

## **2011 Student Angler Federation (SAF) High School Fishing Rules – SAF State Championships**

**1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT** • These rules will remain unchanged during 2011. Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each contestant and coach agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in weight loss (late penalty, dead-fish penalty and short-fish penalty), the loss of weight up to a particular time in the tournament day, the loss of weight for the entire day, disqualification from the entire tournament or, in an extreme circumstance, ineligibility to participate in future High School Fishing tournaments. Protests are to be made in writing within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

**2. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY** • Participation is open to all ninth, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school students. There is no entry fee to any TBF Student Angler Federation (SAF) member. Otherwise a \$25 per angler entry fee will be collected at the time of registration and will include a free one-year membership to SAF. As SAF members, contestants receive a one-year e-Edition subscription to FLW Outdoors Magazine and full SAF member benefits, including event insurance while competing. Contestants must also have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. Contestants must have in their possession a current student identification card from the school they are representing and a valid fishing license for the waters they fish. Contestants are required to follow all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament. Each team will consist of two contestants and one coach. Each team must compete in the state in which their school is located. Entries will be taken in order of date and time recorded on Highschoolfishing.org. There is no limit to the number of teams accepted from each school or club. Entries may be made online at Highschoolfishing.org. Entries for the 2011 season will be accepted for each High School Fishing State Championship starting at 6 p.m. Central time January 28, 2011. Accepted teams will be confirmed and notified via e-mail at least 12 days prior to each tournament.

**3. NO INFORMATION** • The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted by contestants or coaches within 10 days of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

**4. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE AND COMPETITION** • There is no practice period or off-limits period. You may be on tournament waters anytime until the start of the pretournament meeting. Contestants and coaches may not enter tournament waters to locate bass or potential fishing waters or sightsee after the start of the pretournament meeting except during tournament hours. Testing equipment on tournament waters after the start of the pretournament meeting is permitted only with prior approval from the tournament director. Once competition is under way, contestants and coaches may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants and coaches confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources (quasi-public Web sites set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources). During competition days, teams may not follow a noncontestant's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

**5. REGISTRATION AND PRETOURNAMENT MEETING** • Two high school anglers must register together as a team. Both contestants comprising a team and their coach are HIGHLY encouraged to register in advance online at [www.highschoolfishing.org](http://www.highschoolfishing.org) or by calling TBF at 580.765.9031 to avoid a \$25.00 per angler on-site late registration fee. In addition to a late fee any teams waiting to register until they get to the event will also go out last at the take-off in the order they registered. Each angler and their coach must check-in at the designated registration check-in site and times listed in the tournament confirmation. Contestants and/or coaches more than 15 minutes late for registration check-in may not be entered in the tournament. It is mandatory that all contestants and their coaches attend the pretournament meeting at the time and place set forth in the tournament confirmation. Contestants and/or coaches not present for the pretournament meeting may not be entered in the tournament.

**6. BOAT ASSIGNMENTS** • Takeoff order (boat number) is determined by random draw. Each team must be accompanied on the water by their coach, who will supply a boat but is not permitted to fish.

**7. SAFETY** • Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant and coach is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved and state approved personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location when the combustion engine is in operation. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation is not permitted. Contestants are NOT permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is in operation. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants and coaches. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

**8. SPORTSMANSHIP** • All contestants and coaches 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 FLW Outdoors, The Bass Federation (TBF) and SAF, our sponsors, the school the team is representing, the sport of fishing and FLW Outdoors, TBF and SAF'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 2011 High School Fishing season.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pretournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Suspension/disqualification or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably 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 paragraph 8.

In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined above, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete or to disqualify a contestant.

**9. BOAT OPERATION** • Coaches must supply and drive boats for their teams. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Coaches may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish. The use of mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc. by contestants and coaches during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, breakdowns, etc.) or to communicate with lockmasters about locking or with the tournament director.

**10. BOAT AND HORSEPOWER REGULATION** • All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. No barges or similar cumbersome crafts are permitted. 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. Maximum horsepower for all outboards is 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard 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 placard or the 250-horsepower maximum set by these rules. By signing the entry form, contestants and coaches agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future High School Fishing tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle.

**11. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS** • Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the lure in the water. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Only ONE fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your coach for verification.

**12. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS AND BOUNDARIES** • Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries defined on [Highschoolfishing.com](http://Highschoolfishing.com) that is available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off-limits," "no boats" or "no fishing" by tournament officials, local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant's boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Teams must leave and return to the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there are three permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both contestants remaining in their boat and being towed by water, (2) by one contestant entering the boat of another team or (3) both contestants entering a RESCUE BOAT so designated by the tournament director. Under these three conditions the team's catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Teams that elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any team returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of teams to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Teams must remain together at all times and within sight of their coach until check-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

**13. CHECKPOINTS** • There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in.

**14. LATE PENALTY** • Teams that are not at the designated afternoon checkpoint at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight. Teams more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

**15. LIVE FISH/CATCH AND RELEASE** • Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated livewell. FLW Outdoors and TBF recommend the use of Rejuvenade, which promotes the healthy return of bass to their natural habitat. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

**16. SCORING** • Scoring is determined by the final weight of each team's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass are accepted species. The tournament limit is five bass per team unless the state or lake limit is less than five, in which case the state or lake limit prevails. Teams possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch to that point in the day disqualified and, time permitting, are eligible for a restart from the takeoff location. The minimum length limit for bass is 12 inches unless the state or lake limit is more than 12 inches, in which case, the state or lake limit prevails. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. The winning team is determined by the day's heaviest catch. The winning team from each state championship advances to a High School Fishing Regional Championship held in conjunction with a National Guard FLW College Fishing Regional Championship. The winning team from each regional championship advances to the High School Fishing National Championship held in conjunction with the National Guard FLW College Fishing National Championship. ALL contestants automatically qualify for the SAF High School Fishing World Finals. If any qualified team is unable to attend an event they have qualified for, the next team in rank may be invited. The invitation is at the sole discretion of tournament officials.

