

2010 Mass Bass Federation Junior Anglers Official Rules and Regulations

1. **PARTICIPANTS AND ELIGIBILITY**: Participation in these tournaments are open to all Junior Anglers ages 7-18. In order to qualify for the Nationals, Junior Anglers must meet age and eligibility requirements as set forth by the following: Contenders must have obtained the age of 11 years, but not yet 15 years as of Aug. 31st of the World Championship year and 15 years, but not yet 19 years, on August 31st of the World Championship competition year. Junior Anglers ages 7-10 will not be eligible to qualify for the Nationals. TBF will allow two (2) properly qualified Junior Anglers to represent their TBF State Federation.
2. **PRE-TOURNAMENT PRACTICE AND OFF-LIMITS**: There will be no off-limits period for any tournament. 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 Junior Anglers Mass Bass qualifying waters unless that information comes from another Junior Angler competitor. **NO EXCEPTIONS**. 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 will be cause for disqualification.
3. **PAIRING OF CONTESTANTS**: During the tournaments, all junior anglers may fish with whomever they desire excluding the state qualifying tournament in June. For qualifying junior anglers ages 11-18, a blind draw format will be implemented for this tournament only at the sole discretion of the tournament directors. Junior anglers 11-18 may not fish with a parent for this tournament only, unless they are not fishing to qualify for the Nationals.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP**: Contenders in the Mass Bass Junior Angler 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.
5. **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. Mass Bass Junior Anglers are **NOT** permitted to operate the 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. Mass Bass 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. All Massachusetts state laws apply.
6. **TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT**: Only artificial lures may be used. No "live bait" will be permitted, with the exception of 7-10 year olds may use worms/night crawlers. 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 bedding bass, to be counted as legal fish all bass must be hooked inside the mouth and must be verified by your partner before being unhooked.

7. **BASIC BOAT EQUIPMENT**: Every boat must have a livewell space, properly aerated, to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of bass by both competitors using the boat.

8. **BOAT OPERATION**: Only the boat captain may operate the boat. All Junior Anglers are eligible to operate the trolling motor as long as they are comfortable doing so. During tournaments, both divisions will have equal time at the trolling motor unless otherwise agreed by both junior anglers.

9. **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 and Smallmouth Bass will be weighed. Anglers the age of 7-10 may weigh in any species. There is a 5 fish limit for all anglers. The official length for bass shall be 12" in length. 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. There will be no stringers allowed. Culling is permitted.

10. **DON'T KILL YOUR CATCH**: For each legal dead bass presented to weigh-in officials, the competitor shall be penalized four (4) ounces of weight, to be deducted from their total weight. The Tournament Officials shall have sole authority for accessing penalty points.

11. **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, to be deducted from the total weight of their catch. Any competitor more than 15 minutes late shall lose all credit for that day's catch.

12. **TIES**: In case of a tie, 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) The individual with the biggest bass weighed in during the tournament. Youth directors will have final decisions on tie breakers.

13. **BOAT CAPTAINS**: **During the state qualify only-** Boat captains cannot guide, make lure selections, spots etc. - junior anglers must make these decisions on their own. Boat captains may net fish if there is only one (1) junior angler on board. Otherwise junior anglers must net fish for each other. There is absolutely no fishing permitted for boat captains during any and all tournaments.

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.

Permission Slip & Waiver

Having fully acquainted myself with the rules, I and my parents or legal guardians, have completed this application and submit it for my entry into the tournaments. In signing this application, and by my\our presence at the event, I\We hereby agree to be bound by and comply with all tournament rules and safety regulations. I\We expressly assume all risks associated with the tournament and I\We hereby release Mass Bass Federation, The Bass Federation, Inc., (TBF), FLW Outdoors, and all their respective officers, directors, the tournament hosts, sponsors, and tournament officials from all claims of death, injury and\or property damage incurred in connection with these tournaments.

Junior Angler Contender _____

Dated _____

Signed _____
(Junior Angler)

Junior Angler's Parent or Legal Guardian if under 18 years old must sign also.

As the Parent or Legal Guardian of the above named Junior Angler, I fully understand and hereby agree to the Rules, Terms and Conditions, and the Wavier and Release of Liability contained in the attached document. I give my permission for the above named Junior Angler to compete in these events.

Dated _____

Signed _____
(Parent or Legal Guardian)