

## SPM West Michigan Middle School & High School Recreational Bass Series 2025 Information and Rules-

Entry Fee is \$50/team. 100% of the money collected goes into buying prizes (shirts, lures, trophies...). Each participant will receive prizes at each event. If there are fees for launch sites those are covered in the registration cost. This year there are some really cool and unique prizes for the winners as well.

Highlighted areas are changes for 2025.

8<sup>th</sup> grade students must select if they fish in the HS, HS recreational or the MS series. Whatever they decide they need to fish the entire series in the division.

New for 2025 there is also a High School Recreational Division- This is for any High School teams that need help from the adult supervisor. They will fish in the afternoon with the Middle School division. This is different than the Middle School, but with similar rules. This is great for young or new anglers who are not ready to fully operate the trolling motor or need more help fishing.

School Standings- The way we calculate the standings by school is to take the top 2 teams from each school. At the end of the series the top School will get the trophy.

### Dates and Lakes: All tournaments start at 3:00pm and are done at 7:00

- April 26- Gun Lake launch site- DRN Launch (3198 State Park Dr, Middleville, MI 49333)
- May 3- Muskegon Lake- Fisherman's Landing (501 E Western Ave, Muskegon, MI 49442)
- May 10- Grand River- Harbor Island (Coho Dr, Grand Haven, MI 49417)

- 1) If any rules are broken you will get a DNF (0 weight) for that tournament (also disqualified for angler of year).
- 2) There is a board that will make all rulings (Ross director, Ron Scharphorn, Kyle Borst, Kevin Carr, Matt Colvin, Andy Burluson, Brent Leegwater).
- 3) If there are any rule changes or restrictions/areas off limits, those will be posted and announced on the Saturday prior to the tournament.
- 4) The week of the tournament NO Boat Captains can be fishing on the lake unless they have at least 1 student in the boat (doesn't have to be the same angler as fishing with them on Saturday). We want this series to be about teaching the youth. Pre-fishing with them is a great time for teaching.
- 5) You are not allowed to send location pins to other boats
- 6) A team is not allowed to submit the same fish more than one time during the tournament.
- 7) Pre-Register for all 3 tournaments by April 1 to get in the drawing to get one of the first 10 take off numbers. On April 3 we will draw 10 teams. Those teams will be guaranteed to be in the first 10 at take off for each of the tournaments. At each tournament they will draw for 1-10 for their take off.
- 8) You must pre-register by 6:00pm on the Thursday prior to the tournament in order to fish in the tournament.
- 9) Tournaments will be a single file start based on positions drawn at registration. First 10 numbers will be from the pre-registered teams, the remaining teams will start at 11. We will be starting each event at 3:00pm. This means you need to be in the water ready by then. The tournament is done at 7:00pm which means all boats need to be at the launch area and not fishing by 7:00, any late boats will be penalized (1 lb per minute).
- 10) Teams will be made up of One adult supervisor and up to two 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.

- 11) The students need to be from the same school/club. If not they will be allowed to compete, but not be eligible for the year end prizes (school or individual).
- 12) **At 4:30 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 (along with standings for top 10)
- 13) On the bottom of each hour (:30) we will be posting top 10 standings for each division on the Sportspersons Ministries Facebook Page.
- 14) Check-in instructions along with scales will be handed out morning of the tournament at registration.
- 15) 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. Then you will scan the QR code and enter the info into the form. Keep the pictures on your phone. Also fill out your teams Log sheet (this along with pictures will be used if any dispute)**
- 16) 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).
- 17) Total weight determines the winning team. Awards will be given out to the top 5 places. We also will give a trophy for the biggest bass caught by a team.
- 18) Participants in this tournament are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship and courtesy. This includes having grades at the same level required to play other sports.
- 19) All State and local regulations must be followed. This includes a fishing license for competitors 17 and older (official does not need a fishing license).
- 20) All competitors must wear their life jackets when their combustible engine is running.**
- 21) Alcohol, drugs, and tobacco (smoking or chewing) will not be permitted or tolerated at this event and will result in automatic disqualification.
- 22) Only one rod and reel may be used at a time. **Artificial lures only** (except pork strips). **No trolling.**
- 23) 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 in the tournament and just on the lake.
- 24) 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. We just want each school to be aware students are representing their School in our series. If you need help with this or would like to start a Bass Club contact Ross at 616-990-1075.

**At the end when all participants are ready we will have food, do a short devotional and end with awards. This year the Middle school & High School recreational division will be fishing in the afternoon. Please leave the area as soon as the High School is done, unless you are planning to help with Middle School.**