

Aim for the Heart: Turkey Hunt

Official Tournament Guidelines • Rules • Regulations (Spring 2026)

1) Purpose

Aim for the Heart: Turkey Hunt is a season-long, individual-entry turkey hunting tournament designed to promote ethical hunting, community engagement, and charitable impact through Second Heart Ministries of Reconciliation.

2) Tournament Period (Spring 2026)

- **Tournament window (general spring season): April 11, 2026 – May 24, 2026**
- **Optional youth weekend (if your tournament allows it):** April 4–5, 2026 (Young Sportsman dates vary by participant eligibility).
- Harvests taken **outside** the applicable legal season dates are **not eligible**.

3) Eligibility

- **Individual entry only.** Each paid entry equals **one (1) hunter**.
- Participants must:
 - Be legally eligible to hunt in the jurisdiction where they hunt.
 - Possess all required hunting licenses/permits.
 - Follow all applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.
- Tournament staff may require ID verification at registration and/or at final check-in.

4) Registration & Entry

- **Entry Fee:** \$25 (adult) / \$15 (juvenile) per hunter
- **Registration opens:** 02/01/2026
- **Registration closes:** 03/32/2026
- Participants must provide:
 - Full name, phone, email
 - Address (for prizes/tax forms)
 - Hunter license number (if applicable)
 - Signed tournament waiver/release (see Section 13)

5) Legal Harvest Requirement (Compliance)

All eligible turkeys must be harvested **legally** during the spring season according to the rules of the state and property being hunted.

Hunting in Tennessee:

- Spring bag limit details published by TWRA include:
 - **One (1) male turkey per day**
 - Counts toward a **spring season bag of two (2)**
 - **Only one can be a jake**
 - **No bearded hens allowed**

Important: The tournament never overrides wildlife law—**wildlife law always wins.**

6) What Counts as a Tournament Bird

A tournament bird must be:

- Harvested by the **registered hunter** (no team entries, no “shared” birds).
- Harvested within the tournament period.
- Harvested in full compliance with law.
- Properly reported/checked-in as required by the state of harvest (see Section 10).

7) Scoring

“Total Inches” Score

Score = **Beard Length (inches) + Left Spur Length (inches) + Right Spur Length (inches)**

- **Winner:** Highest total inches
- **Tiebreakers (in order):**
 1. Longest beard
 2. Longest combined spurs
 3. Earliest verified submission timestamp

8) Approved Methods of Take

- Any legal weapon and legal method allowed during the spring turkey season where the bird is harvested.

- No harvesting on property without permission.
- No trespassing, spotlighting, or illegal activity—**automatic disqualification**.

9) Required Photo Evidence (Anti-Cheating)

Each submission must include **clear, unedited** photos showing:

1. **Hunter + turkey** (face visible)
2. **Beard measurement photo** with tape/ruler clearly readable
3. **Left spur measurement photo** with tape/ruler clearly readable
4. **Right spur measurement photo** with tape/ruler clearly readable
5. **Tournament ID** displayed in at least one photo

File rules

- Photos must be time-stamped by the device (metadata may be requested).
- No filters, no AI edits, no cropping that hides measurement marks.

10) Check-In and Reporting Requirements

Follow TWRA's harvest reporting/check-in requirements, including timing expectations (e.g., checked in by midnight day of harvest) and any tagging/transport rules.

- **Tournament rule:** A bird is not "official" until it is legally reported/checked-in as required **and** the tournament submission is complete.

11) Submission Deadline

- A harvest must be submitted to the tournament within **12 hours** of harvest time, AND before the tournament closes (May 24, 2026).
- Late submissions are invalid (even if legally harvested).

12) Prizes & Payout Formula

Prize Pool Funding

- **50% of all entry fees** are placed into the tournament prize pool.
- The remaining **50%** supports administrative costs and the charitable mission.

Prize Pool Distribution

- **1st Place: 50%** of the prize pool

- **2nd Place: 30%** of the prize pool
- **3rd Place: 20%** of the prize pool

Payout Timing

- Winners announced: **within 14 days** after May 24, 2026.
- Payouts issued: **within 21 days** after verification.
- Organizer may require completion of a W-9 for prize payouts.

13) Sportsmanship, Ethics, and Conduct

This is an integrity-based tournament.

- No harassment, cheating, falsifying photos, or unsportsmanlike conduct.
- No illegal hunting behavior.
- Violations result in disqualification and forfeiture of prize eligibility.

14) Protests, Disputes, and Verification

- Organizer reserves the right to:
 - Request additional proof (extra photos, video call verification, witness statement).
 - Inspect the turkey in person if requested.
- **Protest window:** [48] hours after leaderboard posting / season close.
- Organizer's decision is final to protect fairness and avoid prolonged disputes.

15) Liability Waiver

All participants must sign a waiver acknowledging:

- Hunting involves inherent risks (firearms, terrain, weather, travel, etc.).
- Participant is responsible for safe conduct and legal compliance.
- Organizer, landowners, sponsors, and Second Heart Ministries are held harmless to the fullest extent allowed by law.

16) Publicity & Media Release

By entering, participants grant permission for the Organizer to use:

- Submitted photos (appropriate and family-friendly)

- Winner names and general harvest highlights for promotional and ministry purposes, unless the participant opts out in writing.

17) Organizer Information

- Tournament Name: **Aim for the Heart: Turkey Hunt**
- Host/Organizer: **Second Heart Ministries of Reconciliation**
- Tournament Director: **Karen Berkley / secondheartministries@gmail.com**
- Website: **www.secondheartministries.com**
- Mailing address: **PO Box 5, Burlison, TN 38015**