

**Official Rules +Regulation  
River Country Bassmasters  
Buffalo Lake Open  
Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**Tournament Hours 7:00AM to 3:00PM**

1. **Entry and Eligibility:** Entry fee is \$135.00 per team (2 anglers per team) **\$150 DAY OFF ENTRY** and it includes Big Bass entry of \$15.00 per team (pays 2 places). THERE WILL BE A 6 FISH LIMIT PER TEAM. Entries will be limited to the first 50 teams. All contestants must be at least 18 years of age to be eligible for cash awards. There is an 80% payout.
2. **Safety:** Tournament contestants must observe safe boat conduct at all times. Each competitor must wear an USCG approved chest type life preserver any time the combustion engine is running. **NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ALLOWED DURING THE TOURNAMENT HOURS!!!!**
3. **Boat + Motor:** The horsepower of the motor may not exceed the USCG rating. Each boat must be equipped with an aerated livewell large enough to maintain a live limit of bass. Boats must be a minimum of 16 feet and have a minimum of a 40hp motor.
4. **Tackle + Equipment:** Only artificial baits may be use (Pork strips + rinds are OK). Only 1 rod and reel may be used at a time (Others may be rigged and ready). No live or prepared baits are allowed. NO MOTOR TROLLING.
5. **Scoring:** Final winners will be determined by the total weight (Pounds to the .00) during the tournament. **THERE WILL BE A 6 FISH LIMIT PER TEAM.** Only largemouth and smallmouth bass, 14 inches in length and longer will count towards the teams score. Golden rule will be used. All fish will be measured closed mouth and closed tail. All bass must be caught alive and in a sporting manner. Each team is expected to make every effort to keep their bass alive and healthy. There will be a 4 ounce penalty for each dead fish, and each dead fish will be counted as part of the teams 6 fish limit. In the case of a tie, the most bass registered by a team will prevail, if still tied the teams involved will split the prize money involved equally. A coin toss will decide trophies.
6. **Sportsmanship:** All competitors are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. All Wisconsin fishing and boating regulations must be followed. Having a non-competitor sit in your spot is prohibited and will result in a disqualification.
7. **Tournament Waters:** Tournament waters will consist of all navigable waters, unless designated at the pre-tournament meeting. **There is no cutoff for pre-fishing tournament waters.**
8. **Pre-Tournament Meeting:** Meeting will be held at the tournament headquarters 6:30 AM the morning of the tournament. All contestants must be present at this meeting, and all boats must be in the water and inspected
9. **Protests + Rule Interpretation:** Any protest must be filed with the tournament director within 30 minutes of the close of the tournament. The interpretation of the rules shall be the responsibility of the tournament committee. All decisions of the tournament committee president will be final.
10. **STARTING POSITION WILL BE DETERMINED BY RETURN OF COMPLETED ENTRY AND ENTRY FEES. FIRST IN- FIRST PRIORITY FOR STARTING POSITION. CUTOFF FOR ACCEPTING REGULAR APPLICATIONS IS APRIL 1st 2026. ANY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER APRIL 1st MUST BE CASH OR CERTIFIED CHECK. MORNING OF REGISTRATION IS ALLOWED BUT IS \$150 CASH ONLY.**

The **boat owner/operator** is solely responsible for the **safe operation** of their vessel at all times. The boater assumes liability for: Operation of the boat, Safety of all passengers, Any accident, injuries, or property damage involving the vessel. Co-anglers ride at their own risk.

For more information contact [rivercountrybassmasters@gmail.com](mailto:rivercountrybassmasters@gmail.com)

Tournament Headquarters: Montello City Launch near Sunset Dr. East side of lake along dredge bank.

Make all checks payable to RIVER COUNTRY BASSMASTERS

Mike Puterbaugh

Send check and FULLY COMPLETED entry form to

W3778 Cty Rd C

Please include E-mail for future contacts:

Montello WI 53949

Buffalo Lake Open  
Sunday April 26, 2026

Name _____	Name _____
Address _____	Address _____
City _____	City _____
Partner #1 Signature _____	Partner #2 Signature _____
Email _____	Email _____