



## Teen Anglers, Inc. Teen Anglers Tournament Series Rules & Information

### *Information for the 2016 Teen Anglers Season*

Teen Anglers, Inc. has compiled a set of rules from the laws State of Missouri and boater safety regulations at <http://www.mshp.dps.missouri.gov/MSHPWeb/WaterPatrol/>. The Missouri Department of Conservation fishing regulations can be found at <http://mdc.mo.gov/>, and standard rules set forth by the bass tournament industry.

### *Rules for the 2016 Teen Anglers Season*

#### **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS:**

Students in the grade levels of 6-12 from public, private or home school, from the states of Missouri, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Kansas, have a valid fishing license of the state in which we are fishing, and be knowledgeable of fishing and boating regulations. All participants must have parent or guardian sign a liability release waiver. All participants/guardians must sign acknowledgement of safety rules/tournament guidelines.

#### **ENTRY / MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS:**

All participating student anglers must be a registered member of Teen Anglers that have completed the tournament registration form, and paid membership & entry fee. A minimum 2.0 GPA is required to fish the Teen Anglers Tournament Series. Dress code and ethics of conduct must be adhered to at all times. A minimum of 5 raffle tickets per angler must be sold to fund the 50/50 program. A fishing advisor for each club must assure compliance with all of the requirements for all participants and volunteer boat captains being used in each event. A representative from your club may be asked to be on the tournament advisory committee.

#### **DRESS CODE & ETHICS OF CONDUCT:**

All Participating student anglers and volunteer boat captains will maintain a high standard of dress. No tank top style shirts, no half shirts, no shirt bearing any type of vulgar language, tobacco or alcohol products. No fishing shirtless or in swimming attire. All participants and volunteer boaters will maintain a high standard of ethics of conduct and professionalism.

#### **PARTICIPANTS RULES:**

All participants must be supervised by a boat captain. All participants including the boat captain must wear a coast guard approved personal flotation device (PFD). It must be zipped and/or snapped secured at all times when the combustion engine is running. **Inflatable PFD's may not be worn by students under the age of 16.** All participants are encouraged to attend the boaters' safety course and obtained their certificate. Only the participants will operate the trolling motor unless preapproved by the tournament director. 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 operation of arriving/returning from the fishing destinations. You must fish with a buddy. Junior Program participants must fish with a High School Team. No fishing alone. No night time fishing is allowed. No ice fishing is allowed.

#### **BOAT CAPTAIN RULES:**

The boat captain must be over the age of 18, approved by Teen Anglers if under the age of 21, and have a valid fishing license. 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 or office. The boat captain must have knowledge of performing CPR and have First Aid training. **The boat captain must be trained in any special medical conditions of participants in the boat.** The boat captain must carry a fully charged cell phone or other reliable form of communication for emergencies and the ability to monitor weather conditions. The "kill switch" must be attached to the boat captain's PFD when the combustion engine is running. **The captain must observe all posted speed limit restrictions. If no restrictions are in place, the recommended speed will be 55 MPH.**

### **CHECK-IN and PRE-TOURNAMENT MEETING:**

Each participant and 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. A brief pre-tournament meeting will take place on the water approximately five (5) minutes prior to the official start.

### **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. **Tournament Lake will be off limits Monday – Friday to students grades 9-12 the week prior to tournament, unless prior approval by Tournament Director.** 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. 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 maintain fish care, net fish, maintain fishing equipment for anglers, however, may not cast a lure.

### **BOATS and MOTORS:**

No boat over 25 feet can be used. Any boat, 14 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 \$100,000 of Boating Liability Insurance. Proof of insurance must be shown to Teen Anglers upon request and a copy on file with the clubs fishing advisor prior to the tournament.

### **SPECIAL SITUATIONS:**

**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 the 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 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 a cell phone in their boat for emergency use only.

### **SCORING:**

Largemouth, smallmouth, and spotted bass will be scored, five (5) fish limit. A short fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty plus the loss of the fish. A dead fish will result in a one (1) pound penalty per fish. If dead fish is big bass, (1) pound will be deducted from big bass. No more than five (5) fish are allowed in live well (in possession) at any time. 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 team will be penalized one pound per minute for up to ten (10) minutes, then disqualification for not being checked in by the tournament officials or their representatives by the prescribed times.

### **TIES:**

All ties will be broken by 1) big bass, 2) most fish weighed in, 3) by earliest entry.

**PROTEST:**

All 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 protests. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.

**QUALITY ASSURANCE TESTING:**

By contestant(s) signature on entry form and/or participation in these tournaments, the contestant(s) agree to any quality assurance tests if required by the Tournament Director. They may include all or part of the following: CVSA, Polygraph test, Urinalysis, or Blood test. Refusal of an angler or boater to submit to a test or failure of a test will result in loss of winnings, immediate disqualification, plus subsequent disqualification from future tournaments. Quality assurance tests will be conducted as soon as possible at the conclusion of official tournament hours.

**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. At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened or cancelled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. No alcohol or controlled substance can be used or allowed in the boat during tournament hours. No hole-sitting allowed.

**POINTS:**

Each team will receive 25 show-up points. Points will start at 200 for 1st place and descend 1 point for each place dropped. Each team will also receive 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 Captain for championship eligibility.

**AWARDS & INCENTIVES:**

Awards and Incentives will be announced prior to event on our website.

**TEEN ANGLERS – “Team of the Year”:**

- Teen Anglers “TOY Award” will be determined by the most points accumulated over the three regular season tournaments.

**TEEN ANGLERS CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFICATION:**

To be eligible for the 2016 Teen Anglers Championship, each angler must sell a minimum of 5 raffle tickets. Each team must fish a minimum of 2 out 3 tournaments. A team that fishes all 3 tournaments and have sold 10 raffle tickets will automatically qualify for the championship. The top 5 teams of each club that fished 2 tournaments have sold 10 raffle tickets will qualify for the 2016 Teen Anglers Championship. If a qualified team is unable to attend the Championship, the next eligible team from that school in points will be invited. Points will remain with the Team Captain of each registered event.

**2016 TEEN ANGLERS TOURNAMENT SERIES CHAMPIONSHIP RULE ADDITIONS:**

We will announce any additions to the championship on our website.

**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 feels that it is not in the best interest of Teen Anglers, Inc. Any announcements made by the Director at the tournament site take precedent over written rules. The decision of the Tournament Director shall be final in all matters.