

**2016 Illinois High School Association State Bass Fishing Finals**  
**May 20 – 21, 2016**  
**Carlyle Lake, Dam West Boat Ramp**

The 2016 Illinois High School Association (IHSA) State Bass Fishing Finals were held on May 20 - 21, 2015 at the Dam West Recreation Area at Carlyle Lake. This is the eighth year the City of Carlyle and Carlyle Lake has hosted this event with 71 teams (approximately 250 student athletes) from schools located throughout the state competing to be crowned the champion of Illinois high school bass fishing. The event is made possible through a successful partnership between the IHSA, the City of Carlyle, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, FLW Fishing, the Clinton County EMA, the Clinton County Sheriff's Department, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Carlyle Lake.

At the pre-tournament safety meeting, Carlyle Lake staff members assisted by presenting a power point on water safety and a lake evacuation plan in case inclement weather and storms approach during the event. This plan is initiated by the IHSA officials in charge of the tournament in the event bad weather approaches. In the case of lightning or thunder the event is immediately postponed for 30 minutes. Corps staff also assists the IHSA with traffic control, boat safety checks, and water patrol throughout the event.

This is the eighth year of a contract between the IHSA and the City of Carlyle and earlier this month the contract was extended for five more years through 2021. The Carlyle staff has played a vital role in the safety and planning for the tournament since the inaugural year in 2009. Many changes have been made to increase the safety of all participants in the event, including a mass voicemail/ text message system from the IHSA to contact boaters of inclement weather approaching. Also a direct contact from the National Weather Service has been established to monitor the exact location and give precise timing when weather might occur.

The weather cooperated this year and anglers were able to take advantage of the conditions without any weather delays. In the end 57 of the 71 teams brought 185 fish to the scales weighing over 350 pounds. Elkhartville (Elverado) High School captured first place with 10 fish weighing 21 pounds, 5 ounces, Highland High School #1 was second with 7 fish weighing 14 pound, 15 ounces and Highland #2 finished third with 14 pounds, 7 ounces. Big bass of the tournament was caught by Chris Thompson of Sandwich High School with a 4 pound, 14 ounce lunker.

This tournament is a first class event! Between the IHSA and the FLW, the entire tournament gives participants and spectators a championship atmosphere and an experience the students will always remember!

