

2024 – 2025 Youth Fishing Federation

Tournament Rules

These rules will remain unchanged during the 2024 – 2025 season and all local, state, and federal laws must be followed, including boating laws. Youth Fishing Federation, TBF/SAF and MLF expect strict adherence to the following rules by all contestants.

1. INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to the tournament director. Decisions of the tournament director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal. Each student angler, boat captain, and parents agree to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation. Failure to report violations may be cause for disqualification. The violation of a tournament rule may result in, but is not limited to, disqualification from the event, weight loss (in whole or in part, for part of a day or for one or more days, for a heaviest bag, single fish or largest fish, or any combination thereof) or ineligibility to participate in future tournaments. Protests and/or alleged rule violations are to be documented in writing by a witness or boat captain within 30 minutes of the check-in time of the final flight of each tournament day.

2. TOURNAMENTS

The 2024 – 2025 regular season trail will be made up of seven (7) one-day events conducted on Saturdays. Cancellation of tournaments or make up tournaments are at the discretion of the tournament director.

3. PARTICIPATION & ELIGIBILITY

High School division: Participation is open to all 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade high school students. Participation by one (1) seventh or eighth grade student per team is permitted. A grade point average of 2.0 is required and proof of GP, grade level, age and eligibility, to satisfaction of tournament officials is the responsibility of competitors.

Junior Division: The Junior division is for teams in 8th grade and below.

Each team will consist of two contestants and one boat captain. Pursuant to federal law guidelines under the Safe Sport Authorization Act of 2017, there MUST be three people to a boat at all times. No exceptions. No angler may register or plan to fish alone. In the case of a verifiable absence, where one partner is unable to attend, the tournament director may allow/approve an observer in the boat in place of a fishing partner. Each team member is allowed 1 absence per season, excluding state (state rules subject to state director). The observer may not fish.

Each team is made up of two participants - a team captain and teammate. If a team dissolves during the season the team captain may have a one-time/one tournament replacement of their teammate with prior approval from the tournament director. All team points and awards will go to the team captain. This replacement rule is for special exemptions such as but not limited to illness or confrontation. Teams switching, adding, or removing partners will be declared a new team and points earned will be awarded to the new declared team. A team may forfeit their entry into the National Championship. If a team forfeits their qualification the next team inline will be offered that entry. Contestants must be Student Angler Federation and Youth Fishing Federation members. Contestants registering onsite and subject to a late fee. Contestants under 18 must have the signature of a parent or legal guardian in the provided space on the entry form. Contestants must have in their possession a valid fishing license for the waters they fish if required by law and a current student identification card from the school they represent or other proof of grade level. Random checks will be conducted at each tournament. Failure to provide proof of a valid fishing license within a reasonable amount of time when requested will result in disqualification for that day and any preceding days in which the license was required for the tournament. Youth Fishing Federation reserves the right to review team names and reject any names that are deemed inappropriate for any reason. There is no limit to the number of teams accepted into a tournament from each school or club but there is a limit of teams accepted into a tournament if the lake or ramp has an imposed limit. Accepted teams will be confirmed and notified via e-mail prior to each tournament. Tournament officials reserve the right to reject any application to compete for any reason whatsoever.

4. PURCHASING OF INFORMATION

The purchasing of, or bartering for, information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters, including but not limited to GPS waypoints (other than through commercially available sources) and the hiring of fishing guide services is not permitted by contestants, parents, boat captains or anyone working on a team's behalf within 10 days of the start of any tournament. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification. A team may not pay a boat captain for their services. A team may reimburse a boat captain for travel expenses (fuel, food, lodging, etc.) related to the tournament. However, a team or anyone acting on a team's behalf, may NOT pay or "hire" a Boat Captain for their time or knowledge. Contestants, parents, boat captains or anyone acting on a team's behalf.

5. POINTS

Points will be awarded in the following manner: 1st – 100, 2nd – 99, 3rd – 98, etc. Teams that fail to weigh-in fish in any given event and turn in their key fob will receive 25 points less than the last place team that weighs in fish for participating in the event.

To be eligible for Team of the Year, teams must fish all trail tournaments, including state. Event points will be posted within 24 hours to the YFF Facebook page and either the team captain or teammate must notify the tournament director via email (YouthFishingFederation@yahoo.com) to report any inaccuracies within 24 hours.

When Team of the Year (TOY) points are posted to the YFF Facebook page, either the team captain or teammate must notify the tournament director via email (YouthFishingFederation@yahoo.com) to report any inaccuracies within 24 hours.

