

2024 BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA RULES

These rules have been approved by the CATCH Tournament Committee and will be in effect for the Battle of Chickamauga scheduled for 4/13/2024. It is up to each fisherman to become familiar with these rules and abide by them at all times during this event. Unless mentioned hereafter, we will abide by TWRA and State of TN boating and fishing regulations.

TOURNAMENT DETAILS:

BLASTOFF AT SAFELIGHT AT CHESTER FROST PARK – HIXSON, TN

MANDATORY LUNCH BREAK 11:15AM – 11:30PM

SCALES OPEN AT 1:00PM

ALL JUNIORS AT CHECK-IN BOAT BY 1:30PM

HIGH SCHOOL FLIGHT 1 AT CHECK-IN BOAT BY 3:00PM

FLIGHTS RETURN IN 15 MINUTE INTERVALS

PARTICIPANTS: CATCH tournaments are open to males and females. Anyone under eighteen years of age must provide written permission from a parent or guardian. At least one person in the boat must be eighteen years of age (can be the captain). An eligible boat may contain one or two fishermen plus the captain. CATCH officials retain the right to refuse entry to anyone. CATCH reserves the right to use your likeness for promotional purposes. Boat captains can operate the trolling motor and combustion engine and perform all other fishing activities except holding a rod while the lure is in the water.

FEES: The \$40 entry fee is non-refundable and due prior to blastoff.

INSURANCE: Liability coverage of no less than \$300,000 is required.

FISH: There is a five bass limit per boat – only Largemouth, Smallmouth, Meanmouth and Spotted Bass will count. Meanmouth Bass will be considered Smallmouth Bass. All fish must be caught in a legal and sporting manner - trolling is prohibited. Fish must be transported from the boat to the weigh-in area in a water-filled bag. Weighed-in fish will become property of CATCH and will be released alive. An exception may be made for a trophy fish if you so choose. Bass will be measured with the mouth closed using a Golden Rule. If your fish are weighed separately for “big fish”, they will be placed altogether in a single bag and weighed one time for your official total weight.

Smallmouth Bass and Meanmouth Bass – 18” minimum length

Largemouth Bass - 15” minimum length

Spotted Bass – 12” minimum length

SHORT/DEAD/ALTERED FISH: A short fish results in immediate disqualification. There is no courtesy check. CATCH will have a Golden Rule available to you prior to you bringing your fish to the scales if you need it. One dead fish is allowed. The dead fish results in a one-half pound penalty on the total weight. The penalty will apply to the “big fish” if it is the dead fish. Culling dead fish is prohibited. Altered fish will not be weighed.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Participants acting in a way to give themselves an unfair advantage over a fellow competitor will be disqualified. Anyone causing dissension before, during or after any event could be disqualified forever. Competitors must maintain a 150 foot buffer zone from a fellow competitor – anchored or free-floating. CATCH officials may board your boat at any time if there is reason to believe you are disregarding the rules set forth.

SAFETY: A US Coast Guard approved life jacket must be worn while the combustion engine is running and the boat is on plane. 50 M.P.H. speed limit to be observed. Anglers should remain in the boat at all times unless an emergency occurs. No alcoholic beverages or mind-altering drugs will be allowed on board. Running lights must be in working order at the start of the event.

LOCKING THROUGH: Locking through is not permitted.

TACKLE & EQUIPMENT: No live bait. Artificial bait only – pork trailers are permitted. Only one rod per angler at any given time may be used. Aerator must be in working order at start of the event. If you have a mechanical failure during tournament hours, only a fellow participant may bring you and your fish to the weigh-in at the designated time. If your boat is trailered during the tournament, you must have tournament committee permission to relaunch. The tournament committee retains all decisions regarding tackle and equipment.

WEIGH-IN: Grace period for the weigh-in deadline is a one pound penalty per minute with 15 minute maximum. Penalty applies to big fish consideration also. More than 15 minutes results in a total disqualification. Boat may be trailered before weigh-in, but you must remain at the weigh-in site. If you leave the weigh-in site for any reason or go home early, you will be considered a no-show. Weigh-in cards must be signed in order for you to be eligible for awards. You must use our weigh-in bags.

PRIZES & AWARDS: Payout will be 100% payback. A tie for first place will be broken by a coin toss with the loser taking 2nd place. All other ties will split that place and the next place prizes. You must be present to receive your prizes or awards. No prizes or awards will be awarded before our chaplain or his designee delivers a Biblically-based message. All prizes do not come with a warranty.

RULINGS & DECISIONS: All rulings and decisions by the Tournament Committee are final. Any protest must be in writing and made known within fifteen minutes of the final fish being weighed. CATCH Ministry reserves the right to administer a polygraph test before any prize money is distributed. If you do not pass a polygraph exam, you will have 30 days to find a private polygraph examiner and retake the exam. That will be at your own expense.

2024 BATTLE OF CHICKAMAUGA COMMITTEE CONTACT INFORMATION

Kevin Johnson 423-715-3027

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CATCH Ministry is incorporated and recognized as such by the state of Tennessee. As required by law, anyone that receives more than \$600 in awards (cash or check) for the calendar year 2024 will be sent an IRS Form 1099-MISC. You will be liable to claim these awards as income.