

From: BASS News  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2008 Junior Bassmaster World Championship Pairs Youth with Bassmaster Elite Series Pros on New York's Onondaga Lake

As the 2008 Bassmaster Elite Series season comes to a close with the climactic Trail to the Trophy and the crowning of the 2008 Toyota Tundra Bassmaster Angler of the Year at this week's Champion's Choice on Oneida Lake out of Syracuse, N.Y., one more round of thrills will be added to the tournament mix as the Junior Bassmaster World Championship takes place Sunday, Aug. 10, just down the road at Onondaga Lake out of Liverpool, N.Y.

On Friday, Aug. 8, at 8 p.m. ET, kids from two divisions of junior anglers will be paired with Elite Series pros at the Bassmaster Elite Series weigh-in stage at Oneida Shores County Park in Syracuse. The teams will then spend a day having fun on the water and practicing Saturday, Aug. 9, from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Ninety-three junior anglers will compete in the World Championship in two age groups: 11-14 and 15-18. Along with the amazing experience of being able to fish with a professional, the junior anglers will compete for a piece of a scholarship prize pool totaling \$23,000.

In 2007, South Africa's Jeffrey Toplis, 14, and Kentucky's Kalem Tippett, 17, persevered through chilly temperatures and gusting winds on Alabama's Logan Martin Lake to win the fourth annual Junior World Bassmaster Championship in their respective age divisions.

Onondaga Lake is located on the outskirts of Syracuse, N.Y., and is 5 miles long and 1 mile wide. Just south of Lake Ontario, Onondaga has an area of 4.6 square miles and plenty of smallmouth bass for the taking. Many locals consider the lake a secret "hot spot."

Fourteen-year-old Junior Bassmaster World Championship competitor Justin Rollans of Little Rock, Ark., fished the lake in June.

"I hope to have very good results," Rollans said. "I'm hoping to get my limit on the smallmouth in the morning and then later on in the afternoon find some largemouth to increase my weight."

Rollans' strategy will be to use worms in the morning and then change to jigs in the afternoon.

Rollans isn't the only junior angler with a carefully crafted plan for the championship 16-year-old Christian Johnson of Iron Station, N.C., said he'll use a jig or something slow, and promises that he'll be "going for the largemouth!"

What Johnson and the rest of the field are most looking forward to, however, is the experience. Johnson has been fishing for seven years and said he can't wait to just take in the 2008 Junior Bassmaster World Championship.

"I'm excited to fish with an Elite pro," Johnson said. "It's just a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."