

Cast-for-Cash®
TOURNAMENT RULES
(August 2022 – July 2023)

10 events

best 8 scores count

7 events to qualify for the top five prizes at the MLF RSA National Championship

Cast-for-Cash® is a registered brand name that belongs to SA BASS magazine.

All organisers expect strict adherence to the following Cast-for-Cash® bass angling tournament rules by all contestants. In the event of an emergency, please call the regional tournament organiser.

These rules will remain unchanged during the season and supersede any previously published set of rules for this tournament trail and intended to further the best interests of bass fishing in general and not to benefit any individual, team or competitor. Please make sure you understand the rules and regulations.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament organisers and director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament organiser immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. Protests are to be made in writing within 15 minutes after the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

2. GENERAL

All anglers enter the Cast-for-Cash® Tournament Trial voluntarily and at their own risk. SA BASS and staff, the Cast-for-Cash® tournament organisers, MLF South Africa, tournament sponsors, BB Print and its proprietors and all resort proprietors and their employees at all levels, are indemnified from any personal liabilities whatsoever that may be incurred by any person while travelling to, or from, or during the tournament.

The emphasis is on team (rather than individual) competition and only one team per boat is allowed.

A team consists of maximum two persons on one boat, but a team may however consist of just one person.

Anglers are not allowed to keep the official weigh-bags, tags or boat flags used at the tournaments.

3. DATES & VENUES

The tournament season will be from **August 2022 to July 2023** and the venue for each competition will be announced at the preceding month's captains meeting, on our website www.mlfsouthafrica.com and relevant WhatsApp groups.

Cast-for-Cash® organisers cannot be held responsible if dates and venues need to be changed because of influences beyond their control. Notice will be given by notifying participants via the website, social media networks, e-mail or SMS.

At the discretion of the tournament organiser, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.

4. PRIZE MONEY

Prizes for each event will be awarded based on the total bag weight for the day. Prize money is based on the number of paid entries for each tournament and paid for the top three heaviest bags plus heaviest fish. Prize money is allocated only to teams and not individuals. In the event of a tie, the teams will share the prize money of the tied position for which they tied, plus the position immediately below that.

Should the purse money be affected in any criminal way whatsoever, tournament organisers, tournament sponsors, SA BASS and staff, BB Print and its proprietors and their employees at all levels, will not be held liable for any

compensation. In the event that a portion of, or total amount, of the prize money is not won, the residual funds will be added to the total prize money pool for the season's MLF RSA National Championship.

5. PARTICIPATION

Participation is open to any angler, irrespective of creed, colour or race. No angler under the age of 16 is allowed to participate, unless accompanied by an adult. Cast-for-Cash® Management reserve the right of admission to any participant.

Any person who, in the judgment of the tournament organiser is disabled or handicapped in such a manner as to unfairly hinder his or her skipper or co-angler partner or compromise his or her safety or the safety of his or her skipper or co-angler partner may not be eligible to participate.

Teams are made up of maximum three members. In case any two of the three cannot attend the remaining third member must fish alone.

All teams will have to nominate their team members before **30 November 2022**; nominations cannot change, or be added for the rest of the season. If any member cannot fish the rest of the season then the remaining two partners may complete the season. Should any member of a team be replaced at any time during a season it would constitute the start of new team and loose all accumulated points for the season and start over from zero on the log. **Attendance points and Grand Prix Points are NOT transferrable to a NEW team, or between regions.**

6. Cast-for-Cash® QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

The monthly Cast-for-Cash® bass angling tournaments are qualifying events for the end season's MLF RSA National Championship.

Participation at the MLF South Africa National Championship is by invitation only and will be done pro rata from each Cast-for-Cash region (minimum top 30% of the region's end season point standings); and the number of events each team member has fished.

For the 2022/2023 season there will be ten (10) qualifying tournaments and individual team members will have to fish seven (7) events to qualify for the top five prizes at the MLF RSA National Championship.

