



Inshore Fishing Association OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES 2024

INTERPRETATION & ENFORCEMENT

- All Federal, State, and Local laws, rules, markings, orders, and warnings must be followed and will always supersede tournament rules. Participants in violation of any laws may be disqualified.
- All violations of laws will be turned over to the proper authorities for investigation and possible prosecution. This includes, but is not limited to, cheating, harassment, wildlife violations, illegal drug use, and any other illegal activity.
- These rules will remain subject to change by Tournament Officials.
- Participants are responsible to read and understand the written rules, addendums, additions, and announcements. The written rules supersede any verbal or video communication of the rules.
- Special Rules and amendments may be announced, added, or omitted for special circumstances or clarification at the judgement of Tournament Officials.
- Interpretation and enforcement of these rules will be left exclusively to Tournament Officials.
- Decisions of Tournament Officials are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.
- A violation of tournament rules may result in penalties, disqualification, and/or legal actions at the discretion of Tournament Officials or Local, State, Federal authorities.

PARTICIPATION

All participants must download the eTournament Fishing app on their mobile device and register and pay the full entry fee in the app, sign the liability release, attend the Captain's Meeting, and use an official tournament provided measuring board to be considered a participant.

- Any youth participants that do not have their own cell phone may submit fish using a parent or guardians cell phone, but you **MUST CONTACT** the Tournament Director prior to the event for approval and special instructions.
- Any participants under the age of 18 entering a tournament must have permission and a signed release from a parent or legal guardian.
- Any youth participants under the age of 16 must be accompanied on the water by a parent, legal guardian, or adult representative declared in writing by parent or guardian.
- Participation in any tournament is at the sole discretion of Tournament Officials.
- All participants must have a valid fishing license for the waters they fish.
- When fishing from a boat, **ALL PERSONS ONBOARD** must be registered participants in the event.

- The number of paid places will be determined for each division based on entries. Payout amounts and/or prizes will be determined at each event and based on entries.
- The tournament organization reserves the right to add money and prizes to paybacks, as well as distribute prizes at their discretion.
- Participants must be present at the awards ceremony to win.
- Any participant wishing to withdraw from the event must submit a request in writing via email to info@etournamentfishing.com. Tournament Officials must be notified no later than Friday, August 9th, 2024, to be eligible for a refund. The refund amount will be the event entry amount, less app use and processing fees. Refunds may take up to 10 days to be processed by payment processor.

IFA DIVISIONS

Winners for each division and for overall, will be determined by adding the length of the participants largest one fish of each species, Redfish and Speckled Sea Trout together. Participants may only register and compete in one division.

- **IFA Adult Division** (*Participants 16 years old and older, fishing from a boat or shore*) Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- **IFA Youth Division** (*Participants under the age of 16, fishing from boat, shore or kayak*) Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place
- **IFA Kayak Division** (*Participants of any age fishing from a kayak only*) Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place

NOTE: *All three divisions will be combined to determine the overall winners. Payouts and/or prizes for overall will be 1st place through 25th place.*

BIG FISH AWARDS

Winners for Big Fish will be determined by the largest overall single fish for each species.

- Big Fish - Redfish
- Big Fish - Speckled Sea Trout

PAYOUTS

Payouts and/or prizes will be determined by the number of entries.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FEE

- Register in the eTournament Fishing app. Three separate events will be listed in the app, IFA Adult Division, IFA Youth Division and IFA Kayak Division and participants will register in the division they choose to compete in. Participants may only enter and compete in one division.
- The entry fee is \$125.00 (*includes \$5.00 app use fee*). This must be paid via credit card in the eTournament Fishing app at the time of registration (*4.9% processing fee applied at time of transaction*).
- Registration in the app closes Friday August 16th, 2024, at 8:00pm.

REQUIRED IN-PERSON SIGN IN

- It is mandatory that all participants attend the in-person sign in at Bass Pro Shops, 10501 Palm River Rd, Brandon, FL. 33619 between 3:00pm to 8:00pm, Friday August 16th, 2024.
- All participants are required to sign a waiver of liability to participate.
- Participants will receive an Official Tournament Measuring Board at the in-person sign in, that must be used to participate.
- If you cannot attend the in-person sign in, you must contact Tournament Officials immediately. The tournament organization reserves the right to accept or refuse entry based on physical attendance of the sign in process.

