

Rhea County Fishing Tournament Hosting Policy

Rhea County Department of Tourism

Lake Chickamauga & Watts Bar Lake

Rhea County welcomes fishing tournaments that contribute to tourism, overnight visitation, and economic development. To ensure consistency, transparency, and measurable return on investment, all tournaments hosted within Rhea County will follow the policies outlined below.

Tournament Approval Process

All fishing tournaments hosted in Rhea County must follow the official approval process.

Step 1 – Fishing Committee Review

All tournament proposals must first be reviewed and approved by the Rhea County Fishing Committee.

Step 2 – City Approval

After committee approval, the tournament must be approved by the city hosting the event:

- **City of Dayton** – Lake Chickamauga tournaments
- **Town of Spring City** – Watts Bar Lake tournaments

Step 3 – County Commission Approval

Final event approval is granted only after three levels of review.

Host Fee Structure

Minimum Boat Count Guarantee

A performance variance of up to ten percent (10%) below the guaranteed threshold shall be considered an acceptable tolerance range and will not automatically trigger a clawback adjustment, provided the event meets expected service levels and agreed-upon tournament deliverables.

If the verified boat count falls below the allowable 10% variance threshold, the host fee shall be subject to a prorated adjustment as outlined below.

Clawback Calculation (Pro-Rated Adjustment)

In the event the verified boat count falls below the threshold the final host fee payment will be recalculated based on a per-boat performance ratio using the following formula:

- $\text{Per-Boat Value} = \text{Total Agreed Host Fee} \div \text{Guaranteed Boat Count}$
- $\text{Adjusted Final Payment} = \text{Per-Boat Value} \times \text{Verified Boat Count}$

This ensures the County's investment is directly aligned with actual participation levels while maintaining predictability for both parties.

Verification & Payment Conditions

- Final payment shall be withheld until official, verified attendance documentation is submitted and reviewed by the County.
- Verified boat count shall be determined using registration records, weigh-in logs, and any additional documentation deemed necessary by the County.
- The Fishing Committee reserves the right to review event circumstances (including weather, safety conditions, or extraordinary factors) in determining final application of any clawback adjustment.

Tournaments with 100 boats or fewer are generally not eligible for host funding unless exceptional circumstances or demonstrated economic impact warrant consideration. Each request is reviewed individually to ensure responsible use of tourism funds and to maximize return on investment for Rhea County.

Payment Policy

Payment will only be issued after the tournament and once the following documentation has been submitted to the Rhea County Department of Tourism, **if legally applicable**:

Required Documentation (if legally applicable)

- **Return on Investment (ROI) Report**
- **Full Registration List**, including:
 - Angler name
 - Phone/email contact information
 - City, State, & Zip of residence
- **Lodging Report**
 - Where anglers stayed
 - Length of stay

- **Visitor Spending Data**
 - Dining
 - Fuel
 - Retail purchases
 - Other tourism-related spending

Failure to provide applicable documentation may result in denial or adjustment of host payment, as determined by the Rhea County Department of Tourism. Surveys are recommended.

Tournament Requirements

Multi-Day Events

Rhea County prioritizes tournaments that generate overnight stays and demonstrate measurable tourism impact.

One-day tournaments are generally not eligible for host funding. However, organizers may be considered for support on a tournament-by-tournament basis if they incorporate an approved pre-event component, such as a mandatory safety briefing and registration event held the evening prior.

Approval of such components will be determined by the Rhea County Department of Tourism. This requirement is intended to encourage overnight stays and increase economic impact within Rhea County.

Tournament Support Provided

Tournaments anticipating 125+ boats may be considered for the following support services, but all are determined on a tournament-by-tournament basis by the Rhea County Department of Tourism:

- Homeland Security assistance for traffic, parking, and safety
- Portable restrooms
- Pre-tournament briefing venue
- Post-tournament weigh-in/awards venue
- Catering recommendations

All support services will be coordinated through the Rhea County Department of Tourism and are subject to availability and approval.

Contracting & Invoicing

All tournaments hosted in Rhea County must be contracted through Rhea County Government.

After the event and submission of required documents, tournament organizers may submit an invoice to:

Rhea County Department of Tourism

Payment will be processed once documentation and verification requirements are met.

Tourism Marketing Requirement

To promote lodging and visitor spending in Rhea County, tournament directors must distribute tourism information to all participating anglers after a contract is signed.

This includes sharing the following websites through email, registration materials, or social media:

- **VisitRhea.com**
- **FishDayton.com**

These platforms provide lodging, dining, and attraction information to encourage overnight stays within Rhea County.

Tournament organizers are expected to actively encourage anglers to stay in Rhea County lodging establishments.

Branding Guidelines

For marketing materials, please utilize the following tourism brands:

- **Fish Dayton**
- **Fish Spring City**

These logos help promote Rhea County's fishing destinations and should be included on tournament promotions when possible.

Coordination of Tournament Bookings

All fishing tournament bookings for Lake Chickamauga and Watts Bar Lake within Rhea County are coordinated through the Rhea County Department of Tourism.

Contact Information

For questions, special requests, or tournament proposals, please contact:

Alex Fine

Director of Tourism

Rhea County Department of Tourism



423-285-4542



RheaCountyTourism@gmail.com

**Policy last amended on April 27, 2026 and approved by Carol Ann Barron, County Attorney*