

KIDS FIRST

2016 Schedule & Rules

March 12, 2016	Pickwick Landing, TN
April 2, 2016	Pickwick Landing, TN
April 23, 2016	Pickwick Landing, TN
May 14, 2016	JP Coleman, MS
June 25, 2016	Pickwick Landing, TN
July 16, 2016*	Pickwick Landing, TN

*With Banquet at Top O' The River immediately afterward.
Club member families are welcome to join us.

June 18, 2016 - Kids First will serve as the Weigh Masters for the Catch A Dream benefit tournament, club members are invited come out to Pickwick Landing to see Joe Thomas (from Stihl's Reel In the Outdoors & Ultimate Match Fishing) and volunteer to help with the weigh in.

New For 2016

NO Entry Fee
High School Fishing Club Added
Up to (2) youth fishermen and (1) adult per team

Parents can watch their children play sports, they can even coach their kids in sports, but **Kids First offers an opportunity to watch, coach, and PARTICIPATE in a sport with your son or daughter.** Although we do compete for trophies and prizes it should not be the main focus of the day, focusing on the kids should be. Take the extra few minutes to show them "how to" – tie knots, present the lure, proper retrieve, etc. Even if your team doesn't place in the tournament, the day is always a "win" as you took advantage of spending quality time outdoors with your child making memories that will last you both a lifetime.

2016 Tournament Rules REV. 2/22/16

Participants & Eligibility

Tournament competitors will fish in "pick our partner" teams. A boat will consist of only one team. A team will consist of (1) adult and (1) or (2) youth. Non-competing spectators are not permitted in the boat unless a special circumstance is approved by the tournament director.

Holding to the spirit of what Kids First stands for, putting the kids first and allowing an opportunity for kids to compete in a friendly environment we discourage the "stacking" of teams with the sole intent on winning each tournament. The intent of allowing two youth competitors to fish with one adult is to provide an opportunity for parents with several children a chance to bring them both, and to allow for teams to bring other youth that otherwise wouldn't get a chance to fish in a tournament setting. The tournament director reserves the right to disallow three member teams deemed to have been formed outside the intent of this purpose.

All youth participants must be Kids First Club Members.

Adults are persons over the age of 18.

Youth are persons that are 18 or younger. Youth competitors that are 18 prior to the start of the first tournament of the year must be enrolled in High School to be eligible. While there is no "minimum" age requirement we request that the youth be able to actively fish for the majority of the tournament day.

Using "for hire" adult team members shall not be permitted.

All teams must complete the entry form and liability release prior to being allowed to compete. Minor's liability releases must be signed by a parent, legal guardian, or present legal documentation authorizing the minor's participation and accompanying adult legal authority to sign the liability release.

Membership

Youth team members are required to join the FLW/TBF. Youth 14 years old and younger will be enrolled in the TBF Youth club. Youth 15 to 18 years old will be enrolled in the TBF SAF (Student Angler Federation) High School Club. The FLW/ TBF and Kids First dues are \$30 for the year. All dues are payable to Kids First and should be paid to Kids First at the ramp when registering for the youths first tournament.

Entry Fees/Pay Out

Entry for teams is FREE! There is an optional side pot for those that are interested. The side pot payout is determined by the number of teams entered and is only payable to those teams paying into the side pot. Winners will be responsible for all taxes on winnings.

Optional \$20 Per Boat Side Pot Entry Fee

Any ramp/launch fees that might apply are to be paid by the individual teams.

Angler Of The Year

Team AOY

Points will be awarded to the team based on each tournament finish. The points accumulated throughout the year will be tallied and the lowest finish or a missed tournament discarded. The team earning the most points throughout the year will be the Team AOY. Teams will receive points for each tournament finish as follows: 1st – 100 points, 2nd – 99 points, 3rd – 98 points, 4th – 97 points, and continue decreasing by 1 point for each place.

The team AOY points will follow the youth competitor(s) regardless of the adult partner used for each tournament. When two youth are fishing together they are considered a team and AOY team points will be awarded and follow that team just like a single youth. In the event both youth fish with different adults one youth member needs to be designated as the official "team" and their points will count toward the original teams standings. The other youth and their adult partner for that tournament(s) will count toward a new and separate team standing.

Youth AOY

The Youth AOY will be presented in each of three age groups. **Youth anglers may present (1) fish at each tournament that they caught and landed without assistance from their adult partner.** Adults may net the fish. The Youth AOY fish must be clearly marked with a identifying cull tag or brought to the scales in a separate bag. The Youth AOY fish must be legal but does **NOT** have to be part of the team (5) fish limit. This means that teams with one youth member could end up bringing (6) fish and teams with two youth members could end up bringing (7) fish to the scale, but only the best (5) count for the team weight regardless of which member caught them.

The total weight of each youth fish will be tallied at the end of the year and the lowest single tournament weight will be discarded. If a youth fishes but does not land a legal fish one half pound will be counted for that tournaments AOY weight. The youth angler with the highest combined total weight will be the AOY for their age group.

Youth AOY Age Groups are: 10 and under, 11 to 14, & 15 to 18. The youth's age group for the year will be determined by the age at the time of his/her first tournament even a birthday occurs during the season.

Awards

WWJD Sportsmanship award – Presented by Bass University.

WWJD Citizenship award – ½ day guided trip on Pickwick with Roger Stegal Guide Service.

The WWJD yearly awards will be picked from competitor submissions and tournament director nominations. Please see the Kids First website for more information and how to submit a nomination.

Tournament Hours

Tournaments typically will begin at "Safe Light" and the weigh in will be at 2:00 p.m. Tournament start may be delayed by the tournament director due to weather or safety concerns – Fog, rain, wind, temperature, etc.

