

Welcome Co-Anglers

So, you're thinking about jumping into a tournament with the Arizona TBF? That's awesome—and first off, welcome! We're thrilled to have you join us. Fishing as a co-angler is a fantastic way to get to know Arizona's lakes, sharpen your skills, and connect with some incredible people in the local fishing community. Whether you're brand new or just new to our circuit, you're in for a great experience!

Overview:

We always recommend reaching out to your assigned boater before tournament day. It's a great way to get on the same page and find out what they're comfortable with you bringing. Some boaters run larger boats with plenty of space for rods and tackle, while others may have more compact setups with limited room. A quick conversation ahead of time helps ensure you're both prepared—and allows for a smooth and enjoyable day on the water.

Also, be sure to arrive early on tournament mornings. This gives you time to load your gear, meet your boater, and go over any last-minute details without feeling rushed. Showing up early shows respect for your boater's time and helps the day get off to a great start.

Equipment:

You'll definitely need your rods, reels, and tackle—but try to keep your gear streamlined. We recommend bringing no more than 5–6 rods and packing your tackle in a small to medium-sized backpack or gear bag. Overpacking can clutter the boat and slow things down, especially when your boater is ready to move to the next spot. Keeping your setup light and organized helps the day run more smoothly for both of you—and makes a great impression.

Fish Care:

As a co-angler, you're responsible for managing your own fish throughout the day. While not mandatory, we highly recommend bringing your own cull tags, a scale or cull beam, and a weigh-in bag. These tools can really come in handy—especially when that last-minute kicker fish forces a tough culling decision!

Other Considerations:

Arizona fishing comes with plenty of sunshine and heat, so don't forget to bring plenty of water, sunscreen, and sun protection (like a hat or neck gaiter). A life jacket (PFD) is required for every angler on board during the tournament. While most boaters will have an extra, it may not fit properly or be as comfortable as your own. Having your own ensures your comfort and safety, and be sure to connect with your boater ahead of time to confirm what works best for both of you. Lastly, while not required, offering gas money at the end of the day is a great way to show

appreciation. Most co-anglers chip in anywhere from \$10–\$30 to help cover fuel costs—it’s a simple gesture that goes a long way.

Joining the AZ TBF as a co-angler is an exciting opportunity to grow as an angler, explore new waters, and build lasting connections within the fishing community. A little preparation goes a long way in making your tournament day smooth, fun, and successful—for both you and your boater. We’re glad to have you on board, and we can’t wait to see you out on the water. Good luck, and tight lines!

