2027 World Championship Running of the Tubs Official Rules

The Running of the Tubs will be held in front of Bathhouse Row in Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas, on Saturday, June 5, 2027. The event is a celebration of Hot Springs' historic past when the city proclaimed "We Bathe The World!" and is named in honor of Stueart Pennington, a well-known and respected downtown businessman. The event consists of teams pushing their bathtubs on wheels down Central Avenue, in front of Bathhouse Row, in Historic Downtown Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas.

Schedule:

Friday, June 4, 2027

12:00 PM - Set up in Hill Wheatley Plaza Begins
5:00 PM - All Bathtubs must be in Hill Wheatley Plaza for Judging
6:00 PM - Judging of the Tubs Begins

Saturday, June 5, 2027

8:00 AM - All teams must be in Hill Wheatley Plaza
9:00 AM - Parade of Tubs Begins
9:05 AM - The Running of the Tubs Begins

Divisions:

- Traditional - Made of a cast iron bathtub.
- Modified - Made of a fiberglass or plastic bathtub.
- Stock - Visit Hot Springs provides the tub (Nonprofits, governmental, and church organizations only.)

Rules:

Rules are subject to change at any time.

1. All participants must be over 18 years of age and must sign a liability release form prior to the start of the event.

2. Any authentic bathtub may be entered into the competition, old or new. Bathtubs must be at least 48 inches long and 24 inches wide.

3. The wheels on the tub cannot exceed 30 inches in diameter mounted on axles, and may not exceed 44 inches wide. Casters or rollers are not allowed.

4. No motors or mechanical devices can be used to push the tub. The four members of the team, not in the tub, must power the tub the entire length of the race.

5. Each team must consist of 5 members: a Captain - who must ride in the tub, a Bath Towel Attendant, a Bath Mat Attendant, a Soap Attendant, and a Loofah Mitt Attendant.

6. During the Running of the Tubs, each team member must keep one hand on the tub at all times. If any team member lets go of the tub for any reason, the tub must stop, and all attendants must change positions before the tub restarts.

7. Attendants must hold their particular item throughout the entire race. If any team member drops their item, the tub must stop until that team member retrieves the item. The team must then make one complete circle around the tub before the team can continue.

8. Each team crossing the finish line must still have the bar of soap, the bath mat, the loofah mitt, and the bath towel, or the team will be disqualified.

9. The bathtub must be full of water at the start of the race and have at least 10 gallons of water left in the tub at the finish line. If the judges find less than 10 gallons of water left in the tub, that team will be disqualified. The judges will have the final say on how the volume of water is measured.

10. The four team members pushing the tubs must wear a head covering of some size and shape, and also suspenders!

11. Costumes are required, and race strategies are encouraged - everything goes in this contest!

12. Advertising will be allowed on the bathtubs - please keep it clean.

13. The Running of the Tubs Judges will have the final say. They have final word on everything! Anyone who argues with a judge will never be allowed to bathe on Central Avenue again, or until another Arkansan is elected president, whichever comes first.

14. Each tub must affix the Visit Hot Springs and Bathhouse Soapery decals to the outside of their tub. Decals are available the week of the race and can be acquired by contacting Visit Hot Springs (501-321-2277). Decals will also be available at the Judging of the Tubs. Decal requirements can change at any time.

15. No thongs allowed.

16. A flag or pennant must be hoisted on a minimum 3' pole and attached to the tub.

17. Extra points are awarded for bribing the judges. *Bribes can be made prior to the race, at the Judging of the Tubs, or during the race.*

18. Head starts may be given according to the Judges' mood at any given time.

19. All teams must have at least 1 rubber duck in their tub at all times.

20. All teams must have their bathtub in Hill Wheatley Plaza (605 Central Ave) by 5 PM on Friday, June 4th for judging. The Plaza will have open access for teams on Friday beginning at 12 PM, which will allow teams to put the finishing touches on their bathtubs. The Judging of the Tubs will begin at 6 PM on June 4th.

21. There is a $25 entry fee for each bathtub team. Checks made payable to Visit Hot Springs or PayPal payments to Vross@hotsprings.org must be submitted with the completed forms. The deadline for entries is 12 PM Friday, May 6, 2027. Anyone crazy enough to enter this contest must have their entry form, check, and team waivers submitted before any participant runs.

22. Be assured - there will be more rules! Participants are subject to the whim of the judges at all times!

Keep on Tubbin'