



**Rules for the 2018
NYFA/TA Season
417 689 4066/417 522 1095**

Eligible Participants:

Students in the grades 7-12 from public, private, and/or home school from any state, and have a valid fishing license of the state in which we are fishing, and be knowledgeable of fishing and boating regulations for that state. All participants must have a parent or guardian sign the release on the membership form and the registration forms. All boaters must sign the release on the boater registration forms and submit a copy of their background check.

Membership/Entry Requirements:

All participating student's anglers must be registered member of NYFA/TA that have completed the registration forms and paid membership & entry fees. **Fees must be received** to "Teen Anglers/LEWS, 3031 North Martin Avenue, Springfield, Mo. 65803" **the Wednesday before each event by 5 pm for preferred entry. There will be entry and registration the morning of, but will be placed in the order it was received.** A fishing advisor from each club must make sure all requirements are in compliance for all participants and volunteer boat captains being used in the event. NYFA/TA may ask a representative from your club to be on the tournament advisory committee.

Participant Rules:

A registered boat captain must supervise all participants. All participants must wear a coast guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). The flotation device must be zipped and/or snapped, secured at all times when the combustion engine is running. **Inflatable PFD's are not allowed to be worn by students under the age of 16.** All participants including the team/boat captain must wear eye protection, which meets the ANSI z87 standard. **Only the boat captain may operate the boats combustion engine during tournament hours.** All participants should be seated in the boat while the boat is in combustion operation. While arriving or returning from your fishing locations. HS teams must fish with a partner unless certain circumstances should arise, and is approved by the tournament director. One MS angler may fish with a HS Angler, or Two MS Anglers may fish together as well, but will need to be one 7th and 8th grader, or two 8th graders. **All Anglers must have a partner.**

Boat Captain Rules:

The boat captain must be over the age of 19, and approved by NYFA/TA. Anyone that wants to be a boater must have a valid boater's safety card or any other required documents that is required by state laws in your areas. The boat captain must provide proof of current liability insurance. (See Insurance Requirements). The boat captain must have completed a background check through the Missouri State Highway Patrol website/office, or through the school they are boat captaining for. Background Checks will be good for up to two years. **NYFA/TA reserves the right to request a new background check if deemed necessary. NYFA/TA reserves the right to refuse any boat captain at any time.** The boat captain must have knowledge of CPR and First Aid training. **The boat captain must be aware and trained in any special medical conditions of participants in the boat.** The boat captain must carry a fully charged cell phone or other forms of communications for emergencies and/or the ability to monitor the weather conditions. The emergency shutoff lanyard "Kill Switch" must be attached to the boat captain when the combustion engine is running. **The captain must observe all posted speed limit restrictions. If no restrictions are in place, then the recommended speed will be 55 MPH or less.**

Check-In and Pre-Tournament Meeting:

A participant or boat captain must check in the morning of each tournament. The boat captain must complete a documented boat safety inspection prior to launching the boat. The boat captain must have all required state licenses, training and certifications to operate the boat. The boat must have all state/coast guard required safety equipment. The boat captain must not exceed the posted occupancy for the vessel. Idle by live well checks and kill switch operation will be conducted at each event, if taking off from one location. A brief pre-tournament meeting will take place on the water approximately five (5) minutes prior to the official start. Unless launching from anywhere tournaments

Team POT:

Forty (\$40) dollars per event will be charged per team. Five (5) places will be paid if we have a field from (0-100) Teams. Ten (10) places will be paid if we have a field from (101-200). Fifteen (15) places will be paid if we have a field from (201-300).

Locations:

Anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "Off Limits" or "No Fishing" by the Corp of Engineers, Local, State, or Federal Officials. You cannot fish within 50 yards of a contestant's anchored boat. Any additional off limits will be announced at the pre-meeting prior to take off.

Tackle and Equipment:

Only artificial lures and pork style baits are allowed. **No A-Rigs.** All bass must be caught on a rod and reel. Only one rod and reel in use at any time by any one angler. The boat captain may help with fish care, net fish, maintain fishing equipment for anglers and operate the trolling motor. **The Boat Captain is Not Allowed To Fish or Cast a Lure.**

Boats and Motors:

No boats over 25 feet can be used. Any boat, 16 feet or longer, meeting B.I.A. and Coast Guard requirements with a functional kill switch and functional bilge pump and properly aerated live well will be accepted. No over-powered boats. The boat must be operated in accordance with all posted speed limit restrictions.

