10 points awarded as "show-up" points if you fished the event and didn't weigh-in fish.

21. **PAYOUT:** One place paid for every 10 boats rounded up or down. Example: 53 boats = 5 places; 56 boats = 6 places (1-5 rounded down - 6-10 rounded up)

22. **REGISTRATION:** Optional \$50 per event pre-pay (6 x \$50 = \$300 total) payable by the second event will guarantee priority take-off position by drawing held the morning of tournaments. Entries received by hand or mail will be assigned take-off position as received after deposit entries. Deposit money is transferable to next event, but non-refundable! Entry fees are transferable only up to the event scheduled. **Mail-in** entries must be received by Wednesday before tournament day. No Late Fees charged but please be considerate and don't wait till the last minute – All paperwork will be filled out before you take-off!

23. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** 6:00 a.m. - 3 p.m. Take-off may be delayed due to safe light conditions. Director reserves the right to stage check-in flights if large field participates.

24. **ELIGIBILITY:** One partner must be 18 years of age or older. The Illini Team Trail directors or stockholders reserves the right to participate in fishing event without decision making authority and as equal as all other participants in following rules and guidelines. Directors are ineligible to compete in the Classic. **POINTS WILL NOT BE REWARDED TO them!**

25. **RANGER CUP:** **Ranger Cup** participants **MUST** follow rules of the Ranger Cup Program to be eligible for the bonus monies. **\$1,000.00*** Bonus to winners if one member meets **all** qualification requirements. If winners are ineligible, the next highest eligible qualified team will receive **\$1,000.00*** bonus. **Qualifying Guidelines: Show Ranger Boats Owners Group Membership Card to officials when asked to do so. 1.)** Must Own a Ranger Boat. **2.)** Must fish from a Ranger Boat at all qualifying tournaments. **3.)** Must return Ranger Owners Group and Ranger Cup official registration form to Ranger Boats before qualifying for Ranger Cup prize money. **4.)** Must meet clothing requirements. **5.)** Must display Ranger Cup decal on driver's windshield/console of boat you are fishing from.

26. **SUBSTITUTES:** As many subs as you want, **BUT** your Classic partner **MUST** have fished with you at least 3 out of the 6 events. Your team **MUST** have fished 5 out of 6 events to qualify for the Classic. Substitutes **MUST** be identified at sign in for credit to your team, otherwise, a new team will be formed and points will start at that time. You may fish alone for credit to your team.

27. **POLYGRAPH:** Polygraph will be randomly performed during the season.

28. **LOCATION:** See flier for details!

29. **CONFIRMATIONS:** Entries received up to Wednesday prior to the event will receive written confirmation by mail or e-mail of address supplied on flier.

30. **Northern Division Drop-off - HOWY'S FOOD MART & GATEWAY INN of Sullivan:** You may pay entry fees by Saturday evening up to 7:00 p.m. to avoid late charge. Please enclose in envelope marked **ITT, c/o Mike Black!**

Northern Division Mike & Penny Black 1570 Co. Rd. 700 N. Toledo, IL 62468 (Home) 217/923-3098 (Mike's Cell) 217/259-9759 or (Penny) 217/259-3098 psblack@rr1.net	Southern Division Pat & Gene Cailey 19 Circle Drive Litchfield, IL 62056 (Home) 217/324-2944 (Cell) 217/851-4554 cailey1@gmail.com www.illiniteamtrail.com
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