

## Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap Classic Rules

1. Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Bill Lewis Rat-L-Trap Classic rules will apply unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. GSM Outdoors/Xtreme Bass Series reserves the right to refuse any tournament entry fees or entry forms for any reason. GSM Outdoors/Xtreme Bass Series officials and directors' decisions will be final in all matters.
2. Laws: State, Federal, and Local Laws must be obeyed.
3. Permitted Baits and fishing methods:
  - a. Only CURRENTLY MANUFACTURED Bill Lewis Outdoors "Rat-L-Trap" lipless crankbait may be used during this tournament. This includes the Original Rat-L-Trap, Hammer Trap, Knock'n Hammer Trap, Tiny Trap, Mini Trap, Mag Trap, Mag Force, Super Trap, Float'n Trap, Knock'n Trap, Saltwater Trap, and Big Gizz. No other Bill Lewis Outdoors products may be used.
  - b. No modifications of the internal of the bait will be permitted (adding/reducing weight/shots)
  - c. No umbrella rigs.
  - d. Adding or attaching soft plastic baits to the 'Trap is NOT permitted.
  - e. You are allowed to change hooks, including adding a feathered treble hook.
  - f. If your modification is in question then it is advised you seek permission from the tournament director prior to tournament.
4. Anglers do not have to remove non-Bill Lewis Outdoors lures/tackle from their boats. However, only approved Bill Lewis Outdoors Rat-L-Traps approved in #3 above can be out on the boat deck during the tournament. Non-Bill Lewis Outdoors lures of any kind placed on the deck while participating in this tournament will result in immediate disqualification.
5. Fishing Licenses: Each contestant will observe state and local fish and game laws and have in his or her possession a valid State fishing license.
6. Boater's Safety Course: Per State of Alabama laws, all boaters must obtain boaters safety course credentials before they are allowed to lawfully operate a vessel on Alabama waterways. Please visit <https://www.alea.gov/dps/marine-patrol/boating-education-and-operator-certificationlicense> for more details.

7. Insurance: All boats used in Rat-L-Trap tournaments must have liability insurance at a minimum of \$100,000.00 in coverage. This is the user/owners responsibility. Failure to have insurance will result in disqualification.
8. Eligibility & Participation: Any person age 17 or under may be a team partner with a parent or a person age 18 or older. Persons under 18 must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the tournament release of liability entry form.
9. Tournament Entry Fees: \$120.00 per boat (1 or 2 man team) with 100% Payback. \$20.00 from each entry will go towards Big Bass side pot.
10. Species: Only Bass are allowed to be weighed in for this event (largemouth bass, spotted bass, and smallmouth bass). All fish must meet a minimum of 15" in length.
11. Tournament Winners: Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths of ounces (xx.xx). The highest weight will be awarded 1st Place, followed by each descending weight being 2nd place and so on. In the event of a tie for any place, the winnings will be split between the teams evenly.
12. Big Fish Side Pot: NO DEAD FISH can be considered for BIG FISH. Only Live fish will count towards BIG FISH category.
13. Ties: Prize money for tied positions will be combined and distributed equally among the tied teams.
14. Pre-registration & Sign Up: Online registration is available at <https://xtremebassseries.com/gsm-outdoors-rat-l-trap-registration/> ONSITE REGISTRATION will begin at 3:00 pm the day prior to the tournament at the Scottsboro Civic Center. It will finish at 6 pm. We will open up registration again the morning of the tournament at 5am at GTO @ Goosepond. Contestants may pay at pre-registration meeting the afternoon prior to event or cash at the ramp the morning of the tournament. Cash or Debit/Credit cards only at onsite registration. NO CHECKS WILL BE ACCEPTED AT ONSITE REGISTRATION.
15. Fish Limits & Penalty: All contestants must use care in handling and keeping fish alive for release after weigh-in. All fish will be brought to the weighmaster in official weigh bags with enough water to keep the fish covered until weigh-in. A tournament limit for Lake Guntersville will be FIVE (5) fish, minimum legal length of 15 inches, measured on a PRO RULE with mouth closed and tail compressed (pinched) in accordance with State law.