INSURANCE:

Boat Captains must have at least a minimum of \$100,000 of Boating Liability Insurance. Proof of insurance must be shown to NYFA/TA upon request and a copy on file with the clubs fishing advisor prior to the tournament.

Special Situation:

Breakdown: In the event of a boat breakdown, participants may transfer their fish to another contestants boat for transport to the weigh-in site, meeting the following conditions; The fish must be placed in a segregated live well with culling balls attached to the fish and one of the participating team anglers must accompany those fish at all times to the weigh-in site.

Early Departure: Any team departing prior to the weigh-in from the tournament lake must contact the tournament director or appointed staff member. Failure to do so will result in the loss of any points earned at that tournament.

Cell Phones: We encourage all contestants to have cell phones in their boats for emergency use only.

Contestants, coaches and boat captains may not use mobile communication devices, including but not limited to, cell phones, tablets, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with the tournament director. **At no time during tournament hours may contestants, coaches and boat captains read or discuss social media posts from other contestants.**

Scoring:

Largemouth, Smallmouth, and Spotted Bass will be scored, five (5) fish limit. **A SHORT FISH will result in a complete loss of your weight for the day.** A dead fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty per fish. If dead fish is big bass, one (1) pound will be deducted from the big bass. No more than five (5) fish are allowed in the live well (in procession) at anytime. Anyone bringing more than five (5) fish to the weigh-in scales will not be allowed to weigh-in ANY Fish. All fish MUST be brought to the scales in an official weigh-in bag. Culling of dead fish is prohibited.

Late Penalty:

A teams weight will be disqualified for the day and will not be allowed to weigh in their fish, if they are one minute late from their check-in time.

Ties:

Ties will be broken by **1)** most fish weighed. **2)** by earliest boat number for the tournament.

Protest:

Protests must be submitted in writing to the tournament director within fifteen (15) minutes of the weigh-in completion. The appointed Tournament Advisory Committee will handle all protest. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

Quality Assurance Testing:

Contestant's signature on entry form and/or participation in these tournaments, the contestants agree to any quality assurance test if required by the Tournament Director. They may include all or part of the following: CVSA, Polygraph, Urinalysis, or Blood test. Refusal of any angler or boater to submit to the test will result in the loss of winnings, immediate disqualification, plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments. Quality assurance tests will be conducted as soon as possible.

Safety and Sportsmanship:

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Contestants may not depart the boat to land fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before weigh-in except with the permission of the Tournament Director or announced as a trailered weigh-in. All contestants are required to follow the highest degree of Sportsmanship, Courtesy, and Conservation. The tournament Director has the discretion to shorten or cancel tournament days due to unsafe weather or water conditions. No alcohol or controlled substances can be used or allowed in the boat during tournament hours. No hole sitting is allowed.

Points:

Each team will receive 25 show-up points. Points will start at 300 for 1st place and descend 1 point for each place dropped. Each team will also receive one (1) point for each pound of bass weighed in, and will be rounded to the nearest whole number. Points earned will remain with the team for championship eligibility.

Teen Anglers- TOY Award, "Team Of Year":

The most points accumulated over the Best three out of four regular season tournaments in each division will determine Teen Anglers "TOY Award". Divisional Championship is not a point tournament. Toy Award Recipients from each division will compete for the Overall Toy Award at the Mid-West Shootout Championship.

Divisional Championship Qualifications:

There are two ways for each team to qualify for the Divisional Championship.

1st- if you fish all qualifying events in your division.

2nd- if you fish only three of the qualifying events from your Division and finish in the top (40%) of the field in points.

3rd- Each angler must sell one (1) book of 5 raffle tickets for each Divisional Championship.

Your Membership covers all divisions and you may fish all divisions if you choose. No Substitutions or Switching of Boat Captains are allowed during the Divisional Championships. There will Be a (\$40) Team Pot, at the One Day Divisional Championship

Mid-West Shootout Championship:

The Top (40%) in points from the three qualifying events in your Division and the top (40%) from the Divisional Championship will be invited to our Mid-West Shootout Championship. No Substitutions or Switching of Boat Captains are allowed during the Shootout Championship. There will be a (\$40) Team Pot at the One Day Shootout.

Knowledge of These Rules Is the Responsibility of Each Contestant:

Failure to read these rules or ignorance of them is no excuse. The Director reserves the right to reject any entry if he/she feels that it is not in the best interest of National Youth Fishing Association/ Teen Anglers. Any announcements made by the Director at the tournament site take precedent over the written rules. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.



Helping a Child Continue Their Education Through the Sport Of Bass Fishing