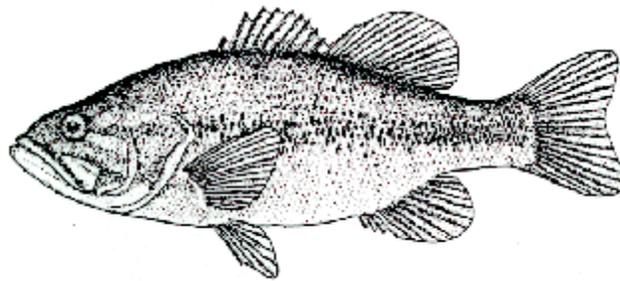


Georgia Bass Chapter Federation

2014

Tournament Creel Report



Submitted by

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GBCF Tournament Report - 2014

This was the 37th year of the Georgia Bass Chapter Federation (GBCF) Tournament Creel Report. In 2014, 39 bass clubs submitted results from 407 tournaments. Several of these tournaments were not analyzed because they involved less than five anglers or lasted less than five hours. Also, Georgia reservoirs and rivers with less than five submitted tournaments were not analyzed. Although Allatoona had only four submitted tournaments, it was included since it has been in the reports since 1978. The data from tournaments held outside of Georgia were not analyzed. Georgia clubs fished many tournaments in other states including, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina and Florida. Data from 55 tournaments held at Alabama interior reservoirs and 38 at border reservoirs were sent to the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and became part of their annual tournament data analysis (B.A.I.T.). Data from 301 tournaments on 13 Georgia reservoirs and the Savannah River were analyzed for this report.

Fishing success at Georgia reservoirs and the Savannah River are compared on the attached table and figures. Bass anglers spent 38,857 hours of effort during the 301 tournaments. The weighed-in, tournament average catch rate was 0.312 bass / angler hour (or 3.12 bass in a 10-hour fishing day). This is the highest catch rate of the 37 years of this project and is significantly above the 0.264 catch rate average of the previous 10 years. The second highest catch rate was 0.308 in 2013 and the third highest was 0.295 in 2012.

Hartwell had the highest catch rate (0.414 bass / angler hour), and **Russell** was second with a catch rate of 0.401 bass / angler hour. The lowest percent of unsuccessful anglers was at **Hartwell** (4.9%); and **Russell** was second lowest (11.8%). The percent of anglers with five weighed-in bass (a "limit") was greatest at **Hartwell** (46.4%). **Russell** was also second in this category with 44.9% of tournament anglers with five bass. The average bass weight was greatest at **Seminole** (2.53 lbs); but it was also good at **W.F. George** (2.29 lbs). The tournament-average largest bass was at **Seminole** (5.48 lbs). **W.F. George** and **Clarks Hill** also had a tournament-average largest bass over 5.0 lbs. The greatest winning weight average was 18.42 lbs at **W.F. George**; however, this reservoir had several two-day tournaments, which would contribute to a greater winning weight.

This was the 11th year that clubs were asked to indicate how many bass 5.0 lbs or larger were caught during each tournament. Only 149 bass 5.0 lbs or larger were caught during the 301 tournaments. On average, it required 261 angler hours to catch a bass of this size. There was a big difference in this value across the fishing locations. Whereas it took 1,408 angler hours at the **Savannah River** to catch a bass \geq 5.0 lbs, it took only 50

angler hours at **Seminole**. There was an average of only 0.495 bass \geq 5.0 lbs caught during the 301 tournaments. The largest bass reported in 2014 was 9.5 lbs caught in the **Savannah River** during a November tournament. Only six bass of 8.0 lbs or larger were caught in the 301 tournaments. That works out to 6,476 angler hours to catch a bass \geq 8.0 lbs! This was much better than last year when it took 9,525 hours!

The reservoir and river abbreviations on the attached graphs are **AL** (Allatoona), **BF** (Bartlett's Ferry), **BS** (Blackshear), **CH** (Clarks Hill), **HW** (Hartwell), **JA** (Jackson), **LA** (Lanier), **OC** (Oconee), **RU** (R. B. Russell), **SE** (Seminole), **SI** (Sinclair), **SR** (Savannah River), **WG** (W. F. George), and **WP** (West Point).

