

2019

EMS WEEK BASS TOURNAMENT

RULES

- A. **Eligibility of Participants:** ONE of the participants per boat must be affiliated with an Emergency Service agency. Spouses will be permitted to fish. Participants shall not leave their boat during tournament hours. If any team member leaves their boat, the team will be disqualified.
- PROFESSIONAL ANGLERS ARE PROHIBITED (unless Angler is a FULL TIME EMPLOYEE OF AN EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY)**
- Pros are defined as any angler/co-angler that has entered a sanctioned tournament on any level such as:
B.A.S.S., F.L.W. Walmart Series, Bass Masters B.F.L. or any other tournament deemed as Professional.
(or) Any angler that has been compensated for guiding of any species of Bass on tournament waters within 6 months of the event.
- B. **Tournament Weigh-In:** Weigh-In must be fifteen (15) minutes after the tournament hours are officially over! Participants must present their weigh-in card at the time of weigh-in.
- C. **Tournament Location and Time:** Chester Frost Park, Chattanooga, TN Boat Ramp. Registration starts at 6:00 a.m. with blast off at 7:30 a.m. and ending time will be at 4:00 p.m. Participants can only fish the area of Chickamauga Lake. NO LOCKING THRU. Tournament will be 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- D. **Tournament Entry Fee PER BOAT:** The entry fee is \$50.00 before May 6, 2019. May 7-19, 2019, the entry fee is \$65.00 and at the door it is \$75.00. Participants can purchase an additional \$10.00 per person for BIG FISH entry.
- E. **Tackle permitted:** Only spinning, casting or spin casting reels and rods will be approved for use in this tournament. All bass must be caught on artificial lures in a sporting manner. **NO LIVE BAIT or "PERPARED" BAIT** is permitted; however, pork strips or rinds may be used. Only one rod may be used at any one time. Other rods may be in the boat for substitute purposes. All bass must be caught live in a sporting manner. Electronic depth finders may be used.
- F. **Boats and Motors:** All tournament boats must be at least thirteen (13) feet in length and motors must be eighteen (18) horsepower or great. 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.
- G. **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!!!!
- H. **Scoring:** Individual Weight/Boat Weight:
- Tournament scores will be based on the total weight in pounds and ounces of bass caught per team total boat weight.
 - Largemouth bass, spotted bass or smallmouth bass will be weighed. The weigh-in limit shall be the best FIVE (5) fish or the State Limit for the Chickamauga Lake.

- c. A bass will not be counted or weighed that is not the legal size **or creel limit permitted by state law.** The bass shall be measured with its mouth closed and in no way unnaturally manipulated. Penalty for an under sized bass is grounds for disqualification.
 - d. Any bass that appears to be mashed, mangled or mauled will be measured and weighed only at the discretion of the weigh-in official.
 - e. Moving of the tail is legal to obtain the length limit of the tournament. Only tournament staff can measure fish.
 - f. Dead fish penalty is ½ lb. per individual dead fish with total maximum deduction being 2 ½ lbs. for five (5) fish. Dead fish will be disqualified for Big Fish.
 - g. Creel limit is five (5) fish for tournaments.
 - h. At no time shall any individual or team have more than five (5) bass in his/her “LIVE WELL” during a tournament.
- I. **Fishing Locations:** No participants shall fish within fifty (50) yards of another contestant whose boat is anchored first at the location. The trolling motor will be up when anchored. There is no restriction of fishing any structure on Chickamauga Lake, except roped-off swimming or beach areas. Trailering of boats during the tournament is prohibited.
- J. **Meeting Place:** Registration will be located at the Chest Frost Park Boat Ramp, Chattanooga, TN. At 6:00 a.m.
- K. **Boat Operation:** (Individual Weight only) each contestant shall have equal time operating the boat with the trolling motor only and choosing his fishing locations. Choice to fish from and division of fishing locations will be up to each partner. Any contestants not allowing his partner equal time fishing or in any manner hindering his partner from fishing will be disqualified.
- L. **Ties:** In case of a tie for any position, the payout will be split evenly.
- M. **Late Penalty:** There will be a penalty of ½ pound of the total weight subtracted for each one (1) minute at the end of the tournament. Any contestant who fails to check in within fifteen (15) minutes after closing time of the tournament will be disqualified. Boat and motor will **NOT BE ACCEPTED** as reasons for being late. Official time will be kept by Tournament Chairperson.
- N. **Lake Headquarters:** Chester Frost Park, Chattanooga, TN Boat Ramp.
- O. **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.
- P. **Boat Breakdown:** 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.
- Q. **Fish Caught From the Boat ONLY:** All fish must be caught and in the presence of their team partner.
- R. **Rules and Interpretation:** The Tournament Staff shall be solely responsible for the interpretations and enforcement of the tournament rules.
- S. **Blast off:** Participants will blind draw a numbered chip to determined his/her order number in line to BLAST OFF. Participants will be called one at a time starting at 7:30 a.m. **Participants may not pass each other until your boat reaches the Main Channel.**