

# 4th Annual Battlefield Bass Fishing Tournament Rules

Hosted at Sturgeon Creek Marina – April 25, 2026

5107 Courthouse Road, Spotsylvania, VA 22551

**Have fun.** This is the 4th Annual Battlefield FCA Bass Fishing Tournament. All proceeds go to the Battlefield FCA helping reach the local coaches and athletes with the hope of Christ Jesus.

The Following rules of the Tournament will remain unchanged. The decision of the Tournament Committee will be final in all matters. All rules written or any situation that may arise during the Tournament will be interpreted for conservation, sportsmanship, fair play, and an equal playing field. Interpretation of these rules shall be left exclusively to the Tournament Committee and tournament director.

**Eligibility.** Anglers must be at least 6 years of age for adult/youth boat. If there is a second youth angler, the second youth must be 10 and under. If between the ages of 6 – 18, they must be accompanied by an adult.

**Angler Divisions.** This year's tournament will have two divisions. Adult division will be all boats that have both anglers that are 18 and over. The youth division will be all boats that have one of the anglers that is under the age of 18 years of age on the tournament day. Youth boats must have one adult 21 years or older as an angler.

**Tournament Schedule.** This year's tournament will take place on Saturday, April 25th, 2026. Check-in time begins at 5:30a.m. Blast off begins at safe light as determined by the Tournament Director and will be staggered by boat flights as determined by the Tournament Director. Weigh-in time begins at 3:00 p.m. and will be staggered by boat flights as determined by the Tournament Director. Hours will be given before blast-off and hours are subject to change by the Tournament Director.

**Blast-off procedure.** Boats will leave the launch area in line, by boat number, beginning with boat #1 and progressing in numerical order. Boat number plates will be provided to each competitor for displaying to other competitors in the launch area prior to take off to enable positioning prior to blast off.

**Entry Fees.** Early bird Registration \$160/boat (before March 15, 2026 for the adult division. \$85.00/boat for youth division. Max two anglers per boat for adult division. Youth division can have 2 youth anglers (second angler must be under the age of 10). After March 15, 2026, the registration will be \$195 and \$120 respectfully. There will be no refunds for no-shows or cancellations.

**Prize Payouts.** The payout will be 75/25. The number of places in each division will be determined based on the number of boats registered. There will be one place for every nine boats in each division. This is subject to change if deemed necessary by the tournament director. There is also a Big Fish pot paid to the angler who catches the biggest largemouth bass. There is a \$10 fee to participate in the big fish pot. In addition, there is a 50/50 raffle to be drawn at the end of the weigh-in and you must be present to win. 1 ticket \$5 | 3 tickets for \$10 | 6 tickets for \$15 | 12 tickets for \$20.

**Launch Sequence.** Starting positions will be determined by order of receiving and confirmation of payment of each registration.

**Weight-in | Results | Ties.** Tournament results are based on the total weight of largemouth bass caught legally and weighed in officially. Teams may weigh a limit of three fish. At no time can a team have more than four fish in the live well. Once the team catches the 4th fish, a fish must be culled

before fishing continues. Bass will be measured on the flat board closed mouth to tip of tip of tail fin, in the NATURAL STATE. For the Youth/Adult division only fish 10 inches or over in length will be weighed in, for the Adult/Adult division only fish over 12 inches or over will be weighed in. All entrants are required to have a clear understanding of the size limits before beginning the tournament. The penalty for attempting to weigh an illegal fish is a one-pound deduction from the net weight of the entire catch and the loss of the illegal fish. The dead fish penalty shall be .5 pounds per dead fish deducted from the total weight. Once the bag of fish is handed to the tournament officials for weigh-in, no fish may be added or subtracted from the catch. If a team brings more than limit to the scales, that team will be disqualified from the tournament. If there is a tie for total weight, the prize money for the place tied will be combined and divided equally. Big Fish ties will also have the prize money divided equally between those teams that are tied.

**Late Penalty.** Teams not back at the official weigh-in site on time will be disqualified from the tournament. All disqualifications will be at the tournament director's discretion.

**Tackle and fishing methods.** Only artificial baits may be used except. Pork chunks or strips. No live bait may be used or possessed. All bass must be caught in a sporting manner. When sight fishing, the fish must be hooked inside the mouth. Netting, foul, hooking, etc. of fish is not permitted. Anglers may only fish with one rod and reel at a time. No trolling is allowed. No competitor may leave the boat to land or catch a fish. All fish except for trophy will be returned to Lake Anna.

**Safety.** All boats must leave the marina at a safe moderate speed and abide by all posted speed limits posted, and no wake areas. Reckless operation is grounds for disqualification. Safe boating conduct must always be observed. Each competitor must properly wear U.S. Coast Guard approved life vest anytime the gas engine is being used. Failing to do so may result in immediate disqualification from the tournament. The tournament may be shortened or canceled due to severe weather or any conditions that would endanger the safety of the competitors and or the staff. All decisions will be made by the tournament committee and director.

