

## NEW RIVER CARP OPEN 2026 RULES

- Please Read the following rules. Everyone is expected to be respectful of each other. Also, everyone is expected to be respectful to the public during any visits to Hinton and Summers County during and before the tournament. We are hoping for future events!

Things each team will be expected to have if you don't have already

- Fish safe net
- Unhooking mat
- Weight Tripod
- Accurate Scale
- 2 Keep sacks retaining slings ( laundry bags)
- WV fishing license per angler
- **One Sling for weight Marshals**

Payout based on 40 teams & Two Sections

Section One - Lake - 1<sup>st</sup> \$7,500 2<sup>nd</sup> \$5,000 3<sup>rd</sup> \$2,500

Section Two - River - 1<sup>st</sup> \$7,500 2<sup>nd</sup> \$5,000 3<sup>rd</sup> \$2,500

Each person entering the big fish pot must pay \$25 on the day of the tournament to enter.

**The remaining money from Registration fees** will go towards tournament fees and expenses . \$250 is due by Jan 17<sup>th</sup> at 2pm during registration on the website [www.wvcarp.com](http://www.wvcarp.com)

**Top 12 Teams** from 2025 may register on Jan 13th (email has been sent).

**The Entry fee of \$750** must be paid by March 17<sup>th</sup>

**Pre-fishing the area is allowed until April 15th** on all public locations; you must be mindful of private property and respectful of public access points. You can view and check depths on public pegs after this time. No baiting of the river after this time.

**Tanking of fish is extremely prohibited**  and will not be tolerated. Anyone doing so or anyone associated with them will be banned from current and future events! WV law prohibits this practice. **No fish shall be sold for profit! No fish shall be given or sold to a pay lake!**

**April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> until 3pm is peg viewing.** On pegs that are allowing it... If any peg is not open for viewing I will be sure to do a detailed video on Facebook of the locations.

**April 21<sup>th</sup> is Peg Order drawing at the Opening Ceremony @ 5:00pm.** Willow Country Club.

**April 22nd PEG draw @ 6:00am.** Held at Bellepoint Park. Teams will draw according to their peg order drawing. Only the team drawing may be up front. The first team will draw two pegs from the bucket. Each team will have 1min & 30 seconds to decide on one and then put the other back. Or move to the back of the line. The third draw you have to take. As you get your peg, check with staff to go over quickly where parking or special rules for the peg would be.

**Fishing starts @8:00am** No Pre-baiting, or lines in the water until 8am. That gives everyone a fair chance to start at the same time. Please be respectful of each property your peg is on. No cutting of limbs or vegetation. No Open Fires. Use your portable john to use the bathroom and properly dispose of trash and waste. Rods must be between your peg markers. Paint or flags. Some pegs may have a designated camping site where your tents must be set up. Black out will start at midnight on Friday

**Fishing ends 25<sup>th</sup> of April @ 12 noon** All lines must be out of the water before then. Any fish called into the marshal after this time will not be counted.

**Awards Ceremony will be @ 3pm** at Willow Wood Country Club.

## **General Rules**

**All WV state laws apply.**

**WV fishing licenses are required for all team members.**

**Breaking any Tournament rules will be an immediate disqualification. Marshal's will inform the Tournament host.**

This is a Big Four competition. The biggest four fish will be counted. Only Cyprinus carpio will be counted.

- **Once you land a fish** it must be 18 pounds or more to count. If it makes weight, call your Marshal and let them know. Then put the fish in a Keep sack, retaining the sling in the water. Until Marshal arrives. ( no more than two fish per sack or sling) You must have a tripod to weigh the fish. Once Marshal is ready please place fish in the Marshals weight sling. The Marshals will weigh the fish. Marshal will then record the weight and the person who caught the fish must initial beside the weight. Then fish must be safely returned to the water. The Marshal will make sure the fish safely swims away. Any dead fish or extremely crippled ones will not COUNT. Marshals will be weighing fish from 8am to 8pm daily.
- Pre-fishing ends April 15th - no baiting or fishing the river after this time
- No boats/rafts/kayaks allowed. Only bait boats and castable depth finders are allowed
- 1-4 man teams
- Only single hook rigs allowed
- Fish safe nets required
- Unhooking mats required
- No hooks larger than 1/0
- No treble hooks
- 6 baited rods in water at once per team. Spod rods do not count
- No open Fires
- No Camping Trailers or Campers
- Safe fish handling is expected
- Trash and waste must be taken home with you. No use of trash cans in the city of Hinton or public or private facilities.

- Portable John's must be used away from the eye of the public and waste must be bagged. I suggest kitty litter in your bag . It must be taken with you and not disposed in any public or private trash cans in the Hinton or surrounding areas
- Pegs must be cleaned up and neat during and after tournament
- Please remove peg signs after tournament during your cleanup
- **THE GOLDEN RULE** you must respect property owners rules and wishes for the pegs
- Fish that look to be snagged more than two inches from the mouth will not be counted
- Dropped fish will not be counted and must be released at once
- No Tanking of fish. No selling or transporting of fish
- No one shall have the means of Tanking or transporting fish in your vehicle during the tournament
- No Tournament participants my be inside any other teams pegs during the tournament
- One member of each team can be a runner. And may only be gone from the peg for a limited time each day
- Any physical or verbal abuse towards any non fisherman, locals, tournament officials or volunteers will not be tolerated
- No use of spotlights to harass or light up other pegs
- Any angler may not enter the contest that has assisted in marking pegs, helping with the drawing, and/or Coordination of the contest. Also, any person who has a friend/team member/spouse/ or close acquaintance who wishes to Marshal may only do so if said friend/team member/spouse/ or close acquaintance is not in their peg region.

Tournament officials reserve the right to use any photos or videos taken during this event for use in future events and on social media or news outlets.

**In the event of a cancellation of the tournament, Registration is non refundable. All other fees will be refunded within two weeks. Any other fees are nonrefundable for any other reason.**