

2017 TBF Junior Michigan State Championship Rules

2017 TBF Junior Michigan State Championship: Interpretation and enforcement of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rules violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as they deem appropriate. The decisions of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

1. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: This tournament is only open to members TBF of Michigan Junior Members. Competitors must have obtained the age of 11 years, but not yet 16 years as of Aug. 31, 2017. Proof of age to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the competitor. AN ENTRY FORM MUST BE RECEIVED BY the Michigan TBF ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1st, 2017. The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. The Tournament will take place at the Pontiac Lake State Park and Recreation Area on Sunday June the 11th.

2. ANGLING and PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: There will be no off limits period. Each junior competitor MUST participate with the boater they pre- registered with for the tournament. Participations CAN NOT hire Charter Captains, Pro Anglers or Bass Guides to be there registered boater. The 2017 TBF Junior Michigan State Championship will allow One or Two Junior Anglers per boat along with one adult boater. ALL ANGLING MUST BE DONE ONLY BY THE JUNIOR COMPETITOR. This is an individual competition with each angler competing for themselves. If there are two competitors in a boat one will fish from the back deck and one from the front deck at any given time. Who's on the front or back will be decided between the competitors and boater but the two anglers will not fish from the front or back of the boat at the same time with exception of landing fish or getting un snagged.

3. REGISTRATION: Each competitor should pre-register and return completed entry forms and a copy of your birth certificate to the Michigan TBF Youth Director on or before the deadline date. Upon arrival on Sunday June the 11th at the Pontiac Lake Site **each contestant and boater must check-in between 6:00 and 6:30 am** with a tournament official and also have the boat they are using checked. The Pontiac Lake State Park and Recreation area has agreed to open the gates early on Sunday June the 11th for our entry, setup and allow us to safety of launch.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP: Competitors in the TBF Junior Michigan State Championship tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed 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 may be reason for disqualification. All competitors are bound by the prevailing statutes and regulations of the state, local and other jurisdictions within which they fish. Each competitor 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 will be cause for disqualification.

5. **SAFETY:** In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials. Fishing while the engine is in operation is not permitted. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament competitors, observers and boaters. During the tournament, each competitor and boater is required to wear a Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver. The competitors 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.

6. **TACKLE AND 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 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, to be counted as legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth. Dip nets will be allowed.

7. **BOAT AND MOTOR:** For the safety of all participants, boats will be equipped with some type of ignition\engine stop\shutoff devise. The engine stop switch device must be attached to the driver's body any time the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, the boater must be the driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. Each boat must have all U.S. Coast Guard and State required safety equipment. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition may not exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" plate or 250 HP. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) plate that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. Stick or Tiller Steering is prohibited. Boats must be at least 15 feet in length.

8. **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT:** Every boat must have all required safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Recommended is the use of live well additive and ice to promote a healthy release of all fish to their natural habitat.

9. **PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Any area accessible by water accessed by water with contestant and boater in the boat, except for any Areas posted Off-Limits or No Fishing by state or federal agencies. Only water in Pontiac Lake open to ALL public fishing will be considered tournament waters. All angling must be done from the boat.

10. **COMPETITOR LAUNCHING TIME AND ORDER:** Competitors with boaters will take off in the order of assigned position. Take off time is 7am with a check in time of 1pm. Tournament officials have the right to delay, extend, shorten or cancel the start of the tournament day due to bad weather or other factors that would endanger the safety of competitors and or boaters.

11. **COMPETIORS AND BOATERS MUST REMAIN IN BOAT:** Competitors and Boaters 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. Competitors must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. Boaters and Competitors must remain in boat at all times except in case of dire emergency. In such an emergency, both may be removed from their boat to: A BOAT OPERATED BY OTHER COMPETITORS OR A RESCUE BOAT so designated by the Tournament Director. Restroom break is permitted, however ALL FISHING MUST CEASE, until the boater and competitor(s) are back together. Trailing of boats during tournament hours is prohibited, except by the direction of the Tournament Director.

12. **OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT:** There shall be an official checkpoint for checkout in the morning and check-in in the afternoon. YOU MUST CHECK-IN EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FISH.

13. **SCORING:** Tournament standing, awards and final standings shall be determined by a method of scoring set forth, and announced in the pre-tournament briefing. Only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, Red Eye or Shoal Bass will be weighed. The limit shall be 5 of the above species and varieties per day. At no time shall a competitor have in possession more than the tournament limit. In the event a competitor has in their possession more than the stated limit, they shall cull, starting with the largest bass first, etc., down to the stated limit. Only bass which measure the official length of 14 inches or more on the longest straight line and verified by the tournament director, shall be weighed-in. Bass presented for weigh-in which fail to measure the official length shall not be allowed in competitor's total weight and there will be a 1-pound penalty. All fish must be presented together to a tournament official to be counted, measured and weighed.

14. **CATCH-&-RELEASE:** If it becomes necessary for a competitor to cull their catch. They must cull themselves, but the boater may assist. Effort must be made by the competitor to handle their own fish.

15. **DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH:** For each dead bass presented to weigh-in, the competitor shall be penalized eight (8) ounces of weight.

16. **LATE PENALTY:** Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area at the appointed time shall be penalized at the rate of 1 pound per minute. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch.

17. **TIES:** In case of a tie for champions, the following tie-breakers will be used in order: 1) The individual with the largest number of legal fish weighed in during the tournament; 2) The individual with the largest number of legal LIVE fish weighed in during the tournament; 3.) Heaviest single Fish weighed in during the tournament. In the unlikely 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.

18. Boaters: Boaters will not be allowed to fish during the tournament; they are there to act as boat captains, mentors and observers. Boaters may assist the competitors in a manner as to coach or mentor them only. Boaters may suggest fishing areas or techniques, baits, etc., but the final decision, on where to fish or fishing methods will rest with the competitor. The Boater MAY NOT tie knots, cast lines or lures, set the hook, or play fish to the boat. They may operate the dip net if they so chose. Boaters will have complete control of the boat and outboard engine at all time. The competitors may not drive the boat. Competitors may run the trolling motor; however, the Boater has the right to take control of the trolling motor at anytime if safety or equipment is at risk, or if requested.