

Youth Bass Fishing Club Handbook



DNR

www.dnr.sc.gov/aquaticed

Youth Bass Fishing Club Handbook

Table of Contents

 Introduction	2
 TBF of SC Junior Anglers Program	3
 TBF Student Angler Federation Program	4
 B.A.S.S Junior Bassmasters Program	6
 B.A.S.S High School Nation Program	8
 Coaches, Boats & Community Support	9
 Rosters	10
 Club Rules	11
 Club Point System	12
 Club Point System for Individuals	13
 Tournament Rules	14
 State & National Tournament Options	17
 Helpful Documents	
Liability Waiver	19
Photo Release Form	20
Emergency Medical Form	21
Bass Club Letter to Parents	24
Invitational Format	25
Sample Additional Invitational Rules	26

Introduction

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources has partnered with The Bass Federation and B.A.S.S to bring Youth Fishing Clubs to your schools.

Here's how it works:

There are four options for forming a bass fishing club. You can choose to participate in a combination of any of the four options or just one.

Option 1: TBF of SC Junior Anglers Program

Option 2: TBF Student Angler Federation Program

Option 3: B.A.S.S Junior Bassmasters Program

Option 4: B.A.S.S High School Nation Program

To get started you will need:

- an adult at your school to help lead your youth fishing club, provide advice and help arrange tournaments, fundraisers, speakers and other learning sessions pertaining to fishing.
- at least six youth within the 11-18 age range (except only 2 required for B.A.S.S. High School Nation Program). Each student must pay dues.
- clubs to participate in at least two club level tournaments. Club level tournaments may be held on ponds/bank fishing, piers or by boat. If using boats, there needs to be one boat per two anglers. In other words, to fish all six anglers (the minimum number to have a club), you need three boats. There will need to be one adult per boat. Boats may be donated for use by members of the community or local bass clubs.



Option 1: TBF of SC Junior Anglers Program

<http://bassfederation.com/tbf-youth/tbf-junior-anglers/>



Dues: \$30

Membership dues provide:

- Opportunity to fish TBF of SC Junior Championship
- Insurance
 - o \$1,000,000 Liability
 - o \$25,000 Excess Medical Coverage
 - o 10,000 Accidental Death & Specific Loss
- Access to Solar Bat fundraising opportunity
- FLW Magazine electronic online version
- TBF membership discounts at online store

Ages: 11-15 years old

Number of kids: Minimum of six kids required to form a club.

Tournaments: Anglers must participate in at least two club tournaments to qualify for the TBF of SC Junior Championship.

Number of tournaments offered: 2

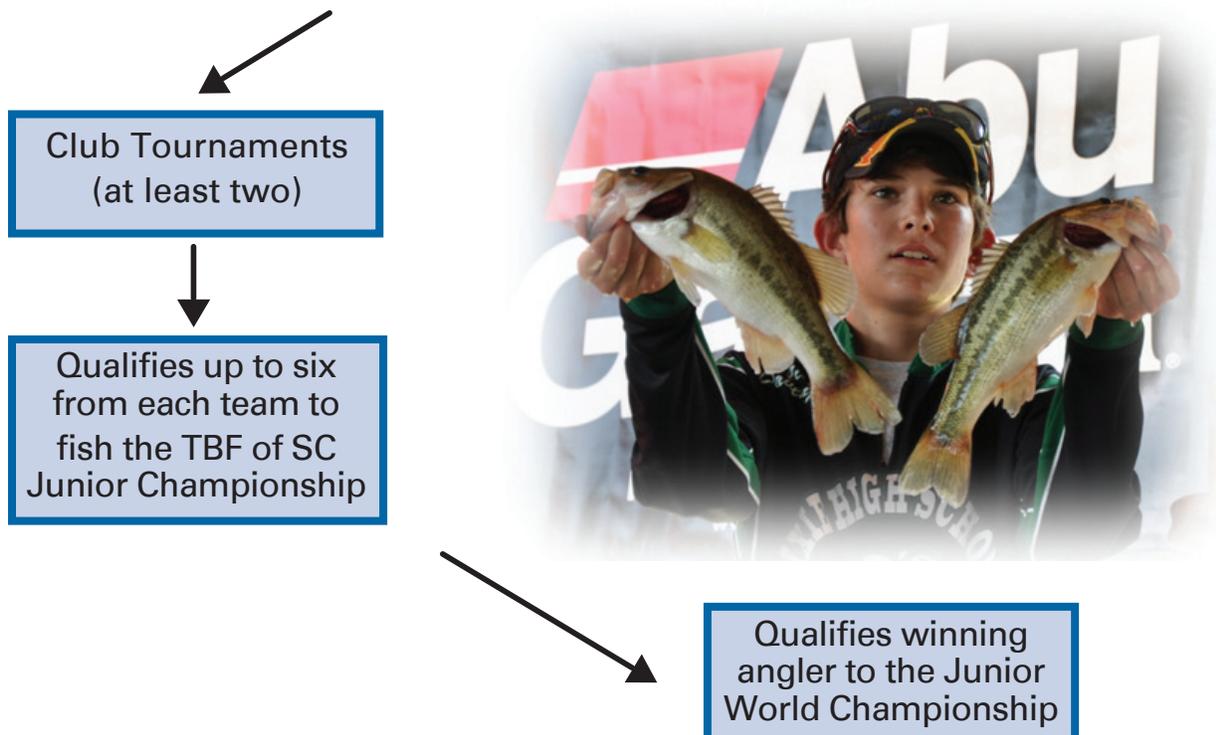
- TBF of SC Junior Championship (Q)*
- Junior World Championship (Q)*

TBF of SC Junior Championship (May):

Anglers fish as individuals and are randomly paired with another angler from another club and a random boat captain. Winning angler advances, representing SC, to the Junior World Championship (July) where 94 anglers compete for the title. The cumulative weight for the top placing club will be crowned State Champions for the year and display the winning cup.

