

SPI West Michigan Middle School Bass Series 2021 Information and Rules-

Entry Fee is \$40/team. 100% of the money collected goes into buying prizes, each student will receive prizes at each event. The top 3 teams in the Middle School division will receive trophies. We will also crown a series champion (angler of the year) at the end of the series. There isn't any school points for middle school.

8th grade students must select if they fish in the HS or MS series. Whatever they decide they need to fish the entire series in the division.

Dates and Lakes:

- April 30 Gun Lake launch site- DRN Launch (3198 State Park Dr, Middleville, MI 49333)
- May 7- Croton Dam-Al duChemin Park (5439 Washington St, Newaygo, MI 49337)
- May 14- Spring Lake - Fruit port Boat Launch (143 S 3rd Ave #77, Fruitport, MI 49415)

- 1) You must pre-register by 6:00 pm the night prior to the tournament in order to fish in the tournament.
- 2) Tournaments will be a single file start based on positions drawn at registration. We will be starting each event when all teams registered are ready. Teams will be able to start registering and getting boats in the water at around 7:30 (after the High School Registration is done). You may arrive early, but please wait till the High School teams are out of the way before you register or launch. The tournament is done at 12:30pm which means all boats need to be at the launch area and not fishing by 12:30, any late boats will be penalized.
- 3) Teams will be made up of One adult supervisor and up to two Middle School Students. The adult on the boat is there to help the student's fish and teach them. The students will be the ones casting and reeling in the fish. The adult is able to help tie lures on, give advice, net fish, control trolling motor and help students get unsnagged. **The supervisor must drive the boat with combustible motor running.** We expect the supervisor to make sure all laws are followed (including slow, no wake zones), if a ticket is issued the boat will be disqualified. We want to set a good example. The adult may NOT fish during the tournament. The adult measures, weighs, and records the catch. We will allow a parent to be in the boat with his/her child, but they follow the same guidelines as the supervisor.
- 4) **At 10:30 we are encouraging each boat to stop for a few minutes.** This will be similar to half-time of a game and chance to talk about how the day has gone and help formulate a plan for the rest of the day. There will be a few optional questions/thoughts posted on our Facebook page.
- 5) At the bottom of each hour (:30) we will be posting the top 5 standings on the Sportspeople's Ministries Facebook Page.
- 6) Check-in instructions along with scales will be handed out morning of the tournament at registration.
- 7) This will be a catch and immediate release tournament. That means when you catch a bass, you immediately check to make sure it is legal size (At least 14" lying flat, mouth closed, tail pinched), then immediately put it on the digital scale. Take a picture of the fish on the scale (also record each fish's weight on the log given out), and then release them immediately. Do not lay them in the boat and **DO NOT PUT ANY BASS** in your live well. You will then text the the measurements to the number in the scale packet, please just send the measurements, not pictures (keep those on your phone).
- 8) The top five Bass legal size (Largemouth or Smallmouth) will be counted for each team, but record each legal fish caught. On the log, indicate if it is a large mouth or smallmouth (LM or SM).
- 9) Total weight determines the winning team. Awards will be given out to the top place only.
- 10) Participants in this tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship and courtesy.
- 11) All State and local regulations must be followed.
- 12) **All competitors must wear their life jackets when their combustible engine is running.**
- 13) Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco (smoking or chewing) will not be permitted or tolerated at this event and will result in automatic disqualification.

- 14) Only one rod and reel may be used at a time. **Artificial lures only** (except pork strips). **No trolling.**
- 15) No fishing will be allowed within 50 yards of an anchored competitor's boat. A boat is considered anchored if it is held in a stable position by a rope attached to an anchor or by a power pole, with the trolling motor in the up position. Please be courteous to boats around you on the lake.
- 16) We ask each student gets permission from their School Athletic Department to compete in our series. If you have other teams or a club that is fine, we don't need each team to get permission. If you need help with this or would like to start a Bass Club contact Ross at 616-990-1075.