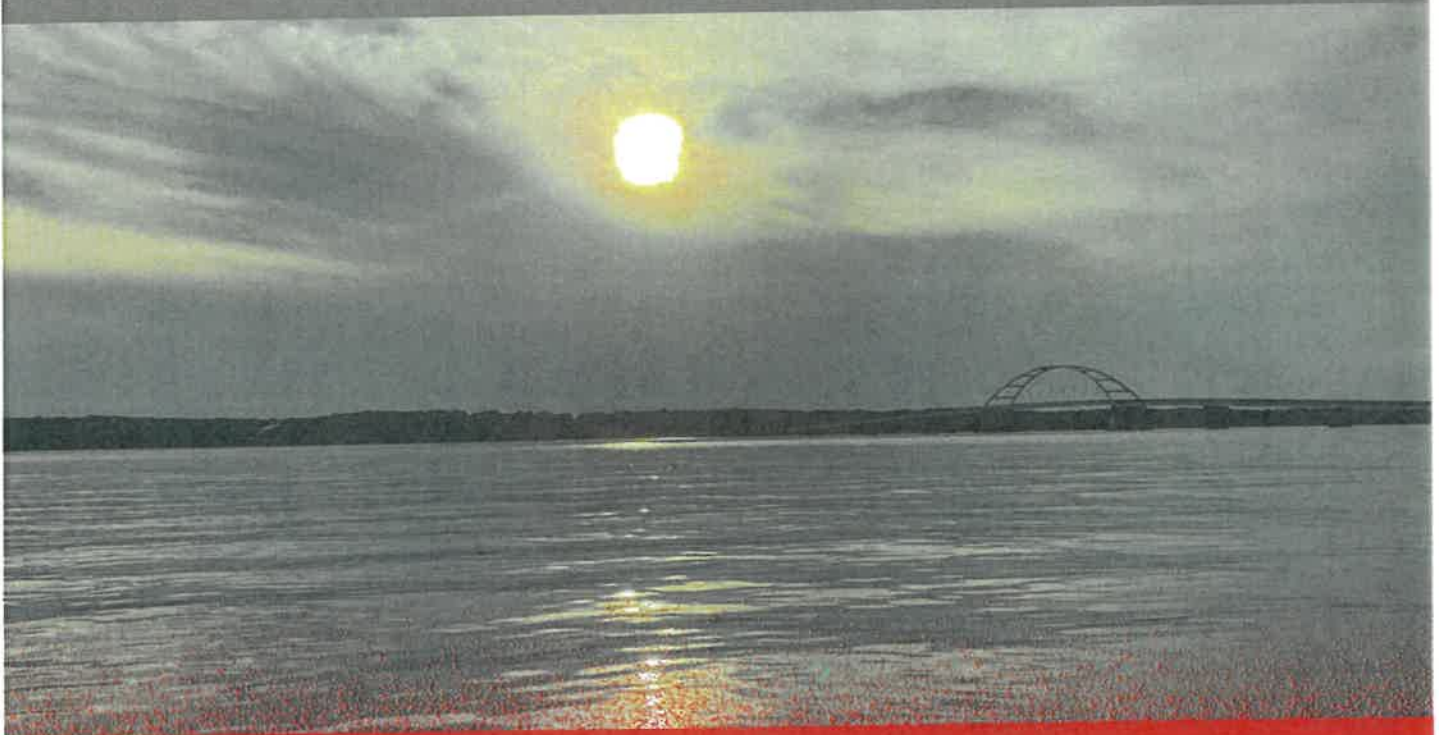


LET'S GO BASS FISHING TODD COUNTY..



PROPOSAL SUBMITTED TO :
THE TODD COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
THURSDAY, AUG 7th 2025



OVERVIEW:

While Title IX requires all schools to conduct bi-annual student interest surveys in regards to athletic based extra-curricular opportunities, the Todd County School District Athletics Department is always open to and looking for ways to provide additional athletic opportunities to our student body.

While in recent years we have added Cross Country and Esports to our fold, many other Kentucky schools have out paced us with additions like Lacrosse, Field Hockey, Pickle Ball, Men's Volleyball, Wrestling, Tennis, Bowling and yes...Bass Fishing.

Last year we looked into Bowling to help satisfy our Title IX opportunity requirement as there was interest expressed on the bi-annual survey. However further research on the issue found attempting to introduce Bowling was not feasible at the time. Still, the steps we took looking into Bowling did show that while our student body is small, there are still opportunities we should be looking to provide.