*(Q) means it is a qualifying level tournament

TBF Junior Championship Tournament Route



Option 2: TBF Student Angler Federation Program

www.highschoolfishing.org

Dues: \$25

Membership dues provide:

- Opportunity to fish SC State High School Championship and High School Fishing World Finals
- Insurance
 - o \$1,000,000 Liability
 - o \$25,000 Excess Medical Coverage
 - o 10,000 Accidental Death & Specific Loss
 - o \$1,000,000 in Child Abuse Coverage
 - o \$25,000 in Amber Alert Coverage
- Student Angler Workbooks for club members
- Coach/Advisor instructor CD & DVD
- Access to the Solar Bat fundraiser opportunity
- Access to the Faculty of Fishing on-line education program
- TBF membership discounts to the TBF member's only online store

- Electronic version of the FLW Outdoors Magazine (8 issues)



Ages: 9th-12th Graders

Number of kids:

Minimum of six kids required to form a club.

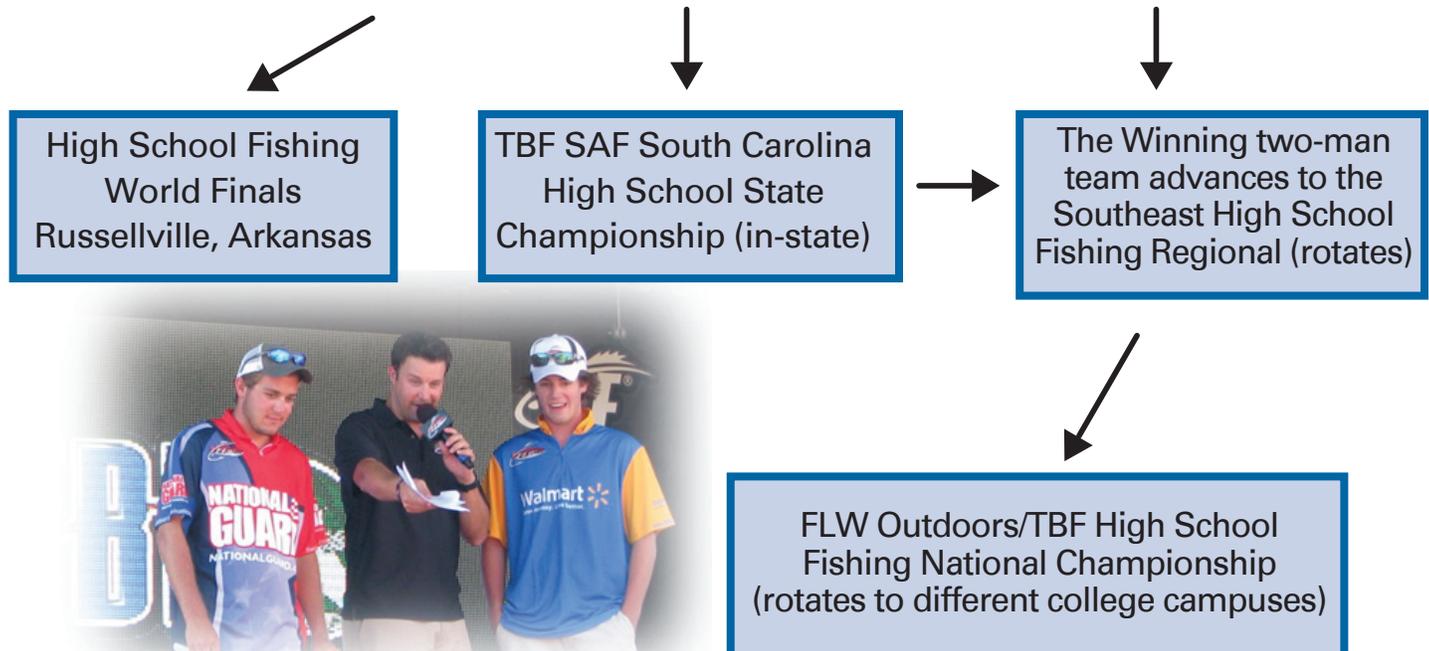
Tournaments: No club qualifying tournaments required.

Number of tournaments offered: 4

TBF SC State High School Championship
Southeastern High School Fishing Regional (Q)*
FLW Outdoors/TBF High School Fishing National Championship (Q)*
High School Fishing World Finals

*(Q) means it is a qualifying level tournament

TBF Student Angler Federation High School Fishing Tournament Route



TBF SC State High School Championship (spring): Anglers fish two-man teams with the boat and boat captain they bring. The winning pair of anglers advances to the Southeastern High School Fishing Regional (fall). There are seven regionals. Each Regional Championship is held in conjunction with a National Guard FLW College Fishing Regional Championship hosted on a college campus in the fall of the following year. The winners from each of the seven regionals then advance to FLW Outdoors/TBF High School Fishing National Championship (spring) held on a college campus in conjunction with the National Guard FLW College Fishing National Championship in the spring. Each team that qualifies for a regional and/or national championship will receive a travel allowance from TBF to help offset expenses and the winners of the High School Fishing National Championship receive a \$5000 scholarship to use at the university of their choice.

High School Fishing World Finals (July): Any angler that is a member of a Student Angler Federation club can also participate in the High School Fishing World Finals that occurs every year in Russellville, Arkansas in July each year. All participants must have a 2.0 GPA. If students have had an issue or let their grades slip below a 2.0 GPA, but still want to fish the event there's a way to do so. But, it is not easy; it will require some detailed homework over the summer. These student anglers will be required to bring their grades up before they can claim any prize they win in the High School Fishing World Finals or fish another Student Angler Federation event. There are also testing components on boating safety, aquatic invasive species and more that can earn anglers extra points on their total weight. This event was created to provide fun fishing, a learning opportunity and to teach the student anglers responsibility and accountability.