7. POINT STANDINGS

Each team's End-of-Season-Standing-Points will determined by the team's Participation Points, plus their best eight (8) Grand Prix scores for the season, in one region. (A team's accumulated points cannot be transferred between regions.) A Grand Prix-system will be used as follows: the winner of each monthly tournament receives 100 points with following positions receiving points on a decreasing scale (i.e.: 99 for 2nd, 98 for 3rd, 97 for 4th and so on).

Each team will receive an extra five (5) Participation Points per event they competed. **(Attendance POINTS and Grand Prix POINTS are NOT transferrable between regions)**

The top three teams (six anglers), if there are at least ten teams on the regional log, will qualify for MLF Regional Colours; and will compete during the MLF RSA National Championship for the "Team-of-the-Year" award. If there are less than ten teams on the regional log then only the top (one) team qualify.

In the event of a tie on the End-of-Season-Points standing for the top position, the team with the most event wins during the current season will be the Regional Champions. If there is still a tie, the team with the heavier total combined bag weight through the entire season will be the winner. If there is still a tie, the team with the heaviest single event bag for the current season will be declared the winner.

8. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted after the entry deadline for each tournament. The sharing of tournament winnings with non-contestants in exchange for information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters is strictly prohibited and will be cause for disqualification from the entire tournament. The purchasing of, or bartering for, fishing locations from another contestant is strictly prohibited and will be cause for both contestants to be disqualified from the entire tournament. Contestants may not ask for and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except anglers confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram and Periscope, set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are NOT publicly available sources).

Flights over tournament waters, including drones, are not permitted beginning with the start of the off-limits period, extending through practice and competition days.

9. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE & COMPETITION

There are no off-limit periods prior to Cast-for-Cash® qualifying events, however; each region may vote on the matter and if the majority is in favour of an off-limit period then the venue will be off limits starting on Sunday evening prior of the tournament. During an off-limit period contestants may not enter tournament waters to locate bass, or potential fishing waters, or sightsee, or test equipment, or fly in person (or a drone) over the tournament waters, or receive any fishing information on the tournament waters from a third party, after the opening of registration, except during tournament hours.

During competition days contestants may not place brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum or holding nets with bait fish of any kind, in tournament waters. During competition days teams may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers, brush or other fish attractors including holding nets by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone.

10. COMPETITION TIMES

05:30 – 06:00 Entry and Registration

No contestant may be on tournament waters for the purpose of locating fish or testing boats or equipment or be on potential fishing waters after the opening of registration except during tournament hours.

06:15 Live-well check followed by pretournament meeting (at least one member of each team must be present). It is the responsibility of every team to ensure their live-wells have been checked by a tournament official prior to the commencement of the tournament.

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check in and checkout in the morning or failure to check-in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All boats must be launched and skippers must arrange themselves according their starting numbers before **06:45**.

Fishing sessions: 07:00 to 16:00 (or as announced by the tournament organiser at the pre-tournament meeting)

Late entries are allowed, but registration will only take place after the last flight has left, and will only be allowed to start after their live-wells have been checked.

Check-in: All fishing must cease upon check-in. All tags must be returned and be back at the weigh station, on the board as announced by the tournament organiser.

Even though a team's bag could have been weighed but their tag is not on the board at the time, the team will be deemed late and their catch will be disqualified.

Weigh station: Unless the tournament organizer for the day states otherwise; the weigh station will be closed during the day and will only open 15 (fifteen) minutes prior to check-in time.

Any team who has already handed in their tag before 16:00 and joins the weigh-in queue after 16:20 will be disqualified.

Prize giving: Follows immediately after the results are known and written complaints received have been sorted out. Any complaint is to be submitted in writing, or by providing video footage, to the relevant regional tournament organiser within 15 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

11. REGISTRATION

Each team has to download, complete and hand in their official tournament entry form in person at the designated registration site (please write clearly).

Maximum two persons per boat; either two team members per boat; or two anglers from different teams may fish together from one boat. Only where two anglers from different teams fish together will each angler have to draw a team number and their boat number will be the number drawn by the skipper. Very important: Each angler will still have to pay his teams' full entry fee.

