



**APRIL 25, 2020**  
**GENERAL TOURNAMENT RULES**

## **REGISTRATION**

1. Entry fees are non-refundable.
2. Payment of the entry fee constitutes a representation by each captain that the captain has read and understands the tournament rules and procedures, and that the captain and crew will abide by such rules and the decisions of the tournament committees and tournament personnel.

## **CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS**

3. At least ONE member of participating team must attend the captain's meeting to be eligible to participate in the tournament. If one member does not attend, they are not eligible for a refund.
4. Captains are responsible for being informed of all tournament rules and procedures.
6. The tournament committee may amend the tournament rules at any time prior to the end of the captain's meeting.

## **PRIZES**

7. All advertised cash prizes are based upon a minimum of 50 paid entries to the general tournament, and the tournament reserves the right to adjust the prize structure if there are less than 50 paid entries.

## **BOATING SAFETY**

8. Every boat must meet all federal, state and local laws and safety regulations for its size. All captains are responsible to ensure all applicable federal, state and local fishing laws and regulations are adhered to by all members of their crew.
9. All boats must be equipped with an operating Marine VHF-FM radio of at least 25 watts. Handheld VHF radios are not permitted as the primary radio. All captains are responsible for monitoring the official tournament radio channel (CH9) for tournament announcements.
10. The use of marine radios during the Tournament must comply with the FCC and USCG regulations. The use of profane or derogatory remarks may result in disqualification.
11. Violation of any statute or marine regulation or directive by a captain or crew may be grounds for disqualification in the sole discretion of the tournament's committee.

## **CHECK OUT AND CHECK IN**

12. All boats must leave from the official check out location as designated by the tournament committee and announced at the captains meeting.
13. All boats weighing fish MUST ENTER the Steinhatchee River and check in by 4:30 PM at the designated tournament location.
14. All boats not weighing fish MUST check in with the tournament committee by phone (number on front of boat number) or VHF radio (CH9) by 5:30 p.m.

## **FISHING**

15. No boat may make a landfall, receive, pass anything to or from land, or enter any inlet after check out before the boat has checked in. In the event any boats come together, regardless of the reason, or anything is passed between boats for any reason after the official start of that day's fishing and before each boat has weighed in, then both such boats shall be disqualified for that day of fishing. The tournament committee may grant exceptions for emergency situations.

16. There is a max of 6 anglers per boat.

17. No boundaries are applied, but the fish must be caught within the Gulf of Mexico.

18. Hours of fishing are from 12:00 AM until 4:30 p.m. each day, unless terminated earlier by the tournament committee.

19. All fish must be caught on rod and reel. Special exceptions may be granted by the tournament committee, in advance of the tournament, on requests made for a physically challenged angler.

20. There is no maximum number of lines in the water.

21. The use of any aerial device (drone, airplane, helicopter) is prohibited.

## **WEIGHING IN FISH**

22. All fish must be brought to the weigh-in station by the boat on which they were caught.

23. Boats weighing fish must reach the weigh-in station unassisted.

24. Shoes **MUST** be worn by those weighing in fish.

25. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be of legal size, fresh, edible condition and caught the same tournament day.

26. No mutilated fish may be weighed in and the final decision will be made by the biologist present at weigh in.

27. All fish weighed become property of the tournament.

28. Fish to be weighed must be put on the dock and carried to the scales by a member of the boat's crew. Shoes are required by all participants coming to the scales.

29. All information printed on the weigh-in slip, including but not limited to the official weight, as accepted by the person who brings the fish to the scale, is binding on the captain.

30.. In the event of a tie in fish weights, the winner shall be determined by the earliest check in time as recorded by the tournament committee check in team.

## **PROTEST**

31. Any protest must be submitted to the weigh master in writing within one hour after the closing of the weigh-in station on the day the disqualifying event occurs. Only a captain registered in the tournament may file a protest. A three hundred-dollar (\$300.00) deposit must accompany each protest.

In the event the protest is upheld, the deposit will be refunded. If the protest is not upheld, the deposit will be forfeited. The decisions of the tournament committee are binding regarding any protest.

#### **POLYGRAPH**

32. All captains and crew agree to submit to a polygraph at the request of the tournament. Failure to take, pass and/or submit to the polygraph will result in disqualification of entire team and forfeit all winnings awarded. Each contestant selected for polygraph must have in their possession a valid picture ID and Florida State fishing license.

#### **MISCELLANEOUS**

33. Any matter not specifically covered by these rules may be decided by and at the sole discretion of the tournament committee. The tournament reserves the right to delay, cancel or reschedule the tournament if weather conditions are unfavorable or unsafe in the sole judgment of the tournament committee. The tournament committee reserves the right to amend any rule due to safety concerns.