Option 3: B.A.S.S Junior Bassmasters Program

www.bassmaster.com/youth

Dues: \$10

Membership dues provide:

- Opportunity to fish Junior Bassmaster State Championship
- Insurance
 - o \$1,000,000 Liability
 - o \$25,000 Medical
 - o \$10,000 Accidental Death
 - o \$300,000 Damage to Premises Rented to You
 - o \$5,000 Premises Medical Payments
 - o \$25,000 Crisis Response
- Potential to partner up with an adult club for tournaments, boat captains, conservation projects and after school speakers

Ages: 18 years old and under

Number of kids: Minimum of six kids required to form a club. Junior clubs must be sponsored by an adult Federation Nation Club or the SC BASS Federation Board. In some instances, the paired club can provide assistance in boats, club meeting topics/speakers and conservation projects.



Tournaments: Up to each individual club how members are qualified for the state championship.

Number of tournaments offered: 1

Junior Bassmaster State Championship

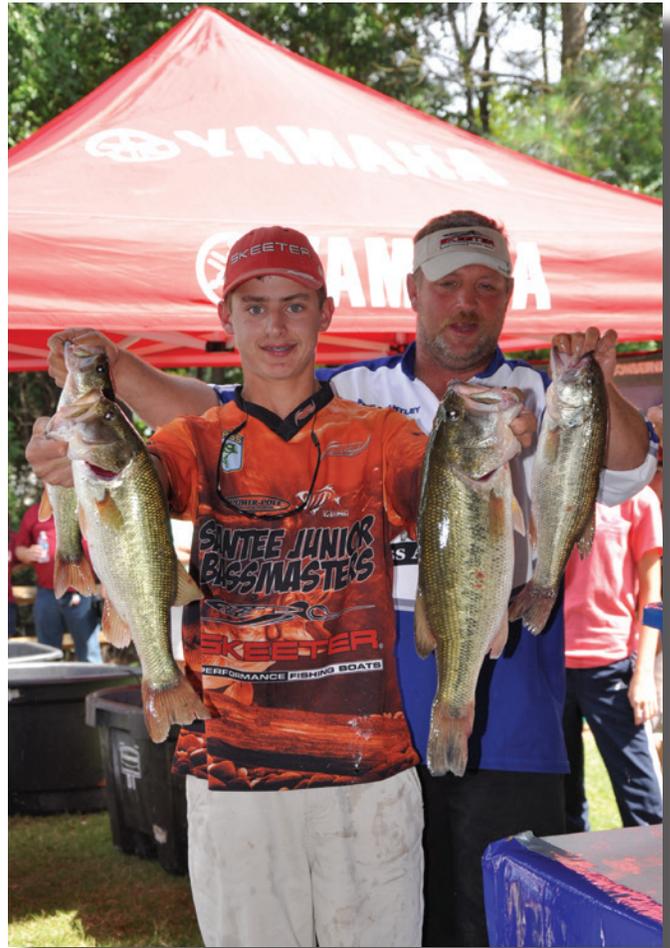
B.A.S.S Junior Bassmaster Tournament Route



Junior Bassmaster State
Championship



Junior Bassmaster State Championship
(September/October): Anglers fish pairs with the boat captain they bring.



Option 4: B.A.S.S High School Nation Program

www.bassmaster.com/high-school

Dues: \$20

Membership dues provide:

- Opportunity to fish High School State State Championship
- Insurance
 - o \$1,000,000 Liability
 - o \$25,000 Medical
 - o \$10,000 Accidental Death
 - o \$300,000 Damage to Premises Rented to You
 - o \$5,000 Premises Medical Payments
 - o \$25,000 Crisis Response
- Potential to partner up with an adult club for tournaments, boat captains, conservation projects and after school speakers

Ages: rising 9th through 12th graders

Number of kids: Minimum of 2 kids on each club. Each student must attend the high school in which they represent, unless there is documented proof of denial to form a club in their high school on school letterhead signed by the principal explaining the reasons for denial. Six students may form a district, county, home school or church high school club.

Tournaments: Up to each individual club whether qualifying club level tournaments are required.



Number of tournaments offered: 2

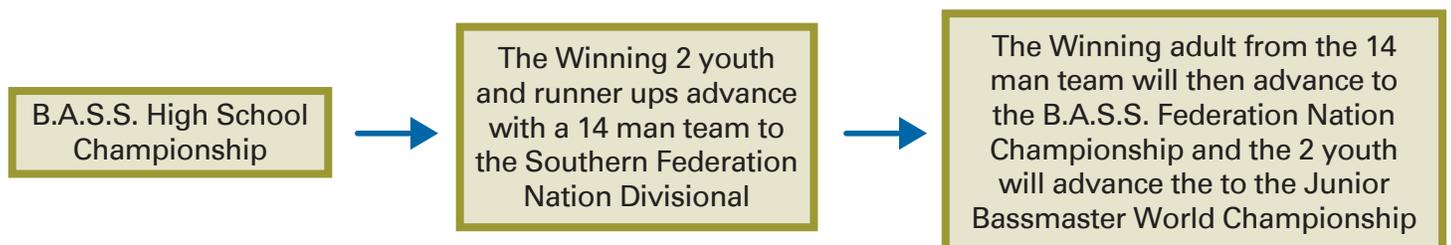
- Bassmaster High School State Championship
- BASS High School National Championship (Q)*

Bassmaster State Championship (September/October): Anglers fish as pairs with the boat captain and boat that they bring. The winning team as well as the team finishing in the runner up position from the Bassmaster State Championship receive an automatic birth into the BASS High School National Championship. The Bassmaster State Champions are also invited to fish two days, Thursday and Friday, as a part of the adult state team at the Southern Federation Nation Divisional (March/April) to represent the state of South Carolina with a 14 adult member team. There are 6 divisionals. The winning 14 man team plus two youth from each of the six divisions will attend the B.A.S.S Federation Nation Championship/Junior Bassmaster World Championship (November). The winning youth will receive \$5000 in academic college scholarships.

