

BLACKWATER ANGLER FESTIVAL & FISHING TOURNAMENT

OFFICIAL TOURNAMENT RULES & GUIDELINES

Built Around the Nature Coast, For the Nature Coast.

The following rules and guidelines are intended to ensure a safe, fair, and professional tournament experience for all anglers.

1. TOURNAMENT FORMAT

- Individual Angler Competition
- Vessel must launch from a location in Levy or Citrus County
- Dead or Alive Tournament
 - All fish will be confiscated on the first day of the tournament.
- Scoring format is based on a 1 Redfish + 5 Trout aggregate with a base point + weight point system. (Will be explained at captain's meeting on September 25th)
- All fish must comply with FWC regulations.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- All anglers must complete registration through the Blackwater Angler Portal and payment due at captain's meeting on September 25th.
- Participants under 18 require parent or guardian approval.
- Valid fishing licenses are required unless exempt.

3. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

- All vessels must comply with U.S. Coast Guard and FWC safety requirements.
- Kill switches must be used while vessels are on plane.
- Unsafe operation may result in disqualification.

4. SPORTSMANSHIP

- Tournament officials have final authority regarding scoring
- Respectful conduct is required at all times.
- Cheating or unsportsmanlike conduct results in disqualification.

5. FISHING RULES

- Fishing must comply with all FWC laws.
- Fish must be legally caught by rod and reel.
- No fish may be transferred between anglers.

6. WEIGH-IN RULES

- Fish must be presented at the official weigh-in.
 - Saturday Weigh-in begins at 3:00PM EST and Closes at 5:00PM EST
 - Sunday Weigh-in begins at 2:00PM EST and closes at 4:00PM EST
- Must be checked in by scoring official by closing time with qualifying fish ready to be scored.
- One "Flip" is permitted each day to each individual angler.
 - Must be audibly requested by the contestant to "Flip."
- Late arrivals will result in a score of zero for the day.

7. WEATHER POLICY

- Tournament officials may delay or suspend the event for safety reasons.
- All weather decisions are final.

8. LIABILITY RELEASE

- Participation involves inherent risks.
- Participants assume responsibility for injuries, accidents, or losses.

9. MEDIA RELEASE

- Participants authorize use of photos and video for promotional purposes.

10. RULE INTERPRETATION

- Tournament officials reserve the right to interpret, clarify, and enforce these rules as necessary to protect the integrity and fairness of the tournament.
- If you are found to have violated the spirit or intent of the rules, expect your entry, catch, prize eligibility, or tournament standing to be placed under serious review.
- Official tournament decisions regarding scoring, eligibility, weigh-ins, and rule enforcement are considered final for purposes of the tournament.
- If a legitimate dispute arises regarding an angler's conduct, catch, or compliance with the rules, tournament officials may require additional verification before allowing that angler to remain eligible.
- A lie detector examination may be requested no more than once in connection with a specific allegation. The individual making the allegation is responsible for the examination cost. Tournament officials may consider the results, along with all other available information, when making a tournament determination.
- If you have something to hide, this is not the tournament to try it.
- By entering the tournament, anglers acknowledge that the integrity of the competition comes first, and questionable conduct may receive considerably more scrutiny than an honest mistake.

Any angler asking for a polygraph test must have a written notice presented to a tournament official before weigh-in closes for each respective day.

ANGLER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and agree to follow all tournament rules and guidelines.

Angler Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____