



The Herne Bay Angling Association
37th Open National Bass Festival 2026

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I wish to enter the HBAA Bass Festival on Friday 31st of July to Sunday the 2nd of August 2026.
I agree to abide by the rules of the festival, and The Herne Bay Angling Association and will not hold the H.B.A.A. its officers or committee responsible for any loss that may occur.

I enclose my entry fee of **£20.00** (or £10.00 if you are under the age of 18 on 31/07/2026)

Please use block capitals

Name of Competitor.....

Address

..... Post code.....

Email address.....

Name of Boat / Beach.....

State if Juvenile..... (Under 18 on 31/07/2026)

State if Lady

Entry Fee (as applicable) £..... *Cheques made payable to Herne Bay Angling Association

ALL COMPETITORS MUST READ AND UNDERSTAND THE COMPETITION RULES AHEAD OF PARTICIPATION

Signature.....

Please send your completed entry form and entry fee to:

**The Secretary (Bass Festival)
The Herne Bay Angling Association
59 Central Parade
Herne Bay
CT6 5JG**

For enquiries, contact Competition Secretary Les Bates:
07909954457
les_12@hotmail.co.uk

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37th Open National Bass Festival 2026

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5.00am Friday 31st July - 5.00pm Sunday 2nd August

Prize Presentation Sunday 2nd August at 7.00pm

Rules

1. The festival will be fished under H.B.A.A. rules. Any dispute or matter not dealt with by these rules will be considered by the committee whose decision will be final.
2. There is no restriction on boat size but all boats going afloat must, as a condition of entry using CCC launching facilities have their CCC Watercraft Membership Number (or HBAA visitors permit) clearly marked on the vessel, carry compass, life jackets for each person in the boat and in-date flares and V.H.F. Radio. No Competitor may fish alone or with a non-competitor.

3. Fishing Times

Beach

Competitors may fish on the beach from 5 am Friday 31st July until 5pm on Sunday 2nd August 2026..

Boat

All boats competing must leave from the harbor or inside the vicinity of the 8 knot buoys adjacent to the harbor arm from 5am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and must return by 8pm on Friday and Saturday and 5pm on Sunday. Providing permission has been granted by the committee, Charter Boats may leave their port from 5am on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and head straight to their designated area but must not anchor before 6am and no lines to enter the water until 6am. **For safety reasons boats must not be afloat between the hours of 8pm to 5am.**

4. Fishing Limits

Beach

From and including fishing from **Whitstable Street** to the **third breakwater past Coldharbour Sluice** including Piers and Jetties.

Boat

The Easterly Limit: An imaginary line drawn from the shore at Westgate to the SE Margate Buoy then to the Tongue Towers and then to continue North until it intersects with an imaginary line running west to the northerly limit of the Knock John Tower.

The Westerly Limit: An imaginary line drawn along Whitstable Street to the Columbine Buoy then to the Red Sands Towers and then to continue north until it intersects with an imaginary line running east to the Knock John Tower.

5. For safety reasons all boats must launch and recover from the Harbor or Neptune Jetty. Any boats (due to size or draft) that cannot access the designated launch areas can be taken out by a competing boat, providing the transfer takes place inside the 8 knot marker buoys in the vicinity of the harbor arm.
6. It would assist with the smooth running of the competition if you could register in advance, but entries will be accepted on the days of the festival during club opening times.
7. **All boat competitors must register/check in at the H.B.A.A. HQ/Car Park before starting to fish. No entries will be accepted after 10 p.m. on Saturday 1st August 2026.**
8. Checks will be performed in the Launch/Recovery area each evening between 8.00pm and 8.30pm to ensure all boats have returned safely.

9. Only 3 fish per day will be accepted in accordance with current MMO guidelines. All fish must be weighed at the club house.

Minimum Qualifying Size

Boats Adults – 4lb

Juniors – min 42cm

Beach – Minimum 42cm applies.

10. Competitors may use 2 rods with no more than 3 hooks in total. A Pennell rig counts as 2 hooks.
11. Any Competitor wishing to make a protest must do so in writing to the Fishing Committee by 5.30pm on Sunday.

Classes

There will be a separate prize fund for both Boat and Beach based on entry numbers. Only 1 fish caught by each competitor is eligible.

Special Awards

There will be prizes for the heaviest bass caught by a Junior and Lady Angler.

Members are reminded that only one set of points for the boat and beach championship are awarded for the heaviest fish caught during the festival.

Previous Festival Winners			
Year / Name	Weight (Lbs)	Year / Name	Weight (Lbs)
2000 S. Bobbett	14.82	2001 I. Martin	12.58
2002 J. Williams	9.505	2003 D. Attenborough	13.68
2004 S. Bobbett	14.04	2005 M. Todd	10.115
2006 D. Hancock	15.38	2007 M. Carpenter	10.46
2008 M. Sargent	13.44	2009 P. Moss	9.91
2010 C. Gardener	10.88	2011 M. Hope	7.06
2012 J. Ifill	10.25	2013 J. Young	14.64
2014 D. Evans	9.24	2015 D. Farmer	9.265
2016 K. Neame	13.68	2017 W. Middleton	11.46
2018 W. Weller	10 (78 cm)	2019 M. Taylor	9.565
2020 D. Weller	9.25	2021 P. Moss	9.235
2022 J. Young	7.27	2023 K. Neame	12.26
2024 S. Crimmins	8.265	2025 R. Joyce	6.73