*(Q) means it is a qualifying level tournament

B.A.S.S High School Nation Tournament Route

Pay Your Dues=Opportunity to FISH!



Coaches, Boats & Community Support

Club Coach Requirements

- Coordinating the recruitment of youth anglers and creating a team roster.
- Providing advice and leadership.
- Promoting and encouraging community involvement.
- Coordinating tournaments.
- Coordinating team fundraisers.
- Arranging speakers and other learning sessions for after school club meetings.
- Arranging community outreach and conservation projects for the club.

Boats

- Boats may be donated for use by members of the community or local bass clubs.
- Use signup sheets at local bait and tackle stores or marinas to recruit boat volunteers.
- When recruiting the use of boats, don't just focus on people with bass boats. Aluminum boats are fine bass fishing vessels!

Community Involvement

Recruit the help of local bait & tackle shops and adult fishing clubs. And look within your community for assistance. They may be able to provide:

- Volunteers to provide boats and time.
- Volunteers who could provide fishing opportunities.
- Funding for club tournaments.
- Fishing equipment and tackle.
- Speakers for club meetings.

Develop a Bass Booster Club

Bass Booster Club clubs can be made up of parents of Bass Team Members, other volunteers from the community and fishing interest partners. The Bass Booster Club responsibilities would be like that of any other booster club which is to coordinate fundraisers, seek partners and help assist in tournament coordination. Fundraisers can aid in covering the costs of team uniforms, travel, boat fuel, fishing equipment, team weigh-in equipment and tackle.



Rosters

How much are dues?

- TBF of SC Junior Club dues are \$30
- TBF's Student Angler Federation Club dues are \$25
- BASS's Junior Bassmaster Club dues are \$10
- BASS's High School Club dues are \$20

When is the deadline for my dues & rosters?

- TBF Junior Clubs and Student Angler Federation dues are due no later than December 31 of each year. Clubs can begin fishing at receipt of dues. Dues may be turned in earlier than this deadline. Getting dues in on time is important for getting the club recognized, insurance coverage and ability to start organizing and participating in tournaments.
- BASS Junior Bassmaster & High School Club dues are due December 31 of each year. However, the renewal period begins November 1 of each year. For example, if a member renews November 1, 2012, they are good through December 31, 2013.

What is required for the roster?

- Your roster must include the following, if available, for each member:
 - o School & club name
 - o Name
 - o Address
 - o City
 - o State
 - o Zip code
 - o Phone number
 - o Cell phone number
 - o Email
 - o Birth date

How to register your club roster?

- There must be a minimum of six due paid members on the roster at all times for any of the options listed for the club to be considered a club. So in fact, it would be a good idea to have more than six youth on the team in case some move or are no longer able to participate.
- Send a copy of your roster to Sarah Chabaane at ChabaaneS@dnr.sc.gov if you register under any of the club options.
- To register your club as a TBF of SC Junior Club, send your roster with:
 - o \$30 per student dues to The Bass Federation, Inc. 2300 E. Coleman Rd. Ponca City, OK 74604; Phone: 580-765-9031
 - o Register your club roster for TBF of SC's Junior Clubs, visit <https://www.tbfwebsiteservices.com/app.php> and register your club as a Youth Club.
- To register your club as a TBF of Student Angler Federation Club, send your roster with:
 - o \$25 per student dues to The Bass Federation, Inc. 2300 E Coleman Rd. Ponca City, OK 74604; Phone: 580-765-9031.
 - o Register your club roster for the Student Angler Federation, visit <http://www.highschoolfishing.org/saf-membership-benefits/registering-your-club/> and register your club as a Student Angler Federation Club.
- To register your club as a BASS Junior Bassmaster Club:
 - o Visit the Junior Bassmaster Checklist at <http://www.bassmaster.com/sites/default/files/imce/JuniorChecklist.pdf>
- To register your club as a BASS High School Club:
 - o Visit www.bassmaster.com/high-school

Club Rules

1. All middle and high school clubs must participate in at least two club tournaments. They can be pier, bank or boat tournaments. Members of the youth team may compete amongst themselves, host an invitational and invite other schools, and/or attend an invitational hosted by another school.
2. Club members may compete in other youth tournaments, other than those held by the club. These “other tournaments” can be used as qualifying tournaments as long as the club leader keeps accurate records of each team members weights
3. When using boats, there needs to be one boat per two anglers. There must be one adult on each boat during club events. All boat captains may be subject to background checks. All boat drivers must have proof of liability insurance.
4. While aboard a boat and on the water, all student anglers and boat captains must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PFD).



Club Point System for Two-Man Teams

Within each club, the top two-man teams need to be ranked based on the point system below to create a fair and even playing field amongst school clubs. The point system will determine which two-man teams will attend the state championships. The anglers with the most points will go to the championships.

Points are awarded for the following:

- tournament participation based on ranking,
- attendance to club meetings, and
- participation in club events.

Tournament Points

Members who do not participate in a tournament will not receive any points. Anglers must be present at weigh-in to receive their points. Points are awarded to all places in the tournament from 50 down until the last place.

Example:

1st place two-man team=50 points

2nd place two-man team=49 points

3rd place two-man team=48 points

4th place two-man team=47 points

1 point will be awarded to the two-man team that brings in the heaviest (biggest) fish in each tournament.

In the event of a tie, each team or individual will receive the points for the ranking place.

Example:

5 boat team tournament:

1st place: 50 points to each two-man team

2nd place: 49 points to each two-man team

3rd place: 48 points to each two-man team

Two teams tie for 4th place: 47 points to each two-man team

At the discretion of the school coach, two-man teams will be allowed to drop one of their tournaments. This allows teams who miss a tournament to still be in the running for top placement amongst their team.

Meetings and Events

Two-man angler teams are awarded points for club meeting attendance and in participation in club events (such as fundraisers, community outreach events and conservation projects). 5 points will be awarded to each two-man team attending a club meeting. Points for participation in events will be based on the event at the discretion of the club coach. 5 or 10 points will be given to each two-man team for participation in most events.

