



The Bad Cat Classic is hosted by UF/IFAS Extension Holmes County. The mission of this tournament is to involve youth in outdoor recreation and conservation. All proceeds from this contest will go to the Randy Adams Memorial with the mission to purchase lifetime hunting & fishing licenses for youth in the Holmes County, FL.

Tournament Contact: UF/IFAS Extension Holmes Co. Kalyn Waters 850-547-1108

Official Rules and Regulations - 2026

1. This is a team event. Teams are defined by boat, with no limit to the number of people per boat. Team Captain must be at least 18 years of age.
2. If no team members are 17 years of age or younger, the team must pay **\$25** fee. This allows teams to fish without youth on the team; however, they must pay the fee. The fee is not included in the payout totals. All fees go directly towards the purchase of a lifetime fishing license for kids in the tournament.
3. All teams participating are doing so at their own risk. Teams agree not to hold the University of Florida, Holmes County Board of County Commissioners, or any associated persons/sponsors liable for any damage, injury, or claims resulting from the contestant's participation in this tournament.
4. Teams must comply with the State Laws of the water they are fishing. Any violation of any State Laws will be grounds for disqualification.
5. Registration fees will be paid in cash, and prizes will be paid back in cash.
6. Following registration, no refunds will be given to contestants, even if a team should choose to withdraw.
7. Registration will be completed on a first-come, first-served basis starting at 3:30 PM.
8. All teams are required to check in between 3:30 PM and 5:00 PM at the Caryville Boat Landing. All teams must register in person.
9. Boats are subject to checks before the start of the tournament.
10. The tournament/fishing will begin at 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 12, 2026
11. **Teams will be allowed to launch from ANY location on the Choctawhatchee River**
12. Teams must compete from a boat and remain in the boat during competition. Fishing within 50 yards of a competitor's boat, which was first anchored, is prohibited.
13. All fish weighed must be caught by **rod and reel only**. No catfish may be taken from trot, jug, or limb lines.
14. Teams must comply with state fishing and boating regulations, including the use of PFDs and kill switches. Fishing and boating licenses are the responsibility of team members.
15. **All participants must be in the weigh-in line at the Caryville Boat Landing by 7:30 AM on Sunday, September 13, 2026. All teams must be in line by 7:30 AM CST. No exceptions.**
16. Any legal commercial or natural bait will be allowed—no fishing in known chum holes.
17. Only Blue cats, Channel cats, and Flathead catfish will be weighed.
18. A team limit of (2) two fish, ALIVE & IN GOOD CONDITION, will be weighed in.

19. If early weigh-in is offered -- Early weigh-in fish are FINAL – Once a fish is on the scale, it will be counted as one of the weights, including big fish and target weight.
20. Culling must be done before adding fish to the weigh-in container. Once fish are placed in a container, they cannot be replaced with another fish.
21. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular phones, marine radios, etc., to communicate fishing information during tournament hours is prohibited.
22. In case of a tie in a position, monies will be added together, and then divided equally: i.e., a tie in (4th) fourth place; fourth and fifth place monies will be added together and divided equally. The next payout will be sixth place. Tie in big fish, and the money will be divided equally between both teams.
23. Any protest must be made, in writing with a \$50 non-refundable deposit, to the tournament director within 30 minutes after weigh-in and must state the rule or rules that were broken.
24. All adult team members are subject to a polygraph test.
25. Any team having a member who fails or refuses to take a polygraph test or whose condition does not permit administration of a test because of the contestant's use of alcohol or drugs will be disqualified.
26. The use of alcoholic beverages is prohibited.
27. Unsportsmanlike conduct may be grounds for disqualification if circumstances require.
28. Decisions of the Tournament Director will be final.

Target Weight – By Team \$10

Individuals can enter the Target Weight Contest. The individual who catches the fish that is closest to the target weight will be the winner. This is entered as a team. All individuals entered are subject to a polygraph test at the discretion of the tournament director.

Big Cat – By Team \$10

Individuals can enter the Big Cat Contest, which is simply the largest fish caught by an adult participating in the tournament. This is entered as an individual, and the fish presented for weight must have been caught by the individual who entered the Big Cat category. All individuals entered are subject to a polygraph test at the discretion of the tournament director.

Phone Numbers

Kalyn Waters – 407-619-9862

Jason Pugh – 850-768-8665

UF | **IFAS Extension**
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

