

MODIFIED FALL 2020 TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES (DUE TO COVID-19)

Tournament Category	Age group	Number of team members	Length of time spent birding	Regional *	Statewide **	Additional Information
Expanded Big Sit! Regional Tournaments	all ages	1 or more	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)	X		Teams select a 50-foot diameter circle from which to bird (NOTE: THIS IS A MODIFICATION FOR 2020 ONLY; TEAMS MUST PLAN SHIFTS ACCORDINGLY TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE SOCIAL DISTANCING). Per state Covid-19 guidelines for outdoor settings, no more than 10 people at a time may bird within your Big Sit! circle. Team members can rotate in shifts or can be the same members all day. Birds identified and counted may be inside or outside of the 50' circle, but they MUST be seen/heard from a team member WITHIN the circle. Event t-shirts provided for up to 20 people on sponsored teams, but team can consist of more than 20 people (additional shirts may be purchased for \$20 each).
Roughwings Regional Big Day Tournaments - Dispersed Flock ***	13 years and younger	3-5	up to 8 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight); hours need not be consecutive	X		Team members bird individually in their home "patch." *** A mentor/driver does not identify or locate birds for the team but can help verify once ID'd by youth
Gliders Regional Big Day Tournaments - Dispersed Flock ***	14-18 yeears old	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)	X		Team members bird individually in their home "patch." *** A mentor/driver does not identify or locate birds for the team but can help verify once ID'd by youth
Adult Regional Big Day Tournaments - Dispersed Flock ***	19+ years old	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)	X		Team members bird individually in their home "patch." *** All team members must be in the same region of the state.
Adult Statewide Big Day Tournament - Dispersed Flock ***	19+ years old	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)		X	Team members bird individually in their home "patch." *** Each team member may be in any region of the state.
Human-Powered Tournament - Dispersed Flock ***	all ages	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)		X	Team members bird individually in their home "patch." *** Team members may be in any region of the state. All birds identified must be seen/heard after the team has become fully human-powered (walking, bicycles, kayaks, canoes, etc.). No motorized vehicles/watercraft may be used to move between locations once tournament day is begun.
Adult Regional Big Day Tournament - Intact Flock	19+ years old	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)	X		Team members may bird together with others in their quarantine "pod" of family/friends (i.e., those they are quarantining or interacting with during this pandemic) while following any local or state ordinances pertaining to the pandemic. Teams must bird within a single region of the state.
State Park Tournament - Intact Flock	all ages	3-5	up to 24 hours in a single day (midnight to midnight)		X	Team members may bird together with others in their quarantine "pod" of family/friends (i.e., those they are quarantining or interacting with during this pandemic) while following any local or state ordinances pertaining to the pandemic. Teams select a TPWD state park and all birds identified must be seen/heard from within that park's official boundaries. Teams must make advance day-pass reservations and pay all park entry fees (or use their Texas State Parks Pass http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/park-information/passes/sppass-faq), including any overnight fees if starting the count before the park opens. Be sure to check park hours regularly as closures may happen with short notice due to the pandemic.
Sunrise to Noon Tournament - Intact Flock	all ages	3-5	sunrise to 12:00noon		X	Team members may bird together with others in their quarantine "pod" of family/friends (i.e., those they are quarantining or interacting with during this pandemic) while following any local or state ordinances pertaining to the pandemic. Teams begin birding at dawn and can bird until 12:00noon.

MODIFIED TOURNAMENT RULES (see full rules online for more details):

The biggest changes for this year are:

1. The event is taking place during the month of October, not mid-April to mid-May

a. GTBC participants must focus on their home "patch" (i.e. window views, yards, neighborhoods, or outdoor public spaces such as parks if permitted by local/statewide ordinances) within a 50 mile radius of their homes in order to stay local during the pandemic.

b. "Dispersed Flock" teams include team members who may be located anywhere in Texas or in their selected region (depending on if they're entering a statewide or regional tournament). Several tournament categories will offer this option.

c. "Intact Flock" teams include team members who may bird together with others in their quarantine "pod" of family/friends (i.e., those they are quarantining or interacting with during this pandemic) while following any local or state ordinances pertaining to the pandemic.

d. Big Sit! teams select a 50-foot diameter circle from which to bird (TEAMS MUST PLAN SHIFTS ACCORDINGLY TO ALLOW FOR ADEQUATE SOCIAL DISTANCING). Per state Covid-19 guidelines for outdoor gatherings, no more than 10 people at a time may bird within your Big Sit! circle.

2. All rules, terms, and conditions are subject to change up to and including during the dates of the event to comply with federal, state, and/or local restrictions and quickly evolving best practices. Full rules for the 2020 Birding Classic can be found online. These rules are being adopted to ensure that health and safety is the top priority as we have fun, connect with one another (virtually or safely in person), and fundraise for avian conservation work throughout the state of Texas.

3. GTBC participants must abide by state ordinances and CDC recommendations at the time of their tournament day (<https://www.dshs.state.tx.us/coronavirus/opentexas.aspx#outdoor> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/travel-in-the-us.html>, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/visitors.html>). All local, state, and/or federal restrictions in place on your tournament day supersede any Birding Classic rules.

4. If going to a local park or other outdoor space, GTBC participants must comply with the physical distancing guidelines set forth by the National Recreation and Parks Association and other relevant federal, state, and local restrictions and guidelines (<https://www.nrpa.org/about-national-recreation-and-park-association/press-room/NRPA-statement-on-using-parks-and-open-space-while-maintaining-social-distancing/>).

5. Face coverings are strongly encouraged, but not required, for people participating in the Birding Classic when social distancing is not possible or is difficult to maintain. Face coverings are NOT a replacement for social distancing. Wash hands often, wear a mask, and maintain 6-foot distances between you and other people not in your quarantine "pod" of family/friends.

6. GTBC participants may not share optics, equipment, or books or ride in the same vehicle except with others in their quarantine "pod" of family/friends.

7. The 95% Rule will not apply in any "Dispersed Flock" tournament categories nor to the Big Sit! In "Dispersed Flock" tournament categories, team members will be remote from one another, so it is up to fellow members to accept or question any dubious identifications before adding them to the official checklist. Big Sit! teams continue to only need a single team member to see/identify a species for it to count.

8. The 95% rule applies only to the "Intact Flock" categories. This means 95% of all birds recorded by a "Intact Flock" team must be tallied and identified by all members of the team. All birds must be identified by at least two members of a team. Identification made by only one team member can never be counted. Ninety-five percent of all birds recorded by a team must be identified by the entire team. The remaining 5 percent may be identified by two or more members.

* There are 9 different regions based on the Great Texas Wildlife Trail. Teams in these tournaments must select their Great Texas Wildlife Trail region (see Regional Tournament Map on Birding Classic website), indicate that selected region on their official team registration form, and stay within the boundaries of that region on their tournament day. Teams in regional tournaments compete against all other teams from the same region for each tournament category.

** Teams participating in a statewide tournament category are not confined to any one region of the state but instead compete against all other teams in that same category, regardless of area birded.

*** The biggest change this year is that for "Dispersed Flock" teams you may put together a team of birders each located anywhere in Texas or in your selected region (depending on if you're entering a statewide or regional tournament). GTBC participants must focus on their home "patch," i.e. window views, yards, neighborhoods, or outdoor public spaces such as parks (if permitted by local/statewide ordinances) within 50 miles of their homes. Teams must identify a single list collector for their team who will combine all team members' individual "patch" lists for the day into a single checklist on eBird. The list collector will then share this single cumulative list with the "GTBCStaff" eBird account as the team's official final checklist.