End of the Year Point Ties

End of year point ties will be settled based on the tied two-man team's cumulative weight of all tournaments combined.

Club Point System for Individuals

Within each club, the top individual anglers need to be ranked based on the point system below to create a fair and even playing field amongst school clubs. The point system will determine which anglers will attend the state championships. The top six anglers with the most points will go to the championships.

Points are awarded for the following:

- tournament participation based on weight at scales,
- attendance to club meetings, and
- participation in club events.

Tournament Points

Members who do not participate in a tournament will not receive any points. Anglers must be present at weigh-in to receive their points. Points are awarded based on 1 point per ounce weighed in. The boat with the most weight will receive 5 points for each angler, 5 points to the younger and older with the biggest fish, and 5 points for younger and older winning anglers. 20 points are awarded to every angler who participates in a tournament.

At the discretion of the school coach, anglers will be allowed to drop one of their tournaments. This allows teams who miss a tournament to still be in the running for top placement amongst their team.

Ties

In the event of a tie, the following will be used in order to break the tie:

- the angler weighing in a full 5 bass limit will automatically rank higher;
- the angler weighing in with dead fish will be automatically placed lower; and
- taking the tied anglers and seeing which one landed the larger fish will automatically be placed higher.

Meetings and Events

Anglers are awarded for club meeting attendance and in participation in club events (such as fundraisers, community outreach events and conservation projects). 5 points will be awarded to each angler attending a club meeting. Points for participation in events will be based on the event and at the discretion of the club coach. 5 or 10 points will be given to each angler for participation in events.

End of the Year Ties

End of year point ties will be settled based on the tied angler's cumulative weight only of all tournaments combined.

Tournament Rules

The following rules are designed to promote sportsmanship among the anglers and to provide a fair competition. Failure to comply with any rules may result in a weight penalty or disqualification from any tournament.

1. Inclement Weather Plan - In the event of unfavorable weather on the day of the event, the event will continue as scheduled during rain only. In the event of lightning or thunder, all boats will be secured and participants asked to return to the nearest safest location. It is the responsibility of the Tournament Coordinator to determine whether or not the event should be called or wait until the weather clears. If the event is called, the winning weights will be determined by the fish that were caught up until that point in the day. Cancelling the event may occur if unforeseen dangerous natural events or unexpected problems occur that may impede the tournament.
2. All participants must be back at the boat landing no later than [set time]. There will be a one pound deduction every minute a participant is late getting back to the landing up to 15 minutes. After 15 minutes, no weight will be allowed for that boat's participants. Boat captains are responsible for making sure the boat is back to the dock by [set time] and at the weigh-in no later than [set time]. Boat captains are responsible for notifying the Tournament Coordinator in advance of the [set time] closing time of any problems that may have occurred.
3. Each boat must have a bump board or way to measure the length of the fish. No fish fewer than [12 or 14 depending on where you're fishing. Check Rules & Regulations] inches may be kept. Fish brought to the scales at weigh-in less than [the set length] will not count toward the cumulative weight for a middle or high school club. There will be a five fish black bass limit per [two-man team or individual depending on how the tournament is set up] per boat. Black bass includes largemouth, smallmouth, spotted and/or redeye bass. Fish may be culled if a [two-man team or individual] has 5 fish in the live well. No more than 5 fish can be in the live well at any one time [per two-man team or individual]. All fish must be kept alive. Penalty will be ¼ pound per each dead fish. If a [two-man team or individual] is caught with more than the 5 fish limit in their livewell by tournament officials, the fish will be culled starting with the largest fish until they are down to the stated limit of 5 fish.
4. Ties will be broken, if the poundage is equal, in the following manner: First criteria will be the largest fish; second criteria will be the number of fish. Any fish found to be altered or in poor condition (mashed, mangled or mauled) will not be counted at the discretion of tournament officials.
5. All student anglers and boat captains must wear a US Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device (PFD) the entire time they are aboard the boat and out on the water. Anglers will be disqualified if found to have removed their PFD.
6. Participants must only use the gear that is in the boat when the boat leaves the dock at the start of the day. Permitted methods of fishing will be the use of artificial lures only, no live bait of any sort. Each angler aboard shall have no more than 3 rods on deck at one time. Only one fishing rod may be in use at any one time by an angler. Bass may be landed by use of conventional hook and line. No snagging of fish allowed. In addition to tournament limits, all SC freshwater fishing laws must be adhered to.
7. Nets are allowed.
8. Every boat must have an adult captain, age 21 years old or older, for driving purposes and only that captain can drive when the outboard motor is in use. Student anglers may operate the trolling motor when the outboard motor is not in use.
9. No live bait or trolling is allowed.