REQUIRED VIEWING OF THE CAPTAIN'S MEETING

All Participants must watch the pre-recorded Captain's Meeting that will be emailed and posted on the website by 12:00pm on Friday, August 16th, 2024. Participants are responsible for all the information contained in the meeting.

TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, August 16th, 2024

- **12:00pm**
All participants must be off the water. No fishing is allowed after this time until the start of the tournament. The pre-recorded Captains Meeting will be emailed and posted on the website.
- **3:00pm to 6:00pm**
In-Person Tournament sign in (Required). Location: Bass Pro Shops, 10501 Palm River Rd, Tampa, FL 33619. Participants will sign waivers and will be given Official Tournament Measuring Boards.

Saturday, August 17th, 2024

- **6:00am**
 - Day one launch time. Participants may launch their boat or kayak (beginning 1- hour prior to the official sunrise) and proceed to their fishing areas at this time.
- **6:45am**
 - Day one start of tournament fishing hours. No lines allowed in the water prior to 6:45am or 15 minutes prior to official sunrise.
- **3:30pm**
 - End of day one tournament fishing hours. No fishing is allowed past 3:30pm. Participants must stop fishing and head to shore and load their boat or kayak. No fish submissions time stamped after 3:30pm will be accepted.
- **4:30pm**
 - Fish submission upload verification deadline. All fish submissions must be in "Pending Review" status by this time. If you have any fish submissions that are in "Being Uploaded" status, you must contact the Tournament

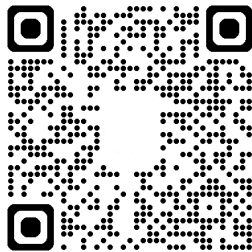
Officials prior to the 4:30pm deadline. Failure to do so may result in those fish submissions not being approved.

Sunday, August 18th, 2024

- **6:00am**
 - Day two official launch time. Participants may launch their boat or kayak (beginning 1 hour prior to the official sunrise) and proceed to their fishing areas at this time.
- **6:45am**
 - Day two start of tournament fishing hours. No lines in the water prior to 6:45am or 15 minutes prior to official sunrise.
- **12:00pm**
 - End of day two tournament fishing hours. No fishing is allowed past 12:00pm. Participants must stop fishing and head to shore and load their boat or kayak. No fish submissions time stamped after 12:00pm will be accepted.
- **1:00pm**
 - Fish submission upload verification deadline. All fish submissions must be in “Pending Review” status by this time. If you have any fish submissions that are in “Being Uploaded” status, you must contact the Tournament Officials prior to the 1:00pm deadline. Failure to do so may result in those fish submissions not being approved.
- **2:30pm**
 - Awards Ceremony Location: Tampa Bay Bass Pro Shops 10501 Palm River Rd, Tampa, FL 33619 *NOTE: You must be present to win.*

USING THE eTOURNAMENT FISHING APP

Please watch the eTournament Fishing Quick Guide Tutorial, “[Getting Started](https://youtu.be/_sXoFgUaI4A)” (https://youtu.be/_sXoFgUaI4A) on how to download the app, create a profile and register for an event Or visit the website: www.eTournamentFishing.com
You may also download the app using the links below:



[Android App Store Link](#)



[iOS App Store Link](#)

MINIMUM PHONE REQUIREMENTS NEEDED

- Each Participant is required to use an Android phone with version 12 or newer OR an iPhone with iOS version 17.x or newer.

UPDATE YOUR CELL PHONE'S OPERATING SYSTEM

- It is CRITICAL to check and make sure that your cell phone's operating system is UPDATED to the most current version available to ensure proper functionality with the eTournament Fishing app.

eTOURNAMENT FISHING PRACTICE EVENT

- IT IS HIGHLY ENCOURAGED THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS enter the FREE eTournament Fishing "Practice Event" in the app and make some submissions prior to the tournament. Measurement photos and release videos can be of anything, your dog, your shoes, etc. This will confirm the app's compatibility with your cell phone and allow you to become familiar with the fish submission process in the app.

