



STATE BASS

FISHING CHAMPIONSHIP

2026



**GHSA BASS FISHING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP
MAY 9, 2026 AT LAKE SINCLAIR**

WORD FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WELCOME TO THE 2026 GHSA BASS FISHING STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS!



Welcome to the 2026 GHSA Bass Fishing State Championship presented by Alfa Insurance held at Lake Sinclair, which promises to be a showcase of the best high school bass anglers competing for the title of "State Champion."

We congratulate the students, coaches, administrators, boat captains and parents who have supported these athletes on their journey to the state finals.

Thank you for your continued support of high school bass fishing. Your enthusiasm plays an important role in the success of our programs and the experience for all involved.

This event is made possible by the hard work of many dedicated volunteers, GHSA staff, Student Angler Federation, Major League Fishing, corporate partners and Alfa Insurance, our presenting sponsor.

Thank you for attending as we celebrate the very best in high school bass fishing!

Dr. Tim Scott
Executive Director

MAY 9, 2026 @ LAKE SINCLAIR

6:30 AM - TAKEOFF
2:30 PM - WEIGH-IN BEGINS

Dennis Station Boat Ramp
120 Bagley Ln SW
Eatonton, GA 31024

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ANGLERS TAKE TO THE WATER IN SEARCH OF A STATE TITLE

BY HAYDEN GILBERT

The GHSA bass fishing regular season is over, and the championship is set as anglers prepare for what may be the toughest championship tournament in the short seven-year history of the sport.

The championship will see 113 boats competing for the state title. The tournament will be, by far, the smallest of the year, as it should be. The first three tournaments of the year saw no fewer than 221 boats enter. The first tournament at West Point had the biggest turnout, with 241 boats, featuring many championship-qualified anglers fishing only to the point that they qualified for the championship.

CHANGE IN THE TIDES

The previous championships were held at Lake Lanier and Clarks Hill, two of the larger lakes in the state. This year, the championship will head to middle Georgia and Lake Sinclair. Sinclair is significantly smaller than the previous championship lakes. At 15,330 acres, it is less than half the size of

Lanier, which is 37,000 acres, and less than a quarter the size of Clarks Hill, which is 71,100 acres. Additionally, it is much shallower than the other two. With a maximum depth of 86 feet, it is about 70 feet shallower than Lanier and 94 feet shallower than Clarks Hill. Both factors combined create a very different challenge than the championship has had in previous years.

The time of year will also make it difficult for many of the anglers. In early May, the spawn should be over at Sinclair; however, the fish will not yet be in their summer patterns, making it extremely hard to find fish, especially the larger fish needed to win most tournaments.

YOU'RE GONNA NEED A BIGGER FISH

Anglers who can find two or three big fish will have a good shot at winning the championship, while those who struggle to find those fish

may weigh in extremely small bags, or none at all. Anglers who can pre-fish in the days leading up to championship Saturday will have a major advantage over those who don't have the ability to; however, pre-fishing will be difficult and may produce inconsistent results, especially the further from the tournament it occurs, as fish move between spring and summer patterns. Anyone looking to weigh in a record-breaking bag will have their work cut out for them, but these are state championship caliber anglers.

The move to Sinclair is part of a retooling of the schedule in 2026. Lanier is off the schedule after returning last year as the championship site, Hartwell returns after a year off in 2025, and Lake Oconee has fallen off the schedule for the first time in favor of Sinclair. With all of these factors at play, this year's bass fishing state championships may be the hardest competition yet, and whichever anglers walk away with the state title will certainly have earned it after a long day out on the water.

A woman in a blue suit is shaking hands with a man in a plaid shirt. They are standing in front of a dark-colored car. The background shows a house and some trees.