16. No culling of dead Fish. No culling at ramp or in host marina. No retaining bass in live well and not weighing those fish, this is the same as culling at the ramp. Dead fish penalty will be .50 pounds per dead fish. Teams must not have more than (5) fish in the live well at any time.
17. Life Jackets & Kill Switch: Safe boating practices must be observed by all times. Life Jackets or Vest will be worn by both team members any time the outboard motor is running and in gear. Kill switch will be connected to boat operator any time the outboard motor is running and in gear.
18. Tackle & Equipment: NO FFS is allowed. 360 imaging is allowed but Live Scope, Active Target, or Mega Live is NOT allowed. No live or prepared bait is permitted. You may not fish on or from any structure above the deck. All fishing must be done from boat deck. Only Bill Lewis Outdoors family of lures may be used per number 3 above. No multiple lures of any kind; i.e. NO UMBRELLA RIGS. No wading or trolling is allowed. All fish must be caught from the boat. Only one rod and reel may be used at any given time by each angler. No rod may be left unattended with line or lure in water.
19. Permitted Fishing Locations: No “hole sitting” or reserving a fishing area is permitted. Anglers may not leave their boat except in a dire emergency. You must fish water that is available to all competitors. No fishing within 50 yards of any boat anchored, with trolling motor up. No fishing in areas designated off limits by governmental agencies. No fishing within 50 yards of a marina gas pump. There are NO off-limits days.
20. Team check-in: Contestants must check in and out at the official Check Point. All contestants will be assigned a boat number. Any team checking in after his announced check-in time will be disqualified.
21. Tournament Hours: The week of the tournament, the director will determine the time for safe-light. A official start time will then be announced at the mandatory meeting the evening prior to the tournament. Each boat must have one working cell phone in order to be sure they don't start fishing prior to the official start time. When the clock on each boats cell phone reaches the official start time then it will be time to start fishing. Trailering will be allowed in this tournament. The weigh-in will begin at 3:00pm for the 1st flight of boats. The following flights will be assigned weigh-in times. Each team will be assigned a boat number in order of registration. At check-in, all teams must return their boat chip prior to their designated return time.

22. Emergency or Break Down: Anglers are not permitted to leave their boat or touch another boat with the exception of an emergency or equipment failure. It is permitted to be towed either to safety or the weigh-in area by any safe means available. You may not transport fish by land. One or both anglers must identify their fish with some sort of marker or separation system before entering the rescue boat with fish, to return to launch site. (No fishing from the rescue boat, both teams may be subjected to a polygraph test).
23. Boat & Horsepower Regulations: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain a live limit catch of bass. All boats must have an operating kill switch that must be attached to the operator at all times when the outboard motor is running and in gear. Violation of any of the above rules may be cause for disqualification. If running lights are not working you may be held at take-off . XBS officials or directors reserve the right to refuse entry to any boats that does not meet tournament standards. No airboats, canoes, or pontoon boats are permitted.
24. Sportsmanship: Each team is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, safety, courtesy, and conservation. Any team found in violation of these rules or any federal, state, or local laws may be disqualified. The use, possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages during tournament hours, which conclude upon the completion of payout, will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from current and future Rat-L-Trap events.
25. Protest & Polygraph Test: Battle of the Brands contestants may submit a protest during the tournament morning prior to launch or immediately following the weigh-in of the last team's catch, but before the start of the awards presentation. Protests shall be in writing and accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit. The burden of proof of a rules infraction will be the responsibility of the angler ling the protest. This deposit will be refunded providing the protest be upheld, otherwise, the deposit shall be forfeited to GSM Outdoors. Any contestant may be required to submit to a Polygraph or truth verification test. Failure to submit to either of these tests will result in disqualification from this tournament and will not be eligible to fishing any future GSM Outdoors/XBS tournaments. Any angler making an accusation against another contestant without submitting a written protest accompanied by a \$100.00 deposit may be subject to disqualification from current and future GSM Outdoors/XBS events.
26. Cellular Phones and Radios: Cellular phones and radios are encouraged for safety reasons. During the official competition days of the tournament a competitor may not make cell calls for the purpose of locating or catching fish on tournament waters. Cell phones may be used for emergencies or to communicate with the tournament director.

Competitors are allowed to use smart phones for global maps, weather, power generation, tidal charts, notes, etc.