



Cuba High School Bass Fishing Club 2013 Handbook



Club Objectives and Mission

The Cuba Bass Fishing Club is a school-sponsored, IHSA-sanctioned activity open to all eligible high school students. All high school students meeting academic eligibility requirements, regardless of experience, gender, ability, etc. are encouraged to be a part of the club to learn many of the different aspects of the sport of bass fishing. Eligible students wishing to participate will never be turned away for any reason other than academic or disciplinary issues. The end goal of the club is that students come out smarter and more skilled anglers than before, with a greater knowledge of and appreciation for our state's waters and ecosystem, as well as a sense of leadership, teamwork, and sportsmanship. This is achieved through a variety of classroom-based presentations and seminars, off-water casting, pitching and flipping practices, and on-water fishing tournaments between ourselves and other schools with IHSA Bass Fishing clubs/teams. The culmination of the spring season is a chance to participate on the team to fish the IHSA Sectional Tournament (location TBA), and possibly the IHSA State Series at Carlyle Lake.

Transportation To/From Cuba Bass Events

Cuba High School will provide transportation to all tournaments and, depending on interest, possibly to BPS Angler's Arena seminars.

Students must provide their own transportation to/from meetings and practices at school, as well as any event in Cuba. Should there not be enough of a confirmation for BPS Angler's Arena seminars, those wishing to go must provide the own transportation.

Required Gear

Anglers are expected to provide most of their own angling gear (rods, reels, tackle, etc.) but coaches and captains may be able to assist if students absolutely cannot provide their own. Students should bring to EVERY meeting/practice at least one rod/reel, and may at times be asked to bring all the equipment and tackle they will be using in an upcoming tournament. Exceptions will be announced well in advance.

Each student angler should make every effort to have the following as a minimum:

- Current and valid Illinois fishing license if age 16+ (REQUIRED TO FISH, NO EXCEPTIONS)
- At least one baitcasting and one spinning rod/reel combo
 - Please, no "push-button" spincasting reels
- A tackle box/bag with a variety of hard and soft lures, terminal tackle, tools, etc. in it
- Life jacket should be comfortable enough to wear for several hours in a variety of conditions
- Recommended more than one pair of glasses for low- and high-light conditions, polarized is best (but not required)
- Clothing for potential cold, rain, wind, sun, and heat, as spring weather can be VERY unpredictable

Tournament Attire

The following clothing items are to be worn at ALL Cuba Bass fishing events:

- Cuba Bass Club hat (old white or new red – new red must be worn at Sectionals/State)
- Cuba Bass Club shirt (same criteria as hat)
- Jeans/khakis without holes
- Close-toed shoes appropriate for boating
- Safety glasses
- Life jacket

****The only exception to this attire requirement is to dress for the weather****

****Clothes with large logos are not allowed, even if they are for inclement weather****

****If a student angler arrives without proper safety equipment (life jacket, glasses, hat) or appears dressed inappropriately, he/she will not be allowed to fish in a boat that day and will not be eligible for points that day****

***2013 Practice and Tournament Schedule**

Mondays & Thursdays, 3:30 – 5:00 beginning January 14

BPS Angler's Arena – January 8, 7:00pm – Bass Pro Shops East Peoria

Week 1 Jan 14 & 17 – Intro, Boat Safety & Safety Equipment

Week 2 Jan 24 – Fishing Equipment Basics, Usage, Etc.

Week 3 Jan 28 & 31 – What's in Your Tackle Box?

BPS Angler's Arena – February 5, 7:00pm – Bass Pro Shops East Peoria

Week 4 Feb 4 & 7 – Knots & Line Choice

TOURNAMENT, Sunday, February 10 – *Location TBA* – 12-4pm

Week 5 Feb 11 & 14 – Texas & Carolina Rigs

Week 6 Feb 21 – Topwaters and Jerkbait

TOURNAMENT, Saturday, February 23 – Spring Lake (Macomb) – 12-4pm

Week 7 Feb 25 & 28 – Jigs

TOURNAMENT, Sunday, March 3 – Argyle Lake – 7-11am

BPS Angler's Arena – March 5, 7:00pm – Bass Pro Shops East Peoria

Week 8 March 4 & 7 – Spinnerbaits

Week 9 March 11 & 14 – Crankbaits & Swimbaits

TOURNAMENT, Saturday, March 16 – *TBA* – 12-4pm

Week 10 March 18 & 21 – Finessing & Dropshotting

Week 11 March 25 – Follow-Up Lures

BPS Angler's Arena – April 2, 7:00pm – Bass Pro Shops East Peoria

Week 12 April 4 – Putting It All Together

TOURNAMENT, Sunday, April 7 – Banner Marsh (Johnson/Main) – 7am-1pm

Week 13 April 8 & 11 – Sectional Prep

TOURNAMENT, Sunday, April 14 – Sectional Location – 7am-1pm

****(FINAL POINTS & SECTIONAL TEAM SELECTED)****

Week 14 April 15 & 18 – Final Sectional Prep & Equip Check

SECTIONALS, Friday, April 19 – *TBA* – 7am – 3pm

Week 15 April 22 & 25 – State/Carlyle Prep

Week 16 April 29 – Final State/Carlyle Prep & Equip Check

STATE SERIES, Weds pm – Sat pm, May 1 – 4 – Lake Carlyle

BPS Angler's Arena – May 7, 7:00pm – Bass Pro Shops East Peoria

Sunday, May 12 – End-of-Year Fish Fry and Awards – Putt Park – 3:00pm

IHSA Sectional Team Selection

The students with the four highest points at the last tournament before Sectionals will automatically be selected for the team to compete in the IHSA Sectional Tournament, assuming they are academically eligible. The remaining four will be decided on by the Head Coach and Assistant Coach, as will be boat placement of the eight to compete. Two of the top four will be placed in the Head Coach's boat, while the other two will be placed in the Assistant Coach's boat, with the other four dispersed to both boats evenly.

