

## **2025 General Tournament Rules**

### **REGISTRATION**

1. Entry fees are non-refundable.
2. Payment of the entry fee constitutes a representation of 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's Committees and Tournaments personnel.
3. The Tournament reserves the right to deny participation to any Captain or crew member who violated Tournament rules in any previous tournament.

### **CAPTAIN'S MEETINGS**

4. Captains or their authorized representatives must attend the Captain's Meeting for each Tournament in which they intended to fish. Captains are responsible for being informed of all Tournament Rules and Procedures, including any amendments made prior to the start of fishing.
5. The Tournament Rules Committee may amend the Tournament Rules at any time prior to the start of fishing.

### **PRIZES**

6. All advertised cash prizes are based upon a minimum of 200 paid entries to the General Tournament and the Tournament reserves the right to adjust the prize structure if there are less or more than 200 paid entries. Additionally, the Tournament awards prizes for the Junior Angler Tournament, the Ladies Tournament, the Tournaments within the Tournament, and other special awards and prizes.

### **BOATING SAFETY**

7. Each boat must meet all Federal, State, and Local laws and safety regulations for its size. All Captains are responsible for compliance with all applicable Federal, State, and Local fishing laws and regulations by the captain's boat and by all members of the Captain's crew.
8. All Captains are responsible for monitoring the official Tournament radio channel (CH 78) for Tournament announcements.
9. 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 Rules Committee.

### **CHECK OUT AND CHECK-IN**

10. All boats must leave from an official inlet Fernandina, Mayport, and St. Augustine. No boat can enter the Atlantic Ocean prior to 5:00AM.
11. All boats intending to weigh fish must be in line at the Tournament Site (Sisters Creek Boat Ramp) prior to 5:30PM. Weigh-in opens at 2:00PM.
12. Land Check-In - Fish being brought to weigh-in by vehicle. The land side Official Check-In station will be located as you enter the Official Tournament Site and your check in time at the Scale will be your official check-in time for purposes of determining ties. You will need your boat number (and Lady Angler Number if weighing a Lady Angler fish). A Tagging Table will be located on site, and you will be directed to the location by Weigh-in Staff. Fish must be carried to the tagging table and scales by a member of the boat's crew but may have assistance at the discretion of the Weigh Master. Shoes are required by all participants at the scales. All other Boat Check-in Rules will apply.

### **FISHING**

13. No boat intending to weigh fish may make landfall, receive, or 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 fishing and before each boat has weighed in, then both such boats shall be disqualified for that day of fishing. The Rules Committee may grant exceptions for emergency situations.
14. All boats must remain within the Tournament Boundaries in the Atlantic Ocean during fishing hours and while catching bait. There are no Tournament Boundaries to the East. The North Tournament Boundary is located at 31°10'N (North of St. Simons Sound/Brunswick). The South Tournament Boundary is located at 29°28'48" N (Flagler Beach Pier). Polygraph test(s) will be issued at the discretion of the tournament directors.
15. Hours of fishing are from 6:30 AM (0630 hrs.) until 5:30 PM (1730 hrs.) unless amended by the Tournament's Rules Committee.
16. No boat registered in the Tournament is allowed to fish or take bait in the Atlantic Ocean as of 7:30 PM (1930 hrs.) on the day prior of the scheduled start of the General Tournament. One day of fishing constitutes a complete Tournament for all purposes. Four hours of fishing on any one day constitutes a day of fishing. All fish must be taken on a rod and reel. Special exceptions may be granted by the Rules Committee, in advance of the Tournament, on request. The use of any aerial device (drone, airplane, helicopter) is prohibited.

## **WEIGHING IN FISH**

17. Two Kingfish (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*) will be eligible for weigh-in on the day of the Tournament the best two fish will qualify for the Aggregate. All fish weighed become the property of the Tournament.
18. Boats weighing fish must reach the weigh-in station unassisted. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be of legal size, fresh, edible condition, and caught the same tournament day. Mutilated fish, defined as one suffering any damage other than gaff marks, are not qualified to win any prize in the Tournament. The Tournament Weigh Master's final decision regarding mutilation will be final and binding on all Tournament participants.
19. Fish to be weighed must be put on the dock and carried to the scales by a member of the boat's crew but may have assistance at the discretion of the Weigh Master. Shoes are required by all participants coming to the scales and a personal floatation device is required for any Junior Angler who leaves a boat.
20. In the event of a tie in fish weights, the winner shall be determined by the earliest time your fish is weighed
21. 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.
22. Lady Angler Division (Is a Stand-alone Tournament): In the spirit of competition, it is the intent of the Tournament to have the Lady Angler fight her fish to the boat. The Lady Angler will be required to carry the fish to the Weigh-In Scale; she may have assistance at the discretion of the Weigh Master. The Lady Angler must be pre-registered in the Lady Angler Division and will be issued a Lady Angler number when the Captain picks up their boat number. Lady Angler's fish will only count for the Lady Angler Division. The Captain of the boat will decide at the weigh-in dock which division the fish will be weighed in. (General Tournament boat fish or Lady Angler fish) the decision is final at the dock.

## **PROTESTS**

23. 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) 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 final decisions of the Tournament Rules Committee are binding regarding any protest.

## **POLYGRAPH**

24. 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 the Captain and crew and will forfeit all winnings. Each contestant selected for polygraph must have in their possession a valid picture ID and a Florida State fishing license.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

25. Any matter not specifically covered by these rules may be decided by and at the sole discretion of the Tournament Rules Committee and final decisions of the Tournament Rules Committee shall be binding. The Tournament reserves the right to delay, cancel or reschedule the Tournament if conditions, including but not limited to the weather conditions, are unfavorable or unsafe in the sole judgment of the Tournament Rules Committee. The Tournament Rules Committee reserves the right to amend any rule due to safety concerns. If the Tournament shall be delayed canceled or rescheduled due to any cause beyond the control of Jacksonville Marine Charities, Inc. d/b/a The Greater Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament, no entry fee shall be refunded to the entrants and entrants shall have no claim against Jacksonville Marine Charities, Inc., for return of any portion of the entry fee.