

2026 MCGILL ASSOCIATES BASS TOURNAMENT RULES

April 17, 2026

1. Tournament date is **Friday, April 17, 2026, on Lake Rhodhiss**. Dinner will be served at the Sawmills Veterans Park, and the launch and weigh-in site will be the Conley Creek NCWRC ramp that adjoins the facility. Hours of the tournament will be 8 am to 4 pm. Friday, April 24th, 2026, will be the rain date for the tournament.

2. The entry fee of **\$35 per person** must be received by the Tournament Director (TD) prior to the tournament. The tournament payout will be as follows, based on total weight of each boat's catch:

First place:	\$500	Sixth – Tenth place:	\$10 Gift Cards (Each)
Second place	\$250	Eleventh and Beyond:	Tackle / gift packs
Third place:	\$150	Heaviest bass:	\$75
Fourth place:	\$100	Heaviest non-bass:	\$30
Fifth place:	\$80		

3. **FISHING RULES:** Only bass (largemouth, spotted, and smallmouth) will be weighed. **Each boat may weigh 2 or fewer bass measuring less than 14" and 3 or more bass measuring 14" or greater (measured from tip of nose to tip of tail), with a maximum limit per boat of 5 bass.** A measuring scale will be on-site. A non-bass may be weighed, separate from the bass, in order to enter the big non-bass contest. Only artificial bait may be used. No live bait or trolling is allowed. As this is a "catch & release" tournament, anglers should make every effort to keep their catch alive. Penalties for violation of these restrictions are as follows: Too many under-sized fish – deduction of 1.0 pound from total weight; late penalty – deduction of 1.0 pound from total weight per minute after 4 pm; dead fish – deduction of 0.25 pound per dead fish; use of live bait or violation of rules – disqualification.

4. **LAUNCH PROCEDURE:** You and your fishing partner must supply your boat for the tournament. Boats should be at the ramp and have their live well checked and pick up their numbered weigh-in bag from the TD prior to 7:30 am, and no one shall leave the immediate area of the launch ramp or begin fishing before 8 am. All participants must wear a personal flotation device when the gasoline motor is in operation. Due to our use of City of Lenoir's facilities, the use of alcohol will not be permitted on City property. **Once launched, each boat should line up in numerical order in the cove to the west of the launching ramp. Starting at 8am (cell phone time), boats will be released in numerical order by the TD's boat, with the order determined by when each entry fee was received. Boats must be back at the ramp prior to 4 pm (cell phone time).**

5. **WEIGH-IN PROCEDURE:** Boats should be loaded and then parked in the ramp parking area, where the weigh-in will take place under the canopy. Order of weigh-in will be based on first come, first served. Fish should be brought to the weigh-in area using the numbered weigh bag with water from the lake. The anglers will hand the filled bag to the TD, who will empty water and fish into the bass tub. The TD will confirm fish size and number, determine any penalties, and then immediately place the fish back into the empty weigh bag. The TD will then weigh the catch inside the bag. Each angler's big bass and big non-bass will be weighed separately, if requested, by the anglers. The anglers should witness their weights being recorded, then immediately return their live catch to the lake. After all fish are weighed, everyone will drive up to the Water Treatment Facility, where prizes will be awarded after a catered dinner is provided by the tournament sponsors.

6. **DIRECTIONS TO CONLEY CREEK ACCESS AREA RAMP ON LAKE RHODHISS:** From I-40 take exit 113 and travel north on Rutherford College Road for 4.7 miles. Turn right on Dry Pond Road and go 3.2 miles. Turn right on Waterworks Road and go 1 mile. Access Area is at the end of this road on the right fork, the Lenoir Water Treatment Facility is on the left fork. The address for the Treatment Facility is 5474 Water Works Road, Granite Falls, NC 28630. For questions or clarifications, contact the Tournament Directors (Nick Huffman at 828-514-1088 or Lisa Watts at 828-328-2024). **GOOD LUCK!**