

South Carolina Department of Natural Resources



Alvin A. Taylor

Director

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Deputy Director for

Wildlife and Freshwater Fisheries

Youth Bass Fishing Coach,

First, I want to thank you for taking the time to start a bass fishing club at your school and for committing to attend the 2019 SCDNR Youth Bass Fishing Championship.

In this packet, you will find:

- enough Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic tickets for each of your student anglers to receive two complimentary tickets. If they are entering through gate 11 in the vehicle with the boat, they will not need a ticket.
- the tournament rules (please review as some items have changed).
- the weekend's agenda.
- a list of emergency contact numbers.
- directions to the SC State Fairgrounds from Dreher Island State Park.
- Launch and return procedures at the ramp.
- Traffic flow map for the launch and check in at Dreher Island State Park and for the weigh in once you are at the fairgrounds.

Please distribute copies of all materials to your boat captains so that they are informed on how we will launch and check in boats! There will be three flights beginning at safe light or 7am with intervals of 20 minutes. Your assigned launch number will be made available via email to the coaches Friday morning and at the coaches meeting.

All boats are required to undergo a boater safety check from 5:00pm-8:00pm on a first come first serve basis at the Dreher Island State Park picnic shelter near the tournament ramp on Friday, March 22nd. To expedite the launch procedures, it is strongly encouraged that all boats receive boater safety checks during this time. At 7:30pm on Friday, March 22nd, all coaches will meet to have final questions answered and discuss launch procedures. Boat captains or **at least two representatives** from each school (that will be present during the launch on Saturday morning) are required to attend this meeting. Your flight number and angler tournament cards will be distributed Saturday morning after the livewell checks (at Station 3 on the launch map) by me. Boat identification numbers will be given back to tournament officials at Saturday. During the 5:00pm-8:00pm boater safety checks, boat captains and team coaches can receive copies of the tournament rules, the agenda for the tournament and receive notification of the official tournament launch and check in procedures.

On Saturday March 23rd launch will begin at safe light **utilizing the flights method** until all boats have successfully launched. Parents and coaches not driving trailored boats are asked to park their vehicles at the tackle shop parking area or the parking lots just past the tackle shop to help us expedite the launch procedures. Livewells will be checked prior to launching. Your safety ignition will be checked when your number is called while launching. Launching will begin 7:00am-7:40am and returns beginning 2:00pm-2:40pm. Boats must return to the landing no later than their assigned flight and check in at the designated site. If you boat over in the morning you are asked to trailer from the fairgrounds. There will be penalties for returning late to the landing. Boats with anglers and fish will travel to the SC State Fairgrounds to check in for the weigh in which will begin at 4:00pm. Boats may be asked to sit in the parking lot at the fairgrounds up to 30 minutes to maintain a steady flow of anglers for the weigh in. SCDNR would like to acknowledge all anglers that participated in the tournament at the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic whether they caught fish or not. Coaches, please encourage your anglers to come to the stage to be interviewed and recognized.

We look forward to the event and can't wait for an opportunity to see student's proud to represent their school, enjoying the sport of fishing. For more information, please feel free to call me at (803) 360-9846 or write at ChabaaneS@dnr.sc.gov.

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