

## **Fishing Tournament Outreach**

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1) Enlist a tournament fisherman that understands how a tournament functions to serve on the committee. That person will understand promotion, tournament meeting, blast off, weigh-in, prizes.

If you are expecting a large crowd enlist a weigh master that specializes in tournament. This person will have tournament experience, equipment and staff to operate the tournament start and weigh in. (Contact a local fishing tackle store to find this person).

2) Select a location that is favorable to tournaments, parking, ramps, facilities, electrical hookup, ease of access. Choose a date when the weather should be predictable, fish should be biting, and does not conflict with other major local tournaments. You may need to book a facility 1 year in advance

3) Determine species to be weighed and fishing team pairing. Example, bass, pan fish, catfish divisions. Boater, non-boater, teams, shore division, father/child team, under 12. Determine prizes for the tournament. Most non-Christian fishermen want to fish for prize money not merchandise. Payback should be 100% if possible. Payback 1 in 10 or 1 in 5. Many people fish a tournament based on payback. The first place prizes catches their attention.

4) Conduct major evangelistic emphasis at Friday night pre tournament meeting. Make meeting mandatory but create a desire for the fishermen to come. Speaker should be a professional fisherman with a testimony, who can conduct a fishing seminar before the meeting. Provide a free quality meal. Have door prizes for each person.

5) Make registration cut off Friday night at pre tournament meeting. No ramp sign up.

6) In order to encourage the family to participate in the tournament provide door prizes for children and women. Friday night give all the kids a fishing lure and/or rod & reel. Sat. give away a bike or some kind of big prize for children. For the women give away some gift certificates or other prize.

7) Suggested Schedule Friday Night

6:00 Registration

6:30 Fishing Seminar

7:00 Meal

7:30 Program - Speaker, tournament rules and award door prizes

8:15 Dismiss (Go get some sleep)

Make the meeting as brief as possible because some of the fishermen have prefished all day, driven a long way, worked all week, need to get fishing tackle prepared. Everyone likes a short meeting.

8) Suggested Schedule for Saturday

Tournament staff should arrive 1 1/2 hours before blast off time to check boats

Blast off at safe light

3:00PM Weigh In

9) At the pre tournament meeting have a 2 sided registration card. The emcee will call attention to this card to fill out for door prizes at the end of the program. **Provide pen/pencil for everyone to keep. This is a small detail that many people overlook. Hold onto your card until the very end of the program.** The main speaker after sharing the plan of salvation will walk the audience through the back of the card. The cards will then be taken up and used to draw for the door prizes.

The front of the card should include;

**Front of Card**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Fishing Partner \_\_\_\_\_

**Back of Card**

\_\_\_ Tonight I prayed to receive Christ as my personal Savior

\_\_\_ Tonight I recommitted my life to Christ

\_\_\_ I would like more information about \_\_\_\_\_ church

\_\_\_ I attend \_\_\_\_\_ church.

10) Provide polygraph officer if 1st place prize is significant amount. Local police department should have this person. Cost should be around \$250.00. People like to know that the winner will be polygraph. This is a common practice in team fishing tournaments

**Tournament Committee**

Tournament Director, 1 Weigh Master, 1 Fish Measuring Person (check for live or dead fish), 3 Fish weight information, 1 Check in boat, 2 Fish release people, 2 Payback check writers, 4 Boat checkers (livewells & safety equipment), Divide the staff into the morning crew, (4:00 AM to 7:00 AM), Weigh In Crew (2:00 PM to 5:00 PM). Someone needs to be in the weigh in area during tournament hours in case of early check in or emergency.

**Equipment**

Electronic Scales, batteries to run scales and tank aerators, Flashlights, Fish holding tanks (cattle drinker tank), sound system, bullhorn, weigh-in stage, measuring board, bags to carry fish, ribbon to mark boats, weigh in slips with duplicate copy.

**Other Ideas**

Sat. morning provide doughnuts and coffee for fishermen. Sat. afternoon provide cold drinks, hamburgers/hot dogs. Provide phone # in case of break downs and possible tow in arrangements.