APP CHECK-IN PRIOR TO THE EVENT

- Participants MUST CHECK-IN to the event prior to the start while you have a good cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. This allows the app to function in online mode when good cellular service is available or in the offline mode when you are in areas with poor or no cellular service. When you have a good cellular data or Wi-Fi connection, open the eTournament Fishing app and go to the event that you registered for and tap the "Check-In" box in the upper right corner. This can be done immediately after registering for the event.

CPRV™ FORMAT

- This is a CPRV™ (Catch, Photo, Release Video™) format event. The CPRV™ format is used to promote conservation and to eliminate the harvest of any fish. AT NO TIME during tournament hours are participants allowed to catch and hold the fish on a stringer, or in a basket, cooler, or livewell, or be in possession of any species of fish. Documentation of fish will be captured digitally, and the fish will be immediately released.

FISH SUBMISSION MEDIA REQUIREMENTS

- **Trophy Photo**

The Trophy Photo can be a "selfie", or a standard photo taken of the angler holding their fish. "Selfie" type photos should include at the minimum a portion of the anglers head and portion of the fish.

NOTE: The Trophy Photo will not be used to confirm the submission but may be used for promotional purposes during and after the event.

- **Measurement Photo**

The measurement photo must be taken from the "straight down perspective" with no angle. Avoid taking the measurement photo in extremely bright and direct sunlight which can wash out the photo and cause a poor-quality photo. Avoid shadows if possible. The measurement photo must show the entire fish and be

clear and in focus. It is solely the participants responsibility to provide a clear measurement photo so the Tournament Official can accurately confirm the submission.

- The measurement photo must show the fish's mouth closed for Speckled Sea Trout. NOTE: If the mouth is not closed, a 1 (one) inch penalty will be assessed.
- The Measurement Photo must clearly show the mouth/nose TOUCHING the "bump end" of the measuring board. NOTE: If the measurement photo does not clearly show the mouth/nose touching, the submission will be rejected and will not count.
- The measurement photo MUST CLEARLY SHOW the tail of the fish, (pinched or not) on the measuring board so an accurate length measurement can be taken. NOTE: If fish's tail touches or crosses a graduation line, the team is allowed to round up to the next closest ¼ (quarter) inch.
- **Release Video**
The release video must show the fish being released back into the water.
NOTE: The release video will not be used to confirm the submission but may be used for promotional purposes during and after the event.

FISH SUBMISSION PROCESS

The required fish submission media requirements will be completed within the app for each fish submission. The fish submission process is simple, quick and intuitive. For more instruction on the Fish Submission Process, please watch the eTournament Quick Guide Tutorial, "Fish Submission Process" (https://youtu.be/_sXoFgUa14A) or visit the website: www.eTournamentFishing.com. Please send any inquiries to: Support@eTournamentFishing.com

STEP 1

TAP THE SUBMIT A FISH BUTTON

STEP 2

SELECT THE SPECIES OF FISH

STEP 3

TAKE THE TROPHY PHOTO

STEP 4

SELECT THE LENGTH OF THE FISH

STEP 5

TAKE THE MEASUREMENT PHOTO

STEP 6

TAKE THE RELEASE VIDEO

STEP 7

TAP THE SUBMIT BUTTON

UPLOADING FISH SUBMISSIONS AND MONITORING SUBMISSION STATUS

When the submission is in the "Being Uploaded" status, it is currently being uploaded to the Tournament Director, this typically takes less than a minute. However, in areas with

poor cellular service, this process can take longer. Once the status changes to “Pending Review”, the upload has been completed and the Tournament Director has your fish submission. If you close the app, the process will pause until you re-open it. We recommend leaving the app open until the uploading process has been completed. At the end of the day or after your final fish submission, make sure that ALL your fish submissions are in the “Pending Review” status. If ANY fish submissions are still in the “Being Uploaded” status, it is due to being in an area with poor or no cellular service or the app was closed prior to completing the upload process. Once you return to an area with good cell service, open the app and leave the app open to allow your fish submissions to upload. Once all your fish submissions are in the “Pending Review” status, they have been uploaded to the Tournament Director for review.

