

JR. Bassmaster State Qualifier

On July 26th the IBFN Jr. Bassmaster club members competed in their State Qualifier tournament for a chance to go on to the BASS Northern Divisional in Escanaba Michigan.

It was a windy day with a chop on the water when the launch began. Twenty eight Jr. anglers were giving directions to their IBFN volunteer boaters to take them to their spots of choice. One hour into the tournament news began to come in that some competitors have already put fish in the live well. As the day went on more news of a limit or two and the Jr's spots were producing fish.

As the parents gathered at the launch the competitors began coming in for the weigh-in. It was great to see the Jr. anglers coming to the scales with bags of fish. By the end of the weigh-in there were 2 limits several very nice bass and the winners in each age group were established. The 1st Place winners will join the IBFN State Team and compete at the BASS Northern Divisional in Escanaba Michigan the week of August 10th.



Jim McCune IBFN, Ronnie Putnam State Champ 15-18yrs.
Matt Burchfield State Champ 11-14yrs. and Frank Labanowski IBFN

The first Place winner for the 11 to 14 year olds was Matt Birchfield from "Off The Hook" Jr. Bassmasters and for the 15 to 18 year olds Ronnie Putnam with Champaign Urbana Jr. Bass Club.

11-14 Year Olds



1st Mathew Burchfield (State Champion)
2nd Jacob Rope
3rd Place Casey Step

15-18 Year Olds



1st Ronnie Putnam (State Champion)
2nd Nick Kohl man
3rd Tim Long
4th Damon Hone



Big Bass for the tournament went to Jim O'Neil

Great job to all who competed at the Jr. State Qualifier and congratulations to our Jr. State Champions Matt Burchfield and Ronnie Putnam. Good luck at the BASS Northern Divisional. They will compete at for the chance to move on to the Junior World Championship being held on Harris Chain of Lakes in Tavares, Florida at the Federation Nation Championships. In the past the winners of the Title Junior World Bassmaster Champion have won prizes like a fully rigged triton 15 ft. aluminum boat, a set of rod & reels, a trip for the family to Disney World, sponsors and a very nice trophy.

The IBFN and Jr. Bassmaster clubs would like to thank all of the volunteer boater who came out and spent their day with the Jr.'s. For more information about the IBFN or the Jr. Bassmasters go to www.ilfednation.com.