GBCF TOURNAMENT RESULTS FOR GEORGIA RESERVOIRS AND RIVERS - 2014

Reservoir or River	Number of Tournaments Analyzed	Number of Angler Hours	Bass Weighed-in /Angler Hour	Lbs. Weighed-in/Angler Hour	Percent Anglers with Five or More Bass	Percent Anglers with Zero Bass	Average Largest Bass (lbs.)	Average Bass Weight (lbs.)	Average Winning Weight (lbs.)	Percent Bass as Largemouth	Angler Hours Per ≥ 5 lb Bass
<i>Allatoona</i>	4	599	0.195	0.266	6.9	36.0	2.74	1.59	6.40	18.8	None Caught
<i>Bartlett's Ferry</i>	7	1320	0.196	0.286	15.9	34.8	3.80	1.59	7.14	50.7	439
<i>Blackshear</i> ^b	8	870	0.221	0.480	11.6	32.3	4.52	2.14	9.96	100.0	218
<i>Clarks Hill</i>	54	7136	0.318	0.609	35.0	18.6	5.05	1.90	13.43	96.1	198
<i>Hartwell</i>	9	2065	0.414	0.694	46.4	4.9	4.59	1.64	13.52	35.0	1034
<i>Jackson</i>	12	1338	0.290	0.432	30.9	24.4	3.96	1.52	10.75	42.3	446
<i>Lanier</i> ^a	64	8173	0.293	0.590	25.4	18.1	4.12	2.04	12.01	10.3	742
<i>Oconee</i> ^b	28	2724	0.274	0.563	22.7	24.0	4.64	2.08	11.09	98.8	182
<i>R. B. Russell</i>	10	1588	0.401	0.568	44.9	11.8	3.88	1.51	11.50	18.9	794
<i>Seminole</i>	11	1152	0.317	0.778	20.7	15.9	5.48	2.53	15.62	100.0	50
<i>Sinclair</i>	32	4346	0.324	0.577	37.4	17.3	4.74	1.73	11.97	96.8	229
<i>W. F. George</i> ^b	16	2419	0.334	0.776	32.6	13.9	5.42	2.29	18.42	78.5	97
<i>West Point</i> ^b	16	2297	0.360	0.562	37.0	12.9	4.15	1.63	10.55	24.2	574
<i>Savannah River</i>	30	2830	0.342	0.535	33.2	19.9	3.27	1.58	9.46	100.0	1408
Total	301	38857	0.312	0.581	30.4	18.9	4.42	1.88	12.05	65.4	261

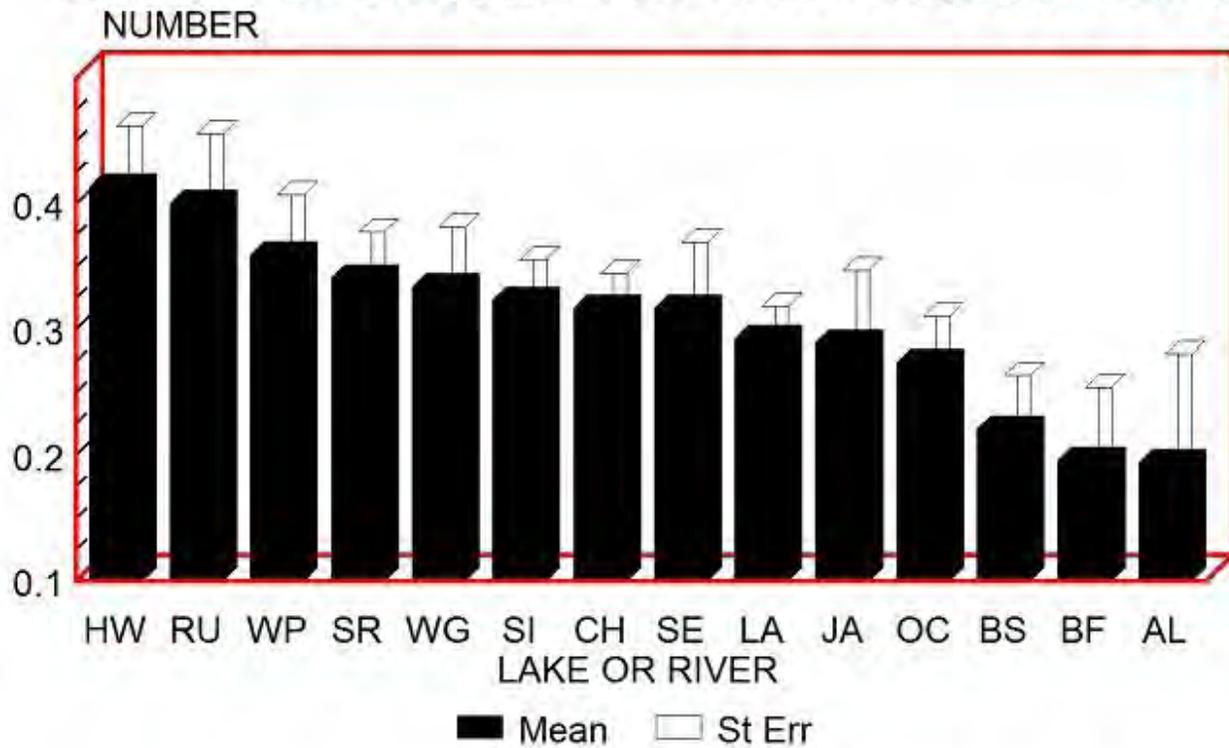
^a 14-inch size limit on all black bass ^b 14-inch size limit on largemouth bass and 12-inch size limit on other black bass.