Tournament weigh in time may be changed during the tournament day due to impending inclement weather, a delayed start, or other reasons. Known changes to the weigh in time will be announced at the blast off.

Teams arriving after the blast off will not be allowed to fish unless prior arrangements have been made with the tournament director. Late entries will be announced to the field prior to blast off.

Tournament Hours Continued

Teams departing before the official weigh in will not be allowed to weigh their fish unless prior arrangements have been made with the tournament director. Teams must weigh their fish in person.

If your team leaves the tournament early or does not check in at the weigh in PLEASE contact Keith Hughes or Heath Bookout and let them know you will not be at the weigh in so we know you are safe and off the water.

Launch Sequence

Teams will be released by boat number one at a time. Boat numbers will be assigned to teams in order of their tournament sign in.

Teams should maintain a “no wake” speed until exiting the protected area. Teams shall stay in the blast off order while in the “no wake” zone.

Sportsmanship

Each team is expected to follow a high standard of sportsmanship throughout the tournament day. If you are not sure something is moral or legal the quick answer is don't do it. The kids are what this event is about lets show them the right way to conduct themselves.

The use of profanity by competitors and spectators should be avoided. Competitors and spectators are also expected to conduct themselves in a positive and respectful way. Every effort should be made to provide a positive example for all the kids fishing on both land and water.

Qualifying Fish

Teams will weigh (5) fish, each Youth may weigh (1) additional AOY fish. These fish will be Kentucky, Spotted, Largemouth, or Smallmouth bass or any combination thereof.

All qualifying fish must be at least 15”

Tie Breaker

In the case of a weight tie the team with the most qualifying fish will be declared the winner. If teams have the same number of fish the winner will be determined by the largest single fish weight.

AOY Team – In the case of two teams earning equal points, the team with the most first place finishes will be the winner, if that results in a tie the team with the most second place finishes will be declared the winner.

AOY Youth – In the case of a total weight tie, the youth with the largest single fish for the year will be declared the winner.

Protests

Protests must be made in writing within 5 minutes of the closing of the weigh in. **BOTH** parties in the dispute must be present at the time the protest is filed. The tournament directors ruling will be final in all matters.

Safety

If any member of a team observes a unsafe condition they will cease fishing, remove themselves from the competition, move from the area of danger, and contact the tournament director immediately.

Absolutely no illegal drugs or alcohol are to be used by competitors during tournament hours. Alcohol will not be allowed in the weigh in area by competitors or spectators.

All federal and state rules and regulations apply.

Running lights must be turned on until visibility is unimpaired and safe boating conditions are present.

Boat liability insurance of \$100,000 is required. Proof of insurance is required, random spot checks may be performed. If asked and are unable to provide proof of insurance you will not be allowed to compete.

Tackle and Equipment

Fish are to be caught in a sporting manner. Snatching or snagging fish is not permitted.

No live bait is allowed.

(1) Fishing rod and (1) line per angler in the water at any time.

Regulations and length limits apply from the state's water that you are in. Keep in mind the tournament length limits might differ.

Competitors are to remain in the boat at all times with the exception of restroom breaks. In the event a land restroom break is needed fishing should cease and all fishing equipment shall remain in the boat.

All fish must caught and landed from the boat.

No Trolling will be allowed.

Penalties

Teams not in at the weigh in area by the 2:00 p.m. deadline will be penalized 1 pound per minute late up to 15 minutes. If a team arrives at the weigh in area more than 15 minutes late they will be disqualified from the tournament.

Fish will be measured with a closed mouth and pinched tail. Short fish will not be weighed.

Every effort should be made to keep all fish alive. (1) Dead fish will be allowed to be counted toward the total weight without penalty. A (1) pound penalty for each dead fish after the first will be assessed.

Culling of dead fish is not permitted.

If a fish appears to be disfigured or altered its acceptance will be at the discretion of the tournament director.

Boat and Motors

All boats must have a working emergency kill switch, and it must be attached to the driver at all times while the combustion engine is on.

All persons in a boat must wear a securely fastened US Coast Guard approved lifejacket any time the combustion engine is on and the boat is above idle speed.

All youth 12 years of age and younger must wear a securely fastened US Coast Guard approved life jacket at all times while in the boat, unless anchored.

No competitors are to be standing or seated on a pedestal seat while the combustion engine is running. When the combustion engine is running all occupants should be seated in a “on plane” position.

Boats should contain all the US Coast Guard required safety equipment.

Boats must have a working aerated live well.

Boats must have working running lights.

Rules Interpretation

Interpretation of the tournament rules will be by the tournament director. All decisions of the tournament director are final.

The tournament director has the ability to penalize or disqualify teams for safety, ethical, and legal violations not covered in these printed rules.

TBF & Kids First Membership Information

The TBF yearly dues are \$25 for 2016. Kids First club dues are \$5 this helps offset the cost of prizes and trophies. The total yearly youth membership fee is \$30. Dues should be paid to Kids First at the youths first tournament, Kids First will forward payment to the TBF. All Kids First members ages 11-14 are eligible to fish in the Tennessee State TBF Youth Tournament. All Kids First members ages 15-18 are eligible to fish in the State SAF and World SAF tournaments. DO NOT send membership dues or application directly to the TBF, those must be submitted by Kids First in order to get them on our roster and be eligible to fish our events.

The \$25 TBF Youth or SAF membership fee does not apply to current youth TBF members from other youth clubs, however, the \$5 Kids First membership dues do apply. **Proof of TBF youth membership must be presented at the tournament sign in.**

Kids First Tournament Contacts:

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