



**Michigan B.A.S.S.  
Federation Nation  
Junior Bass Masters  
Program Guidelines  
Including Junior State Championship  
Tournament Guidelines**

Revision Date February 2010

# MICHIGAN BASS JUNIOR BASS MASTERS PROGRAM

## Article I. Name and Purpose

### A. Name

The program shall be called the Michigan B.A.S.S. Federation Junior BASS Masters.

### B. Purpose

The purpose of the program is to promote awareness of fishing as a sport; to promote conservation and environmental protection; encourage the fellowship of fishing; and to introduce the sport of fishing and the love of the sport to the Youth of our State.

## Article II. Affiliation Requirements

### A. Initial affiliation with the program, a Junior Chapter shall:

1. Have a minimum of six (6) members, who have not reached the age of 19 by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the Junior Chapter is affiliating. Once the youth member turns 19, they are no longer eligible to participate as a Junior Bass Master.
2. Be sponsored by an affiliated Michigan Bass Chapter Federation Adult Chapter.
3. Submit a copy of the Junior Chapters Roster to the M.B.C.F. State Membership Director with the following information
  - a. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (including the complete address and telephone numbers and if possible email addresses)
  - b. Senior Advisor's name, address, telephone number, email address and Adult Chapter name.
  - c. Junior Chapter Bylaws
  - d. Junior Chapter Tournament Rules.
4. Upon approval by the BASS Federation and M.B.C.F., the Junior Chapter will receive their affiliation.

### B. Maintaining affiliation with the program a Junior Chapter shall:

1. Have been affiliated and in good standing in the State Junior Bass Master program and National Junior B.A.S.S. for the previous year.
2. Have a minimum of six (6) members, who have not reached the age of 19 by October 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the Junior Chapter is affiliating. Once the youth member turns 19, they are no longer eligible to participate as a Junior Bass Master.
3. Be sponsored by an affiliated M.B.C.F. Adult Chapter.
4. Submit a copy of the Junior Chapters Roster to the M.B.C.F. State Membership Director with the following information
  - a. President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer (including the complete address, telephone numbers and email addresses)
  - b. Senior Advisor's name, address, telephone number, email address and Adult Chapter name.
  - c. Junior Chapters Bylaws
  - d. Junior Chapters Tournament Rules.
5. Tournament results from the previous year on forms provided by the State Youth Director.
6. The Junior Chapter shall acquire a permission slip from a parent or guardian for the youth to attend meetings, tournaments, other various events, including but not limited to CastingKids events. The permission slip will also indicate the child is in good health.

### C. Age Groups Determination

1. The Youth Division is divided into three Age Groups; Junior 5-10, Youth 11-14 and Youth 14-18. These are used to determine which youth age group the

members are qualified to participate is. This is important for things like the Junior State Championship. The age group of the youth is their age as of October 1st of the qualifying season. B.A.S.S. Freezes the age of the competitor as of the date the youth member qualifies, so that they will not lose their eligibility if their birthday follows the date they qualified on.

**C. Membership Fees**

1. No State membership fees will be assessed to the Junior Chapter or its members.

**Article III. Program Oversight**

- A. The Junior Bass Master program shall be overseen by the Michigan B.A.S.S. Chapter Federation Youth Director.
- B. The State Youth Director shall regularly provide a report to the M.B.C.F. Board of Directors, reporting on all activities within this program.
- C. The Board of Directors will have final say on all issues that may significantly affect this program.
- D. Chapter start up funding assistance (if any), award money, any sponsor product, assistance with National Tournament entries, or anything else that M.B.C.F. can do to help Youth Chapters evolve in the right direction will be provided with Board approval.

**Article IV. Disaffiliation, Membership Revocation or Disciplinary Action**

**A. Chapter Voluntary Disaffiliation**

1. A Chapter may disaffiliate from the M.B.C.F. and the Junior Bass Master program at any time by providing notification to State Youth Director

**B. Chapter Involuntary Disaffiliation**

1. A chapter may be disaffiliated from M.B.C.F. and the Junior Bass Master program for any misconduct which is shown to be in complete disregard of ethical sports person like behavior or failure to comply with the program requirements in Article II, Section B. The State Youth Director must present recommendations for disaffiliation to the M.B.C.F. Board of Directors for their final determination.

**C. Individual Membership Revocation and/or Disciplinary Action**

1. Whenever a member is placed on probation, suspended, or removed from a Junior Chapter roster as a result of disciplinary action for false information, cheating or other actions detrimental to the future of the Junior Bass Master program, the Chapter must report the incident to the State Youth Director. The Youth Director will review the incident and file a report with the M.B.C.F. Board of Directors. Appropriate action as approved by the Board may then be taken.

**Junior State Championship Tournament**

**A. Eligibility Requirements for Participation**

1. To participate in the Michigan Junior State Tournament, an individual must be a member in good standing with the National BASS Federation Junior Bass Master program and a member of an affiliated M.B.C.F. Junior Chapter of the Junior Bass Master program as of June 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the Michigan Junior State Championship is held..
2. All Junior Chapter members are eligible to qualify for the Michigan Junior State Championship as long as they meet the requirements set forth elsewhere in these rules
3. Chapters may also set forth their own additional qualifications as it pertains to Junior State Championship.
4. Junior Chapters must have conducted at least 2 tournaments as evidenced by the tournament result forms in the past 12 months (unless a new Junior Chapter that

year). A Junior member wishing to participate in the Junior State Championship must participate in at least one of those tournaments.

- a) Proof that a Junior Member participated in at least one Junior Club Tournament must be provided to the MBCF Youth Director at least 7 days prior to the MBCF Junior State Championship in order for that member to be qualified to fish the MBCF Junior State Championship.
5. Entries must be received on an official entry form or the Junior Chapter is not eligible.
6. Each and every Junior State Championship competitor must submit a copy of their Birth Certificate along with the official Tournament Entry form.

