
Manitoba Recreational Fishing League Summary



What do you need to join?

... six to eight team members (ages 9 to 15) ...

... minimum of 2 coaches per team ...

... one - 2 hour block of time per week to go fishing (six week season) ...

... fishing gear, bait and tackle for the kids ...

... registration fee of \$30 per team member ...

... fax and/or email to send in the score sheets ...

... and lots of fishing stories ...

For more information: Email: mrfl@mts.net
Phone: (204) 633-5967
Fax: (204) 948-2308

Recreational Fishing League- 2009 General Information and League Rules

Introduction

A pilot program to introduce a recreational fishing league for youth ages 9 to 15 was developed in 2000 along the same parameters as any organized youth sporting activity such as soccer, hockey or baseball. A steering committee that developed the concept included the Manitoba Wildlife Federation (MWF), the Mid-Canada Marine Dealers Association (MMDA), Recreation Connections, Berkley and Manitoba Water Stewardship, Fisheries Branch. Based on the results of the pilot project and the positive responses received from participants, the steering committee has proceeded with refining the program and proceeding to the next step of establishing a fully operating league across Manitoba with a minimum of 20 teams.

The following material provides information on the operation of the league and the expected responsibilities of organizers, coaches, participants and parents. The rules developed are intended to place teams on an "equal playing field". That is, a team in Brandon has an equal opportunity to compete with a team from The Pas or Flin Flon.

Team Structure and Cost (\$)

Each team will consist of six to eight children ages 9 to 15 and a minimum of two adult coaches. All must be registered directly with the League Coordinator or through the local Recreation Director. The team member/coach ratio cannot be greater than 4:1 when fishing. Each team member will be responsible for supplying his or her own basic equipment – rod, reel, line and tackle. A registration fee of \$30 per team member is required.

Team Activity

The "Fishing League Season" for 2007 will start on **May 18** and conclude the week ending **June 22** for a total of six weeks. Teams may fish any number of times per week but only one, two-hour session per week may be submitted to the League Coordinator as their weekly entry towards league standings. Teams may enter results for five of the six weeks. This will allow for flexibility in case of inclement weather. A team will be permitted to enter results for two sessions during one week under extenuating circumstances.

Teams may also fish at more than one location during the season but the team may not be split to fish in more than one location in any one week. A team must have at least six members on site to have their results count for league standings and teams will be encouraged to meet to practice casting, knot tying, fish identification, etc.

Team Scoring

Each team will submit the results of their fishing outing to the League Coordinator (or designate) on a weekly basis on the form provided. Each fish caught will be measured in centimetres and listed by species and by team member. To allow a comparison of species for scoring purposes, a "fish length conversion table" developed by Manitoba Water Stewardship, Fisheries Branch will be used by the League Coordinator. The table will also be available to all teams and coaches. After conversion, one point will be awarded for each converted centimetre of fish caught. All catches by all team members will be reported but the catches of the best six team members will be used for the team calculation. Each team member may enter four fish of each species per session and eligible species will be listed on the conversion charts. The best five weekly scores out of the six weeks fished will be used to determine the final team standings.

Bonus points will be awarded for the following:

Team Score:

- 300 points if all eight members attend and fish.
- 200 points if all team members catch at least one fish.
- 150 points if three or more species are caught during the same session.

Individual Score:

- 100 points if three or more species are caught by any one team member.
- 100 points for any Master Angler Award registered fish. Master Angler rules and forms will be provided.

Team Score (awarded at the end of the season):

- 500 points for any team that catches six or more different species over the course of the season.

Teams will be encouraged to develop skills related to angling such as fish identification, fish cleaning and preparation, care of equipment, knot tying, casting, understanding of basic regulations and water safety to name a few. Anglers may keep their catch to eat. However, fish should only be kept if it is certain that they will be eaten and not wasted. All Manitoba Angling Regulations will apply. Failure to comply with regulations will result in the suspension of the team.

Team / Individual Recognition

The team with the highest points at the end of the season will be declared Top Fish Heads of 2009 and have their names engraved on the "Manitoba Recreational Fishing League" trophy. This also comes with bragging rights for a year. Also, each winning team member will receive a trophy marking the win. In addition, every child who registers in the league will receive the following:

- their own personal special introductory Manitoba Wildlife Federation membership and subscription to the Outdoor Edge magazine (free),
- participation certificate at season end, and
- their name listed on the MRFL web site (www.mwf.mb.ca/league) so they can follow their progress.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Recreational Fishing League is composed of three basic components- the Steering Committee, the Community Organizing Group and the Fishing Teams. The following is a description of each component, it's composition and suggested roles and responsibilities within the program.

