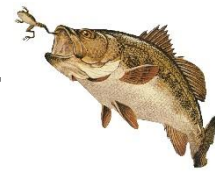




GUCA 2026 FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES AND REGULATIONS



- 1. RELEASE:** By executing this document, Paid Registrants/Anglers hereby release, discharge and covenant not to institute any suit or legal proceeding against Georgia Utility Contractors Association, Inc. including the Tournament Director, or other persons assisting in conducting this tournament, for any personal injuries or other damages, they may suffer as a result of participating in the tournament.
- 2. AGREEMENT:** Paid Registrants/Anglers agree to comply with each and every provision of the Rules and Regulations of this tournament, which are incorporated or implied by the GUCA verbally or in writing.
- 3. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** All Anglers must be paid registrants with GUCA to be eligible for weigh-in. At least one Angler on a team must be a member of GUCA. A Georgia Fishing License is required to participate in the tournament. Paid Registrants/Anglers agree that their failure to furnish correct and true information on registration form(s), or their failure to abide by the Rules and Regulations of this tournament, will result in their not being allowed to collect prize money, awards or refunds.
- 4. SAFETY:** Safe boating conduct must be observed at all times. Each angler must have a Coast Guard Approved life vest and motor kill switch secured at all times while the combustion engine is running.
- 5. SPORTSMANSHIP:** All competitors are expected to show courtesy to other competitors and non-competitors alike. No alcoholic beverages or other stimulants will be allowed in boats. No firearms will be allowed in boats. Paid Registrants/Anglers must have never been disciplined, disqualified or barred from any tournament for cheating, consuming alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs; or fighting or other acts of disorderly or prohibited conduct.
- 6. PRIZES/AWARDS:** The GUCA Tournament is a TWO-PERSON TEAM or BOAT tournament. Prizes/awards will be based on the following categories:
Category 1: First Place Team, Second Place Team, and Third Place Team and Greatest Total Weight.
There is a three (3) fish maximum per TWO-PERSON/Boat, to include largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth bass only. Any type of black bass is permitted.
Category 2: Big Bass: Biggest Bass caught (weight): Awarded to an individual, not a team. Team determines who is the Biggest Bass person at weigh-in.
GUCA reserves the right and option to adjust prizes, awards and tournament purse in correlation with the tournament Paid Registrants/Anglers, bearing in mind the GUCA Fishing Tournament is a fundraising tournament for GUCA Education Program.
- 7. TOURNAMENT HOURS:** The Fishing Tournament will commence at daylight/safe light on Saturday, May 2, 2026. PRIOR TO BLAST-OFF, REGISTRANTS MUST CHECK-IN WITH THE TOURNAMENT COMMITTEE FOR LIVE WELL VERIFICATION AND TO RECEIVE THEIR BOAT TOKEN. All boat tokens must be turned in by 12:00 p.m. at the designated token box. The location of the token box will be announced at blast off, and the token box will remain at its designated location until the conclusion of the tournament. All boats MUST be in by 12:00 p.m. that afternoon for the tournament weigh-in. The tournament weigh-in will be closed at 12:05 p.m. Registrants must present boat token at weigh-in or put it in the Token Box if claiming no Fish. Boats leaving the water prior to 12:00 p.m. must turn in their token at time of departure.
- 8. DEAD/SHORT FISH PENALTY:** There will be a two-ounce penalty for each dead fish. All Bass must be at least 14 inches in length, per Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Any bass less than 14 inches in length will not be permissible for weigh-in.
- 9. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Participants may fish anywhere on Lake Oconee lakes by boat.
EXCEPTIONS INCLUDE:
 - Areas designated as "NO Fishing" areas by state or local officials;
 - 50 feet from any marina gas pump;
 - Anywhere within 100 ft. of another GUCA tournament participant which is anchored first with their trolling motor up.
 - Contestants may not cast into, hook, or land a fish in these areas.
- 10. FISHING METHOD:** Only artificial lures may be used. NO LIVE BAIT AND NO TROLLING. All bass must be caught live in a conventional manner with rod and reel. NO competitor shall have another competitor sit on a hole or hold a spot. GUCA recognizes only the following methods to catch bass: casting & retrieving a lure, and any form of pitching or flipping. Drifting is allowed only when it is "wind aided." You may use your trolling motor to adjust your "wind aided" drift pattern.
- 11. PROTEST:** Participants should direct tournament protests in writing to the Tournament Committee to include the Tournament Bass Master, Tournament Weigh Master and GUCA Conference Committee Chairman. Protests should be received no later than thirty (30) minutes after completion of the weigh-in. Questions concerning the tournament should also be directed to the Tournament Committee. Any competitor caught accusing another competitor of an infraction of the tournament rules without filing a formal complaint with the tournament director can be disqualified from the tournament trail for unsportsmanlike conduct.
- 12. STATE AND LOCAL FISHING REGULATIONS:** Participants must abide by all Georgia fishing and boating laws. Please go to the following DNR web site for a complete list of Georgia laws: www.gofishgeorgia.com

TOURNAMENT RULES, DISQUALIFICATION AND WINNER DECISIONS ARE AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF GUCA STAFF MEMBERS.

PRINT NAME: _____

COMPANY: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

EMAIL: _____

DATE: _____