

2024 EMS Week Bass Tournament Rules

Administrative Rules

- Eligibility of Participants:** One Person on each team must be a license EMS Provider, Firefighter, Law Enforcement Officer, EMA, 911 staff, a licensed Healthcare provider (RN, RRT, PA, etc) or a verifiable retiree of one of these agencies or an Active Duty Military (including Reserves)
- Professional Fisherman Prohibited** - Pros are defined as any angler/co-angler that has entered a sanctioned tournament on any level such as: *B.A.S.S. or MLF Sanctioned tournament deemed as Professional.* **(OR)** Any angler that has guided for any species of Bass on tournament waters within 6 months of the event.
- Tournament Location and Time:** Chester Frost Park, Chattanooga, TN Boat Ramp. Onsite Check in and late On-site Registration starts at 6 AM. And ends at 6:45A the day of the tournament. Blast off is at 7AM and ending time will be at 3:30 p.m.
- Tournament Entry Fee PER BOAT:** The entry fee is \$120.00 per team (boat) and includes Big Fish fee of \$10 and Eventbrite Fees. Registration and Fees are due by Tuesday May 21st, 2024. The on-site registration entry fee is \$130.00. On-site Registration will open at 6A, the day of the tournament and close at *8A for those that may be getting off shift and wish to come participate with a late blast off. All Entry Fees include \$10 for the Big Fish award and Eventbrite Fees.
- Awards** – Awards will be given to
 - Top 3 teams based on the total weight of their catch.
 - 2 Big Fish for the two heaviest Bass weighed in.
 - The Highest-ranking Team from each state represented will receive a free entry to the 2025 tournament. (must be at least 3 teams per state for award to be presented)
- Pay Out – Based on total number of teams that paid an entry fee. (50% of \$100 entry fee paid back)**
 - 1st Place – 25% of entry fee (less Big fish fee)
 - 2nd Place – 17.5% of Entry fee (less Big fish fee)
 - 3rd Place – 7.5% of Entry fee (less Big fish fee)
 - Big Fish #1 – 60% of Big Fish fee.
 - Big Fish #2 – 40% of Big Fish fee.
 - 50% of Entry fees will be split between SEEMSDA and NWGAEMS Systems Inc. to provide scholarships for EMS Initial Education Scholarships in each non-profits respective area.
- Door Prizes** – Door Prize tickets will be given to each team member.
 - Door Prizes will be determined by a random drawing, The drawing will occur after the last team has weighed in.
 - Ticket Holder must be present to win (non-transferable)
 - Door prize tickets may be purchased on-site the day of the tournament. Tickets will be \$5 each or 5 for \$20 and is open to participants and spectators.
- Lake Headquarters:** Chester Frost Park Boat Ramp, 2277 Gold Point Cir N, Hixson, TN

2024 EMS Week Bass Tournament Rules

9. **Protests:** All protests are to be made before payouts are awarded by the tournament staff. A \$50.00 non-refundable protest fee shall be paid before the last fish is weighed in.
10. **Boat Breakdown:** Will Notify the Tournament Staff by way of cell phone at the emergency numbers provided that day for any emergency. In case of a breakdown, the partners must agree who is to go after the trailer. The person left in the boat can continue to fish until his partner returns with the trailer. Once the boat is trailered, and is removed from the water, it cannot be launched again. The other teammate can have their fish brought back for weigh-in.
11. **Boats and Motors:** All tournament boats must be at least thirteen (13) feet in length and motors must be eighteen (18) horsepower or greater. Electronic trolling may be used to maneuver the boat while casting; however, "trolling" as a method of fishing will not be permitted. All boats must be equipped with required U.S. Coast Guard approved safety equipment and operational live wells.
12. **Safety:** Each tournament participant **MUST** wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved life preserver, which must be zipped, tied, or buckled during blastoff and **worn at all times when the gas motor is in operation**. **KILL SWITCHES ARE MANDATORY AND MUST BE ATTACHED TO DRIVER!!!!**
13. **Rules and Interpretation:** The Tournament Committee shall be solely responsible for the interpretations and enforcement of the tournament rules.

Operational Rules

1. **Tournament Waters** – All waters accessible and considered part of Chickamauga Lake. These include all waters above Chickamauga Dam upstream to just below Watts Bar Dam. **NO LOCKING** into Nickajack or Watts Bar Allowed.
2. **Limit/Baits** – Each team is allowed up to 5 Bass. Largemouth Bass must be a minimum of 15" in length, Spotted or Mean-mouth Bass must be a minimum of 12" and ONLY 1 Smallmouth Bass is allowed, which must be a minimum of 18 inch in length.
All fish MUST be caught on Artificial Lures and from the boat. **NO LIVE BAIT ALLOWED**
3. **Blast-Off Assignment** – Boat numbers will be determined by the time/date stamp from online registrations. For onsite Late Registrations the day of the tournament your numbers will be the next available number.
4. **Blast-Off/Livewell Check Procedures** – Each team will receive a Boat # upon check-in on the morning of the tournament which will indicate their order of departure.
 - a. **All Boats** will idle by the dock at the designated location with each person's Life vests on and secured, Kill Switch attached (you may be asked to show that your kill switch will shut-down your main engine,) and Livewell(s) lids open and running.
 - b. You will show the Tournament Personnel checking these items the boat # Indicator which you were given to identify your Team # as you come into this boat check process.
 - c. **Once you clear the dock where this check out process is conducted, you will idle 30 feet past the NO WAKE Buoy Markers before you apply the throttle to take off.**

2024 EMS Week Bass Tournament Rules

5. **End of Tournament Check – in** - Upon arriving back at the dock, find one of the Tournament personnel to verify you arrived back by the 330PM end of tournament time. Please show them your boat # tag and they will mark your time back inside the No Wake Buoy Markers at the boat ramp. You do not have to be at the dock by the deadline, just off pad and idling's inside the NO WAKE Buoys.
 - a. ***There will be an 8 ounce (1/2 pound) late penalty for every 15 minutes late to check in (up to 30 minutes late-4PM)***

6. **Weigh-in Process** – upon arrival back at the docks, secure your fish in a suitable weigh bag (you must supply) and bring it to the weigh-in station. Follow the instructions of the weigh-in personnel.
 - a. As you are asked to proceed onto the stage please hand the Weigh-in Master of Ceremony your Boat # tag first. He will call out your # so your weight is properly recorded into the spreadsheet. He will then ask for your names and weigh your fish.
 - b. ***Any fish deemed dead by the Weigh-in personnel will incur a 1-pound penalty per dead fish which will be deducted from the team's total weight. Dead fish will not be weighed for Big Fish.***
 - c. ***Even if you have NO FISH or decide to not weigh in your fish – YOU MUST Check out with a tournament staff member.***
 - d. ***IF YOU Leave Early and are not weighing fish, you MUST check out with a Tournament Staff member to assure we have all teams accounted for at the end of the day.***