Tournament Rules

10. Boats provided by volunteers must be a minimum of 16 feet in length, have front and rear casting decks, a front mounted trolling motor, an aerated live well capable of keeping alive the [*two-man team's or individual's*] five bass limit. Boats must also have console steering (no tiller), an ignition safety kill switch and all safety equipment as required by the United States Coast Guard. Boats participating in this tournament must have current boat registration. All boats must be subject to a safety check prior to the blast off.
11. Anytime the gasoline engine is in use, boat captains must be seated in the driver's seat and anglers should be seated in the appropriate locations aboard the vessel.
12. Boat captains must operate boats in a safe manner abiding all boating laws when carrying student anglers to fishing locations. Student anglers make the decisions on what areas to fish on the lake and what direction to go. Boat captains cannot make suggestions on areas to fish.
13. Boats shall not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity on the boat's maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer or a maximum of 250 hp. The maximum capacity rating must be legible.
14. Use of cell phones by student anglers is prohibited during the tournament. Captains may use cell phones to communicate emergencies only. All boats are required to have a cell phone and must provide the Tournament Coordinator the number of that cell phone in case of an emergency or to notify of bad weather conditions. Any use of a cell phone or any other communication devices to exchange fishing information is prohibited and will result in immediate disqualification. In the event of an emergency, all boat captains should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials.
15. All participants 16 years of age and older must have a valid South Carolina Recreational Freshwater Fishing License.
16. Anglers may assist one another in netting fish. Coaches may also assist in netting fish, but are not allowed to assist tying lures or handling fish or gear.
17. After the weigh-in, all fish must be released immediately. All fish that are put in the live well must be kept alive. Dead fish will have a $\frac{1}{4}$ pound deduction and cannot count as the large fish for that [*angler or two-man team*]. Dead fish may not be culled.
18. Each school is responsible for bringing 1 boat per 2 anglers. Only two students in each boat. [*The total weight of the 5 fish limited to that boat will count for the cumulative weight for the two-man team of that boat or the total weight of the 5 fish limited to each angler will count for the cumulative weight.*]
19. The total weight for each of the 5 fish limited to [*a two-man team's boat or individual*] will count towards the overall school team total for the tournament. Individual weights will be recorded for the top fish designated by each boat. The largest fish award will be given at the tournament.
20. Participants must stay completely in the boat unless they are using an authorized restroom facility or due to some other emergency or malfunction. If an emergency or malfunction occurs, the boat must contact the Tournament Coordinator prior to leaving the boat. In the event of a needed restroom break, the boat captain needs to contact tournament officials. Student anglers may leave and return to the boat at the official checkpoint designated by tournament officials.
21. Any transfer of fish from one live well to a different live well in another boat due to malfunction must be made in the presence of the Tournament Coordinator or other adults as approved by tournament officials.
22. On the day of the tournament, schools will be limited to putting into the water the number of boats based on the number of participating anglers. No additional boats contacting coaches or other competitors from a school

Tournament Rules

can be put into the water unless approved by tournament officials. Contestants may not obtain fishing patterns or locations from non-competitors, follow a non-competitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole-sitting," a practice wherein a non-competitor sits on a fishing spot, holding it for a contestant. In addition, non-competitors may not place markers for contestants. All of these acts are prohibited and will result in the immediate disqualification of the boat.

23. Only the designated boat captain and the [*two-man team or two anglers*] assigned to that boat may be aboard the boat during competition.
24. At the time of check-in, all student anglers and their boats must comply with all the rules applied by tournament officials. At check-in, boat captains shall report their tournament boat identification number and anglers must present their limit and report any dead fish. Once the [*two-man team's or individual's*] catch has been verified, anglers will proceed to the weigh-in. Boat captains must check in even if they don't have any fish.
25. At the weigh-in location, each [*two-man team or individual*] must carry their limit to the scales.
26. In the event of a tie, the following will be used in order to break the tie: schools with all three of their two-man teams weighing in a full 5 bass limit will automatically place higher; schools weighing in with dead fish will be automatically placed lower; and taking the tied teams and seeing which school landed the larger fish will automatically be placed higher.
27. No livewell culling system may be used that pass through the fish's operculum or gill flap. Culling systems that attach via the fish's lip are allowed.
28. Student anglers are encouraged to wear school uniform shirts which may include outside sponsor logos.
29. No coach, boat captain or student angler shall be permitted to use tobacco products during the competition or at the weigh-in. Alcohol is prohibited.
30. At the discretion of tournament officials, any participant can be disqualified for any unethical or unsportsmanlike behavior.



State & National Tournament Options

Becoming a part of the Youth Bass Fishing League affords multiple opportunities for students to fish! Currently, these are the options available:

- **The Bass Federation Junior Club Options**
- **The Bass Federation Student Angler Federation Club Options**
- **B.A.S.S Junior Bassmaster Club Options**
- **Youth Bass Fishing League Championship**

The Bass Federation Junior Tournaments

TBF of SC Junior Championship (May)

- Anglers fish as individuals and are randomly paired with another angler from another club and a random boat captain. Each club may send up to six members to the Junior Championship. No matter what, an even number of anglers must be sent per the boat rule. Clubs are required to bring one boat for every two anglers.
- The six members sent must qualify by participating in at least two club level tournaments. Members of the youth team may compete in club tournaments amongst themselves or with other clubs to qualify. These club tournaments may be bank fishing, pier or boat tournaments. Other youth tournaments than those held by clubs can be used to qualify for the TBF of South Carolina Junior Championship as long as the club leader keeps accurate records of each team member's weights.
- Students participating in this tournament must be 15 years old or under by the end of August of the year of the TBF of South Carolina Junior Championship and Junior World Championship. Therefore, any high school team members that will be 16 years old or older before August are not eligible to compete for the TBF of South Carolina Juniors title.
- The cumulative weight for the top placing club will be crowned State Champions for the year and display the winning cup.

- The winning angler at the TBF of South Carolina Junior Championship advances, representing SC, at the Junior World Championship where 94 anglers compete for the title.

Junior World Championship (July)

- Following the TBF of South Carolina Junior Championship, the winning angler will go to the Junior World Championship where kids compete from different states.

The Bass Federation Student Angler Federation Tournaments

SC State High School Championship (spring)

- The goal of the Student Angler Federation High School Fishing program is to provide an annual High School State Championship.
- Any registered TBF student Angler Federation member or any high school student who pays a one time \$25 entry fee may fish this championship. Clubs may send as many anglers as they desire. Anglers fish as two-man teams with the boat and boat captain they bring.
- The winning two-man team from this tournament advances to the Southeast High School Fishing Regional (Fall).

High School Fishing Regional (fall) & High School Fishing National Championship (spring)

- Winners from each of the seven regionals advance to FLW Outdoors/TBF High School Fishing National Championship (spring) held on a college campus in conjunction with the FLW College Fishing National Championship in the spring.
- Each of the seven Regional Championships are held in conjunction with a FLW College Fishing Regional Championship hosted on a college campus in the fall of the following year.

State & National Tournament Options

- Each team that qualifies for a regional and/or national championship will receive a travel allowance from TBF to help offset expenses and the winners of the High School Fishing National Championship receive a \$5000 scholarship to use at the university of their choice.

