



1. OFFICIAL RULES & SAFETY REGULATIONS:

These rules and safety regulations are “time tested” over decades as the founders of competitive youth fishing. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Officials. In the event of a rule violation, officials may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes in full or in part and prohibition from participation in any future tournaments. Protests and/or alleged rule violations are to be documented in writing by a witness or boat captain within 15 minutes of the check-in time of the last flight OR within 10 minutes of the last fish weighed in each day whichever is later. Decisions of the Tournament officials shall be final in all matters and not subject to any appeal.

2. PARTICIPANTS & ELIGIBILITY: Participation in the TBF JUNIOR World Championship event (JWC) is by invitation only and open only to those Junior anglers who have NOT YET started the 9th grade prior to the first day of the JWC event they are attempting to qualify for. Further, sanctioned events for qualifying are open to eligible TBF junior members 8th grade or less who will not have started the regular fall session of the 9th grade prior to actually fishing the JWC. If you have started the regular fall session of the 9th grade you are NOT eligible to fish the JWC. Proof of age, grade and eligibility is required if so requested. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license covering the waters to be fished, where required by law. **A PROPERLY COMPLETED AND SIGNED ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY TBF ON OR BEFORE THE DEADLINE DATE.** Tournament Officials reserve the right to discontinue or extend acceptance of applications prior or after the deadline date. As a participant in a TBF event, you agree at the time of registration and by your presence at the event that you have read and understand the rules and liability release and voluntarily agree to entry and be bound by them as well as to use any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by TBF. Officials reserve the right to reject an application for entry for any reason.

3. REGISTRATION & FORMAT: This is a “team” event consisting of two student anglers and one (1) non-fishing volunteer boat captain/coach, single anglers CANNOT register for or fish the tournament alone, **NO exceptions.** Each team, participant and boat captain is required to pre-register online as a team, you cannot plan to fish alone. You need to print out and **BRING** a copy of your most recent report card, a copy of your birth certificate and a signed event waiver to registration with you. Each participant must check-in at the designated on-site registration/check in location. Failure to register in person during prescribed hours may result in a \$20.00 monetary fine or possible forfeiture of participation. **It shall be the participant’s responsibility to check the schedule of events for official registration time and location or obtain times from TBF.**

4. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE & COMPETITION: JWC waters will go **off-limits at Sundown Sunday July 13** until the **first allowed practice day Monday July 28**, (the MONDAY before the first competition day). The two (2) allowed practice days shall be Monday July 28 all day and Tuesday July 29 until 3pm ONLY. **YOU MAY NOT** have anyone practicing for you during the off-limits period nor on these (2) allowed designated practice days. If the junior anglers choose to practice either those 2 allowed practice days, they **MUST** do so from the same boat with their registered boat captain or an immediate family

member over 19 years old. All anglers must be off plane in sight of the launch ramp, no longer fishing, getting off the water by 3:00pm local time on Tuesday July 29 PRIOR to the first competition day. The lake will go back off-limits to all competitors until the tournament begins. **Starting with the beginning of the off-limits period July 13 & continuing through the final weigh-in of the 2025 JWC**, competitors and Boat Captains cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means with regard to locating or catching fish on the JWC waters unless that information comes from another JWC participant in the same event or their TBF approved registered Boat Captain. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** Beginning **July 28** through the end of the tournament, no team, contestant or coach may practice with, hire, barter for, or engage services with, for the purposes of locating or catching bass on the tournament waters, any person who has been a bass guide for hire on the tournament waters within the last 12 months unless such person is the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of a contestant on a registered team in the event. Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of tournament officials may be required. Nor may they fish the 2 allowed practice days with anyone other than their teammate, their coach/boat captain who also meets the above criteria concerning guides or an immediate family member. Nobody else, except an TBF pre-approved official is allowed in the boat. No competitor may solicit, buy or barter a fishing location or trips from guides, potential coaches or others within the off-limits days, official practice days or on any competition day. Any violation of this rule may result in disqualification. During competition days of the tournament, a contender may not use a cellular phone, radio, or any other type of communication device for the purpose of locating or catching fish. Contenders are permitted to transmit by radio or telephone only in the event of an emergency. Cell phones cannot be used until fish have been weighed. If so equipped, contestants may listen to the marine-band weather information. Each contestant agrees to report, in a timely manner, to the Tournament Director any violation or infraction of these Tournament Rules. The failure to report violations or suggestion to violate these Rules, or false verification of weigh-in forms will be cause for disqualification.

