

Australian Fishing Tournaments Bream Events 2017-18 Rules

Gamakatsu Teams Series (GTS), Atomic Bream Series (ABS) as well as other events listed on www.fishingcomps.com.au is run by Australian Fishing Tournaments Pty Ltd (AFT).

Pre Entry Requirements

- Entry can be made beforehand or on the day, starting order is order of entry.
- Pre-Entry is via the online system and payment by credit card.
- On the day entry can be made via card or cash.
- Entries without payment will be discarded. It is the responsibility of the competitor to contact an AFT official if their entry is not listed.
- If angler cannot attend event that have paid for they can keep on credit that entry for another event that season or get a refund minus 15% admin fee.
- All competitors must have a valid fishing license and any state or waterway based licenses needed and produce if requested by AFT Officials.
- All boat drivers must have a valid boat license and minimum 3rd party insurance to cover other people's boat and your occupants (ABS non-boater once in your boat must be covered by your insurance), this is to be supplied during the entry process, it is up to the registrant to make sure these details are up to date upon entry when these details change, you must change via the online system.
- AFT official's decision is final.
- Specific Rules
 - GTS
 - Minimum age of boat drivers is 14 years of age (junior speed restrictions apply and under 16 will start last), a 3rd person of age is able to be in boat to drive if younger but not allowed to fish, only 2 people can fish
 - No horsepower restrictions, it is an open event
 - ABS
 - Minimum age of boat drivers is 16 years of age
 - No horsepower restrictions, it is an open event

Boat / Kayak Information

- BREAM boats 3.7m in length and 20hp or greater are recommended, but not mandatory. Boats less than this may be placed at the rear of field for safety reasons if officials deem necessary.
- All engines must be fitted with a kill switch and safety lanyard. If in doubt, check with staff or your nearest outboard dealer.
- 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.
- Additionally, all occupants of the boat are required to wear personal flotation devices while their boat is planing and also comply with the waterways or state regulations.
- All boats must have a minimum capacity of 40 liters of live well with an aerator or recirculation pump installed and functioning. Live wells must be insulated if above deck e.g. Esky, and no Nally bins, garbage bins or fish tubs will be accepted.

- All Kayaks must have suitable live wells to hold enough water for 3 live bream.
- All boats must ensure their insurance (minimum 3rd party for GST or compressive for ABS) is correct when entering online for an event, or change if details or policy expires. It is the responsibility of the entrant to have details to up to date, if insurance details are incorrect then you will be not allowed to fish or disqualified with no entry fee refund.
- The boat driver is responsible for the safety while on water of both himself and his team member or non-boater, any accidents must be reported to AFT officials straight away.

Team Information:

- A Team can be made up of either one or two anglers. A Team is always controlled and name stays with Angler 1
- Prize money is deposited into Angler 1 or their nominated account.
- In the case of a split of this team it is Angler 1 who has first rights to any ongoing benefits from prior years and name, e.g. TOY and GF Entry. Angler 1 can pass this onto Angler 2.
- The online system is designed to be accessed and re-entry of events from Angler 1 username, they can share this information with Angler 2, if they wish to transfer the Team to Angler 2 this is also allowed.
- If a Team has not fished for 2 seasons then their team name will be archived to last year fished to allow new teams to use this name. E.g. Gamakatsu has not fished since 2013 so their team name will be changed to Gamakatsu_2013.

Briefing and Starting Procedure:

Briefing (time on Event Info page of Fishing Comps Site)

- GTS
 - It is a requirement of entry that one angler from every team must attend the briefing. Failure to do so will result in a starting position penalty regardless of reason for absence.
- ABS
 - It is a requirement of entry that anglers attend the briefing, if you are unable to attend then you will be placed at the end of the field for starting and you must be able to arrive earlier to go through any instructions that the briefing may contain.

Starting Procedure (starting time on event info page of Fishing Comps website)

- During or before briefing officials will be checking boats including live wells, safety gear and lanyard to ensure all tournament and safety requirements are met.
- AFT reserves the right to disallow unsafe boats to compete.
- After the boat has been checked and approved, anglers are to position themselves according to their key-tag number in preparation for the tournament start.
- An AFT 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 until you reach the take-off zone.
- Boats missing their call-up must wait until all boats have left to be started by AFT staff.

Weigh-in Procedure:

- Anglers will finish a session by placing the key back on the appropriate board before the session finishes. Anglers placing their key on the board after the session finish time will incur a weight penalty. The key board may be replaced with a electronic system at AFT judgement.
- Tags not returned by the allotted weigh-in time will be penalised at the rate of 50 grams per minute. If a boat returns later than 15 minutes after weigh-in time all fish caught will not be weighed and a 750g penalty will apply.
- It is the angler's responsibility to allow enough time to ensure the key tag is placed before the allotted time. There will be no exceptions to this regardless of circumstance.
- Anglers are then requested to retrieve their boats and trailer them to the defined weigh-in area adjacent to the stage for drive through weigh-ins, or proceed to the on-water weigh-in site.
- Bream will be weighed in order of arrival with bag at stage. Details of the weigh-in site will be established during the briefing prior to the start of the event.
- Bream will be weighed collectively with "Big Bream" candidates weighed individually. Note: that it is the angler's responsibility to identify these Big Bream fish to the weigh master.
- AFT encourages competitors with fish on the 26cm limit to be brought up for checking on the official ruler rather than release if very close to 26cm, fish under 25 are not allowed and the bag will be disqualified
- Dead fish, as deemed by AFT officials, will not score points.
- Boats can return to the weigh-in 20 minutes early, however, that is all the anglers in that craft can fish for the day.
- In the event of a tie the cash prizes will be split and the product is done randomly.

