



**SIXTH ANNUAL  
ACAA Invitational Bass  
Fishing Tournament**

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**Friday April 25, 2025**

**Higgins Ferry Marina-Mitchell  
Lake Clanton, Alabama**

**Safe daylight until 2 p.m.**

**\$80 per team (Non-refundable)**

**Junior division 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grades  
Senior division 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades**



**The deadline for entry is Thursday, April 10, 2025**

**Trophies will be awarded at a rate of 1 per 5 places for individual teams.  
A rate of 1 per 3 among competing schools.**

**A barbecue lunch will be provided at the weigh in for everyone.**

**Please direct all questions to Mark Mears @ 205-229-0125.**  
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**Email Registration/Entry Form and Proof of Insurance to**  
**[jmarkmears@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarkmears@yahoo.com).**  
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**Mail check for entry fee made payable to ACEA to:**  
**ACEA Office**  
**PO Box 559 ~ Gardendale, AL 35071**

# ACAA Bass Fishing Invitational Rules

**(Distribute these rules to all coaches, contestants, and boat captains before they sign the registration form.)**

1. **Participants and Eligibility.** Participation is by invitation to all ACAA and ACEA member schools who are currently in good standing. Schools may have an unlimited number of participating teams in each division.
2. **Liability Insurance.** Proof of liability insurance for each participating boat must be provided and submitted with the tournament entry form.
3. **Boat Captains/Coaches.** Must be 21 years of age and properly licensed to operate a vessel on Alabama public waters as well as have a current Alabama freshwater fishing license.
4. **Registration.** All participants must pre-register and have all necessary documentation turned in by the designated cutoff date. We will not allow registration on the morning of the event.
5. **Sportsmanship/Conduct.** All ACAA rules of conduct and sportsmanship must be always followed.
6. **Practice.** There will be no designated practice days or off limit days prior to the tournament.
7. **Technology/Communication during tournament hours.** The only use of technology permitted will be in the case of an emergency, to monitor weather conditions, or to monitor lake conditions. Communication between participating teams or non-participants to share information to aid in the catching of fish is prohibited. The use of the internet during tournament hours to read blogs or search for fishing tips about the lake is prohibited.
8. **Safety.** All participants must wear a Coast Guard approved chest type life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. Life preservers must be properly sized, maintained, strapped/zippered/secured. All Coast Guard and state regulations pertaining to life preservers must be followed.
9. **Tackle and Equipment.** The use of a landing net for caught fish is allowed. The use of a gaff or grippers for caught fish is prohibited. The use of live or prepared bait is prohibited. Artificial lures only may be used. Only one rod may be used per contestant at a time. Snagging or snatching live fish is prohibited. All fish must be caught live in a conventional sporting manner with the hook inside the mouth. Jigger poling is prohibited. Trolling is prohibited.
10. **Competitors Must Remain in Boat.** All fishing must be done from the boat. Leaving the boat to land a fish is prohibited. Anglers may only leave the boat in the case of an emergency, inclement weather, or a designated restroom break at which point all fishing must cease until both anglers are back in the boat.
11. **Divisions and Teams.** We will have a junior division consisting of students in 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades and a senior division consisting of students in 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. A junior division contestant may participate in the senior division with a senior division contestant in the senior division, however, the opposite situation is prohibited. Co-Ed teams are allowed. Teams will consist of 1 boat captain and 2 competitors.
12. **Official checkpoint.** There will be one official check point for the tournament. There you will receive your flight card and boat number the morning of the tournament. You must check back in and turn your flight card back in by the designated time to weigh your catch. A one-pound penalty will be assessed for every minute you are late. The one-pound penalty is also deducted from the weight of your largest fish.
13. **Scoring.** All scorings will be done in pounds and ounces, or pounds and hundredths based upon the best set of scales we are able to use. There is a five fish limit per team. Only largemouth, smallmouth, or spotted bass will be weighed. All fish must measure at least 12 inches with the mouth closed and the tail straight. No culling is allowed at the dock. We will not weigh fish from trailered boats. We will weigh the largest fish of each team. All ties will be broken by the weight of the biggest fish. No iced fish will be weighed. Only one dead fish per team may be weighed. There will be a 4-ounce penalty for a dead fish.
14. **Boat Captain/Coach duties and limitations.** The captain cannot fish or teach by example. The boat captain is permitted to operate the trolling motor, tie knots, or assist in landing fish, retrieve bait that is hung, repair equipment and make suggestions to the competitors pertaining to location and techniques for catching and landing fish. *If the boat is equipped with a LiveScope the boat captain cannot operate it. Only student fishers can operate the LiveScope.*
15. **Tournament Committee.** The committee will consist of 3 members. Any questions or concerns should be directed to them. Anything not covered by the written rules will be decided by the committee. All decisions made by the committee are final.