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WEST POINT LAKE

SCHOOL	ANGLER	ANGLER
Buford	Bryce Carey	Pryce Jenkinson
Jackson	Hunter Holland	Vincent Van Alen
Central	Jonah Yates	Wyatt Harmon
Northgate	Luke Brown	Bishop Hanna
Heard County	Ellis Turner	Colby Senn
Callaway	Drake Bishop	Cason Collett
Greenbrier	Adrien Chavez	Cameron Price
Prince Avenue	Jackson Berry	Conner Mitchell
Buford	Connor Thomson	Emerson Botham
Fellowship Christian	Gavin Smith	Caleb Nelson
Effingham County	Colton Davis	Mason Waters
Lowndes	Jack Dowdy	Wyatt Galbraith
Effingham County	Ty Griffin	Ezra Martin
Mary Persons	Benjamin Morris	Caden Price
Lumpkin County	Mason Gayton	Cohen Carden
Temple	Rylan Daniell	Maddox McCain
South Forsyth	Chad Dupree	Maddox Ferrell
Buford	Austin Cheek	Brody Ammons
Greenbrier	Evan Beard	Tyler Wilson
Ware County	Brody Jeffers	Jackson Lee
Brantley County	Hayden Hickox	Brysen Chancey
Central	Memphis Howard	Holt Harmon
Perry	Six (James) Wall	Ray Wall
Mary Persons	Jude McCoy	Henry Dickerson
Houston County	Landon McKinley	Kaleb McCary
Jefferson	Lucas Bennett	Wyatt Dunagan
Perry	Brantley Nixon	Parker Snooks
West Forsyth	Grayson Pendley	Logan Freeman
LaGrange	Hunter Headrick	Christopher Adams
Pike County	Hunter Gilbert	Sam Williams
East Laurens	Hunter Welsh	Jonathan Aldridge

TOP 9 TEAMS REGISTERED FOR QUALIFIER #1 (CANCELED)

Thomas Co. Cent.	Blake Rhodes	Jesse Mathis
Lee County	Noah Clippinger	Christal Rudd
Harris County	Noah Williams	Nolan Cummings
Thomas Co. Cent.	Waylon Faircloth	Jack Taylor
Glynn Academy	Miles Johnson	Reid Graham
Veterans	Ryder Mize	Abry Sloan
Swainsboro	Colton Braswell	Callen Braswell
South Paulding	Skye Sonnedecker	Brandon Pitts
Brantley County	Brooks Anderson	Ryder Mercer

CLARKS HILL

SCHOOL	ANGLER	ANGLER
Toombs County	AJ Bagby	Tessa Jones
Brantley County	Saybree Niece	Waylon Thomas
Oconee County	Colby Christopher	Levi Patch
Prince Avenue	Wyatt Sears	Tripp Whitworth
Brantley County	Ryder Todd	Conner Wages
Mount Zion	Leelyn Spruill	Ian Rivers
Greenbrier	Thomas Wilson	Adam Jaugstetter
Fellowship Christian	Campbell Brown	Kellan McMichael
Morgan County	Aiden Moore	Ray Tripp
Greenbrier	Landon Brazier	Austin Fulghum
Vererans	Christopher Fussell	Kade Dixon
South Forsyth	Sam String	Braeden Jones
Appling County	Jace Tillman	Brady Tillman
Brantley County	Randy Johns	Jesse Miller
Pike County	Toliver Stanford	Carter York
Ware County	Kolton Taft	Andrew Wilson
Marist	Tanner Karakis	Forrest Briesacher
Benedictine	Alex Ray	Thomas Robertson
South Forsyth	Samuel Harvey	Luke Dean
Pierce County	Grayson Arington	Chance Williams
Prince Avenue	Luke Milner	John Casto
Oconee County	Tinsley Harris	Campbell Barth
East Laurens	Lucas Owens	Jacob Warnock
LaGrange	Trigger Osbahr	Reif Hollaway
North Oconee	Cash Laturell	Thad Waterworth
Colquitt County	Jake Bell	Preston Perry
Swainsboro	Maddox Robertson	Lexsy Brown

TOP 9 TEAMS REGISTERED FOR QUALIFIER #1 (CANCELED)

