



2026
Eastern Iowa Youth Bassmasters
Team Handbook

EASTERN IOWA YOUTH BASSMASTERS

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2026 Team Leadership

Team Director

Katie Schmitz

Board Members

Kyle Nekvinda, Jake Gondek, Brent Schmitz, Adam Schmitt, and Amanda Schmitt

Cedar Rapids Bassmasters President and Advisor to Eastern Iowa Bassmasters

Dan Bliss

Iowa B.A.S.S. State Youth Directors

Aaron Robinson, Dave Wilson, and Katie Schmitz

Iowa B.A.S.S State Director

Mike Blaes

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2026 Fee Schedule

Team Membership

There are two membership options for Eastern Iowa Youth Bassmasters:

Option 1: \$75 + participation in the club fundraiser (typically a custom rod raffle) + North Linn Fish and Game Club spring and fall clean up. Participation in one or both of the clean up days is mandatory for option 1.

Option 2: \$150 with no fundraising or volunteer requirement

Membership choice is selected at the start of the season and members will be held accountable to their selection.

\$12.00 - Paid directly to BASS for Federation Membership

\$50-\$75 Boat Captain Fee

- \$50-\$75 Boat captain fee will be collected from each *non-boater*¹ **prior** to that month's tournament. **All river** tournaments will be **\$75**.
- The fee **must be paid** to the club director **prior** to the tournament in order to participate²
 - *If a captain declines the payment, the funds will be returned to the club account. This fee is a small token of appreciation and does not fully cover volunteer expenses.*

Team Jersey - Cost TBD based on sponsorship

A 2026 team jersey **must** be worn at all tournaments. Other team apparel (shorts, gaiter, etc.) is optional.

¹ *A non-boater is a guest angler on a boat. You are not required to pay the captain support fee if they are your direct connection/owner of that boat.*

² *Non-boater fee helps offset boat captains' fuel and travel costs. The exact amount (based on distance from Cedar Rapids) will be announced the month before.*



Team Expectations

Attendance

- Meeting attendance
 - What sets us apart is our strong focus on TEAM. Because of that, we expect you to attend every meeting you can. We understand you may not be able to make all of them, but attendance should be a priority. Our meetings are our team practices—and just like any competitive sport, practice attendance is required to participate.
- Tournament attendance
 - You're expected to attend every tournament you can. This isn't a club you join just to have a way to state—we value commitment and consistent participation. Please plan to compete in each tournament, when possible, through the end of the season. If we, as a board, feel as though you have used the team as a way to state, we will kindly ask you not to return the following season.
- Volunteer opportunity attendance
 - Attendance for the North Linn Fish and Game clean up dates is a club expectation. They are our largest sponsor, and we value their support. You must make this a priority, unless you have paid the higher membership fee to waive participation in this event.
 - Additional volunteer opportunities are optional, but strongly encouraged.
- Sponsorships
 - As a nonprofit, we operate entirely through sponsorships. We ask each angler to reach out to friends, family, or businesses for support. There's no set requirement, but your effort makes a difference. If you have a potential sponsor and would prefer the club director to make the contact, please let us know.



Character

As representatives of the Eastern Iowa Youth Bassmasters, you are expected to demonstrate excellent character and stewardship, both on and off the water. Tournament fishing requires mental toughness, a positive attitude, and respect for your captain and their equipment, especially during challenging conditions. Proper boat etiquette—keeping the vessel clean, assisting with maintenance, and showing gratitude—is mandatory. Reports of poor conduct will be addressed by the director to ensure behavioral improvement.

Key Expectations:

- **Conduct:** Act as ambassadors for the club, maintaining high character and conservation standards.
- **Attitude:** Maintain a positive, tenacious attitude, even when fishing is slow or conditions are uncomfortable.
- **Etiquette:** Keep the boat clean, respect equipment, and assist the captain.
- **Departure:** Do not leave a tournament without cleaning the boat and shaking your captain's hand.
- **Accountability:** Poor etiquette will result in a review by the director.

