

# Fishing Team Startup Manual

## 2020

# MINNESOTA HIGH SCHOOL Fishing Team Startup Manual

There has been an explosive growth in the High School Angling in Minnesota. We are continually being asked questions about how to start a team. We felt that if we put a guide together, maybe we could answer many of the basic questions that new coaches and parents have. We are excited for you and want your team to get off the ground in the right direction. This is meant to be a generalized informational guide for new teams. Many decisions will need to be made by the founders of the team. Please utilize the information contained in this manual to help you make some of those decisions. Some answers found in the manual may not be directly related to your team or situation. There will always be variables and different ways to accomplish the same goal. If you find a better way or have an idea to share please let us know and we can add it to our guide. Once established we encourage your team to try new things and share. The success of all teams is what we strive for. We are always available and willing to help if you have any questions.



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## ➤ Why High School Angling?

- **DNR**
  - R3 Initiative (Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation)
- **Opportunities**
  - Support from DNR, Fishing Industry, Colleges, Communities
  - Youth are being groomed as fisherman, provided opportunities to help at shows and tournaments, are learning about careers in fishing industry.
- **Competitive Sport**
  - Tournaments
  - Comradery
  - Competition
- **Education**
  - Resources
  - Fishing
  - Safety

## ➤ Starting A Team

- To start a team all you need is someone to get it started! Take the ball and run.
  - Minimum: A coach/leader and a team of 2 High School anglers.

We encourage to build up a board of directors and advertise your intentions of starting up an angling team. Facebook community page or school page is a great place to start and gather info on how many may be interested. You are going to be surprised how many students will want to join and how people in the community react and help. We are seeing substantial growth in teams once established. It should be the intention of your team to help the parents, students, guides and boat captains to become better fisherman.



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## ➤ **When should you start the team and why?**

- Different teams start at different times of the year.
- The sooner, the better!
  - Tournament schedules are typically posted by January. The earlier you can get your schedule set, the better off you are.
    - This makes it easier to recruit for boat captains.
    - Easier to plan in advance
  - Jerseys take about 6 weeks once you have all of your sponsors figured out and jersey selection made. You want these prior to June 1<sup>st</sup> if possible.
- Example Time Line
  - January – Informational Meetings
  - Registrations Due March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Sponsors Due by March 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Order Jerseys 1<sup>st</sup> Week in March
  - Meetings Start in April/May for team
  - Fishing Starts May / June
  - Tournaments/Local Fishing June- Aug/September
  - Fall Meetings /Wrap Up / Banquet / Look ahead to next season

## ➤ **Season Length**

- Tournaments run May – September in Minnesota
- Teams can run year round with minimal work
  - *Off Season Fishing/Competitions*
  - *Winter Fish Competitions*
  - *Monthly Meetings*
    - Guest speakers are easier to request during the off-season!



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## ➤ **Age Group For Team Members?**

- High School Tournaments require students to be in/or going into 9<sup>th</sup> grade to participate.
  - Starting in 2018 a student in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade can compete in the Student Angler Tournament Trail if they partner with an older student in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- It is permissible to fish Seniors in September for Tournament of Champions tournaments. They will not be able to fish in National Tournaments after they have graduated.
- Some teams have a Jr. bracket or division that starts as young as 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- There are Jr. tournaments available to participate in through organizations in Minnesota.

## ➤ **Affiliated with High School?**

- Fishing Teams are typically “Club” style sporting teams in a community. Similar to associations run for other community sports or extracurricular activities. They are self-funded and run separate from a direct affiliation with the local schools.
- If your team is going to be called a School Team. (i.e. Becker High School Bass Team) We recommend contacting the school to discuss with them the start of the team and permissions for name and logo use. They really should know that you are starting the team in the community. You may be surprised how much support you get from them. Teachers are great advocates of programs like this and can be an asset.
- If you are going to use the name / school logo / mascot you should be talking to the Athletic Director and making sure you have permission to use it.
- Many teams have run into difficulties when going straight to the High School and requesting to start a team. High Schools do not want to take on additional sports teams. Approach them with a Club Sport/Association start up in mind. They can help point you in the right direction.
- Some teams have worked directly with their local High Schools and have created a way for the students to letter in fishing based on grades and participation. For more detailed information contact Jason Bahr with the Brainerd Team. They have accomplished this.
- Community Education can be an asset!
  - Typically they are directly associated with the schools and community.
  - Possibly control local facilities giving you access to meeting spaces.
  - Provides a communication avenue for your team through community education publications and school announcements.
  - Can possibly handle sign up and registration for your team.
- Teams have typically been a one school based team. But, this is not a requirement. There are some area based teams that exists. It just gets a little more tricky when using logos/facilities/etc
- Teams can also operate 100% separate from any school. There are some teams who do not engage with the school and are an area team



