

**KHSAA BASS FISHING**  
**Frequently Asked Questions (as of May, 2012)**

This list will be updated as topics are resolved. Keep in mind that there are various approval requirements for much of the information, and final determinations may not be available until May, 2012 or July, 2012

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

*Is the KHSAA now sponsoring a Bass Fishing championship?*

Yes, in 2012-2013, the KHSAA will conduct a Bass Fishing championship. Competition will be held in a single division, with appropriate assignments to regions once participation numbers are determined.

*With the KHSAA now sponsoring a Bass Fishing championship, does that make Bass Fishing exactly the same as all other sports and activities within the school?*

The management of individual teams within a school is a local decision. School administrators will decide about issues such as compensation, travel allowances and other benefits in compliance with federal, state and locally adopted policies. Nothing about the KHSAA adding this sport activity makes anything "automatic" within a school or school district.

*How is Bass Fishing going to be managed within the KHSAA?*

The Commissioner will appoint an Assistant Commissioner to be the day-to-day liaison for Bass Fishing within the office.

An Advisory committee will also be appointed by the Commissioner to help with the implementation and management of the championship. This committee may be divided into sub-committees to perform various functions throughout the year related to the championships. The names and demographic information about the Advisory Committee will be posted on the KHSAA web site.

*Where will all of the rules be printed about the Bass Fishing championship?*

Each August, the KHSAA produces its Handbook, which includes Tournament Rules for all sports and sport-activities. When finalized, these rules will be published in the Handbook, placed on the KHSAA web site, and distributed to all member schools.

Any discussion that necessitates an amendment to the KHSAA Constitution or Bylaws will be properly submitted through the Board of Control and appear on the agenda of the Annual Meeting of the member schools in September.

*How does a school get a boat?*

Any volunteer your school administration finds acceptable may provide a boat. Each school will simply be responsible for ensuring that there is a boat provided, with an adult driver. The boat owner shall provide proof of liability insurance to the school administration or verification that the owner's homeowners insurance has provisions for boat coverage.

Additionally, The Bass Federation (TBF) has numerous clubs across the state that have offered their services to the schools as have individuals from the B.A.S.S. Federation Nation. Additionally, there are likely other bass fishing clubs affiliated with other organizations from across the state that will offer their services to schools. A list of the bass clubs and organizations as well as contact information will be posted on the KHSAA website.

*Are there requirements of students?*

Each student must possess a currently valid Kentucky fishing license. Each student must become a member of the Student Angler Federation. The annual membership fee is \$25 and includes all necessary liability insurance, including the option to name the school as additionally insured. Students may join the SAF at

[www.highschoolfishing.org](http://www.highschoolfishing.org) .

*What about insurance for fishing?*

Membership in the Student Angler Federation provides insurance coverage for all team activities throughout the membership term. The schools and students will be responsible for any equipment related insurance and other necessary insurance just as in any other sport or sport activity the KHSAA conducts. All member schools are reminded to take precautionary steps to ensure that all equipment and product safety risk measures are taken including insurance coverage. The KHSAA will also have catastrophic coverage for both the regional and state tournaments.

*Are there restrictions on the use of the motor(s) or the speed of the boat?*

No student will be allowed to operate the outboard motor on the boat. Either a student or the coach (or other permitted person if it is the boat owner) may operate the trolling motor. The coach (or other permitted person if it is the boat owner) will be responsible for operating the outboard motor. The boat must observe all posted state and local speed restrictions. If no such restrictions are in place, the speed limit shall be 35 miles per hour.

*What are the restrictions on actions by coaches during the competition?*

The captain/coach of the boat may make suggestions but may not fish in any respect, including tying lures, netting fish, and handling fish or gear. The captain/coach or team participants can operate the electric motor.

*What happens to the fish after competition?*

The total weight for each of the five (5) fish limited to that boat will count for the team total of that tournament. All fish will be released immediately after weigh-in. All fish that are put in the livewell must be kept alive. Dead fish will have a ½ pound deduction and cannot count as the large fish for that boat. Dead fish may not be culled. There will be a speed limit enforced at all sectional and state final tournaments. The speed limit will be no faster than 35 mph, or the lake requirement will be enforced if slower than 35 mph.

## **SEASON LENGTH AND BYLAW COMPLIANCE**

*When is the first date of practice?*

The first official date of practice for Bass Fishing will be twenty-one days prior to the regional competition for each school. This is solely to define a period for the Catastrophic Insurance. There will not be a designated season for Bass Fishing. Team members and coaches may compete in other fishing competitions throughout the year.

*What is the maximum number of Bass Fishing competitions?*

There will be no maximum number of competitions as this sport activity will not have a specifically defined season due to constantly changing availability of fish in Kentucky's lakes, rivers and streams.

*When does the Bass Fishing season end?*

The defined season ends for Bass Fishing with the State Championship. Team members and coaches may compete in other fishing competitions throughout the year.

*Will there be a limit on team size for Bass Fishing?*

No. There are not team size limits in any KHSAA sport or sport-activity. However, individual competitions will likely (as will KHSAA) limit the number of competitors in a given division or within a defined competition area.