TBF Student Angler Federation High School Fishing (July)

- This event was created to provide fun fishing, a learning opportunity and to teach the student anglers responsibility and accountability.
- Any registered TBF Student Angler Federation member or any high school student who pays a one time entry fee of \$25 may attend the High School Fishing World Finals in Russellville, Arkansas.
- There is a testing component on boating safety, aquatic invasive species and more that can earn anglers extra points on their total weight.
- All participants must have a 2.0 GPA. If students have had an issue or let their grades slip below a 2.0 GPA, but still want to fish the event there's a way to do so. But, it is not easy; it will require some detailed homework over the summer. These student anglers will be required to bring their grades up before they can claim any prize they win or fish another Student Angler Federation event.

B.A.S.S Junior Bassmaster Tournaments

Junior Bassmaster State Championship (September/October)

- Anglers fish pairs with the boat captain they bring.

B.A.S.S High School Nation Tournament

Anglers fish as pairs with the boat captain and boat that they bring. The winning team as well as the team finishing in the runner up position from the Bassmaster State Championship receive an automatic birth into the BASS High School National Championship. The Bassmaster State Champions are also invited to fish two days, Thursday and Friday, as a part of the adult state team at the Southern Federation Nation Divisional (March/April) to represent the state of South Carolina with a 14 adult member team. There are 6 divisionals. The winning 14 man team plus two youth from each of the six divisions will attend the B.A.S.S Federation Nation Championship/Junior Bassmaster World Championship (November). The winning youth will receive \$5000 in academic college scholarships.

SCDNR Sponsored Youth Bass Fishing League Championship

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources teams up with a variety of fishing partners to host an Annual Youth Bass Fishing School Championship for anglers from The Bass Federation Junior and Student Angler Federation Clubs as well as the B.A.S.S Junior Bassmasters & High School Clubs. The tournament will be held on Lake Murray with the weigh in at the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic at the SC State Fairgrounds. For more information on the Palmetto Sportsmen's Classic, visit www.psclassic.com.

Youth Bass Fishing Club Liability Waiver & Release

Student's Name (print neatly) _____

Parent Name _____

Parent Contact Number _____

I understand that my child will be subject to the same standards of conduct as they are when in school. I further understand that the school may not carry insurance relative to the program or for injuries to the student during the program, and I represent that the student has insurance either through the district's student insurance program or through my own insurance carrier. In addition, if any emergency medical procedures or treatment are required during the program, I consent to the taking, arranging for, or the procedures of treatment according to the discretion of the supervisor(s) of this program.

I release and waive all claims against the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), (*Insert County Name Here*) County School District One, its board of trustees, the individual members thereof, all employees, representatives, and all agents thereof, from and against any claim which I, any other parent or guardian, any sibling, student or other person may claim to have, known or unknown, directly or indirectly, for any losses, damages or injuries' arising out of, during or in connection with my child's participation in the school-sponsored program or the rendering of medical procedures or treatment for any injuries sustained during the program.

Having fully acquainted myself with the rules and guidelines, I and my parents or legal guardians, have completed this event waiver and release application and submit it for my participation into all bass fishing club events. In signing this application, and by my/our presence as the event, I/we hereby agree to be bound and comply with all event rules and safety regulations.

Student's Signature _____

As the parent and legal guardian of the above named angler, I fully understand and hereby agree to the Rules, Terms and Conditions and the Waiver and Release of Liability contained in the attached document. I give my permission for the above named angler to join a Youth Bass Fishing Club and compete in the associated events.

Parent's or Guardian's Signature _____

Date _____

Photo Release Form

I hereby authorize the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to use the image of _____ in **South Carolina Outreach & Education** promotional publications.

Such authorization allows the SCDNR the right to use, re-use, copyright, publish, and republish photographic portraits or pictures of the minor or in which the minor may be included, in whole or in part, or composite or distorted in character or form, without restriction as to changes or alterations, or reproductions thereof in color or otherwise, made through any medium at his/her studios or elsewhere, and in any and all media now or hereafter known for illustration, promotion, art, editorial, advertising, trade, or any other purpose. I also consent on behalf of the minor to the use of any published matter in conjunction therewith.

I warrant and represent that this release does not in any way conflict with any existing commitment of the minor. Neither the minor nor I have heretofore authorized (which authority is still in effect), nor will we authorize or permit, the use of the minor's name, picture, portrait, likeness or testimonial statement in connection with the advertising or promotion of any product or service competitive to or incompatible with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. I hereby waive any right that the minor or I may have to inspect or approve the finished product or products and the advertising copy or other matter that may be used in connection therewith or the use to which it may be applied.

The South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is hereby authorized to use in perpetuity and at its discretion the **South Carolina Outreach & Education** marketing items containing the described individual.

Emergency Medical Form (Part A)

Date

Signature of Parent or Guardian

Name of Minor Address

Address

Please print Child Name _____

In the event my son/daughter becomes ill or is injured while participating in any (*insert school name here*) Youth Fishing Club event, I hereby give my consent to the (*insert school name here*), SCDNR and fishing event officials or their designees, its board members and officers to authorize the administration of any emergency, medical or dental treatment deemed necessary by a licensed physician or dentist and the transfer of a child to a hospital, clinic or office to obtain treatment. It is understood that reasonable attempts will be made to contact the parents or guardians at the number listed below prior to administration if reasonably possible. The following questions will help us to be prepared for your child.

Check here if you:

- Give consent for the above emergency treatment.**
- DO NOT give consent for the above emergency treatment.**

Please print

Parent or Guardian Name _____

Phone number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

Emergency Contact #1

Name _____

Relationship to child _____

Phone Number _____

Emergency Medical Form (Part B)

Emergency Contact #2

Name _____

Relationship to child _____

Phone Number _____

1. ALLERGIES

In the columns below, please fill in the corresponding information.

