

2014 HIGH SCHOOL FISHING WORLD FINALS



HIGHSCHOOLFISHING.ORG

Official Rules

1. RULE CHANGES: These rules and safety regulations are "time tested" over many years of federation history. The following rules shall remain unchanged, except for special tournaments conducted by TBF. 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, including, without limitation, disqualification, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. The decisions of the Tournament Director and tournament officials shall be final in all matters.

2. PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY: Participation in the Student Anglers Federation, High School Fishing World Finals event is open to all eligible SAF members. This tournament is only open to SAF members in good standing with a TBF affiliated student angler club or under special invitation. Age, grade, class and eligibility requirements as set forth by the following: Contestants must meet the following requirements to compete; Anglers must have completed the 8th grade but not yet started their first semester of their freshman year of college. **BE ADVISED - a grade point average of 2.0 will be required.** Additionally all contestants must take **The HIGH SCHOOL FISHING WORLD FINALS QUIZ** that could impact their final standings (see **Rule 22 Bonus Ounces**). Proof of GPA, grade level, age and eligibility, to the satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of the competitors. 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.** The Tournament Director reserves the right to discontinue acceptance of applications prior to deadline and also the right to extend the acceptance date. As a participant in a TBF sanctioned tournament, you agree that while participating at the Championship competition and events, to use any and all official products and equipment so specified and provided by TBFSAF. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject my application for any reason whatsoever.

3. PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE: The event waters will be off-limits starting from Sunday night 11:59 pm July 7th, 2014 through the start of the events official practice period on Sunday July 14, 2014. **Starting at the official off-limits and continuing through the final weigh-in of the 2014 High School Fishing World Finals, competitors cannot solicit, receive, or gather any information via phone, electronic devices, or any other means with regard to locating or catching fish on the championship waters unless that information comes from another 2014 Competitor or Boat Captain/partner. NO EXCEPTIONS.** No competitor may buy or barter a fishing location from guides or other contenders for use during any competition day. During competition days of the tournament, a contender may not use a CB Radio, VHF marine band radio, a cellular phone, 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.

4. REGISTRATION: This is a "team" event consisting of two student anglers and one (1) non-fishing boat captain/coach. Each team, participant and boat captain is required to pre-register and return completed entry forms and a copy of your most recent report card to TBF on or before the deadline date. Upon arrival at the event, each participant must check-in at registration and obtain their registration packet. Failure to register in person during the prescribed hours may result in a \$25.00 monetary fine or possible forfeiture of participation. **It shall be the participants responsibility to check the schedule of events for official registration time and location or obtain times from TBF.**

5. SPORTSMANSHIP: Contenders in the High School World Finals 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. Use of alcohol or drugs (other than those purchased over the counter or prescribed by a licensed physician) by any contender during the official event or during the tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause for automatic disqualification from this and all future TBF tournaments. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants or depressants, prescription or otherwise, shall be allowed in the boats during the Tournament or competition day, or when in the weigh-in area. 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.

6. SAFETY: In the event of an emergency situation, competitors should call 911 first and then notify tournament officials. 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. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by tournament contenders, observers and boat captains. 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. Tournament waters may also be restricted at any time because of bad weather. TBF reserves the right to impose speed limits on any or all tournaments. Whether or not to impose a speed limit, the area covered by the speed limit and/or the actual speed limit imposed shall be left exclusively to the discretion of the Tournament Director.

7. 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 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, 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. Gaffs may not be used to boat bass nor be permitted in the boat at any time. The use of grippers in landing bass is prohibited. Dip nets will be allowed.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: Each team is to provide their own boat and adult boat captain/coach to operate it that is at least 19 years of age. To qualify as a coach, the adult accompanying a team must be from the same state as the students comprising the team, an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 19 years old regardless of residence, or a TBF volunteer coach and boat provided by tournament officials in very limited situations and only WITH ADVANCE arrangements on a first come first served basis. If a boat is requested and supplied by a TBF volunteer, the volunteer will drive the boat for the team and act as their coach. 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. All boats must be propeller driven, a minimum of 16 feet in overall length. No barges or similar cumbersome crafts will be 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 by both contestants. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will be 250 horsepower, not to exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" plate described below. 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. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this plate or a 250 horsepower maximum. 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.

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 additive Rejuvenade 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: Boat Captains/Coaches will supply and drive boats for their teams. To qualify as a boat captain/ coach, the adult accompanying a team must be from the same state as the students comprising the team, an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 19 years old regardless of residence, or an TBF volunteer boat captain provided by tournament officials. If a boat is requested and supplied by a TBF volunteer, the volunteer will drive the boat for the team, and the team's coach will not go on the water. In the event that neither student 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**. 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, 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. In most cases it will be the **LONGEST** state limit covering the tournament waters. 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 accrue penalties at the rate of one pound for each non-legal bass. 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 a competitor's 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: 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. DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH: Each competitor is expected to keep their bass alive by the proper use of the boat's livewell system, Rejuvenade 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 accessing penalty points.

17. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not in the official checkpoint area as described in Rule 14 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, including any weight to be counted toward a "big bass award," 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 the tournament begins, 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.

18. 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 largest number of legal fish weighed in during the official event: 2) The team with the largest number of legal **LIVE** fish weighed in during the event. 3.) Heaviest single days catch 4.) Previous day's standings and/or cut position 5.) Combined Grade point average of the team. 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. Ties for lesser positions shall be resolved by means selected by the Tournament Director.

19. PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS: Whenever possible, one - (2) two person team of contestants will be in each boat, with one boat captain. If for any reason 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. A contestant must not allow any bass not legally caught by their team to be counted in their weight. In such cases, both contestants and the boat captain will be disqualified from this and all future TBF sanctioned events.

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

21. BONUS OUNCES: There will be basic test quiz **ONLINE** for **ALL** contestants to take prior to the end of the registration period. Quiz information and study guide can be found at highschoolfishing.org **YOU ARE HIGHLY ENCOURAGED TO TAKE THEM IN ADVANCE, PRINT OUT THE CERTIFICATES AND BRING THEM WITH YOU.** A maximum of six (6) Ounces per contestant (12 ounces per team) can be earned and added to the teams catch. **BRING YOUR QUIZ CERTIFICATES WITH YOU TO REGISTRATION.** The quizzes will be scored and bonus ounces awarded as followed. A score of 90-100%, 3 oz bonus per test, a score of 80-89% a 2oz bonus. And a score of 70-79% a 1oz bonus. **You may take the quiz up to 3 times.**

22. PATCHES AND/OR SIGNAGE: Anglers are encouraged to wear their own clothing, which may have patches, logos and other signage promoting the anglers' sponsors. TBF may, however, restrict the use of patches, 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.

23. BOAT CAPTAINS/Coaches: To qualify as a boat captain/ coach, the adult accompanying a team must be from the same state as the students comprising the team, an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 19 years old regardless of residence, or an TBF volunteer boat captain provided by tournament officials. If a boat is requested and supplied by a TBF volunteer, the volunteer will drive the boat for the team, and the team's coach will not go on the water. Boat Captains/Coaches will serve as "officials" in the event and will not be allowed to fish on tournament days. They are there to act as boat captains, mentors, coaches and observers. They may assist the Student 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 Student 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 operate the dip net if they so chose. Boat Captains will have complete control of the boat and outboard engine at all time. The Student Anglers may not drive the boat, except for loading and unloading and in case of an emergency. Student Anglers may 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. A completed entry form and event waiver must also be submitted for each boat captain.