Jeff Davis	Kellan Smith	Cameron Deen
Prince Avenue	Chase Mahan	Sam Addison
Ridgeland	Corbin Roden	Tyson Alsobrook
Alexander	Pierce Gragg	Bransyn Wilson
Mount Zion	Brandon Carter	Cooper Potts
Marist	Miller Moore	William Euart
Lee County	Weston Anderson	Tyler Henderson
Ware County	Clary Kinnon	Ethan Bruner
Effingham County	Marshall Davis	Wade Collins

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STATE QUALIFIERS

LAKE HARTWELL

SCHOOL

Brantley County
 Jefferson
 Hart County
 Marist
 Fellowship Christian
 Villa Rica
 Newnan
 Temple
 Tift County
 Pike County
 Mary Persons
 Thomas Co. Cent.
 Lambert
 LaGrange
 South Effingham
 Glynn Academy
 North Oconee
 Lee County
 East Coweta
 East Forsyth
 Callaway
 Houston County
 Coffee
 North Hall
 Jackson County
 Coffee
 Jeff Davis
 Jefferson

ANGLER

Eli Crawford
 Jacob Janning
 Cooper Sanders
 John David Linch
 Robert Ray
 Anderson Long
 Taylor Duncan
 KeAndre Hines
 Eli Richards
 Jaxon Chandler
 Eli Rooks
 Collin Smith
 Jack Crabtree
 RJ Harper
 Ethan Darrow
 Evan Pacleb
 Everett Roberts
 TC Morey
 Shurrell West
 Shelton Payne
 Jackson Adams
 Garrett Berryhill
 Davis Adams
 Hudson Blair
 Jacob Parrett
 Hoyt English
 Noah Brantley
 Kaylee Jenkins

ANGLER

Kolby McLeod
 Ben Wilson
 Kain Norris
 Campbell Caldwell
 Sam Murfree
 Trent Eubanks
 Davis Pope
 Hunter Kirby
 Walker Kaiser
 Richard Chagnon
 Coleston Harris
 Ethan Griffin
 Griffin Williams
 Roswell Swanson
 Landon Turner
 Flint Gaddis
 Bo Shelnut
 Blake Mueller
 Andrew Chase
 Hunter Shirley
 James Glover
 Landon Howard
 Jowalker Solomon
 Jake Ladewig
 Kaiyu Chang
 Stallen Faulkner
 Landon Smith
 Lily Gaddy

TOP 9 TEAMS REGISTERED FOR QUALIFIER #1 (CANCELED)

Oconee County
 Coffee
 Pike County
 Coffee
 Appling County
 Model
 Loganville
 Mary Persons
 Colquitt County

John Dew
 Brayden Edge
 Tucker Robison
 Zain Riley
 Eli (Cash) Miller
 Jasper Stewart
 Gage Carrico
 Leyton Hamrick
 Haydyn Glass

Hunter Thornton
 Jake Johns
 Briar Campbell
 Levi Sanders
 Abbe Carver
 Avery Smith
 Chase Ivester
 Isaiah Singletary
 Tate Parker

PAST CHAMPIONS

2021 EVANS

2022 BAINBRIDGE

2023 LANIER

2024 WEST LAURENS

2025 GREENBRIER



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Nominate a parent who has gone above and beyond all year long in helping support our sports teams. Whether it's organizing healthy snacks or meals, volunteering their time, coordinating carpools, helping with fundraising and more, let's honor these dedicated parents.

Your school could receive a \$2,500 donation to support your student-athletes and teams and the parent and their family could win a 3-night trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. This popular destination in the Great Smoky Mountains offers hundreds of family-friendly attractions, including Dollywood, interactive museums, thrilling rides, dinner shows, outdoor adventures and more.



Nominate a parent today by scanning this QR code with your phone's camera and clicking on the link.

* NO PURCHASE REQUIRED TO ENTER. Nominee must be 18+ at time of entry and reside in Tennessee, Georgia or Kentucky. See official rules for details.

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