6. OFF-LIMITS, PRACTICE & COMPETITION

There is no practice period or off-limits period prior to regular season trail tournaments but no contestant, boat captain or parents of any contestant may be on the water later than 30 minutes before dusk the day prior to the date of the tournament.

Within 10 days of the tournament no contestant, boat captain or parents of any contestant may practice with, hire, barter for, or engage in services with, for the purposes of locating or catching bass on the tournament waters, any person who has been a bass guide for hire on the tournament waters within the last 12 months unless such person is the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of a contestant on a team in the event. Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of tournament officials may be required. Within 10 days of the tournament and extending through competition, contestants, parents, and boat captains may not solicit and/or receive information about locating or catching fish on tournament waters from anyone except contestants, parents and boat captains confirmed in the tournament and through publicly available sources. Unsolicited information received at MLF and/or TBF weigh-ins is considered a publicly available source. Quasi-public websites, blogs and/or social media pages, including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and Periscope, set up for the specific purpose of sharing information with individuals or a small group of individuals are not publicly available sources. Within 10 days of the tournament and extending through competition, contestants, parents, and boat captains may not follow a non-contestant's boat or participate in the placing of markers, brush or other physical fish attractors by non-contestants or the practice of "hole sitting" by anyone. During competition days, contestants, parents, and

boat captains may not place brush or other physical fish attractors, including chum of any kind, in tournament waters. Flights over tournament waters, including drones, for the express purpose of locating fish or fishing locations are not permitted on competition days. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

7. REGISTRATION & PRETOURNAMENT MEETING

Registrations must be completed online before the deadline of 11:59 pm on the Thursday night prior to each event and the fee for all tournaments is \$60.00 per team. If the tournament fee is paid by credit card a surcharge fee will be applied to the transaction by the credit card company. Late entries until 1 hour before official check in time of the event and late entries are subject to a late fee. If a team enters a tournament(s) but fails to fish for any reason, the team forfeits their entry fee for that tournament. Tournament buy-ins are not allowed. Unless prior approval is received from tournament officials, both contestants comprising a team and their boat captain must check-in at the designated check in site at the times listed in the tournament confirmation. Contestants and/or boat captains who fail to notify the tournament director and are more than 15 minutes late for registration check-in may not be entered in the tournament. It is mandatory that all contestants and their boat captains attend the pre-tournament meeting at the time and place set forth in the tournament confirmation unless prior approval is received from the tournament director. Contestants and/or boat captains not present for the pre-tournament meeting may not be entered in the tournament. Virtual pre-tournament meetings may be held in place of in-person meetings when such meetings are not possible.

8. BOAT ASSIGNMENTS

Takeoff order (boat number) is determined by tournament officials. Most events are random draw. Some events may be based on date and time of entry or by AOY points. On-site entries will receive the last available boat numbers in order of which they arrive. Each team must be accompanied on the water by a boat captain who will supply a boat but is not permitted to fish.

9. TOURNAMENT AWARDS

The number of places awarded will be a 1 per every 5-team entry. Trophies and plaques for 1st -3rd place along with Big Bass will be awarded at each tournament. (Places are determined by participation and may increase or decrease depending on the amount of contestants and entries). Prizes awarded must be claimed at the conclusion of the day's tournament or arrangements should be made for someone to pick up prizes on your behalf. Any prizes not claimed prior to the next scheduled tournament

for that division will be forfeited. Contact your tournament director if you need to make other plans.

10. SAFETY

Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant and boat captain on the water is required to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved chest-type personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is running from boat check until weigh-in each day of the tournament. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition-shutoff device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is running. All persons in a tournament boat shall remain seated in a manufacturer-recommended on-plane seating location with a driver behind the steering wheel or at the tiller in full control of the boat whenever it is on plane, or the combustion engine is running and in gear. Sitting on pedestal seats while the combustion engine is in operation and in gear is not permitted. Contestants are not permitted to drive the boat when the combustion engine is running. Safe boat conduct must be observed at all times by contestants and boat captains. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed, or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. Contestants and boat captains may leave their boat and seek shelter in severe weather or when danger is imminent. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

11. WEATHER/MOVING EVENTS

Tournament directors will monitor weather forecasts leading up to tournament dates in accordance with the Severe Weather Policy. The Severe Weather Policy can be found following the last listed rule. Any weather deemed extreme will be grounds for cancellation or postponement of an event. Decisions will be made by the rules board. The tournament director reserves the right to cancel and or override the rules board for an event for other reasons. Boat captains are still responsible for keeping the safety of the student anglers and themselves at the forefront.

