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**22 March 2019**

**Attention: Mr. Richard Grant  
Chairman of the NBAA**

## **NBAA DEVELOPMENT REPORT – JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT EVENT 16 MARCH 2019:**

### **Background and initiation:**

During the second half of the 2018 season, NBAA managed to get in contact with the Scouts of Namibia in interest of collaborating to host events specifically focussed on developing juniors in the sport of bass fishing and fishing in general.

This initiative would not only aid the NBAA's goals of developing a sustainable base of junior bass fisherman, and spark interest in other facets of fishing in Namibia, but also aid the Scouts of Namibia in affording their members the opportunity to obtain their fishing "badge" and thereby aiding the Scouts of Namibia in achieving their goals as well.

The common factor of aiding in achieving goals and objectives for both associations, was the thread that ensured both associations' buy-in and focus on the initiative.

As a result, two junior development events were calendared at the NBAA's 2018 AGM, and agreed to by the Scouts of Namibia, despite very full calendars already in place for both associations, which speaks to the importance of this initiative for both associations.

Two dates were set for the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2019, and the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 respectively.

The aim of the events was to host a tournament format fishing event for the juniors, whereby NBAA members would avail their time, their skills, their boats and tackle required for juniors to catch a bass.

### **First event – 16 March 2019: Prior to the event**

Arrangements for the event started in January 2019. Being the first event of this nature, proper planning went into administration of getting juniors registered for the event, obtaining fishing licenses, accommodation, transport, boat packs, and sufficient skippers for the event to mention a few.

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Some tournament rules were altered for the event, with the focus of safety with juniors on board being the primary reason, and underlying that to ensure the juniors have fun and an unforgettable experience. The most significant of these alterations were the assistance allowed by seniors, speed limit being capped, juniors to wear life jackets at all times as far as possible, and the overall size limits being reduced.

Ultimately, 26 juniors registered for the event, of which 17 were scouts, and 9 were juniors from the NBAA's side, where NBAA members sparked the interest amongst their friends and families.

This led to the arrangements of skippers. We managed to get 10 NBAA members confirming their attendance as skippers, which was an excellent turn out, and shows the intent and commitment of NBAA members in developing not only bass fishing, but fishing in general, as a sport in Namibia.

All entrance fees and MET fees at Von Bach for the NBAA members were paid by the NBAA out of funds earmarked for the Development Portfolio, while the Scouts of Namibia committed to pay the launch fees of the boats. This meant that the NBAA members' entrance was for free, however still availing the use of their boats and tackle, including costs for petrol and boat packs, which is in itself a significant contribution to the initiative, which is highly commended.

One of the key successes with these arrangements, was to work with Tungeni at Von Bach to get all names and registrations through, and have the payments made well in advance of the event, to ensure that the morning of the event goes down without a hitch.

Finally, the NBAA availed the usage of the weigh station for the event as well, which was specially towed through to the event, and the usual weigh master was arranged as well, to ensure tournament format is adhered to and professional.

### **First event – 16 March 2019: At the event**

The morning off the event was met with an atmosphere of excitement in the air. The Scouts camped over at Von Bach, and the first non-Scouts junior was at the gate of Von Bach by 05:30 am already.

Launching of the boats went took place without any problems, and the juniors were extremely excited arriving at the launch and weigh station, seeing all the bass boats lined up for their day on the water.

Captains meeting was held as usual, with the alterations to tournament rules given through and reaffirmed.

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Boat pairings were arranged for juniors who wanted to fish with family and friends, and the rest of the pairings were established by a "hat-draw" of normal tournament weigh tags.

This was followed by boat packs being loaded, juniors briefly being orientated on the boats, and pull-away commenced at 07:30.

All-in-all, an excellent day followed. The feedback from the juniors as well as the Scouts was that they had an absolute brilliant day out on the water, even though fishing was tough and it was a blistering hot day. Sunscreen had to be regularly applied, and a lot of fluids were consumed to ensure the juniors are well looked after.

In total, 18 fish were brought to the scales, with 15 juniors weighing in. Thanks to our generous sponsors, there were prizes for each junior participant, with the first prize being a brand new rod and reel combination. No fish were lost during the weigh-in, which speaks to the conservation principles applied by members and the weigh master alike.

The results were widely publicized through social and other media. Subsequently, two juniors who attended the event have joined the NBAA ranks, and will be fishing the next upcoming tournament on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2019. Multiple enquiries were also received on the next junior development day. It's clear that the response by the community is beyond belief, speaking to the success of the day and the need for such events from the fishing- and general community.

### **Conclusion:**

The day was without a doubt a massive success, not only spreading interest in bass fishing and fishing as a past time as a whole, but also attaining two new junior NBAA members.

These type of initiatives and events promises to aid in securing the future of bass fishing as a sport, as well as fishing as a sport throughout all facets in Namibia.

As a final word of thanks, without the commitment of our members, our sponsors, the NBAA Exco and the collaboration with the Scouts of Namibia, none of this would have ever been possible, and the success of this event is directly attributable to them.

It goes without saying that we very much look forward to the next event to be held on 12 October 2019, and hope to see many more NBAA members and juniors attending the day.

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