



# Thomas County Central Bass Fishing Team



## **Bass Fishing - GHSA Sanctioned Sport**

Bass fishing has become an official Georgia High School Association sanctioned sport this school year.

Bass fishing is a co-ed sport allowing young men and women to compete side-by-side. There is no designated season, thus allowing students to compete year-round in both GHSA-sanctioned events and non-sanctioned high school fishing tournaments.

GHSA competition comprises four State Qualifying tournaments held in different areas of the state beginning in January 2021 with the State Championship to be held in May.

The GHSA is partnering with the FLW, the world's largest tournament-fishing organization and The Bass Federation (TBF), the nation's largest grassroots fishing organization, to make bass fishing a sanctioned sport.

Georgia is the fifth state to partner with FLW and TBF to offer high school fishing as a sanctioned high school sport, joining Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana and Mississippi.

## **Thomas County Central Bass Fishing Team**

Thomas County Central's Bass Fishing Team was started last year in anticipation of the 2021 GHSA bass fishing competitions.

The young Yellow Jacket team competed in four sanctioned high school fishing tournaments and placed in the top 12 two times within a field of more than 150 teams across Georgia.

They also qualified and competed in the state championship tournament and finished 16<sup>th</sup> in the state this past summer at Clark's Hill Lake in Augusta.

## **GHSA Bass Fishing - General Information**

Bass Fishing is a state championship co-ed event open to all GHSA schools in all classifications.

Notification of entry in Bass Fishing must be filed with the GHSA office no later than April 1 for the next school year.

The Bass Fishing State Championship will be held in May each year. The first of four regional qualifiers will begin in January of each year.

The GHSA is partnering with FLW/TBF to oversee and manage the Regional Qualifiers and State Championship Fishing Tournament.

The GHSA/FLW/TBF shall make the determination of the region competition sites. Schools interested in hosting may submit a request.

There is no limit to the number of students each school can have on their team roster.

Each school may enter up to six boats in each regional competition. Schools can enter boats into multiple GHSA regional competitions.

The top 15 boats from each regional advance to the state championship. One additional boat will advance from each regional for every 10 boats that compete over a minimum of 100 boats in the regional. Boats will advance to the state championship from the first event in which they qualified. If a boat has already qualified for the state championship, the next eligible boat will advance.

There is no limit of State Championship qualifiers from a member school.

Each boat may have up to four (4) student contestants, only two (2) of which may be in the boat at any one time, assigned from the team's roster.

No student may be assigned to more than one boat.

### **Eligibility to enter competition play and substitutions**

All participating students must be submitted for eligibility through the GHSA office. Each school shall enter all GHSA eligible students on the electronic roster. This roster may be revised throughout the regular season and shall serve all roster purposes in these rules.

All member schools participating must abide by the GHSA policy requiring the HEAD COACH to be a certified employee. Volunteers and Boat Captains are not required to be certified employees.

***If you're interested in bass fishing this year for Thomas County Central, please see Coach Todd Wilson in room V-102.***