#### **B. Junior State Championship Revenue**

1. A \$25 entry fee will be charged for each contestant, to participate in the Michigan Junior State Championship.
2. Excess revenues from the Michigan Junior State Championship, less expenses, may be used to fund Youth Federation programs. The first priority will be to provide funds to the Michigan Youth Team for the Divisional Tournament, with the minimum acceptable amount being sufficient to pay reasonable and customary expenses of each team member.

#### **C. Chapter Team Award**

1. Each Chapter may compete for a "Chapter Team Award" during the Tournament. The award will be given to the Junior Chapter who's collective efforts of 4 designated Junior Anglers exceed the other Chapter Team weights.
2. Four (4) members of the Junior Chapter will be designated as Team Members, to compete for a Chapter award.
3. The Team Members must be designated on the entry form.

### **Junior State Championship Rules**

#### **A. Safety**

1. All tournaments will be chaperoned by Adult Members of the Michigan Bass Federation or by a Federation approved boater.
2. Each Junior Contestant is required to wear a life jacket whenever on the water or in close proximity to the water. The life jacket must be properly fastened at all times.
3. Adult members shall wear their life jackets anytime the combustion engine is running. The boats kill switch will be attached to the boater anytime the engine is running.
4. Inflatable life jackets are allowed when the Coast Guard and State criteria are met by the contestants, as long as they are the fully automatic type.
5. All Junior Contestants will remain seated anytime the combustion engine is running.
6. Junior Contestants will not be allowed to drive the boats using the combustion engine at any time. They are allowed and encouraged to run the Electric Trolling Motor.

#### **B. Sportsmanship**

1. Contestants 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. Horseplay by any competitor during tournament hours or at the weigh-in area will NOT BE TOLERATED and may be cause for disqualification.

#### **C. Tournament Location, Dates and Times**

1. The location, date and times for the Michigan Junior State Championship shall be determined by the State Youth Director.
2. The Michigan Junior State Championship shall be a minimum of five (5) hours.
3. All contestants must check in one (1) hour prior to tournament meeting.

#### **D. Tournament Pairing**

1. Adult Members of the M.B.C.F. will provide boats and serve as guides for the tournaments. The adult Chaperone is not allowed to fish or give any fishing advice during the competition.
2. Each MBCF Chapter that sends Junior Bass Master Anglers to the Junior State Championship will be requested to send 1 boat for every two Junior Anglers the Chapter sends.
3. It is the intent to have two (2) Junior Bass Masters per boat, chaperoned by their guides.
4. Starting position and boat selection will be done by a random drawing. Every attempt will be made for boaters not to chaperon Junior Bass Masters from their sponsored chapters or a Junior Bassmaster that is related to the Chaperone.

#### **E. Scoring**

1. Legal species (Small Mouth Bass and Large Mouth Bass) must be within State and Federal size limits.
2. There will be five (5) Bass limit per Contestant.
3. Winners will be determined by most weight for that day's catch.
4. In case of a tie, the competitor with the biggest fish wins. If still in tie then M.B.C.F. State Championship rules will be followed.
5. Current MBCF State Championship rules also apply as applicable.
6. For each legal bass weighed in dead, the competitor shall be penalized four ounces of weight (or 0.25 pounds depending on the scales used).

#### **F. Protests**

1. All protests will be submitted at within fifteen (15) minutes after the scales are officially closed and before the tournament results are announced.
2. All protests will be done in writing by the Junior Anglers and Boaters of the accusing boat. All involved anglers will be brought in front of the Tournament Committee immediately to address the protest. The Tournament Director will have final say in determining the outcome of the protest.

#### **G. Tackle and Equipment**

1. Artificial lures shall be used. Only one casting, spin-casting, or spinning rod may be used at any one time. No trolling will be allowed, however an electric motor may be used for slow maneuvering, (Trolling is considered to be "dragging" or moving any lure with either the trolling motor or combustion motor). The maximum length for any rod will be 8 feet, butt to tip. CB, marine radios, or mobile telephones are allowed for emergency use only during tournament hours. Communications devices shall not be used during the tournament to acquire fishing reports or information.

### **Junior Bass Masters World Championship**

#### **A. Eligibility**

1. Each year the Michigan Junior Bass Master program will send a designated number of contestants to the Bass Federation Junior Bass Master World Championship.
2. An angler must be between the ages of 11 and 18 on the day of the Bass Federation Junior Bass Master World Championship tournament.
3. The Junior Member may belong to a Junior Chapter, and an Adult Chapter at the age of 16. If in both a Jr. and Adult club that member may only compete ONCE in either the Junior or the Adult Championship. Once a Junior member has competed in an Adult State Championship they MAY NOT compete in a Junior Championship in the following years.
4. Competitors shall be selected as follows:
  - a. 100 % of the team shall come from the Michigan Junior State Championship Tournament.

- b. One 15 to 18 year old competitor and one 11-14 years old competitor will be sent on to the Junior Bass Master Northern Divisional and may qualify to advance to the World Championship.
- c. The competitor with the highest weight from each division will be sent.

## **Junior Chapter Awards Program**

### **A. Participation**

1. The Michigan Junior Bass Master program does not require mandatory chapter conservation or community projects, however we urge this be done.

### **B. Awards Categories**

1. Annual awards for Conservation, Community Service and Environmental Projects will be available.
2. Only Chapters submitting a report explaining their project(s) will be considered for awards. The report should contain a description of the program, pictures, press releases and or/coverage received and other promotional items used. Entries will be judged with winning Chapter(s) receiving an award.

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