5. SAFETY & TOURNAMENT INTEGRITY: In compliance with the Federal YOUTH Safe Sports Act (that applies to all YOUTH events, camps, etc. of any kind.) No youth angler may participate ALONE with an adult in a designated youth event, ALWAYS 3 people to a boat during a tournament, **NO exceptions.** In the event of an emergency, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials. During defined tournament hours and from take-off through weigh-in all participants must be in full compliance with these rules. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament contenders, observers and boat captains. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a recommended on-plane seating location when the combustion engine is running. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation is not permitted. Student Anglers are NOT permitted to operate the main engine or drive the boat except in an emergency. During the tournament, each competitor and boat captain is required to wear a Coast Guard approved **chest type** life preserver. The contestants must wear their life preservers anytime the combustion engine is operating. The preserver must be strapped, snapped or zippered securely and maintained in that condition until the competitors reach their fishing location and the combustion engine is shut off. Violation of this rule shall be reason for disqualification. Tournament officials have the right to delay, shorten or cancel the start of an official tournament day because of bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of the competitors, if a delay is required additional time will NOT be added to that day’s flight and check in times.

Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. We reserve the right to impose speed limits on any or all events. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

6. SPORTSMANSHIP: ALL participants in any TBF or SAF Sanctioned event is expected to follow high standards of **sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation**. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Use of or possession in the boat of alcohol or marijuana/cannabis products, ("medical" or otherwise) or any mind-altering substances or any drugs by any participant during the official event or tournament days or in our weigh-in process area will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor which reflects unfavorably upon efforts to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy shall be reason for disqualification. All contenders are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the various states within which they fish. Chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification. Any disqualification or suspension from, or other disciplinary action regarding any tournament or fishing organization, shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.

7. TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" or prepared bait will be permitted, with the exception of pork strips, rinds, etc. Only one casting, spin casting, or spinning rod (8 ft. max. length from butt of handle to rod tip) and reel may be used at any one time. All other types prohibited. Only one rod and reel outfit as described is permitted in use per angler at any given time. All bass must be caught alive and in a conventional sporting manner. Anyone guilty of snatching or snagging visible fish will have their day's catch disqualified. When visually fishing for bass, physically or electronically, to be counted as legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and **must be verified** by your adult Boat Captain before being unhooked. The use of grippers or gaffs in landing bass is prohibited. Dip nets will be allowed.

8. BOAT & MOTOR: Each team is to provide their own boat and volunteer adult boat captain/coach to operate it that is at least 19 years of age. To qualify as a coach, (**see Rule 22**). For the safety of all participants, boats must be equipped with some type of ignition/engine stop/shutoff device. The engine stop switch device must be attached to the boat captain's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, the boat captain must be the driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering; however, trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. No air, jet, long tail or surface drive type boats will be permitted, otherwise boats must be typical propeller driven, a minimum of 16 feet in overall length. No barges or similar cumbersome crafts will be permitted without approval. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated livewell space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both contestants. Maximum horsepower for all outboards is not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) plate that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The

horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this plate or any Horsepower limit set by tournament officials. By signing the entry form, each contestant agrees to submit his/her boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials or manufacturers personnel. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future TBF sanctioned events. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed and or recommended fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a fuel hose.

9. BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT: Every boat must have all required safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and **livewell space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat**. TBF recommends the use of livewell additives to promote a healthy release of all fish to their natural habitat. Further TBF recommends the use of ICE to cool livewell water and improve oxygen levels during "summer" months. Leave your aerators on "recirculate" and running. Tournament officials shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate." Each boat **MUST** be given, prior to each day's start, a livewell and SAFETY INSPECTION check by a tournament official, also a boat marker, which **MUST** remain in the boat and turned in during check-in at the end of each day. A boat is officially checked-in when the number is logged in.

10. BOAT OPERATION: Volunteer Boat Captains/Coaches will supply and drive boats for their teams. To qualify as a boat captain/ coach, **SEE RULE 22**. In the event that neither Junior angler cannot nor wishes not to run the trolling motor the boat captain may run it for them. The boat captain has sole discretion to veto any selected location for safety reasons.

11. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Tournament waters shall be established by the Tournament Director for each event. Each competitor must obtain this information from TBF Staff. Any water within these boundaries posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies will be **OFF-LIMITS**. Also, any live bass-release area established by the Tournament Director will be **OFF-LIMITS** and will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. Only that water open to **ALL** public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat.

12. PARTICIPANTS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT: Participants and boat captain must not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Boats must remain in tournament waters during tournament days. Participants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Participants must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both competitors may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT so designated by the Tournament Director. Partners must remain together at all times, in sight of each other and each other's catch under the conditions cited above, in order for their catch of that day to be counted. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for a restroom break is permitted, however **ALL FISHING MUST CEASE**, until partners are back together. If a competitor must violate any of the above conditions (to use a phone to report an emergency or breakdown) both competitors must cease fishing at this point, and their catch must be verified by a tournament official in order to be counted in the tournament. If after the emergency

situation is resolved by tournament officials and enough time is left to resume fishing, a RESTART will be allowed and the competitors will continue and their catch will be counted. This applies only to dire emergency situations. Trailering of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT: There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon and this point shall be designated at the tournament briefing. At the time of check-out all competitors and their boats shall be in full conformance with all Safety and Tournament rules set forth by the Tournament Director; at check-in all boats shall identify themselves and proceed immediately to the designated weigh-in area. Partners must stay together, through check-in and weigh-in, until weigh-in slips have been signed. **YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.**

14. SCORING: Tournament standing, awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced in the pre-tournament briefing, **INCLUDING ANY BONUS EARNED.** Normally, only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed check event fact sheet for detail. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day, unless the prevailing state limit is less than 5, or a special limit is established for a particular tournament by the tournament director, in which case the state limit or special limit shall be the tournament limit. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. Tournament Officials will conduct checks for violations of this provision, and in the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. The official length for bass shall be decided by Tournament Officials and announced at the tournament briefing. Only bass which measure the official length or more on the longest straight line, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall not be weighed and will accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal fish. This penalty shall be deducted from the total score of the competitor. Any bass that appears to have been mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will be weighed and credited only at the discretion of tournament officials. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they **MUST** present all **LEGAL** fish in possession to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed. Once a team's catch has been measured, counted or verified by a tournament official, that team may not return to his boat until his catch has been weighed and recorded. Bass must not be stringered at any time during the tournament. This restriction includes livewell stringer systems used for culling, which are also prohibited. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag, which is specially designed and controlled to increase survival rate will be furnished by the Tournament Officials.

15. CATCH & RELEASE: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by the proper use of the boat's livewell system, livewell additive and ice. For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their daily score. The Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for assessing penalty points. If it becomes necessary for a team to cull their catch, every effort must be made by the competitors to handle their own fish.

16. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 13 at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute, to be deducted from the total weight of their catch that day for each 1 minute they are late. Any competitor more

than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch. There shall be no excuse for tardiness, and in no case shall a competitor be allowed to make up "lost time." After proper recognition at the check-in point, competitors will be allowed ample time to proceed to the weigh-in site; however, all fishing must cease upon check-in. After on sight registration check-in all practice must cease and fishing the tournament waters is prohibited except during tournament hours. Exact starting and check-in times will be announced at the Tournament Briefing. It is the angler's responsibility to confirm check-in times each day on the daily pairings.