**17. TIES** • Total number of fish for the tournament will break ties. If a tie remains, it will be broken first by earliest entry for the tournament then by lottery.

**18. LOGO USAGE AND TELEVISION COVERAGE** • Contestants and coaches may wear their own shirts or jerseys during State Championships. Tournament officials reserve the right, in their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant or coach's shirt or jersey found to be offensive. All decisions are in FLW Outdoors, TBF and SAF's sole discretion.

**19. ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO** • During all days of competition any and all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants and coaches may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in, at any event.

**20. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST** • Each contestant and coach agrees to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

**21. INSURANCE** • Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all boats used in High School Fishing tournaments.

**22. CAPTIONS** • The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

**2011 High School Fishing Waiver**



**PARTICIPANT RELEASE OF LIABILITY – READ BEFORE SIGNING**

In consideration for permission to voluntarily participate in tournaments, events, programs, and related activities conducted by The Bass Federation, (doing business as TBF) and/or Operation Bass, Inc., (doing business as FLW Outdoors), either jointly or separately, I acknowledge, appreciate, and agree that:

The risk of injury, disability, death, loss or damage to my person or property from the activities involved in this program is significant, including the potential for permanent paralysis and death, and while particular rules, equipment, and personal discipline may reduce this risk, the risk of serious injury does exist; and,

I have been advised by TBF and/or FLW Outdoors, and have had the opportunity to seek legal counsel with respect to the legal effect of this document; and,

I KNOWINGLY AND FREELY ASSUME ALL RISKS REFERRED TO ABOVE, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE BASS FEDERATION, INC. and/or OPERATION BASS, INC., THEIR OFFICERS, OFFICIALS, DIRECTORS, SHAREHOLDERS, AGENTS, AND/OR EMPLOYEES, OTHER PARTICIPANTS, AND SPONSORING AGENCIES, SPONSORS, ADVERTISERS, AND, IF APPLICABLE, OWNERS AND LESSORS OF PREMISES AND PROPERTY USED TO CONDUCT THE EVENT (“RELEASEES”) OR OTHERS, AND ASSUME FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR RISKS ARISING FROM MY PARTICIPATION; AND,

I willingly agree to comply with the terms and conditions for participation. If, however, I observe any unusual significant hazard during my presence or participation, I will remove myself from participation and bring such to the immediate attention of the nearest official; and,

I, FOR MYSELF AND ON BEHALF OF MY HEIRS, ASSIGNS, PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVES AND NEXT OF KIN, HEREBY RELEASE, INDEMNIFY, AND HOLD HARMLESS RELEASEES, WITH RESPECT TO ANY AND ALL INJURY, DISABILITY, DEATH, OR LOSS OR DAMAGE TO PERSON OR PROPERTY, WHICH I SUFFER OR WHICH I AM FOUND TO HAVE CAUSED IN WHOLE OR IN PART BY MY NEGLIGENCE OR INTENTIONAL MISCONDUCT, WHETHER ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, OR OTHERWISE, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

I agree to submit, by signature on this document, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination. Hereinafter known as a truth verification test, and abide by its conclusion. Truth verification test(s) will be used at TBF’s sole discretion, and administered by TBF or its agents. I understand that failure to pass the examination as determined by TBF will result in disqualification. I certify that the number shown on these forms is my correct taxpayer identification number.

Having fully acquainted myself with the tournament rules, I have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournament. In signing this application, and by my presence at the event, I hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules, participant release of liability and safety regulations. I expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament and I hereby release The Bass Federation, Inc., (TBF), Operation Bass, Inc. (dba FLW Outdoors) and its parent, and affiliate companies, its licensees and affiliates, and all their respective officers, directors, agents, employees, and stockholders, the tournament hosts, tournament sponsors and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and/or property damage incurred in connection with this tournament. If I am using a boat during the official practice or during the tournament, I certify that I now have, or will obtain prior to the event, property damage\ watercraft liability insurance having a limit of no less than \$300,000.00. Said insurance must be issued by a reputable insurer and must cover injury and/or damage incurred in connection with this Tournament. Upon request, I will provide satisfactory evidence of said insurance. I hereby wave my rights of privacy or publicity with regard to the unconditional right to use my name, voice, photographic likeness, video and biographical information and fishing tips and instructions in connection with any reproduction of same, video\audio productions and/or articles and press releases by TBF, FLW Outdoors, their parent or affiliate companies, and those acting under their permission, anywhere at any time, through any medium or media. I shall not be entitled to receive any royalties or other compensation in connection with such use. I further understand and agree that the tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever.

The Participant signifies by his/her signature below that they have read and understands the foregoing provisions.

Dated \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF PARTICIPANTS OF MINORITY AGE (UNDER AGE 18 AT TIME OF REGISTRATION)**

This is to certify that I, as parent/guardian with legal responsibility for this participant, do consent and agree to his/her release as provided above of all the Releasees, and, for myself, my heirs, assigns, and next of kin, I release and agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Releasees from any and all liabilities incident to my minor child's involvement or participation in these programs as provided above, EVEN IF ARISING FROM THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE RELEASEES, to the fullest extent permitted by law.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
PARENT/GUARDIAN'S SIGNATURE EMERG. PHONE # (s) : \_\_\_\_\_ Date Signed \_\_\_\_\_