

Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association Tournament Rules

REVISED: Jan 2010

1. ALL tournaments start at 5:00 a.m. and end at 5:00 p.m. except for the Causeway Classic, which starts at 6a.m.
2. Weigh-in is from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on the day of the tourney. You MUST be on the premises with your fish by 5pm
3. Each fish must be weighed in by the member or family member who caught it.
4. Fish that are not fresh or in good condition will be disqualified. This includes ANY redfish that has been mutilated in a way that alters (shortens) the length.
5. All decisions made by the Weigh Master and/or his assistants (club president and officers) are final.
6. All fish MUST be caught during the tournament hours on hook and line (on a rod and reel) in Alabama State waters (out to 3 miles).
7. To qualify for the monthly awards, all fish weighed in an ACFA tournament must be no less than a minimum of one pound with the exception of White Trout and Ground Mullet, which must weigh at least 8 ounces (0.5 pounds). To avoid confusion in using local names in our classifications "Ground Mullet" is considered to be any of the three species of kingfish: Southern Kingfish (*menticirrhus americanus*), Gulf (*M. littoralis*), or Northern Kingfish (*M. saxatilis*). And "White Trout" is considered to be either the Sand Seatrout (*Cynoscion arenarius*) or Silver Seatrout (*Cynoscion nothus*). Likewise, with any "Flounder" species. There is no minimum weight for the Junior Angler category fish, but it must meet any minimum size limits specified by the AL MRD (see Rule # 11).
8. Only legal 'slot' Redfish (16"-26" with pinched tail) will be weighed in the tournaments (to assure compliance to state law). It is the angler's responsibility to bring the redfish to the weigh in table in a pliable condition that allows it to readily be accurately measured. ONLY redfish that are 'straight' can be accurately measured, so the angler must prepare the fish for that. Fish that are mutilated or have been mistreated may be rejected by the Weigh Master. And his ruling to accept or reject a fish is final. (See Rules #4 & #5) Also, no flounder less than 12 inches may be entered. No Speckled Trout under 14 inches. No Blackfish under 16inches. (See Rule #11)
9. Only one fish in each category per member can place. NOTE: a second category fish may be weighed in as a Big Fish Contest entry as long as it meets the minimum requirements for that species (see Big Fish Contest Rule #1).
10. In case of a tie, the first fish weighed in wins. Times recorded on the weigh in sheets are considered "official".
11. All state and federal laws apply. (See Rule #8) **PLEASE CALL 251-861-2882 OR 251-968-7576 FOR UPDATED INFORMATION. IT IS THE FISHERMAN'S RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAWS AND REGULATIONS IN EFFECT AT ANY GIVEN TIME.**
12. Tournaments will not be cancelled due to weather conditions (except when tropical storm or hurricane conditions are predicted or expected to be predicted by the NWS and/or NHC for the Tournament weekend). Still members shall fish at their own risk and should use good judgment when and where to fish. The ACFA encourages safety, and assumes no responsibility for participating fishers or their equipment. It is not worth risking life and property to get a plaque!
13. Competition is open to all members in good standing (paid dues prior to tournament day) their spouses and children under 16 years of age on Feb 1 of that tournament year. PLEASE make a note to the Weighmasters of the member's name when their dependants (spouse or children) enter a fish. This is especially important for helping to verify the validity of step or grandchildren who have a different last name from the accompanying adult. PLEASE use the same name each tournament!
14. For every tournament the top three places in each category will be receive a plaque at the next club meeting, except in the Speckled Trout Challenge and Grand Slam Tournaments (see 'Bonus Points' below). ALL Junior Anglers will receive plaques for their tournament category fish (1st through 3rd place) but points ONLY when their fish place 'overall' (i.e. against the adults).
15. The Club's Tournament Point Champion will be recognized at the year-end Awards Banquet in December. The member (or members) accumulating the highest number of tournament points at the season's end in October will be declared the victor.
16. Tournament points will be awarded as follows: (since 2009)

PLACE	1	2	3	4	5
POINTS	5	4	3	2	1

Bonus Points:

 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each member who weighs a fish at any tournament **provided that fish is of one of the specified tournament categories**, even though that fish may not meet the minimum tournament weight.
 - * 4th and 5th place points (2 & 1 point) will be awarded for ALL regular club tournaments (excluding the Speckled Trout Challenge).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that completes the slam in the Grand Slam Tournament (places in the top five in Speckled Trout, Redfish and Flounder for that tournament).
 - * Five additional Tournament Points will be awarded to any member that breaks an existing club record in a tournament.
 - * One "Participation Point" will be awarded to each ACFA member who weighs in a Speckled Trout during the Speckled Trout Challenge and two additional points will be awarded to any ACFA member that places in the top ten. (i.e. IF you make the top 10 you earn 3 points, if not you only earn 1 point) (NOTE: The Challenge is NOT a regular club tournament though entries will be accepted for the Big Fish Contest by the Weighmasters at their convenience).
17. Any angler over 16 years of age must have a valid fishing license and must be a paid member IF their 16th birthday is prior to Feb 1st of that year in order to participate in any tournament and the Speckled Trout Challenge. Junior Anglers must NOT have reached their 16th birthday by February 1st of this year.
18. All weigh-in locations will be announced in the newsletter and at the regular club meeting prior to the tournament. Our Weigh in site for most tournaments is the American Legion Post 200 on Dauphin Island Parkway Hwy 193 (near the Greer's Food Tiger store). The Speckled Trout Challenge (in May) and the Causeway Classic (in October) will likely have weigh ins on the Causeway (location: TBA).

** Under no circumstances will the Alabama Coastal Fisherman's Association (ACFA) be responsible for the welfare of any members, guests, or equipment while attending meetings or engaging in ACFA tournaments or the challenge. **