Note: Only tournaments with five or more anglers and five or more hours in length were analyzed.

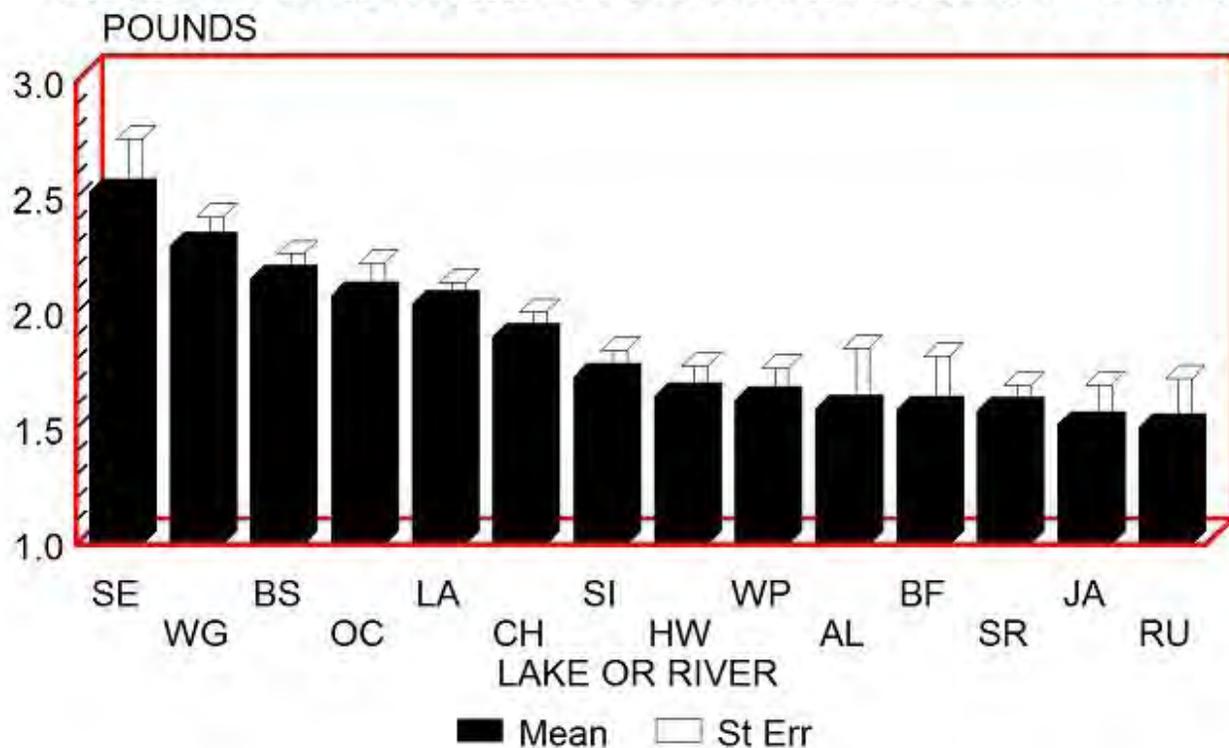
Reservoirs (except Allatoona) and rivers with less than five tournaments were not analyzed.