Fishing Rules

- It is the responsibility of all competitors to obtain necessary angler permits or licenses as demanded by the waterway in the state being fished. AFT will not allow a competitor to continue in the tournament without the legal licenses and permits. All documents should be brought and carried at events.
- Anglers may fish any line class with spin, baitcast, spincast or flyfishing tackle.
- Trolling is not permitted - Lure and fly CASTING only. Trolling is defined as using the momentum of the boat to give the lure action. Casting along a stretch of bank under electric power is permitted if using the power to keep position. However, when altering boating position, do not leave your lines in the water. AFT Staff reserve the right to disqualify anglers deemed to be purposely trolling in defiance of the spirit of AFT events.
- Any speed restrictions, non-boating or non- fishing areas must be adhered to.
- Fishing is NOT permitted within any defined non-boating or non-fishing areas. If asked to leave an area public or private, you must do so.
- Only live bream are eligible for tournament points (yellowfin, black and pikey).
- Fish must be caught during the designated times and kept in the livewells.
- Bream Bag limit is dependent on the series, refer the website for this detail.

- If you already have a full bag and catch another, you must immediately release a fish, you are not allowed to keep catching fish then upgrade later.
- Anglers caught fishing with more than the Bream bag limit above will be immediately disqualified and AFT staff reserves the right to check boats live wells during competition hours.
- Bream must be 26cm tip length to qualify for weighing. Any variations to this will be announced at the briefing.
- Anglers may only use one rod at a time while fishing all AFT events. This includes such cases as when a lure is snagged but still attached to the rod, anglers can not pick up another rod and begin casting - this would constitute using two rods.
- Anglers are not permitted to fish from outside their fishing vessels at any time during sessions, including fighting and landing fish.
- If there is a breakdown then at least one angler must stay with the Fish at all times, Fish can be transported back in another competitors boat to weigh-in site on time via water only.
- A boat cannot be removed from the water during fishing hours (while key tag is in competitors hands), unless in an emergency, if a boat is removed then the bag will be disqualified, standard late penalties will apply if key tag not handed in.
- AFT reserves the right to place a camera person on the boat.
- Any complaints regarding a breach of the rules must be addressed to the on-site AFT Official 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 AFT events
- Any concerns regarding clarification of rules can be discussed with an AFT Official BEFORE the start of the tournament.
- Local area rules will apply on top of the general tournament rules, these are available on the round information website page as well as at the briefing.
- In an event of a dispute the officials' decision is final and will be made on the officials take on the rules, if any rules are not listed then common sense prevails.

Fishing Boundaries

- There is no boat or line allowed to cross a boundary listed below, encase of a emergency it is allowed but must inform AFT officials of the emergency as soon as possible and the situation has stabilized.
- No Fishing in any area that is not open to public, or signed as no-fishing or no-entry, these areas are classed as Out of Bounds.
- No fishing outside the river mouth, the river mouth is defined as the north tip to south tip most seaward points, where there is no defined points, then a map will be provided on the events information page.
- A Public Marina is a no fishing or entry zone 15m from edge of marina, this boundary is defined as extremity to extremity and in the case of 2 marinas close together (100m), a line is drawn between the 2 extremities and also out of bounds.
- A Public Marina is defined as any marina that you can pay to leave a vessel at, if part paid and part public access e.g. café access jetty next to a marina, then it is wholly defined as a Public Marina.

- Private marinas or jetty's are able to be fished, these are defined as apartment blocks where there are more than a single boat moored or private house jetties. If asked to leave or the jetty or mooring is signed no fishing then the standard 15m rule applies to this area. If in doubt please ask AFT officials and we will make a decision, we will need an aerial photo to explain area also if unknown.

Code of Conduct

- During fishing sessions, no mobile phones or radios should be used, except in an emergency or to communicate with AFT staff.
- Boats should remain a cast apart (30 meters) while fishing.
- AFT 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.
- AFT will encourage Fisheries and Boating Officers to attend all AFT 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.
- It is expected that Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a manner becoming a professional sportsperson. Behavior that will reflect unfavorably on AFT, its members, representatives and sponsors will subject the angler's catch to penalty or disqualification.

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 AFT, AFT's sponsors, the sport of fishing and AFT'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 AFT events.
 - Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration or tournament hours.
 - 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 unfavourably 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.
- In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, AFT shall have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete by returning the entry fee (minus 15% admin fee) or to disqualify a contestant at an event without entry fee refund.
- AFT Officials Decision is final.

Team of the Year (TOY) Points System

- The Team of the Year for each series / region is the one of the most prestigious award a BREAM team can achieve. It rewards the teams who is the most consistent highly placed team throughout the qualifying events, 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.
- If equal weights then TOY points will be also equal, e.g. Equal 1st means both teams get 100 points, 3rd get 98 points.
- Teams do not need to catch a fish to receive TOY points, but teams who catch no fish for a tournament will incur a 10 AOY point penalty.
- Teams can fish any event in that series to count towards their regions TOY score, but they can't fish other series to count towards the same TOY, each series has its own TOY
- Team names can be changed but to be eligible you must have a consistent angler who fished for the team before and after the name change. Team members can be swapped as long as there is one consistent in the team who fished at least 2 rounds.
- At the end of series when TOY is finalized if there is an equal score, then TOY will be settled by countback. The team with the best performance in the most recent event will gain the higher placing

Grand Final Qualification

- For each series grand final spots are calculated based on TOY score.
- The number of spots and position needed in the TOY is defined for each series on the series information page.
- If a team declines Grand Final invitation or have qualified already via additional spots, their position will be filled by the next eligible team from the TOY score, if there is a tie then it will be done on a countback, highest score last round fished.
- Specific Series Rules:
 - GTS
 - If your team member is unavailable then you can swap to another team member as long as they have fished a GTS event in the current season.