12. TRAILERING EVENTS

If weather or other circumstances allow for a trailering event the following rules will apply. All contestants will pick up their key fob or team designation device at the time and location designated by the tournament director. You can only launch and load your boat one time during the event. All fishing times and check in times will be given before the tournament. All other rules apply.

13. SPORTSMANSHIP

All contestants, parents and boat captains are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that

will be a credit to themselves, TBF, SAF, MLF, tournaments sponsors, the school the team is representing, the sport of fishing, and our combined efforts to promote the sport. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Violation of, or failure to comply with, any of the rules for the 2024-2025 Youth Fishing Federation High School Fishing season.
- Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during registration, the pre-tournament meeting or during tournament hours extending through the weigh-in procedure.
- Abuse of, or addiction to, mind-altering substances.
- Conviction of a felony within the past 36 months.
- Boat operation in an unsafe or unsportsmanlike manner.
- Violation of a posted no-wake area.
- Publicly criticizing or questioning the integrity of Youth Fishing Federation/TBF/SAF or MLF or their officials, including but not limited to any rules, policies, and procedures.
- Dissemination of disparaging content or content that one should reasonably know would harm the reputation of an angler, Youth Fishing Federation/TBF/SAF or MLF and/or MLF companies, officials, and sponsors.
- Any other words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards of Youth Fishing Federation. In case of any conduct not complying with the standards outlined within this document, tournament officials have the right to refuse an application to compete, to deny a confirmed application to compete, to disqualify a contestant or impose any penalty outlined herein.

14. BOAT OPERATION

Boat captains will drive the boat for their team. To qualify as a boat captain, the person or persons accompanying a team must be at least 18 years old and reside in the same state as the students comprising the team or be an immediate family member (mother, father, brother, sister or grandparent) that is at least 18 years old regardless of residence or can be a member of any College Bass Fishing Team. Bass guides who operate or have operated for hire at any time during the previous 12 months from the tournament date on the designated tournament waters are not permitted as boat captains unless they are the parent or documented permanent legal guardian of one of the contestants on a team in the event. A guide is defined as anyone who is paid for their time and knowledge to

take someone fishing. Written proof of permanent legal guardianship to the satisfaction of the tournament director may be required. The use of a guide as defined above will result in disqualification. Contestants may operate the trolling motor. Boat captains may provide assistance, including information about locating and catching fish, but are not permitted to fish on competition days. Contestants and boat captains may not use mobile communication devices of any kind, including but not limited to, phones, tablets, radios, etc., to communicate with anyone about locating or catching fish on tournament waters during tournament hours. Mobile communication devices may be used during tournament hours to communicate with lock masters about locking, or to communicate with designated tournament officials. Contestants and boat captains may use smart phones and/or tablets during tournament hours for GPS, mapping, weather, power generation, barge traffic updates, tidal charts, personal fishing notes and related data. At no time during tournament hours may contestants or boat captains read or discuss social media posts from other contestants. If a special circumstance arises that inhibits a contestant's ability to complete, the tournament director may allow the contestant to withdraw from competition and maintain the weight caught to that point.

15. BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATION

All boats must be propeller-driven and a minimum of 16 feet in length. No barges or similarly cumbersome craft will be permitted. Pontoon and tritoon boats that meet all other requirements under this rule are permitted. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. Boats must contain a properly aerated live well space to maintain alive a limit catch of bass. Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition shall not exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the "Maximum Capacities" placard described below. Each boat must have a clearly legible "Maximum Capacities" (or comparably titled) placard that includes a maximum horsepower rating affixed to the boat by the manufacturer. The horsepower of the outboard engine must not exceed the maximum horsepower capacity specified on this placard. By signing the entry form, contestants and boat captains agree to submit their boat and/or motor to an inspection by tournament officials. Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating placard will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to compete in future High School Fishing tournaments. Fishing platforms must be factory-installed equipment or commercially available aftermarket equipment that is permanently installed in the boat. No portable platforms may be used in tournament competition. Fuel may be carried only in factory-installed (built-in) fuel tanks or auxiliary fuel

tanks that are securely strapped or otherwise fastened to the boat. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public and pumped through a hose with a nozzle. The use of generators, other than solar or wind-powered generators, is prohibited in contestant boats during tournament hours.

16. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

Fishing is defined as having a lure attached to a line and a rod and reel with the rod in hand. All bass must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. All lures must adhere to state regulations. Only artificial lures may be used, with the exception of pork trailers and biodegradable soft baits. Alabama rigs and similar umbrella-type rigs are limited to a maximum of five wires with a maximum of five spinners, five lures and three hooks (single or treble) unless state regulations are more restrictive, in which case state regulations prevail. Only ONE fishing rod may be used at a time. Trolling as a method of fishing is strictly prohibited. Trolling is defined as operating any combustion engine to extend a cast or lengthen a retrieve or using any mechanical propulsion device to move the boat as the sole means of imparting action to the lure. All bass caught while sight-fishing must be hooked inside the mouth and immediately shown to your boat captain for verification.

17. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS & BOUNDARIES

Teams may fish anywhere on tournament waters within the boundaries defined by the tournament director that are available to the public and accessible by boat except areas designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing" or "no fishing" (or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access) by tournament officials, commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials, or within 50 yards of a contestant's boat that was first anchored. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight or by a Power-Pole, Talon, or similar shallow water anchor with the trolling motor in the up position. All fishing must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. The cutting of trees, bushes and/or logs after the start of onsite registration and/or the removal of official commercial, local, state, or federal barricades at any time to make an area more accessible by boat or gain access for fishing is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification from the tournament. The use of cables, ropes, chains or any type of block and tackle system to maneuver a boat into fishing waters is strictly prohibited and will result in disqualification from the tournament. Teams must leave and return to

the check-in by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on a trailer before the team using the boat presents their catch for weigh-in, except with the permission of the tournament director. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, the tournament director must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. There are then three permitted methods of returning to the check-in: (1) by both contestants remaining in their boat and being towed by water, (2) with permission from the tournament director, by one contestant entering the boat of another team or (3) both contestants entering a rescue boat so designated by the tournament director. Under these three conditions the team's catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead-fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules) provided each team's fish are adequately marked or separated so as to provide clear distinction of each catch to the tournament director. Teams that elect to return to the check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Abandoning a boat and leaving it adrift without proper tie-off or anchoring after a mechanical failure may result in disqualification of that day's weight. Any team returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of teams to locate the tournament director to request a restart. Teams must remain together at all times and within sight of their boat captain until check-in. The momentary condition of being out of sight of each other for restroom breaks is permitted. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification.

18. CHECKPOINTS

There will be only one checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning or failure to check in at the check-in point will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Check points will be determined by the tournament director.

19. LATE PENALTY

Teams that are not at the designated afternoon checkpoint at the appointed time will be penalized 1 pound per minute, deducted from the total weight. Teams more than 15 minutes late will lose credit for that day's weight.

20. LIVE FISH

Every effort must be made to keep bass alive through the use of a properly aerated live well. Eight ounces will be deducted from the total weight for each dead bass presented for weigh-in.

21. SCORING

Scoring is determined by the pounds and ounces of each team's catch during each tournament. Only largemouth, spotted, redeye or smallmouth bass are accepted species. No regurgitated forage or other foreign matter may be placed in a bass. The daily limit will be five bass per team unless conditions dictate a reduced limit or the state or lake limit is less than five, in which case those limits will prevail. After possessing the daily limit, teams must cull immediately upon their next catch. Teams possessing more than the daily limit must notify the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the infraction and reduce their catch to the daily limit by releasing live bass. Teams possessing more than the daily limit will be penalized 2 pounds for each bass over the limit. The minimum length limit for bass will be 10 inches for Jr trail and 12 inches for High School trail unless the state or lake limit is more than 10 or 12 inches or tournament officials set a longer limit for a specific tournament, in which case, the state or lake limit or longer limit set by tournament officials for the tournament will prevail. Bass presented for weigh-in that fail to measure the prescribed length limit will be penalized at the rate of 1 pound for each short bass presented. Bass presented for weigh-in with weight clips attached will be penalized at the rate of 4 ounces for each clip. After competitors check in at the official checkpoint, they must present all fish in possession that meet the tournament size limit to tournament officials to be counted, measured, and weighed. Once a team's catch has been presented to tournament officials, that day's catch is final. No one may return to a boat to retrieve a bass mistakenly left behind. After being weighed, each team's catch must be turned over to tournament officials unless otherwise instructed. Each team's catch must be presented in an official weigh-in bag. The winning team is determined by the day's heaviest catch. The AOY as determined by points will be given a birth into the SAF National Championship. All teams can compete in the SAF State Championship. The State Championship will count as part of the Youth Fishing Federation AOY points. All participating SAF teams automatically qualify to compete in the High School Fishing World Finals that runs concurrently with the National Championship and has a separate prize pool.