- a. Please list any allergies including food, insect bites and medications.
- b. What signs or symptoms result with the allergy (i.e. difficulty breathing, hives, rash, etc.)?
- c. What is the usual method of treatment when the allergy occurs?

a.) Allergy Type	b.) Sign or Symptom	c.) Method of Treatment

Emergency Medical Form (Part C)

2. Does your child have any medical condition we should know about currently such as asthma, diabetes or heart arrhythmias? If so, please list.

3. Does your child currently take medication for the above named condition? If so, please list including the name of the medication and how often it is administered.

4. Does your child have any physical limitations we should know about?

5. Please provide the following about your insurance:

Insurance Provider: _____

Policy Number: _____

Policy Holder Name: _____

Bass Club Letter to Parents

DATE

Dear Parents:

(Insert School) is proud to announce that we have partnered with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) and *(insert The Bass Federation (TBF) and/or B.A.S.S)* in development of a Bass Fishing Team. Only 16 high schools are needed to get the South Carolina High School League to sanction bass fishing as a varsity sport.

Students participating in the bass fishing clubs will develop fishing skills and ethics, an appreciation for the outdoors and great friendships with other students sharing these interests. The school needs a minimum of six students to start a team with a coach representative from the school.

Community involvement in the formation of parent/volunteer based Bass Booster Clubs to help with fundraising for uniforms, travel expenses, gear and seeking opportunities for fishing practice, tournament locations, and boats is desired!

During this next school year, your child will have the opportunity to participate in many exciting educational activities focused around fishing and fisheries management.

To learn more on how you or your child may become involved, you may attend our Team Interest and Informational Meeting on *(Insert Date)* at *(Insert Time)* in the high school *(Insert Location)*.

We believe that these activities will:

- Help and motivate your child's involvement in their school and instill a sense of school pride.
- Improve the student's knowledge, understanding and appreciation of natural resources and how human actions impact the environment.
- Develop and strengthen friendships
- Provide good times for your child!

Please join us and learn how exciting the Bass Teams can be and how we will work to integrate them into our upcoming school year.

Sincerely,

[School Name] Invitational Fishing Tournament

Tournament Type: *[You will need to clarify whether the tournament is a TBF or B.A.S.S tournament.]*

Date: *[insert here]*

Time: *[include blastoff time, time off the water and weigh-in start time]*

Rules Meeting: *[go over rules and have all schools check in the night prior to the tournament]*

Location: *[provide as much detail as possible]*

Participants: All Youth Bass League members are encouraged to participate. Anglers must be current members of a league club that is rostered with DNR. League membership requires that anglers are current members of The Bass Federation or B.A.S.S.

Awards: *[Trophies will be awarded to the team with the 5 heaviest bass, the runner up team and the team with the biggest fish.]*

Rules: Rules for this tournament follow the Youth Bass Fishing League Rules in the Handbook. *[If there are additional rules that you would like to include, include those here.]*

Registration: Registration for this event is free. All angler teams must register through their home club. Club Leaders/Coaches must register anglers by *[phone or email]* with *[contact name]* at *[phone number or email address]*.

Club Leaders must register each 2 angler team and captain using the following information:

For each angler:

Name, School, Grade, Date of Birth, Cell Phone #

For boat captains:

Name, Date of Birth, Cell Phone #

Registration Deadline – *[insert date]* Space is limited so register soon!

If you have questions, please contact *[insert who and contact information]*



Sample Additional Invitational Fishing Tournament Rules

The following rules are designed to promote sportsmanship among the anglers and to provide a fair competition. Failure to comply with any rules may result in a weight penalty or disqualification from the tournament.

- 1) All SC DNR fishing rules and regulations apply during tournaments, including fishing license and boating regulations.
- 2) All school rules apply during fishing tournaments.
- 3) Anglers must be age 11-18 and have registered roster and paid club dues (far enough in advance for the payment to be received by the national organization).
- 4) Take-off order will be determined by the order that team and captain names are registered with [insert contact name].
- 5) Safety is the number one concern for these tournaments. All boats must be operated safely at all times. U.S. Coast Guard approved PFDs must be worn at all times by student anglers and boat captains. The boat must have an emergency ignition shut-off device that is secured to the driver/captain's body. Boats must also be covered by current liability insurance.
- 6) One Captain over the age of 18 is required to be on each team's boat at all times during the tournament. Captains should advise anglers on boat safety and sportsmanship, and may give anglers fishing advice including locations, techniques, etc. Captains may net fish, but are not permitted to fish during the tournaments.
- 7) Club tournaments will have a 5 fish per boat limit. All fish must be largemouth, spotted, redeye, or smallmouth bass that are a minimum of 12 inches in length. Teams should not possess more than 5 fish at any time during the tournament. Extra fish must be culled immediately.
- 8) Dead fish cannot be culled. If a fish is foul hooked or accidentally killed, the fish must be kept and brought to weigh-in as part of the fish limit. A ½ pound or 8 ounce penalty for each dead fish.
- 9) All fish must be caught on artificial lures, and anglers may only use one rod at a time. Trolling is not permitted.
- 10) Every effort should be made to keep fish alive until they are released after weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with a properly working live well with aeration.
- 11) Boats that are late to weigh-in will be assessed a penalty of 1 pound per minute after the designated weigh-in time.
- 12) Tournament rankings will be based on total team weight.
- 13) If an emergency occurs, the captain or an angler should call 911 first, and then notify the tournament supervisor, [insert contact name and phone number].

Any questions or concerns for these rules should be brought to the attention of the organizing school, preferably before or at rule meetings.



DNR

 Printed on recycled paper.

14-10235

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from the programs and activities of the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources is available to all individuals regardless of age, race, religion, color, sex, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, status as a parent, and protected genetic information. Please direct any questions to the SCDNR, Chief of Staff, 1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201; 803-734-3672 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Diversity and Civil Rights, 1875 Century Boulevard, NE, Atlanta, GA 30345; 404-679-7080/7148.