Compiled and analyzed by Dr. Carl Quertermus, Biology Department, University of West Georgia.

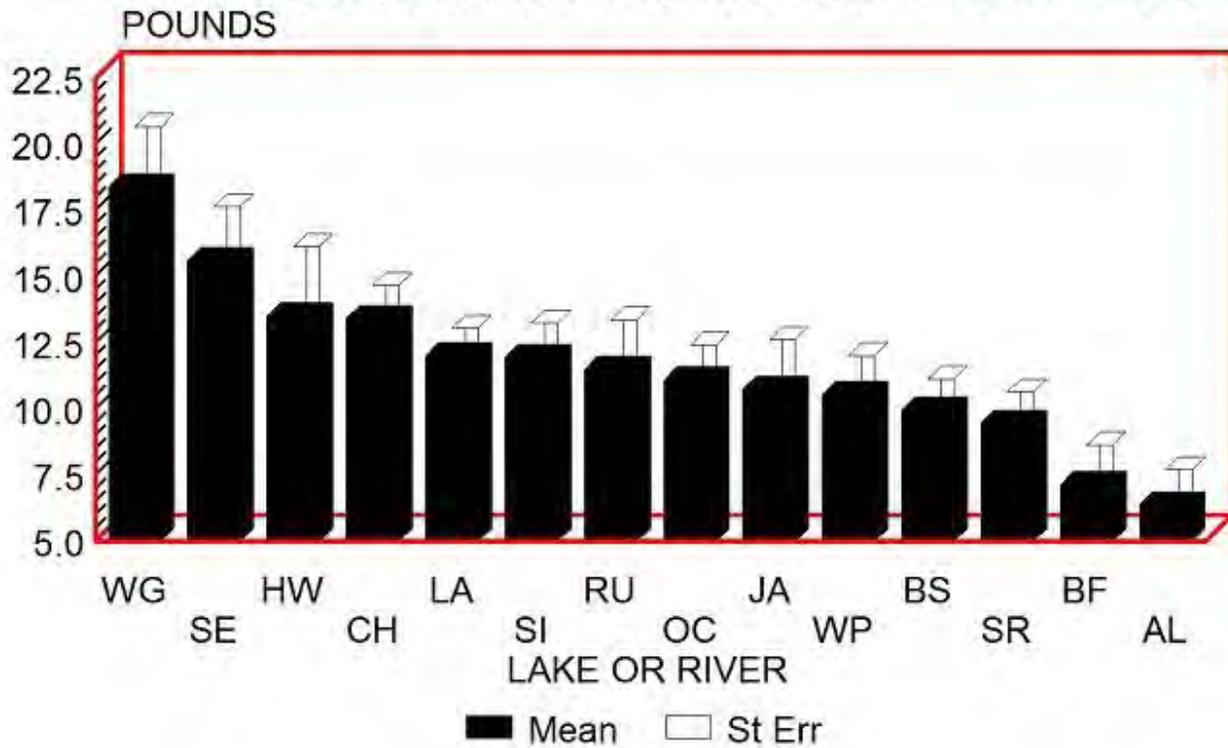
BASS / ANGLER HOUR GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014