Steering Committee:

The Steering Committee (SC) is presently composed of representatives of the MWF, MMDA, Recreation Connections, Berkley and Manitoba Water Stewardship, Fisheries Branch. The SC, through the League Coordinator, is responsible for:

- basic organization of the league (rules and scoring)
- soliciting interested Recreation Directors and providing them with information about the program
- seeking interested fisheries groups, MWF affiliates and individuals who are willing to be active in the community
- resolving any problems arising from the operation of the league
- acting as a focal communication point (information on insurance, safety, angling regulations)
- reviewing and scoring weekly team submissions and updating the MWF web site

Community Organizing Group:

The Community Organizing Group (COG) for each participating community may consist of the municipal/community Recreation Director (or designate) and two or more members of local fisheries interest groups, local tackle retailers and/or interested individuals in the community. The COG will be responsible for:

- registering team members, collecting registration fees and forwarding required information and monies to the League office
- seeking two coaches for each team
- acting as liaison between the team and the SC
- registration for any outings made with boats (boat trip registration)
- providing needed information and score sheets to teams
- participating in the year-end evaluation of the program and communicating the results to the coaches and team participants

Coaches/Team:

As previously noted, each team will consist of six to eight anglers and a minimum of two coaches. Coaches' responsibilities include:

- choosing safe fishing locations and scheduling the weekly fishing times
- supervision of children when fishing and ensuring rules and regulations are understood and followed
- reporting scores to the League Coordinator on a weekly basis on the forms provided
- collecting team fees to cover bait and other terminal tackle costs if so desired
- organizing optional activities such as team meetings to practice knot tying, casting, fish identification, fish cleaning, etc. Coaches may also wish to approach local tackle retailers regarding team sponsorship to cover such costs as bait.

However, team members and parents also have responsibilities. Parents are responsible for getting their children to the pre-determined fishing or meeting location and picking them up at the end of each session. Parents will be encouraged to stay and "cheer on their team" and help out should they wish to volunteer. Team members are responsible for supplying and maintaining their own equipment and tackle, learning the angling regulations that pertain to their fishing location and having fun.

Registration:

PLEASE NOTE THE EARLIER REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Registration deadline for the 2009 season is **May 15, 2009**. Registration forms are found on page 5 and 6. Please fill out all the required information for your community and/or team. Please ensure that each team member has a complete address to facilitate delivery of the Outdoor Edge. The completed form(s) and registration fees (\$30 per team member, coaches are free) can then be sent to:

Manitoba Recreational Fishing League
c/o Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W7

Alternatively completed forms can be faxed to (204) 948-2308 and fees mailed to the address above.

Please Note: By registering in the Manitoba Recreational Fishing League participants and coaches hold the Manitoba Recreational Fishing League harmless from responsibility for the loss of life, limb or property resulting from any accident which may arise as a result of their participation in the activities of the Manitoba Recreational Fishing League.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING GROUP REGISTRATION FORM

Community: _____

Recreation Director (optional):

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____

Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

IMPORTANT: If a team member uses a post office box please include the box number in their mailing address. General Delivery will not be accepted for registration.

*** Team Convenor:**

*** Team Convenor:**

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Email: _____

* If the team convenor is the same as the coach, go to the team registration form.

Please send to: Manitoba Recreational Fishing League
c/o Manitoba Wildlife Federation
70 Stevenson Road
Winnipeg, MB R3H 0W7

FAX: (204) 948-2308

IMPORTANT: If a team member uses a post office box please include the box number in their mailing address. General delivery will not be accepted for registration.

TEAM REGISTRATION FORM

Community: _____

Coach:

Coach:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Phone: _____

Fax: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail: _____ Email: _____

Team Players:

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

Name: _____ Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____ Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ City: _____

Postal Code: _____ Postal Code: _____

* Please ensure the complete mailing address is listed above for each coach and team member. Complete address information is mandatory for registration.

** Payment is required with registration (\$30 per team member). Coaches are free!