FISH SUBMISSION VERIFICATION DEADLINE

To ensure results can be accurately completed in a timely manner, all participants must confirm that all submissions are in the “Pending Review” status no later than 4:30pm on Saturday and no later than 1:00pm on Sunday. If you have any submissions that are in the “Being Uploaded” status, leave your app open when you return to an area with good cellular service. If for any reason, your submission(s) do not move to “Pending Review”, contact the Tournament Director for assistance PRIOR to the 4:30pm deadline on Saturday and the 1:00pm deadline on Sunday. If you do not contact the Tournament Director prior to the deadlines, those fish submissions will not count.

APP USE IN AREAS WITH POOR OR NO CELL SERVICE

The eTournament Fishing app will record your catch with or without a cellular data or Wi-Fi connection. If you are in an area with poor or no cellular service, the app will automatically go into the offline mode and allow you to submit fish. Once you return to an area with good cellular service it will automatically return to online mode. Open your app again, and your fish submissions will automatically upload.

SAFETY

- Safe boating must be observed at all times.
- Boaters are REQUIRED to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while the combustion engine is in operation. PFD must be visible and worn outside of your clothing.
- Kayakers are REQUIRED to wear a fastened U.S. Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device while fishing from or maneuvering their kayak during tournament hours. Inflatable belt PFDs are not considered satisfactory. PFD must be visible and worn outside of your clothing.
- All Kayaks must be equipped with emergency equipment as required by all Federal, State, and Local laws. This often includes a safety whistle and 360-degree light. Additionally, a high-visibility flag flown on the kayak is recommended.
- At the discretion of the Tournament Director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- Participants may leave their boat and seek shelter in bad weather or when danger is eminent.

- Participants are expected to use sound judgement and are accountable for his/her own actions when faced with a potentially dangerous situation. (i.e. Lightning, excessive wind, pleasure boaters, hunters, etc.)
- In the event of equipment failure or emergency, the Tournament Director(s) must be notified as soon as it is safe to do so. Always contact 911 first, then contact Tournament Officials after reaching safety.

SPORTSMANSHIP

- All Participants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and conservation and to conduct themselves in a manner that will be a credit to themselves, angler's sponsors, tournament sponsors, the sport of fishing. Conduct not complying with these standards includes, but is not limited to, the following:
 - Violation of or failure to comply with event or state rules.
 - Consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages or any kind of mind-altering substance during tournament hours.
 - Suspension/disqualification, probation or ban from any tournament or fishing organization.
- Verbal or physical abuse towards fellow Participants and Tournament Directors on or off the water from 12:00pm on Friday, August 16th throughout the tournament weekend.
- Blocking navigable waters from fellow Participants to pass through, but not limited to, boat positioning and cast placement.
- Working with a non-Participant to block other Participants or hold spots before or during tournament hours.
- Any words, conduct or actions reflecting unfavorably upon efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition and compliance with tournament rules, or which fail to comply with the standards set forth in these rules.
- Smoking is not allowed in the stage area. Smoking must be done away from Tournament Directors and large groups of anglers. Please be respectful of others.
- Entry fees will be forfeited for any Participants disqualified for any rule or conduct violation.

BOAT AND MOTOR SPECIFICATIONS

- All boats must be a minimum of 15 feet in length.
- Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment (navigational lights, horn, throw cushion, and all legally required equipment).
- All boats MUST be equipped with an OPERATIONAL shut-off device (Kill Switch). This Kill Switch must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating.

HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS for BOATERS

- Maximum horsepower for all outboards used in tournament competition will not exceed the horsepower limitations as set by the U.S. Coast Guard horsepower rating plate attached to the boat by the manufacturer.

- Each Participant agrees to submit his or her boat and/or motor to an inspection by an inspector upon request of Tournament Officials.
- Falsifying information on entry forms or altering the horsepower numbers on the motor or rating plate will be cause for disqualification from the tournament and may result in ineligibility to enter future tournaments.