Points System

By attending Cuba Bass practices and tournaments, as well as assorted other events throughout the season, anglers earn points to go toward selection to compete on the Sectional team, as well as toward the Angler of the Year award. The points system is as follows:

Attendance at bi-weekly Meetings/Practices – 3 points per event

BPS Angler's Arena Attendance – 3 points per event

Cuba Tournaments – Points follow the following order, as per tournament results:

1st Place – 5 points + creel weight

2nd Place – 4 points + creel weight

3rd Place – 3 points + creel weight

4th Place – 3 points + creel weight

5th Place and so on – 3 point + creel weight

Angler of the Year, Most Improved Angler and Big Bass of the Year

At the end of the IHSA series, awards will be issued to anglers for AoY, MIA, and BBotY.

Decided on by a vote of the team as a whole, as well as by all boat captains, between the FOUR anglers with the most points, chosen as a true example of a professional angler in skill, knowledge, leadership, sportsmanship, and teamwork, will receive the title of Angler of the Year, as well as a rod/reel combo of their choice valued up to \$150.

Voted on by the team as a whole, as well as by all boat captains, the angler showing the highest improvement in his/her fishing technique, knowledge and overall skill will be awarded the title of Most Improved Angler, as well as a \$25 Bass Pro Shops gift card.

The student bringing in the largest bass of the spring tournament season will be awarded Big Bass of the Year, as well as a \$25 Bass Pro Shops gift card

Absence Policy

While attendance will be taken at every practice/meeting beginning in January, there is no attendance "requirement" at these meetings. If you choose not to attend, you simply do not receive the points for these meetings.

Should a student choose to not sign up for a tournament, again there is no punishment, only no earning of points. HOWEVER, should a student sign up to fish a tournament and then be absent without any notification a minimum of 36 hours in advance (barring emergencies), he or she will be ineligible to fish in the Sectional Tournament. Discretion on what constitutes an emergency will be left to the Head Coach and Assistant Coach's discretion.

Basically, emergencies are as follow: severe illness, death in the immediate family, injury, etc.

Fund Raising

In order to raise money needed for awards, dock fees, etc. Cuba Bass will do a few things throughout the fall and spring semesters.

The main two are working concessions and an end-of-season 50/50 raffle.

The team will need volunteers to work concessions on the following dates:

December 20, 2012 – HS Girls BBall – 6:00pm

January 3, 2013 – JH Volleyball – 6:00pm

January 7, 2013 – JH Volleyball – 6:00pm

January 18, 2013 – HS Boys BBall – 6:00pm

February 5, 2013 – HS Boys BBall – 6:00pm

Coinciding with the End of the Season Fish Fry will be a 50/50 raffle. Each student on the team will be issued ten (10) tickets for this drawing. Students may sell more, but should each sell no less than the ten given them. Tickets will be marked for which angler is selling them. The ticket will be drawn at the fish fry, and the person with the winning ticket will receive 50% of the money raised. The student who sold the winning ticket will also win a \$25 Bass Pro Shops gift card. In the future, the value of the prize/gift card may increase.

Rules/Discipline

- Safety comes first. Unsafe actions will always be taken seriously and, depending on intent and severity may result in loss of points or dismissal from the club.
- Sportsmanship is highly important in this organization. Any blatant showing of poor sportsmanship will result in immediate removal from the event the student is currently involved in, loss of points, and extreme cases will result in dismissal from the club.
- The use or possession of alcohol or tobacco products or any other controlled substance during a Cuba Bass event will result in immediate (permanent) removal from the club.
- Student anglers are students first, so eligibility will be checked on a weekly basis. Students academically ineligible for sports will also be ineligible for tournaments. Those who are academically ineligible may, however, still attend meetings and practices for points. Those who are repeatedly ineligible may be asked to study instead of attending meetings/practices, so as to help get their grades to an acceptable, passing level.
- Students blatantly and/or intentionally disrespecting any coach or captain will be removed from the club.
- Any act or attempt to cheat in a tournament will result in immediate, permanent removal from the club.

Contact Information

Mr. Ben Schweizer, Head Coach

E-MAIL bschweizer@cusd3.net

OFFICE PHONE # 785-5023 x1214

WEBSITE <http://bschweizer.weebly.com/>

The best way to get in touch with me is via email or through the website.

The Cuba Bass Fishing Club is also on Facebook, so “Like” our page when you get a chance

**Note: All dates/times and other info provided in this handbook is subject to change, with notice.*

Student Information/Parent Contact Form

Student Name: _____

Year in School: _____

Home Phone: (____)_____

Cell Phone: (____)_____

E-Mail: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Home Phone: (____)_____

Cell Phone: (____)_____

E-Mail: _____

Emergency Contact: _____

Home Phone: (____)_____

Cell Phone: (____)_____

****Any parent/guardian with a boat capable of holding themselves plus two students wishing to be a Volunteer Boat Captain should contact Mr. Schweizer as soon as possible for information on how to become one****