22. TIES

Ties will be broken by 1) the total number of fish for the tournament, followed by 2) total number of live fish, followed by 3) heaviest fish weighed (big bass) during the one-day competition, followed by 4) coin flip.

23. LOGO DISPLAY & MEDIA COVERAGE

Contestants, parents, and boat captains may wear their own apparel. Tournament officials reserve the right, in

their sole discretion, to prohibit any contestant, parent or boat captain's apparel that is determined to be offensive.

24. ALCOHOL & TOBACCO

During all days of competition any and all alcohol and tobacco logos are prohibited and may not be worn or displayed. Contestants, parents, and boat captains may not smoke or use tobacco products during tournament hours, including weigh-in, at any event.

25. TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

Each contestant and boat captain agree to submit, by signature on the tournament entry form, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass an examination will result in disqualification from the tournament. Truth verification tests will be used at the sole discretion of tournament officials, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by tournament officials.

26. INSURANCE

Liability insurance with coverage in reasonable amounts is required on all boats used in Youth Fishing Federation tournaments. Proof of insurance must be with the boat being used and must cover all passengers in the boat. Random checks will be conducted. Failure to provide proof of insurance when requested by the tournament director may result in disqualification.

27. CAPTIONS

The captions at the beginning of each paragraph are intended to facilitate convenience in referring to the various rules. The captions are not part of the substance of the paragraph and should not be used in construction of any paragraph or of this overall set of rules.

28. OFFICIAL OBSERVERS

All Official Observers must comply with these rules:

1. Must be 18 years of age.
2. May not fish during the competition.
3. Cannot give any information of any kind, including fishing locations and GPS locations.
4. Cannot give any information of any kind, including what baits/lures to use.
5. Cannot assist in any way of netting any fish, removing hooks from fish, or culling of fish.
6. Official Observers are only there to observe only, nothing else.
7. Official Observers are subject to a polygraph examination.

29. BOAT CAPTAINS

Boat Captains are to always operate the boat engine during competition. Only Boat Captains are allowed to coach their team. At no time can a boat Captain have a fishing rod/pole or reel in their hands during competition. If an emergency arises during competition, and you must leave tournament waters, we ask that you contact the tournament director as soon as it is safe, and you are able to call. It is the Boat Captains responsibility to keep your team safe and adhere to all tournament rules.

30. RULES VIOLATIONS AND APPEALS

All rules and punishment are the determination of the tournament director. However, in some cases rules, tournament cancellations and delays can be delegated to a rules board. The rules board will consist of adult members of this tournament trail over the age of 21. These members will be appointed by the tournament director and last throughout the tournament season. All appeals must be in writing and sent via email to YouthFishingFederation@yahoo.com within 7 days for rules violations.

Youth Fishing Federation Outdoor Event

Severe Weather Safety Policy

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- Keeping the students, boat captains, all spectators and tournament staff safe from potentially dangerous/severe weather
- Establish a designated weather watcher. This is someone who actively watches for signs of threatening weather and informs the tournament participants
- Have a means to monitor local weather forecasts and/or severe weather warnings
- Establish guidelines for maximum sustained wind speed and maximum distance of lightning from tournament venue
- Use specific criteria for delays in start fishing times, early stop fishing times, suspension, and resumption of tournaments, cancellations and/or postponements
- Use of the recommended lightning safety strategies

The main goal of Youth Fishing Federation is to keep the students, boat captains, all spectators and tournament staff safe from potentially dangerous/severe weather. When teams are on the water, it is the duty of the boat captains to make sure all students and themselves adhere to all safety rules and regulations as listed in the Youth Fishing Federation rules. Boat Captains are required and responsible for making sure they have their phones properly charged so that they may receive weather updates and/or changes to the tournament from the Tournament Director via text or phone call.

WEATHER WATCHER

Every participant is designated as a weather watcher for each respective Youth Fishing Federation tournament. It will be your duty to be aware of approaching storms and to watch for signs of dangerous weather. In the event there is dangerous weather in the area, the tournament director or designee will attempt to inform the tournament participants of the potential danger of the incoming weather and may decide to delay the start of the tournament, suspend the tournament that is in progress, resume the suspended tournament, end the tournament early or to postpone the tournament all together.

MONITOR LOCAL WEATHER

Youth Fishing Federation suggests utilizing television radar reports, internet radar reports, and/or cellular phone weather apps (if cellular service is available). Weather apps may be used at any time during tournament hours.