Teams can pre-register for Cast-for-Cash® qualifying events in a specific region for the season. The pre-registration fee does NOT include MLF RSA National Championship entries. Pre-registered Cast-for-Cash® teams still have to hand in a signed entry form for every tournament on the day. Teams register under one team name for the season and team names can be change during the season only if the change is well motivated in writing and presented to the regional organiser. No team will be allowed to register another team.

Pre-paid entry fees CANNOT be transferred between regions; are non-transferable between teams and are non-refundable once payment of any sort has been received i.e. upfront payments and monthly payments for no shows, or if a team decides to stop fishing the season.

All tournament entries are to be done in full prior to the start of the event (regardless if the team consists of only one person). Cash entries can be accepted by the regional organiser's discretion. We also accept EFT payments (not cash deposits) into our bank account at least (3) three days prior to the start of the event. Teams whose entry fee doesn't show on our bank statement on Friday morning at 10:00 will not be allowed to compete.

12. STARTING POSITIONS

All starting positions for the day will randomly be drawn out of one bag on a first come first serve basis by all teams. Only pre-paid teams are allowed to draw TWO numbers at once and choose the better number for the day. The rest of the field are allowed to draw ONE number.

Every registered team must collect their corresponding boat flag number for display when boats are lining up for the start. Skippers must separate themselves on the water and each co-angler must display his team's starting number so that all skippers can arrange themselves for a single boat start. Teams will only be allowed to set off once the team number is called and a GREEN flag has been raised. No team may set off whilst the RED flag is raised. Teams failing to comply with the starting procedure will be disqualified immediately and no tournament entry fees will be refunded. When a team's number is called out, the team must idle out and is only allowed to go on the plane from the point the organiser has appointed. All persons must be seated and a qualified skipper must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear.

13. SAFETY

Safe boating must be observed at all times and remains the responsibility of every skipper. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running. All persons must be seated and a driver must be behind the steering wheel in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane or the combustion engine is running and in gear. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Competitors may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent. However, teams must stay within sight of each other.

14. CHECKPOINTS

All fishing must cease upon check-in. Contestants must leave and return to the check-in by boat. There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification.

15. BOAT OPERATION & EQUIPMENT FAILURE

In 'no wake zone' areas, at any venue, anglers must line up in single file at idle speed and may not overtake another competitor. They may only pass the boat ahead of them once that boat has peeled off to the side, or stopped to start fishing. Contravention of this rule will result in that team or teams' catch for the day being disqualified. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in:

- (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed, or
- (2) by one partner boarding the boat of another tournament contestant with their entire catch kept separate in a weigh bag.

Under these two conditions the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or dead-fish penalties. Note: Equipment failure does not allow for flat batteries or running out of fuel). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch.

A 100 meter radius from the weigh station must be treated as a no-wake zone.

Boats are not allowed to beach directly at the release point. There is a "No Fishing Zone" directly at the weigh station as indicated by the tournament organiser. Teams who do not comply will be disqualified. Tournament officials reserve the right to board any participating boat before, during or after the tournament.

16. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION

All boats participating must be fitted with a minimum of 15hp (fifteen horsepower) outboard engine, must be propeller driven and be a minimum of three meter (10ft) in length. No kayaks, jet skis, barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Each boat must have all required safety equipment and must be equipped to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live-well of some sort. All vessels should be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that should be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in contestant boats during tournament hours on all competition days.

17. LIVE FISH

The Cast-for-Cash® Tournament Trial is a catch, weigh and release event. Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live-well of some sort. Cast-for-Cash® and all its sponsors recommend the use of live-well additives that promote the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. (No stringers, keep nets or fish nets are allowed).

Any fish presented to the weigh master with a white circle in the eye or a fish, or obviously dead, or a fish that is not gilling or finning within (10) ten seconds on a wet towel in the shade; will be regarded as "dead" and therefore be penalised and a 1000 gram will be deducted from the total bag weight for each "dead fish" as decided upon by the weigh master alone. SA BASS and Cast-for-Cash® also recommends the use of non-puncturing culling clips for marking fish and live-well additives to help promote the healthy release of bass.

18. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

Any team can only start to fish after they have gone through the starting gate. Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All fishing must be conducted from the boat and only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only one wet rod with one main line and one lure / bait per angler at any given time is allowed. The rod must be hand held (no rod holder may be used). Rigs like the double rig where multiple lures / baits are attached to one main line are not allowed, except for commercial available "Alabama" rigs. **Anglers are restricted to a maximum of three hook Alabama rig. (Single, or treble hooks each count as one hook.)**

Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating the combustion engine or using the trolling motor to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve. All bass caught must be hooked inside the mouth. Creating feeding spots by dumping bait either artificial or natural, or any other attractant in order to attract fish to a specific location is prohibited. Tournament ethics, courtesy and good conduct are unwritten "golden rules" and core responsibilities of all anglers on all levels.

19. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local or provincial officials or within 45 metres of a competitor's boat. Non-contestants (spectators on boats) are also not allowed within 45 metres from a contestant's boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of registration to make an area more accessible by boat is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament.

20. LIMITS

The daily bag limit is five (5) bass per team on the boat at any one time. Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit of five (5) fish per team per day will be disqualified. There is no minimum size limit on bass to be weighed at any Cast-for-Cash® event. Any fish presented for weigh-in that have partially ingested their prey or lure will not be weighed until the protruding remains of such ingested prey are safely removed and will not count towards the team's bag weight. The introduction of any foreign materials (including vegetation) to increase the fish's weight will be just cause for an immediate disqualification from all Cast-for-Cash® tournaments. Any fish presented for weigh-in must be brought in a

weigh bag filled with water. Any fish brought lip-landed to the scale will NOT be weighed. No culling of fish at the weigh station is allowed. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag and verified by the signature of a team member. Failure to have a verified signature may result in disqualification of that day's catch. The team's boat flag must be weighed along with their fish. All fish are weighed together to determine the total bag weight. (No points per fish.) MLF members are encouraged to nominate, weigh-in and claim record size bass during tournaments and apply for official MLF record recognition.

21. PENALTIES & DISQUALIFICATIONS

There will be three penalty levels:

* **Minor offences: less 500 gram per offense**

Smoking is not allowed in the weigh-in line

Weighing short fish (where applicable)

* **Serious offences: less 1000 gram per offense**

Failure to wear an approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running: warning for first offence but instant disqualification for 2nd offense.

A 1000 gram will be deducted from the total bag weight for each "dead fish".

No angler may hand to, or exchange, any article with any other boat and, excepting in an emergency situation, may not leave the boat during the fishing session.

* **Disqualification**

Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the 2022/23 series, except for the above minor and serious offences.

Going on the plane, or passing other a boat within a no wake zone.

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 and prize giving.

Abuse of or addiction to mind-altering substances.

Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.

Anglers possessing more than the tournament limit of five fish per team per day will be disqualified.

Teams who beach directly at the release point.

The intentional introduction of materials that cause an increase in weight/mass of a fish by an angler.

Intentional damaging of fish (fin clipping, illegal tagging, or disfiguration of any kind).

A tag that is not on the tag board by the closing time of the event will result in the entire catch being disqualified and the team will only be awarded their attendance points. (In case of a lost tag the team must identify itself to the tournament organiser and inform him of a lost tag before the dedicated cut-off time, to avoid disqualification.)

Any team who joins the weigh-in queue after 16:20 will be disqualified.

Fishing in an off limits area and/or No Fishing Zone.

If any team or team member receives more than three complaints in one season against them, the team (or team member) will be disqualified for the rest of the season.

In the event that a team is found guilty of cheating, the team members will be immediately banned from all SA BASS, Cast-for-Cash® or MLF Championship tournaments and legal action will be taken against the team members.

22. SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct them in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, to SA BASS, Cast-for-Cash, MLF South Africa, MLF's sponsors, the sport of fishing and MLF's efforts to promote the sport.

Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavourably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set in this rules. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined in these rules, MLF South Africa shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee, to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined in these rules. All disputes will be handled and finalised immediately after each leg. The organisers may at their discretion co-opt persons to assist in settling disputes.