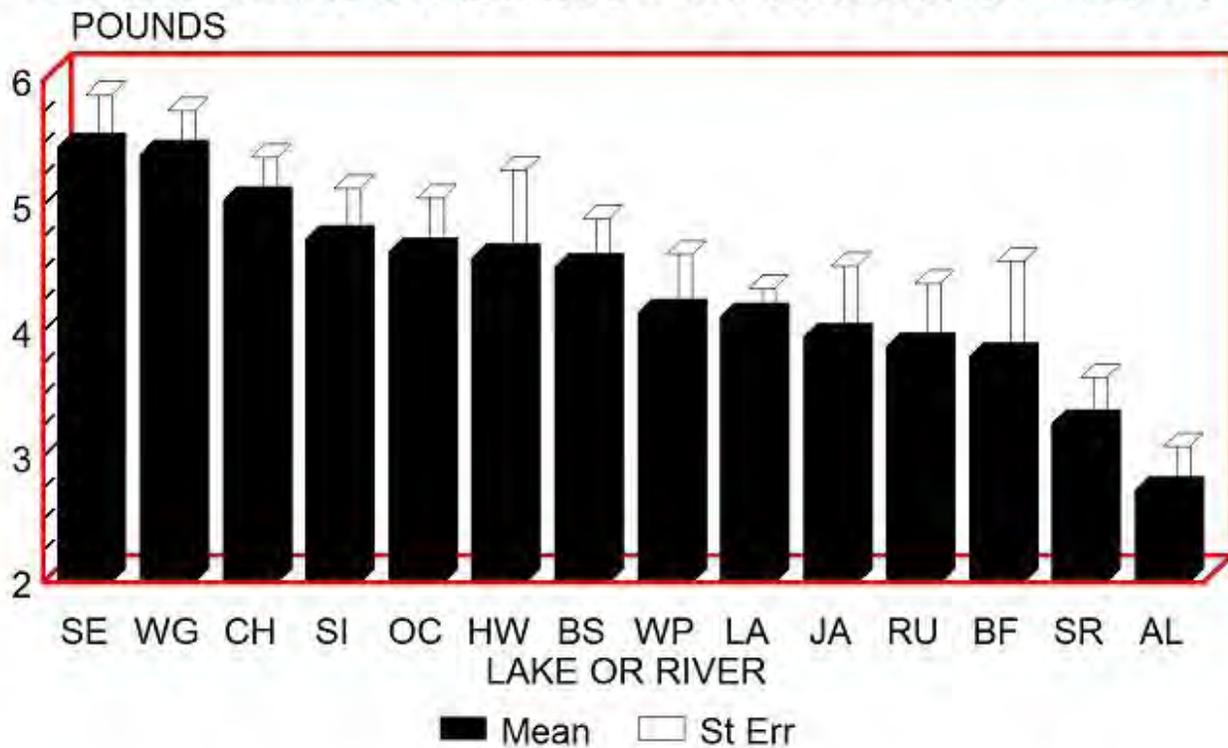
AVERAGE BASS WEIGHT GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014