17. TIES: In case of a tie for champions, awards, prizes or cut positions the following tie-breakers will be used in order: 1) The team with the most number of legal fish weighed in. 2) The team with the most number of legal **LIVE** fish weighed in. 3.) Heaviest single days catch 4.) Previous day's standings and/or cut position. In the event that individuals remain tied after these tiebreakers are employed, the tie shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director will be used to determine the winner(s), and the awards. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

18. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: It is REQUIRED by the Safe Sports Act of 2017 that 3 people are in the boat - (2) two-person team of contestants will be in each boat, with one boat captain. If, due to an emergency, only one contestant is available to go with a boat captain, an observer will be assigned to ride in that boat with them if available otherwise they will NOT go out that day. A contestant must not allow any bass not legally caught by their team to be counted in their weight. In such cases, the boat captain and both contestants and will be disqualified from this and all future TBF sanctioned events.

19. TOURNAMENT OFFICIALS: None of the above rules shall prohibit a designated tournament official from approaching or boarding any competitor's boat at any time.

20. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing. IF wearing something with logos we would like to see the TBF/SAF or the dual TBF/MLF Logo on it and which may have other patches, logos or signage. TBF may, however, restrict the use of such logos, signage, etc. that promote or advertise products which are in TBF's sole judgment, in competition with the products or services of official TBF sponsors or which are, in TBF's sole judgment, in poor taste. TBF will provide as much advance notice as possible to the competitors in such instances. By signing this document, each contestant agrees to wear, if provided by TBF, any ancillary clothing or products (such as life vests, team jerseys, etc.) bearing the logos of TBF or of official sponsors of same, each competitor shall wear such clothing or utilize such products in a manner requested by TBF.

21. VOLUNTEER BOAT CAPTAINS\Coaches: TEAMS ARE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED FROM RECRUITING A "LOCAL" BOAT CAPTAIN JUST FOR THIS EVENT. TBF RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY BOAT CAPTAIN.

EVERY team must bring its own volunteer boat captain and boat. TBF will NOT provide a boat or boat captain except in an onsite emergency or extreme circumstance, and only in very limited fashion. Providing a boat and boat captain is solely the decision of tournament officials. If a boat/captain is supplied in an emergency by SAF via a volunteer, the volunteer will drive the boat for the team, and the team's coach will NOT be allowed on the water. To qualify as a boat captain/ coach, the adult accompanying a team must be:

- a.) A non-paid Volunteer.
- b.) From the same state as the students comprising the team, OR an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 19 years old regardless of residence OR, in the limited case of boarder states and boarder-state clubs, the boat captain must reside within 60 miles of one member of the team.
- c.) Boat captains CANNOT have been a bass guide for hire on the tournament waters within the last 12 months unless such person is the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of a contestant on the registered team he or she will be accompanying on the water in the event. (Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of tournament officials required).

Boat Captains\Coaches will serve as "officials" in the boat during the event and will not be allowed to fish on actual tournament days. They are there to act as boat captains, mentors, coaches and observers. They may ASSIST the Junior Anglers in a manner as to coach or mentor them ONLY. They may suggest fishing areas or techniques,

baits, etc., but the final decision, as long as safety is not a factor, on where to fish or fishing methods will rest with the Junior Anglers. The boat captains MAY NOT tie knots, cast lines or lures, set the hook, or play fish to the boat on tournament competition days. They may use the dip net if they so chose. Boat Captains have complete control of the boat and outboard engine at all time. The Junior Anglers may not drive the boat, except for loading and unloading and in case of an emergency. Junior Anglers can\should run the trolling motor; however, the Boat Captain has the right to take control of the trolling motor at anytime if safety or equipment is at risk. Boat captains are subject to the same rules as the anglers, and penalties if any can be applied to the team in your boat. Boat Captains are subject to polygraph tests or truth verification tests the same as the Junior anglers. A completed entry form and event wavier must also be submitted.

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