23. MISBEHAVIOURS

- a. Fighting, pulling pushing and threatening each other and abusive language will not be tolerated, this includes officials as well. (Minimum 3 months ban up to 12 months).
- b. Deliberate or intentional actions of a member, official, competitor (including the competitor's family, relatives or friends), publishing negative comments towards fellow competitors, administrators, officials or tournament partners on social media, using foul language (including officials) towards spectators, officials, competitors, tournament partners or employees of the venue. The competitor (official) may be banned for a period for a period of minimum 3 up to 12months if found guilty by a special committee appointed to investigate the matter. The decision of the special committee is final.

24. MISBEHAVIOURS

Contestants may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with the regional tournament organiser. At no time during tournament hours may contestants read or discuss social media posts from other contestants.

25. MEDIA COMMENTS, PUBLIC ATTACKS

The favourable public reputation of SA BASS, MLF and Cast-for-Cash® as sanctioning organizations in the sport of fishing, the integrity of its officials, and the reputation of its media properties are valuable assets and tangible benefits for SA BASS and MLF South Africa. Accordingly, it is an obligation of competitors to refrain from comments to the news media that unreasonably attack or disparage the integrity of tournaments, tournament officials, sponsors, fellow members, fellow anglers, SA BASS or Major League Fishing (MLF). Responsible expressions of legitimate disagreement with SA BASS and/or MLF South Africa policies are encouraged as opposed to attacks upon the integrity of the rules or officials. However, public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of SA BASS, MLF South Africa, its officials or sponsors shall be considered conduct unbecoming an angler and will result in disciplinary action.

26. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE

During all days of competition any and all tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Anglers may wear their own apparel every day, except when anglers represent MLF South Africa in any event. SA BASS and MLF South Africa reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any angler's apparel that it finds to be offensive. All decisions are in tournament organisers' sole discretion.

Only official SA BASS, Cast-for-Cash® and MLF South Africa sponsors and benefit providers are entitled to publicity at tournaments as jointly agreed. No competitor may offer publicity, guaranteed or incidental, on behalf of SA Bass, Cast-for-Cash® or MLF South Africa in exchange for sponsorship.

In the event of any television coverage of any SA BASS, Cast-for-Cash® or MLF South Africa event, SA BASS owns the rights to all camera footage. SA BASS and MLF South Africa are under no obligation to remunerate, whether it be cash or any other means, what so ever, to any competitors should they appear in the production.

27. RIGHT OF ADMISSION

Right of admission is reserved: the Cast-for-Cash® Tournament Trial is a showcase for bass angling! 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 SA Bass, sponsors, the sport of fishing and SA Bass' efforts to promote the sport examples of conduct not complying with those standards include, but are not limited to, the following: violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the official rules for the Cast-for-Cash® Tournament Trial.

28. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

Each contestant agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at SA BASS' sole discretion and the decision based on the findings will be made solely by SA BASS. All costs for such a polygraph test will be for the competitor's account, despite the outcome.

29. POWER OF DISQUALIFICATION

Under any of the above rules, tournament organisers are empowered to disqualify any competitor, after due consideration of the facts, deemed to have broken these rules at their level and/or apply disciplinary measures as defined in the Cast-for-Cash® / MLF South Africa Championship rules. The regional organiser may recommend the banning of any angler for serious breach of rules. In the event of a dispute SA BASS may make use of a polygraph test for both anglers on the boat.

By filling in the entry form, submitting and participating in the Cast-for-Cash® tournament trial or MLF South Africa Championship, you have agreed to abide by all the rules and have acknowledged and have accepted the indemnity at the bottom of the entry form.

30. MLF RSA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP 2023

Date: to be confirmed - It is a three day, full field event.

Venue: to be announced

Any angler under the age of 16 entering must also have written permission and be signed by a parent or legal guardian. *Please note that MLF RSA National Championship has its own set of tournament rules.*

The MLF RSA slots will be awarded as follows:

1. The two skippers of the teams who finish first and second at the MLF RSA National Championship 2023 will be awarded the pro-angler slots at the MLF Toyota Series Championship.
2. The two co-anglers of the teams who finish first and second at the MLF RSA National Championship 2023 will be awarded the co-angler slots at the MLF Toyota Series Championship.
3. The four International Friendship Tournament slots will be awarded to the top four anglers at the TBC National Championship.