WINNING WEIGHT GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014

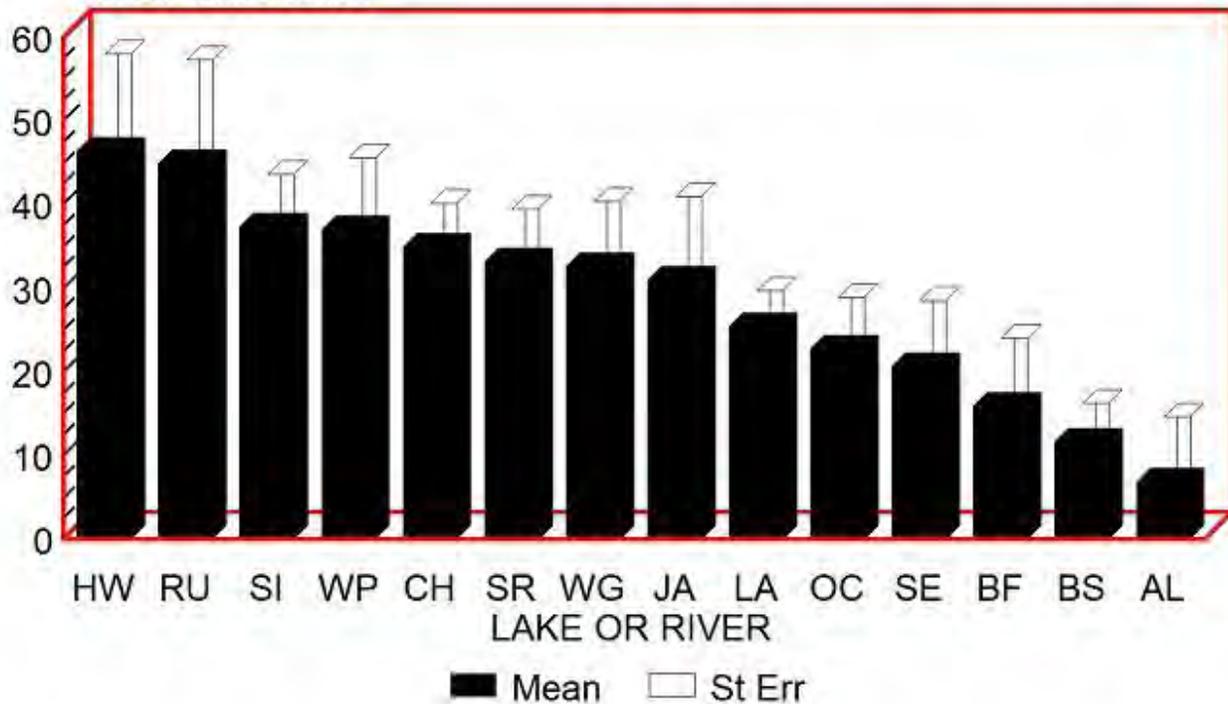


AVERAGE LARGEST BASS GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014



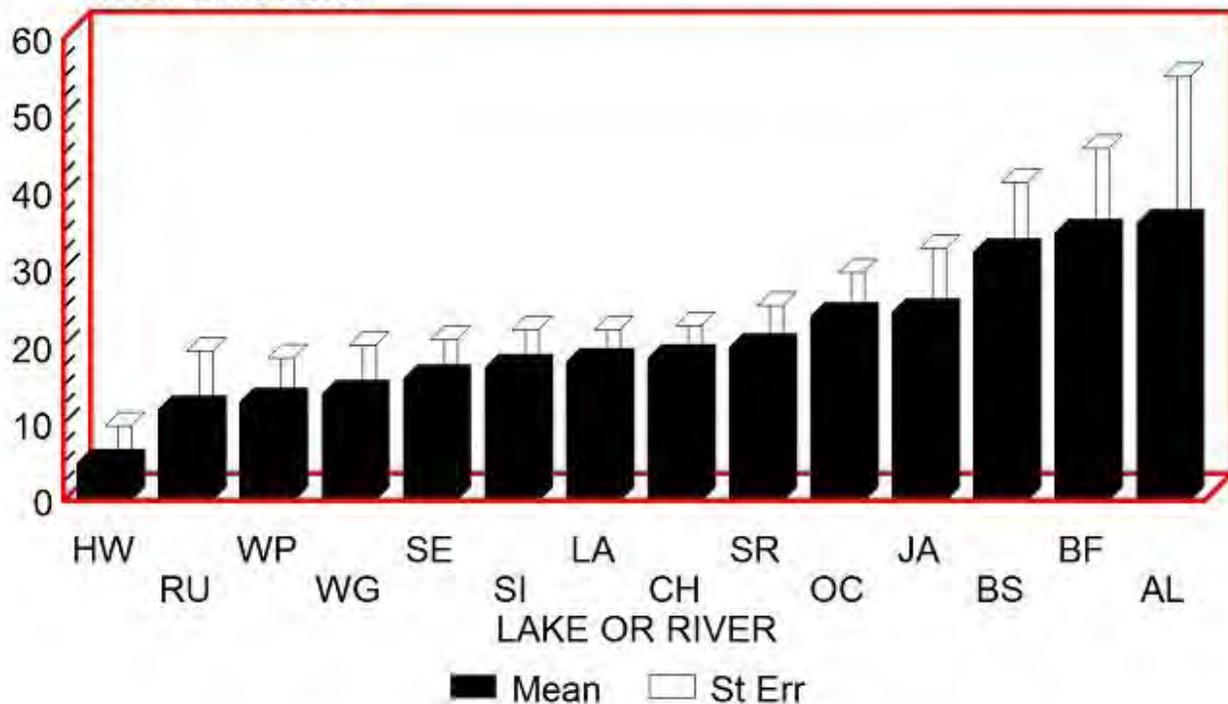
PERCENT ANGLERS WITH FIVE BASS GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014

% OF ANGLERS



PERCENT UNSUCCESSFUL ANGLERS GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014

% OF ANGLERS



NUMBER OF 5 LB BASS / TOURNAMENT GBCF TOURNAMENTS IN GEORGIA - 2014

