



2023 Rules & Regulations

- 1) The Smallmouth King Bass Tournament is a catch, measure, photograph, and release tournament.
- 2) One hand-held rod and reel may be used at a time. No trolling or multiple rods at once.
- 3) No live bait - artificial lures and soft plastics only.
- 4) 12" or longer smallmouth bass only will qualify for overall length.
- 5) All fish must be photographed immediately using the TourneyX-AP and immediately released unharmed. No dragging fish up on the bank or laying them on the sand, grass, etc.
- 6) Nets are prohibited as mortality rates on netted fish are too high.
- 7) Score-able smallmouth must be caught by registered participant.
- 8) Score-able smallmouth bass must be caught on tournament waters during designated tournament times.
- 9) Participants will receive real time updates of tournament catches on the TourneyX- App.
- 10) All participants must attend the mandatory tournament meeting on Saturday (see tournament schedule for time & location).
- 11) Buddy system is permitted and recommended to ensure rapid catch, measure, photograph, and release.
- 12) All participants are subject to a polygraph test.
- 13) Any participant observed by any tournament officials breaking the rules will be subject to immediate disqualification.
- 14) The tournament will occur rain or shine.
- 15) No motors - electric or gas. Registered boating anglers must paddle only.
- 16) All participants must possess a valid Tennessee state fishing license.
- 17) All kayaks and canoes must meet state boating requirements.
- 18) All participants must possess a smartphone with the TourneyX Pro APP to register qualifying catches in real-time.
- 19) Tournament rules are subject to change upon officials' request at the mandatory tournament meeting.
- 20) Measuring Device Rules:
 - (a) The Hawg Trough Measuring Board will be provided by Smallmouth King and is the ONLY approved measuring device.
 - (b) Measuring devices may be checked at any time.
 - (c) Measuring devices must be marked to the $\frac{1}{4}$ ", $\frac{1}{2}$ ", $\frac{3}{4}$ " and inch marks from 12" to 24"
 - (d) A contrast mark must be applied to the lip of the Measuring devices.
 - (e) Lines must be colored in and easily visible.
 - (f) If measuring devices cannot be read, measurement will be rounded down to nearest legible mark.
 - (g) Each angler will be given a unique identifier. **Identifier must be visible in each photo.**
 - (h) Fish will be measured to the nearest $\frac{1}{4}$ ", rounding down.
 - (i) Tail must clearly touch or cross the original designed $\frac{1}{4}$ " markings of the approved measuring device to be measured at that length.
 - (j) Photo must include the entire fish.
 - (k) Fish must be facing left. Lip of fish must be touching end of measuring device. Mouth must be CLOSED ($\frac{1}{4}$ " deduction for cracked mouth, 1" deduction for no attempt).
 - (l) If the Hawg Trough can be seen between the lips, the mouth is cracked and will incur a $\frac{1}{4}$ " deduction. If a fish measured at 12" receives a Deduction, that fish is disqualified.
 - (m) Dorsal fin must be facing upward.
 - (n) Tail must be centered and in a relaxed state. Fish visibly unharmed.
 - (o) **Photos must be taken directly from above, not at an angle.** Assigned identifier must be visible.
 - (p) No restraining devices (stringers, fish grips, etc.) allowed in any photos.
 - (q) Hook must be removed from fish before taking photo.
 - (r) Fish's eye must be uncovered and visible.
 - (s) No hands under fish gill plate.