

Rotary Big Fish Tournament Official Rules

The tournament date is June 22, 2024, between the hours of 7:00 am and 4:30 pm.

The tournament is sponsored by the Tappahannock Rotary Club as a fund raiser to support a variety of worthy local charities. This will be our 20th event. We do reserve the right to cancel the event if we do not have at least 40 entries by May 31. Should that be the case we will refund all monies collected.

Fishing is permitted only in the Rappahannock River between the bridges at Tappahannock and White Stone.

All fish must be caught on hook and line.

Your official tournament registration card with your tournament number must be displayed on your boat at all times while fishing, and must be presented to a Rotary official when presenting fish at the weigh-in or remote fish drop off location.

Fish must be brought by boat to the Tappahannock Moose Lodge dock by 4:30 pm or the dock at Garrett's Marina between the hours of 3:00 pm and 4:00 pm. The fish collected at Garrett's Marina will be transported for weigh-in at the Moose Lodge by a Rotary official.

No fish will be accepted unless it is collected from the boat by a Rotary official.

It is up to each contestant to ensure that each fish entered is clearly identified as to division (adult or youth), and clearly identified with the contestant's name and official registration number. If the contestant's name cannot be determined by the officials when the fish is presented at the Moose Lodge for weigh-in, the fish will be disqualified.

The official scales will be those provided by Rotary at the weigh-in.

Only croaker, catfish, spot and white perch are eligible.

Winning fish will be determined by weight, not length. Weight will be determined to 2 decimal places. (Example: 3.14 pounds)

Only one fish of each species may be entered per boat in each division. This allows a maximum of 8 fish per boat, however only 1 prize per boat will be awarded.

The selection of the winning fish awarded to each boat will be at the discretion of the tournament committee.

The contestant must determine which fish to present for weigh-in. Rotary officials are not permitted to select fish for the contestant. Once a fish is placed on the scale that entry is final and may not be changed, substituted or withdrawn.

Contestants must declare which division (adult or youth) for each fish to be weighed prior to placing the fish on the scale. Youth is age 16 and under. If no selection is made before the fish is placed on the scale it will be entered in the adult division.

Fish that are entered will be retained by the tournament committee until all weigh-ins and judging are complete.

In the event of a tie the winner will be determined by the earliest registration date. If the dates are not known or the dates are the same, the prize will be split 50/50.

Winners will be required to complete and sign IRS Form W-9, Request for Taxpayer Identification Number, which requires the winner's name, address and social security number.

Any deviation from or violation of the rules will, at the discretion of the tournament committee result in disqualification. All decisions of the tournament committee are final, binding, and non-appealable.

Make certain to have all necessary safety equipment and licenses on board as officials may be in attendance and conducting safety and license checks.

In the event the U.S. Coast Guard announces a small craft warning or severe weather is forecast between the bridges for the day of the event, June 22, 2024 during the tournament time of 7:00 am to 4:30 pm, the tournament may be cancelled for the day at the discretion of the tournament committee. In that case the tournament will be held on June 23, 2024, during the same time period. If the event is once again cancelled the prizes will be awarded by a drawing.

All decisions of the tournament committee will be final.

Have fun!