Communication & TeamSnap

- Prompt communication is essential for smooth operations. All anglers and parents must use TeamSnap for all team communications. If you have a smartphone, please ensure the app is installed and active.
- **RSVP Policy:** Please RSVP for all meetings, events, and tournaments via TeamSnap. For tournaments, RSVPs are required at least two weeks in advance (this is a minimum requirement for non-boaters). This ensures we can properly plan for food, drinks, and activities.

We understand that there are many other life events. We do our very best to communicate all up and coming events to plan well in advance.



Boats & Boat Requirements

High School

All high school members must provide their own boat captain for each tournament. Please speak with your club director for ideas on finding a captain if you need assistance.

If you are participating as a high school angler but do not have a captain arranged for the season, you will be the last on the priority list to be put in a boat by the director.

Juniors

Once you have been in the club for two years at the Junior level, you also will be asked to provide your own captain.

Boat Placement

A spot on a boat is **not guaranteed for non-boaters** at the junior or high school level. While the director will make every effort to assist you, it is ultimately the responsibility of the angler and their guardian to secure a captain.

Boaters Certification

If you are 18 or over operating as your own captain, and participating as an angler, you *must* complete an approved Boaters Safety Course and submit proof to the director.

Boat Requirements

- 16 foot or longer
- Steering wheel (No stick steering)
- Working fixed livewell with aerator/re-circulators. No "homemade" livewells are permitted
- Operable kill switch and lanyard

There are no exceptions to the boat requirements



Tournament Rules

We follow all **Bassmaster High School Rules**. The tournament director holds the final decision on discernment.

The following are general tournament rules that we have adopted as a club

- In regards to locking on the Mississippi River- Each boat must remain within the pool that is assigned for that tournament. There will be no locking allowed up or down a pool.
- Each angler must own and bring a culling system to each tournament.
- Use of the trolling motor by the boaters is up to the boat owners discretion. We understand the cost associated with this equipment. Please understand that as a high schooler, you must operate the trolling motor for the State Tournament.
- Weather calls will be made at the discernment of our director and/or board members.
- If we, as a board, feel as though you have used the team as a way to state without additional participation in the season, we will kindly ask you not to return the following season.
- We will never fish three from a boat
- Each angler is to bring their own poles, tackle, and whatever else they need for fishing that tournament. It is not up to your captain, and they should not provide you tackle or supplies
- We follow the **Iowa DNR regulations** for the use of life jackets.
 - If you are 13 and under, a life jacket must always be worn
 - Inflatable life jackets may only be worn by those 16 and over
 - All boaters must have on their life jacket whenever the large motor is running.
 - Board members on the water will enforce these rules. If anglers are seen not abiding by state laws they will be asked to comply, or get off of the water.
 - Please refer to the Iowa DNR for official rules.
- If you attend State with us, we expect you to stay through the weigh in, supporting the rest of your team. Plan accordingly.



General Required Tournament Equipment List

- Poles (2+ pre-rigged for the body of water and the time of year.)
- Tackle
- Culling system
- 2026 team jersey
 - This can be worn under layers for morning launch.
 - Jersey must be worn for photos at weigh in.
- Drinks and snacks
- Sunscreen/bug spray as needed

Award Opportunities

Each November, we award **Angler of the Year** and **Member of the Year** in both the Junior and High School divisions, along with a **Big Bass Award** for the largest bass of the season. In addition, we will award a **Rookie of the Year** for a stand out new member.

- **Angler of the Year** determined by highest bag weight.
- **Member of the Year** determined by a points system.
- **Rookie of the year** is chosen by the Director.
- **Big Bass Award** determined based on our regular-season tournaments only; the State Tournament is excluded. Any deductions for a deceased fish will also be taken into consideration. Final tournament results will determine the Big Bass of the season with deductions considered.

For a full explanation of the points system and award eligibility, please refer to the Points system section.



