

Cherokee National Holiday Bass Tournament Rules

Interpretation: These rules will be interpreted by the Tournament Director.

Eligibility: Participation is open to everyone. At least one member of the team must be 18 years of age to operate the boat. All Entrants under the age of 18 must submit signature of his or her parent or legal guardian. Eligibility to fish will be the sole discretion of the Tournament Director.

Entry Fees: \$60 per boat. Enter at <https://www.5fishproductions.com/cherokee-holiday-fishing-tournament-registration>
Online Registration will close at 9PM on 9/6/2024. Entries will also be accepted the morning of the event at the ramp, cash only.

Fishing Times: Fishing Times will be based on flight times shown in the table below. These times are subject to delay if the angler's safety is deemed by the Tournament Director to be compromised. Takeoff numbers are assigned in order of paid entry.

Flight Times			
Boat	Flight	Start	Check-In
1-25	1	Safe Light	1:00 PM
26-50	2	Safe Light + 15min	1:15 PM
51-75	3	Safe Light + 30 min	1:30 PM
76+	4	Safe Light + 45 min	1:45 PM

Bag Limit: Three (3) FISH LIMIT, 14-inch minimum length. All fish must be a minimum of 14 inches, mouth closed with tail to touch the line. NO EXCEPTIONS

Culling Fish: No team may have more than Three (3) fish in the live well at any given time. Once the 4th fish is caught you must cull immediately before making another cast.

Species: Largemouth, Smallmouth and Spotted Bass are the only species that will be scored. See Bag Limit for length requirements.

Scoring: Total bag weight per team will determine place. If a fish does not meet the legal limit, it will be removed from the bag count and a HALF (1/2) pound penalty will be assessed. If more than one fish does not meet legal limits, the days catch will be disqualified. SHORT FISH WILL NOT BE WEIGHED AS PART OF THE TOTAL WEIGHT. A HALF (1/2) pound penalty will be deducted from the live weight for each dead fish. Big fish cannot be dead. Any dead fish will be weighed

at the discretion of the Tournament Director. All Fish must be caught during official fishing hours on the day of the tournament. All scoring decision by the Tournament Director will be final.

Ties: All Ties will be broken in the following order:

- 1) Number of Fish
- 2) Big Bass

If a tie cannot be broken the money for both positions will be combined and split 50/50 between the teams.

Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial bait or lures may be used. Pork style baits are allowed, A-Rig's are allowed. No trolling and all fish must be caught on a rod and reel

Fishing Locations: Any areas marked off by the Corps of Engineers will be considered OFF LIMITS.

Safety and Sportsmanship: Safe boating practices must be observed at all times. Life preservers must be worn when boat is on plane. ALL BRIDGES are no wake. No participating boat is allowed to fish within 50 yards of any other participating boat.

Protest: Any protest must be submitted in writing and filed with the tournament director 15 minutes of the scales closing.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES during tournament hours. Immediate disqualification applies.

Dead Water: There is no dead water on this event.

Late Penalty: If you are late, you will be disqualified, NO EXCEPTIONS. You are considered late when the official time ticks ONE (1) minute beyond your check-in time. Example: If you are due in at 1:00 PM and the official time ticks over to 1:01 PM you are late and will be disqualified.

Check-In: There will be ONE (1) Check-In location. A staff member on the courtesy dock with an American flag. Once you are checked in you will not be marked late.

Polygraph: Each team that participates agrees to submit to a random polygraph if requested. Polygraph will be done by a third-party professional with written results. A failed polygraph will result in the forfeit of any winnings and the money will be re-distributed.

Seeding Bass: Any act of baiting or seeding a location to redirect or restrict the natural migration of bass will be considered grounds for disqualification.

Electronic Communication: Any effort to obtain information, through electronic communication, that provides an advantage to any team, during tournament hours, will be grounds for disqualification.

Payouts: All winnings will be paid by check with the captain of the team listed as the payee. Any check that exceeds the amount of \$600 will require a w-9 form to be filled out by the payee before receiving the funds.

Refunds: In the event the tournament must be rescheduled there will be a 48-hour window, from the time of the announcement, to request a refund of all entry fees. If the team or angler does not request a refund with-in the defined

48-hour window, no refund will be issued. If an entry fee was paid on-line, and has been posted for more than 15 days, credit card fees cannot be refunded.