



Georgia Bass Federation Youth Division

STARTING A YOUTH CLUB

The Georgia Bass Federation (GBCF) is the largest bass fishing organization in the state of Georgia. Within the GBCF there are dozens of adult clubs who all participate in the GBCF programs. The GBCF Youth Division Program enables young people between the ages of 11 to 15 to compete in the sport of bass fishing and provides an avenue and opportunity for these youth to move on and compete at a national level in the TBF/FLW World Championship events.

Starting a club in the GBCF is easier now than it has ever been in the past. Requirements are as follows:

- 1) Any youth club within the GBCF must have and maintain no fewer than six (6) members at all times.

(A youth club must have at least six (6) young people on its roster at the time the club forms and at all times in order to maintain its active status as a youth club in the GBCF)

- 2) All members of any youth club within the GBCF must be youth members of TBF/FLW.

This is made extremely easy by the GBCF. The parent club has to get a list of youth anglers together and send that information to Bruce Pilgrim, Youth Director and to Dennis Smith (GBCF Secretary dvsmith@blanchardandcalhoun.com). Dues of \$25 are required for each youth angler to become a member of TBF/FLW. Additional information required would be the name of the club, youth names, addresses, phone numbers and birthdates for every youth club member. At least one adult contact name, address and phone number is required. This adult will act as the youth club's primary contact for the GBCF.

- 3) Each club must fish at least one tournament on a reservoir lake in a bass boat.

- 4) Every youth club in the state must elect at two officers (president and secretary) for the club from within its youth ranks. The GBCF must be informed which of the club's members have filled those positions. These two youth will act as additional contacts in the event that the GBCF is having trouble making contact with the youth club's adult club representative.

Finally, any youth club needs to understand the following. The GBCF does reserve the right to reject any club applying for membership based on a failure to comply with any rules or guidelines set by the GBCF. All youth clubs in the state will be invited to participate in the GBCF Youth Championship Tournament at the end of March each year. It is through this tournament that a youth angler can gain the opportunity to advance to the TBF/FLW Junior World Championship events.

Because the TBF/FLW runs national events based on two age groups, any youth club in the GBCF will have to operate under these guidelines as well. The age category is 11 to 15 with the age cutoff date as of August 31st each year. This does not mean that a club can't have younger members; however, it does mean that younger members are not eligible for the GBCF Youth Championship events.

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