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## ➤ Registration Fees / Team Funding

- Funding your team can be handled in a variety of ways.
  - Fees (Registration)
  - Fundraising
  - Volunteer Money/Funding
    - Similar to other club sports. Charge a “Volunteer Fee” to team participants. Require parents to volunteer to earn money back. If they do not volunteer the fee is retained by the team
  - Sponsorships/Partnerships
    - Local sponsorship from the community is the best way to fund your team.
- \$50 - \$125/student for participation fees are typical dues. This would possibly cover:
  - Custom Fishing Jersey (\$60-\$75/each)
  - Membership to TBF/SAF (\$25/team member – See TBF below)
  - Cap (\$15-\$20)
  - Tournament Registrations

## ➤ TBF Membership

- [www.highschoolfishing.org](http://www.highschoolfishing.org)
- \$25/Student
  - Entry into ANY TBF or FLW National Events.
    - High School Open Tournaments
    - High School State Championship
    - High School Fishing National Championship / World Finals
      - \$170k in scholarships 2019
  - Insurance
    - \$1million general liability per occurrence for ALL official club functions – no limit.
    - \$10,000 Accidental Death and Specific Loss event coverage for all members
    - \$1million per occurrence of coverage for allegation of sexual abuse or molestation
    - \$25k Crisis Response coverage and Excess medical coverage.



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## ➤ Team Costs

- This is going to be entirely dependent on your funding status. The more sponsors and fundraiser your club has, the more money you have to support your team.

These are examples of what else to consider for your team.

- Administrative Fees
  - *Website – Web Address*
  - *Checking Account*
  - *Printing / Office Supplies*
- Hats for your team
- Trophies/Prizes
- Jerseys for Coaches/Boat Captains
- Gas Cards for Coaches/Boat Captains
- Sponsor Thank You – Plaques / Gifts
- End of year team banquet

## ➤ Board of Directors

- Create a board of directors for your team.
  - Minimum President/Secretary/Treasurer
  - Larger boards with assignments to specific tasks is nice if you have the volunteers available. Ie Sponsor, Tournaments, Coaching.
- For financial tracking and accountability
  - Fund approval vote from board of directors for expenses over \$100.
- Keep meeting minutes and hold Annual/Semiannual/Quarterly official meetings to keep track of team, plan, and finances.



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- **What is the legal formation of our team? Non-Profit Status?**
  - Teams handle this in many different ways. When you try to open a checking account the bank wants to know the business name, type, EIN number, if it is a non-profit or sole proprietorship. What????? I just want a checking acct!
  - Check with your community education department or school and see if there is a non-profit that oversees the club sports. Some communities have a non-profit that is all encompassing and provides an umbrella for all of their non-profit club type sports.
  - Some community education departments will hold your money for you. They all operate a little different. Some will set up your account and take online registrations too. If you are looking to get sponsors, make sure to discuss with Community Ed can how to do this. Who to write checks to and how they would handle that money. Also discuss how to get money out of your account. Typically you have “draws” that you make and you may have to show receipts or need to request specific written checks/funding.
  - Utilize other non-profits in the community.
    - Possible Sportsman’s Club, Snowmobile Club, Legion
    - Some teams work with Non-Profits like “Fishing for Life”
  - Start your own Non-Profit.
    - This may work and be better for larger teams.
    - Many teams have had to do go this route.
  