## ACAA Bass Fishing Invitational Registration/Entry Form

We, the undersigned, agree to not hold the ACEA, ACAA, other contestants or committee members liable for any damage or injury that may occur during the event. By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to abide by the *Bass Fishing Invitational Rules* and all decisions made by the tournament committee.

School:	City:	
Contact Person:	Email:	Cell:

### COMPETITOR #1

Name:	Signature:	Grade:	T-Shirt Size:
Parent/Guardian's Name:	Signature:		

### COMPETITOR #2

Name:	Signature:	Grade:	T-Shirt Size:
Parent/Guardian's Name:	Signature:		

### BOAT CAPTAIN

Name:	Signature:
Boat Captain T-Shirts are available to purchase for \$20. Include payment with registration fee. <b>(T-Shirt order is optional.)</b>	Boat Captain T-Shirt Size:

DIVISION: JUNIOR _____ or SENIOR _____	TEAM FEE: <b>\$80</b>	BOAT CAPTAIN T-Shirt: <b>\$20</b> (Optional)	TOTAL DUE: \$
<b>Make copies of this form if you enter more than one team.</b>			

Please direct all questions to Mark Mears @ 205-229-0125  
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 Email Registration/Entry Form and Proof of Insurance to:  
[jmarkmears@yahoo.com](mailto:jmarkmears@yahoo.com)  
**Due on or before Thursday, April 10, 2025**  
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 Mail check for fees made payable to ACEA to the following address:  
 ACEA Office  
 PO Box 559 ~ Gardendale, AL 35071

## **ACAA Bass Fishing Invitational Tournament**

### **Important Notes and Reminders for Captains**

Boat Captains, I would personally like to thank each of you for the investment you are making in the lives of young people for Christ. Our annual ACAA Bass Fishing Invitational Tournament simply would not be possible without your contribution of time, money, and other resources. You are the unsung heroes of this event.

There are a few things I would like to remind you of before the tournament.

1. Remember who you represent. Behave in a manner that honors God, your school, your family, and our association. ACAA rules apply at this event, including dress code.
2. Safety. Please be sure you take all necessary safety precautions and have a contingency plan in case of storms during the tournament.
3. Be sure you are 100% compliant with all Alabama water safety standards!!
4. Make sure that you and the students that are required to have a fishing license have them in your possession.
5. Between now and Friday, talk to the other captains from your school and work together to put a plan in place for launching your boats. If you are the only team from your school and you need help launching, please let me know ahead of time. We need to make a concentrated effort to not congest the ramp so others who are not fishing our tournament can launch as well.
6. While you are in line waiting to launch your boat, we will do live well checks, hand out flight cards and check you in. There will be a colored ribbon tied to the head of your trolling motor that signifies you are in our tournament and identifies you to the other competitors. Please do not remove the ribbon until after the tournament.
7. Be on time for the weigh-in. When you come in from fishing there will be someone at the pavilion to validate that you are on time. Hand them your flight card. They will validate the card and return it to you. Once you have your flight card back you may take your fish to the scales where you will turn your validated flight card into the weighmaster.
8. Be sure that you have read and understood the rules for the age group in which your team is competing. Please comply with the rules. We will have a tournament marshal cruising the lake throughout the day.

## Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will monetary prizes be given to the winners in each division?  
No, we will only be awarding trophies to the winners.
2. If we are not fishing for monetary awards what is my entry fee money used for?  
The fee helps cover the cost of a tournament T-shirt for each contestant, pavilion rental, awards, and lunch for all contestants and boat captains when they return to the marina at the conclusion of the event.
3. In the future will we have more than one tournament per school year?  
More than likely, we will. Once we see which schools are participating from around the state, we will look to have a regional format with multiple tournaments where you must qualify for the state championship tournament.
4. Why was Mitchell Lake and Higgins Ferry Marina chosen for the tournament?  
The tournament committee felt like it was the best fit for who we are as an association due to the central location, the proximity to I-65, the quality of the facilities and the size of the lake allows quick access for those who may not be fishing in a larger and faster boat.
5. Do boat captains have to be school/church staff members?  
No. Boat captains may be staff members, a parent or legal guardian of a contestant or a trustworthy and honorable friend approved by your school administration.
6. Does my school need to have a coach for our fishing team?  
Yes. The purpose of the coach is mainly for organizational purposes and to act as a liaison between your school and the ACAA and the tournament committee. The coach needs to collect all paperwork and entry fees from the contestants at his/her school, verify accuracy and completeness, and send everything at one time to the appropriate person/office.
7. Who is responsible for providing contestants with boat and fishing equipment?  
The contestants and boat captains are required to provide their own equipment.