Enter Bass Fishing.

Late last year, with the success of other local school districts in the sport – Muhlenberg County won the State Championship – AND with growing interest here in our community, a few parents expressed to the administration that their students would be interested in participating in Bass Fishing as a school sponsored sport and inquired what would it take to field a team. **Short story – after conducting some research into the issue – the Todd County School District Athletics Department is proud to say we have the interest and support to launch a viable, co-ed Bass Fishing Team.**

DETAILS:

The steps for adding any high school team with the KHSAA are as follows –

1. Gauge Interest
2. Hold Interest Meeting to Confirm Numbers and Participation Level – including parent support
3. Gain School Board Approval / Sanctioning
4. Register with the KHSAA (Kentucky High School Athletic Association)

Today, we are ready for Step 3 thus the submission of this proposal for your consideration.

Bass Fishing is one of the most popular sports in America, with over 30 million participants recreationally and professionally and over \$ 60 BILLION dollars generated annually – it has been this way for decades. In fact, in 1992 the first Collegiate Bass Fishing Teams started competing. This is important for our student body as Bass Fishing as a school sport provides yet another opportunity not just to compete and excel at a high school sport but to also gain additional opportunities to attend college. Seeing this same benefit to Kentucky student athletes, the KHSAA sanctioned Bass Fishing during the 2012-2013 season. It is worth mentioning again that our neighbor to the north, Muhlenberg County has won the Bass Fishing State Championship 7 times – including the last 3 in a row.

When asked, multiple – in fact almost all – athletic directors whose local schools already field Bass Fishing Teams said the exact same thing – “ It is basically like fielding an Archery Team.” While efforts this season would be fledgling on the Bass Fishing Team front, it is safe to say the fact we already have one of the top

Archery programs in the state – including a top 10 All A team – shows the possibility of what we could achieve on the water.

When those same athletic directors were asked what the biggest challenge was – the answer was again the same – “boat captains”. I am pleased to report after an interest meeting we have 5 parents with boats and an additional 3 parents who would serve as boat captains. In total 11 families were represented at the meeting with 12 student athletes expressing interest in participating.

From a “can we field a team” perspective – the largest hurdles have been leapt.

LOGISTICS:

The official season for Bass Fishing in Kentucky is from Oct. 15th – early May. Most tournaments take place in late February through April. Teams are divided into regions just like other KHSAA sports, and while regional divisions change with the growth of the sport, the current division places us in Region 1 fishing mainly on Kentucky and Barkley Lakes, just over 1 hour to our west.

Student Anglers must join the Student Anglers Federation (SAF) and all coaches and boat captains, just like every other KHSAA sanctioned sport, must complete an annual training and safety regimen.

All of the same provisions for transporting student athletes – including self transport – and insuring student athletes are the same for Bass Fishing as with any other KHSAA sanctioned sport: given all safety requirements are followed respective to the sport of Bass Fishing and safe boat operation.

Most Bass Fishing teams, again like archery. are self funded as far as the day to day operation of entering and participating in tournaments and practices. The only real expense from a school district perspective – especially in the infant stages of a program is the coaching stipend.

In attempting to generate a fair number to pitch for a stipend, the amounts from each county which touches us AND the counties surrounding Kentucky and Barkley Lakes were examined. The average amount for a Head Bass Fishing Coach is \$ 2,551.00 – Muhlenberg pays their Head Coach \$ 2,250.00 with an additional \$ 500.00 for one assistant. Logan County pays one Head Coach \$ 3,000.00. Christian County pays one Head Coach \$ 3,500.00. Trigg and Calloway Counties both pay their Bass Fishing Head Coaches \$ 1,500.00. In general Bass Fishing Head Coaches are paid slightly more than Archery coaches across our local area. With out putting a limit on trying to get the highest stipend we can for our Bass Fishing Coaching Staff a \$2000.00 Head Coaching and \$ 750.00 Assistant Coaching stipend would be very fair AND match the outlay of the 3 time State Championship Program.

SUMMARY:

We, the Todd County School District Athletics Department are asking the Board to continue this districts commitment to providing extracurricular opportunities to our student body by fielding a High School Bass Fishing Team effective the 2025-26 school year. This commitment would be shown by approving a coaching position and stipend for one Head Coach and one Assistant – hopefully based on the included recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mike Smith

Todd County Schools District Athletic Director