Points system

Angler of the Year

To earn **Angler of the Year** in your division, you must achieve the highest total bag weight by the end of the season. Bag weights will be recorded across our seven scheduled tournaments throughout the year. However, weights from fishing trails, state, and national tournaments will not be included in the final total. In the event of a tie, the angler with the highest Big Bass weight will be declared the winner.

Updated bag weights will be posted on our website the Sunday following each tournament. These totals will remain visible until the final two tournaments, at which point they will be removed to maintain the suspense until the end-of-year banquet.

Member of the Year

To earn **Member of the Year**, you must accumulate the **highest number of points** in your division. Maximizing your points requires active participation in monthly club meetings, volunteer events, and fishing tournaments. While tournament performance contributes to your score, the point system prioritizes overall involvement. This means you can achieve Member of the Year without being Angler of the Year. There are 3 ways to earn points in the club.

1. **Participating in fishing tournaments (max of 100)**
2. **Participating in monthly meetings (100)**
3. **Participating in club volunteer events (200)**
4. **Big Bass (20 first time)**

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1. Fishing tournament points system (100):

Fishing tournaments have a maximum of **100 points**.. Your ranking is determined by total bag weight, with first place earning **100 points**, second place receiving **99 points**, and so on. If you participate in a tournament but don't bring in any fish, you'll tie for last place and receive the same number of points as others in the same situation. Similarly, if multiple anglers have **identical bag weights**, they will tie for that placement and receive the **same number of points**. See the example below for clarification.

Example fishing tournament points:

- First place (4.5lbs) - 100 points
- Second place (3.5lbs, tied)- 99 point
- Second place (3.5lbs, tied) - 99 points
- 3rd place (3.2lbs) - 97 points*
- 4th place (3.0lbs) - 96 points
- No fish caught - 95 points
- No fish caught - 95 points

* The position for “**98 points**” is skipped because of the tie. If there were three 2nd place ties then the position for “98 and 97 points” would be skipped. 3rd place would receive 96 points.

2. Monthly meeting points system (100):

Attending a monthly club meeting is just as valuable as winning a tournament, as both are worth the same number of points. This system encourages anglers to participate in both **club meetings** and **tournaments**. In a tournament, only **one angler per division** will earn **100 points** for placing first. However, **everyone** who attends a club meeting will receive **100 points**, encouraging active participation in both aspects of the club.

3. Club volunteer event points system (200):

Community volunteer events are a vital part of our club. Without the support of sponsors and the community, we wouldn't have the funding needed to operate. To emphasize their importance, each volunteer event is worth **200 points**—making it the **best opportunity** to earn points throughout the year.

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4. Big Bass (20 first time):

The Big Bass award goes to the angler who catches the largest bass, regardless of division. **Your first Big Bass** win of the season earns you **20 points**. If you win again in the same season, it's worth **10 points**. For a third win and beyond, each additional Big Bass earns you **5 points**.

- First Big Bass - **20 Points**
- Second Big Bass win - **10 Points**
- 3rd or more Big Bass - **5 Points** each

2026 Tournament Schedule

Regular Season Tournaments

1. **April 18 (Saturday)** - Lake Sugema
2. **May 23 (Saturday)** - Lake Geode
3. **July 19 (Sunday)** - Mississippi River, Pool 9, Lansing
4. **August 16 (Sunday)** - Mississippi River, Pool 12, Dubuque
5. **September 19 (Saturday)** - Mississippi River, Pool 10, Harpers Ferry
6. **October 17 (Saturday)** - Coralville Lake

Junior State Tournament

- **May 16** - Junior State Tournament, Lake Macbride

High School State Tournament

- **June 13-14** - High School State Tournament, West Okoboji Lake

Thank you for being part of the Eastern Iowa Youth Bassmasters family.

We're excited for a season of growth, sportsmanship, and unforgettable moments on the water.

Let's make 2026 our best year yet!