

The **Champlain Valley B.A.S.S. Club** is accepting junior membership applications from high school student-athletes for the 2025 Angler-of-the-Year season. Members between the ages of 14-18 are considered “junior members” in the club. The club believes that with the growth of tournament bass fishing throughout Vermont, particularly at the high school junior varsity and varsity levels, there is a vacuum to be filled by those young anglers that wish to improve their skills before and during their careers with their local high schools. By being proactive in the recruiting of high school athletes the club hopes to “raise the floor” of competition at the youth level and inspire them to pursue careers within the many branches of the fishing industry.

Youth members will be allowed to participate in the Champlain Valley B.A.S.S. Club to ensure that the future of our great sport is in well-prepared hands by educating and mentoring young, tournament bass fishermen. Weekday tournaments are four (4) hours and weekend events are eight (8) hours. Youth are expected to fish for the entire event. This youth membership category is divided in two age groups - 14 & 15, then 16 & 17, each with its own set of criteria. The angler’s age on the first day of June will be applied throughout our annual fishing season.

**Tier #1 - Age 14 & 15 Youth Membership criteria and requirements:**

- There is no annual membership cost for this age group.
- Youth membership requires a sponsor. The preferred sponsor shall be a current club member. A parent or guardian who is a friend of a club member will also be considered for sponsorship.
- Youth members will be non-boater participants only. They are not allowed to operate a boat unless there is a severe, life-threatening emergency.
- Parent or guardian of junior members must sign a Champlain Valley B.A.S.S. Club liability waiver.
- Parent or guardian must attend a “first” meeting when a youth member applies. If the sponsor is unfamiliar with tournament fishing a club officer will explain what takes place. Subsequently, a parent or guardian must attend at least one meeting a year with the youth member. The parent or guardian will provide emergency contact telephone numbers for home, work, and cell and must be available to pick up the youth participant at any time during the tournament in the event of an emergency.
- The youth member will be responsible to assist their boater with expenses (*gas*) by paying their boater at least the minimum contribution amount.
- Tier #1 youth members will earn Angler-of-the-Year points, but are not eligible for any AOY prizes.

**Tier #2 - Age 16 & 17 Youth Membership criteria and requirements:**

- Annual membership dues are to be paid to allow this angler to enjoy all club benefits, such as voting and Angler-of-the-Year participation.
- Participation in State qualifier, while not required, is possible if the youth member has been in the club one year, or has participated in four (4) events prior, and meets Vermont BASS Nation qualifications.
- Youth membership requires a sponsor. The preferred sponsor shall be a current Club

Member. A parent or guardian who is a friend of a Club member will also be considered for sponsorship.

- Youth members will be non-boater participants only. They are not allowed to operate boat unless there is a severe, life-threatening emergency.
- Parent or guardian of a youth member must sign a club liability waiver.
- Parent or guardian must attend first meeting when youth member applies. If sponsor is unfamiliar with tournament fishing a club officer will explain what takes place. Subsequently, parent or guardian must attend at least one meeting a year with the youth member. The parent or guardian will provide emergency contact telephone numbers for home, work, and cell, and must be available to pick up the youth at any time during the tournament in the event of an emergency.
- Youth member will be responsible to help boater with expenses (*gas*) by paying boater at least the minimum contribution amount.

**What it means to be a Sponsor and your responsibilities:**

- You have witnessed a young angler's genuine interest in bass fishing and believe that by experiencing competitive club fishing they will be able to expand upon their basic knowledge of tactics, strategies and fish care.
- You are willing and able to provide, or coordinate, reliable transportation to and from any club event.
- You are willing and able to assure the junior member arrives prepared for a day of fishing. This includes tackle, USCG approved life jacket, food, beverages, proper clothing, sunscreen and the proper \$ for the boater. Please understand that club boaters are willing to teach, but have no intension of "baby sitting".
- You understand the requirement of the club to have the junior member's parent or guardian sign the waiver of liability.

*The Champlain Valley B.A.S.S. Club endeavors to provide a "safety first" requirement for ALL of its participants. Club members do not tolerate the use of alcohol, unprescribed medications and illegal drugs in any form during club sanctioned events, and is grounds for immediate expulsion from the club in addition to being reported to law enforcement. All boating members have provided proper proof of insurance to the club in accordance with national B.A.S.S. Club requirements.*