*Which KHSAA Bylaws ARE applicable to Bass Fishing?*

Currently, the following KHSAA Bylaws apply to Bass Fishing teams and all other sport activities -

Bylaw 1 (Responsibility for Eligibility);

Bylaw 2 (Physician's & Parental Consent Form and Insurance requirement);

Bylaw 3 (Age, per state law);

Bylaw 5 (Minimum Academic Requirement);

Bylaw 9 (Other Eligibility Requirements and Regulations);  
Bylaw 11 (Practice of Sportsmanship);  
Bylaw 14 (Protests);  
Bylaw 15 (Request for Rulings);  
Bylaw 16 (Protests);  
Bylaw 17 (Supplying Information);  
Bylaw 18 (Countersigning Contracts);  
Bylaw 19 (Submission of Reports);  
Bylaw 20 (Member of Faculty to Accompany team);  
Bylaw 21 (Compliance with NFHS Rules);  
Bylaw 23 (Sanctioning and approval of out of state travel);  
Bylaw 24 (Forfeits);  
Bylaw 25 (Limitation of Season);  
Bylaw 26 (Summer Activities);  
Bylaw 27 (Coaching Requirements);  
Bylaw 28 (Distribution of Tournament Profits);  
Bylaw 29 (Officials Division);  
Bylaw 30 (Coaches not to officiate) and  
Bylaw 33 (Penalties)

*Which KHSAA Bylaws ARE NOT applicable to Bass Fishing?*

Bylaw 4 (Enrollment);  
Bylaw 6 (Transfer Rule);  
Bylaw 7 (Non-Domestic Students);  
Bylaw 8 (Contestant on Other Teams);  
Bylaw 12 (Amateur and Awards);  
Bylaw 13 (Financial Aid);  
Bylaw 22 (Specific Sport Regulations);  
Bylaw 31 (Use of Licensed Officials) and  
Bylaw 32 (Agreement regarding professional baseball)

*Competition Rules (Bylaw 21)*

Unless and until the NFHS addresses the issue of playing rules, Bylaw 21 will have no practical application to Bass Fishing. The KHSAA will designate the appropriate competition rules to be used in the region and state championships.

*Sanctioning/Out of State Travel (Bylaw 23)*

As a practical matter, Bylaw 23 related to sanctioning will not apply to Bass Fishing.

*Coaches Requirements (Bylaw 27)*

All Coaches must meet KHSAA Bylaw 27 Minimum Coaching Requirements including coach education requirements, Sports Safety & Concussion, KHSAA/NFHS Rules Clinic. This includes faculty and non-faculty coaches and any other individual involved in Bass Fishing-specific training and these individuals must be listed on the KHSAA Coaching Registry.

## **JUDGES/OFFICIALS**

*Who will assign the judges for Region/State?*

Judges/Officials will be assigned by the KHSAA.

*Who will train judges?*

Judges will be trained by the KHSAA with assistance of appropriate outside authorities.

## **COMPETITION RULES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE KHSAA REGION CHAMPIONSHIP**

*When will KHSAA Region Bass Fishing Competitions be held?*

Region competitions will be held during April of each year.

*Who will select and manage the region competitions?*

The final assignments for site selection will be made by the KHSAA. These individuals will be listed on the KHSAA web site.

*What is the entry fee for region competition?*

There is no entry fee to participate in the KHSAA competition.

*How will funds be divided from Region Competitions?*

If there are any surplus funds from receipts at region competitions, funds from receipts from region competitions shall be divided based upon agreement of the schools in the region. Should a written policy not be in place, they shall be divided evenly following expenses.

*What are the competitions divisions for the Bass Fishing championships?*

All competition will be in one division.

*How does a school enter the Bass Fishing Tournament?*

Each school may enter online in the school subsystem that your school will enter a team for the bass fishing tournament. School commitments to enter a team should be submitted by November 1st this year to allow for planning of the Bass Fishing State Tournament.

*Are there other safety requirements specifically for region and state competition?*

All participants and boat drivers must wear a coast guard approved life jacket the entire time they are on the water. Protective eye wear is mandated for all participants in the boat, including the driver. All boats must go through a safety check prior to the start of the tournament.

*Can a school enter multiple teams in the region competition?*

Yes. At this time, plans are to allow a school to enter a maximum of three boats in the region competition to ensure that all schools have a chance to participate. This limitation will be under constant review by the Bass Fishing Advisory Committee. One boat entry will consist of at least two students and no more than four students listed on that boat roster. Only two students will be allowed to be in a boat at any one time. The boat may go back to the dock and exchange one student for another anytime during the tournament fishing hours.

*What and who comprise a boat for the competition.*

The two competing students and a coach meeting the qualifications of Bylaw 27 and designated by the member school comprise the boat for the tournament. In special circumstances approved by the tournament manager, the boat owner may also be in the boat solely for the purpose of piloting the craft. The boat owner in this case would have the same restrictions as the coach with respect to any involvement with the competition.

## **COMPETITION RULES AND RESTRICTIONS FOR THE KHSAA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP**

*When is the 2013 KHSAA State Bass Fishing Competition?*

The 2013 KHSAA State Bass Fishing Competition will be held during the period of April 25 to April 28, 2013 hosted by Murray State University and held at the Land Between the Lakes.

*Who advances to State Competition?*

Qualification standards for the state tournament will be developed in the coming months and detailed on the KHSAA website.

*Withdrawal from the State Competition*

Any school that participates in the region competition and then withdraws from the state competition after having qualified, will be ineligible to enter the region competition for a period of not less than two years.