**Sportsmanship.** Sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation are expected for each competitor. Behavior contradicting these fundamental sporting principles may be a deemed cause for disqualification. Drunkenness on the part of any competitor during the Tournament will not be tolerated and shall be cause-for automatic disqualification. If a competitor is obviously intoxicated in the opinion of the Tournament Committee or Director, that competitor will not be permitted to participate in the Tournament. No alcohol is allowed in your boat during Tournament hours. No boat may fish within 50 yards of another competitor who was first there with the trolling motor down. Fighting, verbal slander and confrontation will not be tolerated and may result in immediate disqualification from the tournament. Use of any other persons and/or communication devices such as cell phones, pagers, CBS, etc. intending to aid in locating or catching fish is strictly prohibited.

**Tackle and equipment.** Only artificial lures may be used. No live or prepared bait will be permitted except for pork strips, rind, etc. Only one casting, spinning, or spin-casting rod (8-foot maximum length from butt to tip) and reel may be used at any one time by each competitor. All other types are prohibited. Other rigs specified above may be in the boat ready for use, but only one may be used by each competitor at any given time. All bass must be caught live and in a conventional sporting manner.

**Boat and motors.** Tournament boats must be in safe and good operating condition. All boats must be properly registered and have standard Coast Guard safety equipment. All boats must be equipped

with a live well system capable of keeping a limit of fish alive. Each boat must also be equipped with a bilge pump and kill switch. Engines cannot exceed the horsepower rating of the boat.

**Tournament headquarters.** Tournament headquarters shall be Sturgeon Creek Marina at Lake Anna. All competitors must start and end the Tournament at this site. The official weigh-in station shall also be at the Tournament site.

**Fishing Rules.** Fishing is permitted anywhere that is accessible to all competitors unless otherwise stated by the Tournament Committee or Director during the pre-Tournament meeting or before launch. You may not fish within 50 yards of another competitor's boat that is anchored with the trolling motor up. A boat may be anchored by a traditional anchor or spike-style anchor (e.g. Power-Pole or Dig In) but the trolling motor **MUST BE UP** to be considered anchored. All fishing must be done from your boat. Competitors may not leave the boat to land fish. Boats must stay in the water during the Tournament. All competitors must leave the official dock by boat and return by boat. Both competitors must always remain together, except in the case of fire, emergency, or where crew safety is involved. Trailering of boats during the Tournament is prohibited.

**Fish care.** Competitors are expected to keep bass alive. A .5-pound penalty will be assessed for each dead fish.

**Protests.** Protests must be filed in writing with a Tournament Committee member within 15 minutes after the scales are closed. Upon receiving a protest, the Tournament Committee will randomly select four additional ad hoc Committee members from among the Tournament participants. The full Protest Committee will then hear any arguments and render a decision. The decision of the Protest Committee will be final.

**Arguing.** Arguing with Tournament Officials, including volunteers, will be cause for disqualification.

**State Laws and Regulations.** All competitors. Are to abide by all local, state, federal and wildlife laws. Competitors are required to have any, and all fishing licenses, and/or permits for any specific area they are fishing. No alcoholic beverages or unprescribed drugs may be consumed at any time during the tournament or weigh in.

**Emergencies.** Competitor shall not leave the boat except in emergencies. Sickness, severe storms, nature calls. Etc. are deemed emergencies. If your boat breaks down, you may ride back with your fish with anyone willing to help while the other partner stays with the disabled boat. Every effort possible is to be made to keep fish alive in this situation, but at no time will yours and the abiding boater's fish be mixed in the same live well or both teams' fish will be disallowed. Dual or divided live wells are equipped on some boats and are considered individual live wells and are OK to use to keep both teams' fish alive. Your fish must return to the weigh in site by boat or they will be disallowed.

**Liability Insurance.** All boaters must always carry liability insurance. Failure to do so will result in immediate disqualification. Spot checks will be conducted by the tournament Director.

**Promotional Permission.** By entering the Battlefield FCA Bass Fishing Tournament you give permission to Battlefield FCA to use any pictures or videos of you, your boat and fish for promotional activities without any compensation from Battlefield FCA. If you are under 18 and you do not wish your pictures to be used, you must submit in writing to the Tournament Director **declining the use of your image in video or pictures before the beginning of the tournament.**

**Rules Interpretation.** Interpretation of any of the above rules will be left up to the tournament director.

*For questions about the Bass Tournament rules and regulations please email Tournament Director, Tommy Bailey at: [jtbailey59@gmail.com](mailto:jtbailey59@gmail.com)*

*For more information or questions about Battlefield FCA contact Scot Small: [ssmall@fca.org](mailto:ssmall@fca.org) or 540-766-5402*

*Updated 01/2026*