

## 2020 Texas Anglers Charity Classic Tournament Rules

**Entry:** This is an OPEN Tournament with individual or team registration. Individual entries are for one angler only. Teams may consist of up to 3 anglers per boat. Guides are allowed for charter, however the guide's fish will not be counted or weighed in. No Guide entries will be allowed as part of any team. A Guide is defined as an individual currently licensed with USCG, TWPD and having received payment for a charter within the last year of the date of the tournament. ALL Team participants must fish from one boat only and stay within eyesight of each-other throughout the tournament including boat, kayak, wade, pier, or land. Non-participants are not allowed to fish in event participants boats. The Tournament will be capped at 300 anglers and entry cut off is Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> @ Noon (Whichever comes first). Minors under the age of eighteen (18) may fish the TACC with written permission from either a parent or legal guardian. If minor is under the age of sixteen (16) they must be accompanied by an adult.

**Tournament Waters:** Entrants may fish from public waters either by boat, wade fishing, piers or banks. Boundaries are from Hwy 124 High Island Bridge to HWY 332 Freeport Bridge including the beach front. All waters fished must be accessible to the public and connected to the Galveston Bay estuary system. Behind weirs/dams or private ponds or lakes are off-limits.

**Fish Times:** The tournament starts at 6:00 AM on Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and there is NO early check-in. You must launch or walk-in wade from a publicly accessible area in the tournament boundary waters. You may launch your boat prior to 6:00 AM, then stay within 50 yards of the ramp area and then take off at 6:00 AM start time. Walk in Waders and Kayakers may not enter the water until 6:00 AM start time.

**Safety:** Safe boating will be observed at all times. During competition each angler is required to comply with all Texas Parks & Wildlife and US Coast Guard regulations. We recommend that each angler wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device anytime the boat is underway. We also remind boat operators of the legal requirement that an operational kill switch be attached to the operator while the main engine is in operation.

**Legal baits:** Artificial and natural baits are allowed. All fish entered must be caught legally according to all Texas Parks and Wildlife and Federal fishing rules and regulations.

**Fish Categories:** There will be a Texas Slam-5 Fish Stringer (Redfish, Trout and Flounder) 1<sup>st</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> place prize and individual Biggest Redfish, Trout and Flounder prize categories.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place Texas Slam	1 <sup>st</sup> Redfish
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place Texas Slam	1 <sup>st</sup> Trout
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place Texas Slam	1 <sup>st</sup> Flounder

The Texas Slam Stringer must include at least one of each fish species to be entered (Redfish, Trout and Flounder). Trout must be between 15" and 25" and Redfish (2 Maximum) must be between 20" and 28". No Trout over 25" or tagged oversized redfish will be allowed. Individual fish weigh in may be included in stringer weigh in. Anglers must measure the fish to visually verify the fish is within the legal slot or TPWD limit lengths. In the event the three species cannot be entered as a Texas Slam, the tournament will place the heaviest 5 fish stringers. A Texas Slam will take precedence over any 2 species stringer however.

**Weigh In:** The official Check-in & Weigh-in will take place at **Watermans Restaurant & Marina**. Participants must Check-In and submit all fish for weigh-in from **12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** If you are in line at 4:00 p.m. WITH FISH IN HAND, then you have made the deadline and your fish will be weighed. These times are strictly enforced with NO EXCEPTIONS made for delays incurred on or off the water.

All Team members and individual entries must have a signed liability release form on file at the time of weigh in for fish to be recorded. Forms will be available for signature at weigh in.

Any fish brought to the weigh station that is not legal (or outside of slot) will result in automatic disqualification. No tagged oversized redfish will be allowed. Only fish caught during fishing hours of the tournament (**6:00 a.m.- Must be in line with fish in hand at 4 p.m.**) will be accepted.

Anglers shall have ninety (90) seconds to let the fish relax to measure the fish. If a fish is too large after ninety (90) seconds it must be released. There is a ½ pound bonus to each individual fish weight if you bring in a live fish. In order for the fish to be considered alive, the fish needs to show some sign of life at the Weigh-In scale. (I.E: Movement such as wave a fin or flare their gills). The live fish weigh-in is intended to emphasize "conservation" principles but understandably not every fish will end up making it in fully alive to be released back. No pooling fish with other entrants is allowed and will justify automatic disqualification. **Tie:** In the event of a tie, the first fish entered will be the winner. **The Weigh Master will have final decision on all weighed fish.**

**Altering of Fish:** Frozen or mutilated fish will not be allowed. Fish shall be considered frozen if it cannot be bent. Fish will be considered mutilated if it looks beat up, eaten by crabs or altered in any way. If a fish dies, it may be put on ice but must be of legal length beforehand. Do not place over sized fish on ice to intentionally shrink it, as this will be deemed as altering the fish. The Tournament shall have the right to retain any fish for further inspection, and all decisions shall be determined final by the Tournament Weigh Master.

**Protests:** All protests must be submitted in writing, within thirty (30) minutes of your check-in time to the Tournament Director. The Tournament Director will have final and ultimate decision on any rules determination.

**Honor System:** This is a charity tournament and we trust that all anglers will abide by the honor system. Breaking the rules in any way will disqualify the angler and or the team. Remember, there will be a large number of anglers leaving the same place and launching/fishing in the same areas at the same time, so please be courteous of other nearby anglers during the tournament.

**Force Majeure:** The Tournament Committee reserves the right to cancel/reschedule the fishing tournament at any time due to unsafe weather or natural disasters. In the event of a tournament reschedule, the committee will determine the rescheduled date and it will be posted on [www.texasanglerscharityclassic.com](http://www.texasanglerscharityclassic.com). There will be NO REFUNDS.