

**CHICKAHOMINY DUCKS UNLIMITED**  
**FISHING FOR THE DUCKS**  
**BASS TOURNAMENT RULES**  
**AUGUST 11, 2024**

1. Open to all individuals who have registered and paid the entry fee for the tournament. Those individuals who are under 18 years of age, not fishing with a parent or legal guardian, must have written permission from a parent or legal guardian. All participants must sign the release of liability and acknowledgement of rules to be eligible to compete in the tournament.
2. Entry fees shall be paid prior to participating in the tournament. Entry fees can be paid online at [www.fishingfortheducks.org](http://www.fishingfortheducks.org) or in person by cash or check to the Tournament Director.
3. Prize money will be based on the total number of boats registered. Fifty percent of the registration fees will go to Ducks Unlimited and fifty percent of the registration fees will be paid out as prize money to First Place (50%), Second Place (30%) and Third Place (20%).
4. Big Fish Calcutta is a separate entry fee and 100% of the proceeds will be paid to one (1) Winner who catches the largest largemouth bass by weight.
5. A limit of five (5) largemouth bass may be weighed in per boat with a 12-inch minimum length. Lengths will be measured with mouth closed. A short fish brought to the scales will not be weighed and will result in a 1-pound penalty. Dead fish will be penalized 0.5 pound per dead fish. The dead fish penalty will be applied to any fish weighed as a Big Fish if that fish is dead. All culling must be done at the time the 6<sup>th</sup> fish is caught; no boat may continue fishing with more than the tournament limit in the live well at any time during the tournament. You may not cull dead fish. Total weight per boat will determine Place and the weight of one (1) fish will determine the Big Fish. In the event of a tie, the Big Fish will be the tie breaker. Fish to be weighed-in shall be contained in a plastic weigh-in bag.
6. All fishing will be done from entry boat. Anglers and participants shall remain in the boat at all times during the tournament, except in the event of sickness or brief excursion for "nature calling", severe storm or other such hazard. It is permitted for an angler or participant to leave the boat for marina services. In the event a participant must leave the tournament, the Tournament Director shall be notified immediately.
7. Tournament boundaries shall include the public waters of the James and Chickahominy Rivers. Waters deemed off limits by authorities or tournament officials should be treated like a wall. No boats or casting behind the tournament boundary while fishing. All angling must be done from the boat.
8. All participants shall check-in and weigh-in with tournament officials at the designated location and time as specified. Each boat will be issued a random tournament number at check-in which shall be used to determine starting position. At take-off, each boat will depart based on their randomly assigned number. At weigh-in, each boat will return their tournament number to tournament officials. Late check-in or weigh-in will result in disqualification.
9. All participants shall abide by all state and federal laws and game regulations. Anyone who intentionally violates a law or regulation in attempt to gain an unfair advantage will have their catch disqualified. In the case of multiple governing authorities, the strictest law is applicable. Any participant who consumes, or is under the influence of alcoholic beverages, stimulants or depressants, or any illegible substance will have their catch disqualified. Prescribed medications taken per doctor's instructions are excluded.

10. If a participant or boat is disqualified for any reason by the Tournament Director, no refunds shall be issued for any registration fees paid.
11. Only artificial baits may be used. No live or cut bait is permitted (pork baits are permitted). All largemouth bass must be caught alive in a legal and sporting manner during designated tournament hours. No snagging, spearing, or gaffing will be permitted. Each angler or participant may only use one (1) rod at a time. No more than one (1) line in the water at a time per angler or participant. Trolling is prohibited as a method of catching fish for this tournament.
12. Live wells shall be open and available for inspection by tournament officials prior to the start and/or take-off for the tournament.
13. Each angler and/or participant is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conversation. No boat, angler, or participant may fish within 50 yards of any other boat which is anchored (Anchor or Powerpole/Talons/Raptors/etc.) with the trolling motor up, furthermore no boat, angler, or participant may fish within 25 yards of any other boat without the other boater's permission. Permission may not be granted at the exclusion of any other boat, angler or participant. No hole sitting by a non-competitor or any other competitor, to aid a tournament participant will be allowed. Violators will have their catch disqualified.
14. Safe boating conduct must always be observed. Each competitor is required to wear a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, securely fastened, at all times while the boat is being propelled by the combustion engine. Furthermore, a kill switch must be fastened to the driver any time the combustion engine is propelling the boat. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification of the offending team's catch. Running lights must be operational and turned on at the take-off of the tournament. Each competitor's boat must be equipped with a live well system capable of keeping a tournament limit of bass alive. Any boat equipped with a motor that exceeds the horsepower rating of the boat according to the manufacturer is prohibited from being used in the tournament.
15. Any protest must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director within 15 minutes of the close of the weigh-in. The tournament reserves the right to give a polygraph test to any participant at any time. This test does not have to be administered on site and may be set up by the Tournament Director at their discretion. All participants agree to abide by the results of any polygraph test. Tournament Director has the sole authority for the interpretation of the tournament rules and their decision regarding any matter during the tournament shall be final.
16. Each angler and/or participant in the tournament shall hold harmless and release from any liabilities of participating in the tournament, Ducks Unlimited, Inc. and its volunteers, and any tournament officials. All anglers and/or participants in the tournament shall do so at their own risk.
17. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS – Only that water open to ALL public fishing will be considered waters for this tournament consistent with Rule 7. Casting over any dams (concrete or earthen) are off limits. No fishing allowed at the Chickahominy Dam. No casting over the Rockahock dock/floating barge or fishing between the Rockahock dock/floating barge and Chickahominy Dam, this boundary shall extend across to the opposite shoreline of the Chickahominy River. If you feel that the area you are fishing may fall into these areas, discuss with Tournament Director prior to the tournament for further clarification.