- **How should we get the word out?**
  - Social Media Accounts
    - Facebook
      - *Cheap, Easy, User Friendly*
      - *Schedule Events*
      - *Kids don’t use facebook*
    - Instagram
      - *Have the team members manage*
  - Local Newspaper
  - School / Community Ed.
  - Create website



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## ➤ Risk – Due Diligence – Background Checks

- As an organized team you have the potential for a lawsuit to be filed against you. Due your due diligence and consider doing the following:
  - Require background checks for all boat captains and coaches.
    - *Local police, community ed, school can help direct you to who would do this for you and the proper form needed.*
    - *May be minimal fee per person*
  - Require insurance records from boat captains and coaches.
    - *\$300,000 boat insurance liability coverage per occurrence.*
  - Require team members, boat captains, and coaches to have MN DNR Boaters Safety Certificate
  - Life Jacket Requirements for team members when fishing.
    - *16yr olds can wear inflatable PFD's. Does not encumber fishing.*
  - When you join TBF (\$25/Student) you are automatically enrolled in a liability coverage policy of \$1million dollars. All students should be registered. This is part of the registration fee.
  - Rule of 3. Always have a coach/captain with 2 other people.
- Safe Sports Act
  - SAFE SPORTS ACT FEDERAL LAW FEB 2018
  - Rule of 3. 3 together at all times.
  - The Safe Sport Act requires sports organizations to establish reasonable procedures to limit one-on-one interactions between an adult and an amateur athlete who is a minor, without being in an observable and interruptible distance from another adult.

(Sec. 202) The bill designates the United States Center for Safe Sport to serve as the independent national safe sport organization. The center has jurisdiction over the U.S. Olympic Committee, NGBs, and Paralympic sports organizations with respect to safeguarding amateur athletes from abuse. It must develop training, practices, policies, and procedures to prevent abuse. NGBs must implement the policies and procedures to prevent abuse.(Sec. 204) An amateur sports organization that is not subject to the center's policies and procedures to prevent abuse must comply with certain general requirements, including to report suspected child abuse and to limit one-on-one contact between an amateur athlete who is a minor and an adult. What about local clubs that don't compete against international or out-of-state teams, does the Safe Sport Authorization Act still apply to them? Quote from Josh Opiola, a noted expert in the field of Safe Sport Act“ It does. Because you have adults working with youth. And even though you do not have an affiliation with a national governing body or do not have any international or interstate travel, the requirement still does say that you need to follow the Safe Sport act requirements, which include abuse awareness training and, the biggest change, the mandatory reporting aspect of it”



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- **Safety – MN DNR Boater Safety Certificate**
  - Highly recommend that all students, coaches, boat captains have this.
  - Importance of life jackets
- **Support – Partnerships**
  - Many manufacturers have stepped up and will support your team with discounts.
  - Contact manufacturers and ask if they have a program
  - Encourage and Emphasize with the team that these are an extreme privilege to have and nobody should be taking advantage of these discounts.
    - They do check and verify that people are members of the team.
  - May need a roster for the manufacturer
    - Sometimes a roster on your website will suffice
- **Tournaments**
  - 3 Minnesota High School Trails in MN in 2020
    - SATT / BASS / HS Elite Tour
      - Decide which one best suits your team if you want to go to tournaments.
      - Check out their websites and see who will extend a helping hand.
  - Create your own local league night tournaments.
    - Some teams compete weekly or every other week on local bodies of water.
      - This gets kids out fishing and start of the competitive fishing
  - When Planning on Participating in tournaments:
    - Who gets to go?
    - Who pays / pays for what?
    - Hotel Rooms and other costs.
- **What to teach/Coach**
  - Safety
  - Invasive Species
  - Professionalism
  - Fishing
    - Multiple Species
    - Detailed information on how to catch fish
    - Get kids on the water.
      - With Youtube the kids are very familiar with tackle, rods, reels, boats and techniques. But they do not know how to apply it. Getting them on the water and in situations where they are catching fish is unparalleled to classroom or videos.



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- **Recruitment Coaches/Boat Captains**
  - Retirees make great coaches and boat captains
  - Coaches
    - Part of your team
  - Boat Captains
    - Required for tournaments
- **Insurance Boat**
  - Typically \$300k minimum
- **Sponsors**
  - Tiered sponsors works well
  - Start off small – apx 30 spots on jersey. Can have more.
- **Jerseys**
  - MoveU – Brainerd
  - G2Gemini – Grand Rapids
    - Both have great High School Programs