MAXIMUM SUSTAINED WIND SPEED AND MAXIMUM DISTANCE OF LIGHTNING FROM VENUE

WIND SPEED The maximum sustained wind speed for any-and-all tournaments is 20 miles per hour. Any sustained wind speed over 20 miles per hour may be cause for a delayed start, early stop fishing times, suspension of an event already in progress, postponements and/or cancellations. Tournament Directors will be required to also take in to account the tournament venue and direction of wind. (For example, 20 MPH winds are very different on Grand Lake as compared to other lakes or river system in Oklahoma or Arkansas).

DISTANCE OF LIGHTNING FROM TOURNAMENT VENUE Lightning can travel up to 20 miles. A good rule of thumb to follow is to take cover when lightning strikes are 10 miles or less away. The minimum distance of lightning recorded by Youth Fishing Federation or Lightning Detector will be 8-20 miles, as indicated on the device. Any lightning detected within 8-20 miles or less of the tournament venue, with the storm detected to be moving towards tournament waters, may be cause for a delayed start, early stop fishing times, suspension of an event already in progress, postponements and/or cancellations.

In the event that a tournament is suspended mid-tournament by the Tournament Director and the weather conditions improve where they meet the minimum weather conditions outlined in this policy, the Tournament Director will have the final say on whether to resume the tournament by either keeping the original stop fishing time, adding a new stop fishing time or ending the tournament at the time the suspension was called.

DELAYS, EARLY STOP FISHING TIMES, SUSPENSIONS & RESUMPTIONS, CANCELLATIONS OR POSTPONEMENTS

DELAYS

On the morning of each tournament, the Tournament Director will be responsible for reviewing the weather for that tournament. In the event of severe weather detected/forecasted within 2 hours of the respective start fishing time, the tournament will have a required delay in the start of that event. The Tournament Director will continue to monitor the weather and will inform each team of the new start fishing time.

EARLY STOP FISHING TIMES

In the event that severe weather is detected in the area and forecasted for later in the day during tournament hours, the Tournament Director will send out a notice to all teams that the tournament will have an Early Stop Fishing Time. All teams will be notified of that time as well as what time teams will be required to check in.

SUSPENSIONS & RESUMPTIONS

In the event that severe weather is detected in the area by the Tournament Director during an event, but forecasted to move through the area quickly, the Tournament Director will notify all teams that the tournament will be suspended for a certain period of time. After reviewing the severe weather situation, the Tournament Director will then notify teams when the tournament will resume. The Tournament Director has the authority to add time to the end of the tournament to make up for lost time during the suspension timeframe. If the Tournament Director decides to add time to the tournament, all teams will be notified of the new stop fishing time and the new time to check-in at the weigh-in area.

CANCELLATIONS

Cancellations of any tournament due to unsafe weather conditions will be determined by the Tournament Director and or Youth Fishing Federation Rules Board. The Tournament Director may consult with the Rules Board in determining the cancellation of any event. The call to cancel any tournament will be made no earlier than the Friday preceding the tournament in question and cancellations can be made all the way up until first cast time if needed due to a last second severe weather system or high-water levels that was not previously in the forecast.

POSTPONEMENTS

All tournaments that are cancelled due to the threat of severe weather will be postponed to another date in the foreseeable future. Announcements of a make-up date will be announced as soon as possible after looking at several factors which include lake/marina availability. The Tournament Director and the Youth Fishing Federation will make every adjustment possible to the schedule as to not schedule the same day/lake as a major tournament trail scheduled on that same date/lake.

LIGHTNING SAFETY STRATEGIES

The preferred method of determining a lightning strike by the Tournament Director is by using all available technology that is available to them at the event. If for any reason no cell service is available and Lightning Detector are not available or not working properly, the Tournament Director may use the Flash-To-Bang method for detecting lightning in the area. To utilize the Flash-To-Bang method, the Tournament Director begins counting when a lightning flash is spotted. The counting is stopped when the associated clap of thunder is heard. The number of seconds elapsed between the flash of lightning and the bang of thunder is then divided by 5. This number then represents the distance, in miles, from the lightning hit. For example, when the Flash-To-Bang count reaches 30 seconds, the lightning has struck 6 miles away. Any Flash-To-Bang count

that is 30 seconds or less, the Tournament Director will attempt to notify teams of a Delayed Start, Suspension/Resumption, Cancellation and/or Postponement of that tournament. Ultimately it is up to you and your boat captain to keep your team safe.