KAYAK REGULATION

- Watercraft propulsion is restricted to paddle, pedal, pole or electric motor.
- Unless specifically prohibited, the use of electric motors in competition is APPROVED with the following restrictions:
 - Electric motor must be attached to the kayak in a safe manner for operation.
 - Manufacturer's labeled Maximum HP/Thrust Capacity
 - Maximum 3 HP (electric motor)
 - Maximum 155 foot-pounds of thrust
- Competitors must comply with all boating regulations pertaining to motorized kayak/electric-propulsion watercraft registration, use and operating restrictions for the designated fishing area.
- No more than one electric motor may be attached to a kayak regardless of combined horsepower/thrust/power rating.
- Motors with dual props operated by a single power source are permissible if the unit is manufactured and sold as a single unit.
- Vessels must be 9 feet minimum and shorter than 18 feet.
- Vessel that the manufacturer identifies and sells as a kayak, including inflatable kayaks and modular kayaks, stand-up paddle boards (SUP) and canoes.
- Catamaran-style personal fishing vessels complying with all other regulations will be eligible.
- No "homemade" kayaks, sailboats, johnboats, pirogues, coracles, rowboats, dinghies, skiffs, float tubes, inflatable rafts or rigid inflatable boats (e.g., Zodiac), pontoon boats, pontoon-style pond boats, twin-hull watercraft or similar.
- The use of a manual or motorized anchor system is permitted.
- Mother shipping, tethering/holding or any transportation coordination with a noncompetitor is strictly prohibited unless approved by Tournament Officials due to an emergency.
- By officially entering, Participants agree to submit their kayak to an inspection by Tournament Officials, upon request.

PERMITTED FISHING METHODS

- Fishing in the event shall only be done by conventional rod and reel. Participants must follow all State fishing regulations.
- All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner by the participating angler.
- Only artificial lures are allowed. No other baits are allowed.
- Trolling is allowed.
- No fish are to be kept on stringers. Non-penetrating fish gripping devices are acceptable to temporarily hold fish in the water.

- An angler's catch must be safely released before casting or fishing may resume.

PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS

- Restrictions, designated launch points, official tournament waters, and other location mandates may be issued for individual events.
- Event boundary and geo-fence information is available in the eTournament Fishing App for reference. (See attached boundary map)
- Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat/kayak except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing," "no fishing," or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access by commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials.
- Participants may fish anywhere on tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat/kayak except areas posted or otherwise designated as "off-limits," "no boats," "keep out," "restricted," "no trespassing," "no fishing," or similar language or markings intended to restrict public access by commercial property owners and/or local, state or federal officials.
- No Wade Fishing: All fishing must be conducted from shore or inside the boat/kayak unless otherwise stated by Tournament Officials.
- Boats/kayaks may never be tethered to on-water markers like buoys or safety signs.

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT MEASURING BOARD

- An Official Measuring Board will be provided at the in-person Tournament Registration on Friday, August 16th.
- Any fish submitted on any measuring board other than the one provided will not be approved.

TIES AND TIEBREAKERS

- Overall Division ties will be broken by which Participant caught the biggest fish first.
- All other Divisions ties (Adult, Kayak, and Youth) will be broken by which Participant caught the biggest fish first.
- Any other ties and tiebreakers will be determined by Tournament Officials using the next biggest fish and time stamp method.

TRUTH VERIFICATION TEST

- Each Participant agrees to submit, by registering for this tournament, to a polygraph or voice stress analysis examination and to abide by its conclusion.
- Consumption of alcohol or any mind-altering substance is strictly prohibited prior to a truth verification test.
- Refusal to participate in the polygraph or voice stress analysis examination will result in disqualification from the tournament.
- Failure to pass an examination, if administered, will result in disqualification from the tournament.

- Truth verification tests will be used at the Tournament Officials sole discretion, and the determination of the meaning of the results will be made solely by the Tournament Officials.

PROTESTS AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

All protests must be submitted in writing to Tournament Officials, along with a \$150 cash deposit, One (1) hour prior to awards ceremony, to the Tournament Director(s) or designated Tournament Official. The protester also agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of a protest that he or she also may be subject to take a polygraph and agree to testify in a court of law if necessary. If the Tournament Director, or polygraph, upholds the protest, the cash deposit shall be returned to the Participant submitting the protest.

MEDIA COVERAGE

- Participants are required to comply with all Tournament Official's requests (including but not limited to video, still camera, access to boat or kayak and access to fishing area) made by Tournament Officials or official tournament film crew throughout events.
- Official tournament camera or film crews are the same as Tournament Officials. Participants will treat them as such.
- Tournament camera crews are allowed to move in and out of your boats at any time, track you via GPS, etc.
- Failure to coordinate with and accommodate the official tournament film crew needs will result in disqualification of this and possibly future events.

