Rules and Regulations 2026

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. In the event of a rule violation, the Tournament Director may impose such sanctions, as he deems appropriate, including, without limitation, disqualifications, forfeiture of prizes and prohibition from participation in subsequent tournaments. Decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal and are not reviewable by any court of law. The Tournament Director reserves the right to make needed changes to these rules to ensure the safety or welfare of the anglers. Any rule changes will immediately supersede all previously published copies of rules. It is your responsibility to read and understand the rules. Every competitor will be required to sign a liability release/permission form for use of image/agreement to the official rules prior to the first day's competition. Fishing in the Redfish Madness tournament means you have read, understand, and ACCEPT the rules.

1. ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENTS: An Entry Fee of $500 is required for the fishing event. All entry fees are NON-TRANSFERABLE and NON-REFUNDABLE, NO EXCEPTIONS unless the tournament is canceled. An additional $100 fee is optional for the Tournament within Tournament (TWT) for the Largest weighed Redfish, it pays only 1st place. It is a $100.00 entry fee, and the winner will receive 90% of the money with the other 10% going to CHARITY. $50 per day big fish, paid out each day to biggest fish. $50 madness member ship once per year.

2. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS: All competitors are expected to know and obey all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and laws. Violation of such rules may result in disqualification from the tournament. Repeated or flagrant violations will result in said competitors being banned from future participation in the Redfish Madness tournaments. Causing any confrontation or using profanity will not be tolerated. NO CULLING DEAD FISH!!!

3. SPORTSMANSHIP: Courtesy must always be practiced, especially regarding boating and angling in the vicinity of competitors and non-competitors. Any unfavorable act by an angler deemed as intentional or preconceived to gain an unfair advantage would be grounds for permanent disqualification. You CANNOT hire a Charter Captain 14 days prior to each event. No burning rule is in effect starting 2 weeks prior to any tournament, you cannot run your boat motor while sight fishing. AT NO TIME CAN YOU PASS A COMPETITOR IN A NO-WAKE ZONE. NO CULLING DEAD FISH!!!

4. PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY: Open to the public. Each team must have two members of which one must be 18 years or older. Any member under 18 years of age must have written consent from a parent or legal guardian. The tournament director reserves the right to refuse participation in this event to any individual or team. Boats must be outboard or inboard. No airboats allowed.

5. SAFETY: Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device during checkout and while running the main motor at all times. The tournament may be postponed due to Bad/Unsafe weather or water conditions, the decision to postpone will be solely up to the tournament director. ** Bad weather AFTER CHECKOUT the

SHOW GOES ON, weigh in time will be the same. ALL makeup dates will be on Sunday. Each team is required to have a $100,000 liability insurance policy.

6. Alcohol: The consuming of any alcoholic beverages during official tournament hours is prohibited, and angler or anglers will be disqualified from this and possibly all future tournaments. Once you have weighed and released your fish the tournament time is over for your team. You may be subject to a polygraph, so if you're in the money BE SMART.

7. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: All Redfish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Only artificial lures may be used during competitions. Commercially sold scents may be added and used. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time per angler. A cast must be fully retrieved by the angler who made the cast before an angler may pick up another rod. Spinning, Bait Casters, Fly Reels only. Pulling lines by Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Competitors may not catch fish or weigh in fish that have been caged or confined in an area prior to the tournament. Fish MUST be caught from the boat. No Tandem Rigs Allowed. You cannot get out of the boat. However, you can get out of boat only to push out of an area. You cannot push into an area. You cannot fish from land. Fishing within 100 yards of a boat that is chumming with live or dead bait is NOT allowed. Teams may not fish within 100 yards of a non-competitor that is chumming/fishing with either live bait, dead or ground chum. If during competition a non-competitor approaches within 100 yards and begins to chum, it is your responsibility to stop fishing. You may ask the non-competitor if he would consider leaving or not chumming. If the non-competitor fails to do so, then you must leave the area immediately.

8. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Competitors may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible to the public by boat that are INSHORE, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, and federal officials. Inshore is defined as: A body of water located inside of inlets and the line of demarcation. Competitors may not fish within 50 yards in any direction of a competitor's boat (unless separated by land), which is anchored or fishing in a location first. (An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight, push pole, Power Pole, etc. with the trolling motor in the up position. A "fishing" boat is one that has a trolling motor in the downward position). If the boat does not have a trolling motor the definition of anchored still applies. Competitors cannot have non-competitor's chum or sit on fishing areas. There will be no time extended to weigh in due to swing bridge closer or any other delay. Example: wildlife officer stopping you, or inclement weather.

9. Assistance: Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in. In the event of equipment failure, anglers must call a designated number to report their need for assistance while calling for towing assistance. There will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water (a commercial licensed tow company may be utilized, or another team may tow a fellow competitor,) (2) by one or both competitors entering the boat of another tournament contestant (fishing by all competitors involved in the rescue must cease at this time). Competitors are responsible for colored tie wrap or suitable material for marking and distinguishing their catch. Under these two conditions, the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Competitors who elect to return

to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Failure to render assistance, when requested in an emergency, is cause for immediate disqualification. Teams rendering assistance must communicate to the tournament official, the boat number(s) of the assisting boat and the assisted boat at time commencing aid and a special reservation may be made to any boats rendering assistance in an emergency with provided evidence. Contact: 910-459-0229 **You may push out of an area, NOT push in. NO assistance from anyone.

10. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS: There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official check-in point in the afternoon. Failure to go through boat checkout in the morning will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Teams that experience equipment failures may have them repaired and check out late for an event. However, it is the team's responsibility to find and notify the tournament director or tournament official to check out. * Any team that accelerates before the buoy at the end of the no wake zone will be disqualified. Checkout WILL BE DISCUSSED at Captains meeting. Scales will open at set time during captains meeting.

11. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official check-in area before the established time made at captain meeting the team will be Disqualified PERIOD. It is your responsibility to make sure you have been checked in.

12. SCORING: SC slot is 18-25." It will be a 1 fish aggregate for the tournament. Live fish Weight measured in pounds and 100th of a pound of each team catch during the tournament. The prevailing rules as set forth by Redfish Madness Series along with federal, state, and local statutes and regulations bind all competitors. Tournament official length for Redfish will be according to the current NC law. All Redfish will be measured By a CHECK IT STIK ELITE, mouth closed, head to left, no flipping fish, and the tail swiper will be stopped at 24.5 inches. If the Redfish is slightly over 25 inches there will be a rest period for 30 seconds and then remeasured. Any fish that appears to have been penned, mangled, mashed, mauled, or otherwise altered will not be weighed at the discretion of the weigh master. Redfish must NOT be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament. A 1-pound penalty will be deducted from the weight for one dead redfish presented for weigh-in. No mutilated or iced fish shall be accepted. DO NOT BRING IN ALTERED FISH!! Ties shall be broken by the Largest Fish for the Event. The team with the heaviest single fish shall receive precedence. The team with the most weight will be deemed the winner. Dead fish will be determined when on Check it Stick. If fish measures over it will be granted a one-time rest period up to 30 seconds, then put back on the Check it Stick. At that time, a ruling will be made. Lower slot fish will be tailed pinched. If a Wildlife Officer measures your fish after weighing in and deems it illegal, the fish is still legal to Redfish Madness.

13. DOCK ETIQUETTE: You must come to the Dock to be checked in. It is up to you to get the attention of the Redfish Madness Dock Team. The order you check in is the order you will weigh in. Once checked in you cannot leave dock. You Must stay in your boat until called for weigh in. once weighed in, you WILL move your boat out of the way to make room for other anglers. DO NO COME TO DOCK WITH ZERO FISH. Violating any of this is GROUNDS FOR

DISQUALIFCATION. Do not give any Madness volunteers grief. IF this happens you will be DISQUALIFIED!

14. POLYGRAPH: Each competitor who fishes the Redfish Madness Series agrees to submit to a polygraph examination at a time and location as determined by the Tournament Director following the end of the competition and abide by its conclusion. Failure to pass the polygraph will result in disqualification. Alcohol can affect lie detector results, use common sense.

15. PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE: All protests must be submitted in writing along with a $200 cash deposit, within thirty (30) minutes after official check-in time to the tournament director 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 contestant submitting the protest. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the tournament director immediately upon discovery of the violation.

16. RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE: A waiver, release of liability, and covenant not to sue are part of the entry form. It is required that all contestants take responsibility for themselves while participating in event activities.

17. Other: NO flying drones 10 days before every tournament. NO throw (cast) net in the boat.

18. Series Points: Winner of each event will be awarded 200 points, one less point per position. The series champion will be the team that has the most points after the third event. Ties will be decided by the total weight of all three events. If still a tie, the team that weighed the heaviest fish of all three events will be series champion. If still tied both teams will pay for Mike Mattice's bar tab that night.

19. BOAT AND MOTOR SPECIFICATIONS: All boats must be a minimum of 15 feet in length. Airboats and/or mud motor boats are not permitted on tournament day. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live-well space, properly aerated to adequately maintain a live limit catch of Redfish by both participants. For competitions held in Florida, a minimum live well size of 18 gallons is required. However, a minimum live well size of 25 gallons is recommended. Larger live wells reduce bruising and damage to fins, allow more room for fish to move around, and have more water for the dilution of waste products. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is "proper and adequate." For the safety of all participants, ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH SOME TYPE OF OPERABLE IGNITION SHUT-OFF DEVICE. This ignition SHUT-OFF device must be attached to the driver's body anytime the combustion engine is operating. Anytime the combustion engine is operating and in gear, there must be a driver in the driver's seat in full control of the boat. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public. If participating boat was not factory equipped with a built-in tank, then participant may use up to two of the standard US Coast Guard approved portable tanks mounted at the stern

in designated areas by the motor. BOAT HEIGHT REGULATIONS: Casting Platforms: No height restrictions/fabricated and attached casting platforms only, no ladders. Drive Stations: A maximum height of 22" from floor of boat where the angler stands to drive the boat. Boats with dual drive stations can be used. Anglers must drive from lower station only. Boat regulations start the Monday before each tournament (5 days prior) searching for fish on plane/burning starts 14 days prior to tournament. The drive station regulation is only for the weigh-in tournaments. Go-Live tournaments have no height requirements.

20. SPORTSMANSHIP, ETIQUETTE AND SOCIAL MEDIA: Competitors in Redfish Madness are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety, and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed the cause for disqualification. Maximum courtesy must be practiced at all times, especially with regard to boating and angling in the vicinity of non-competitors who may be on tournament waters. Any act of a competitor, that reflects unfavorably upon Redfish Madness effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason for disqualification. Anglers shall, at all times, conduct themselves in a professional manner that demonstrates integrity, honor, and respect toward fellow competitors, tournament staff and the general public and does not reflect unfavorably on Redfish Madness, its members, representatives, tournaments or sponsors. Anglers are frequently in the public eye and are considered role models by young people; therefore, it is imperative that tournament competitors demonstrate good sportsmanship in fishing on and off the water, including but not limited to social media. Sportsmanship is defined as fair play, respect for opponents and polite behavior while competing in the sport or engaging in Redfish Madness activities including but not limited to social media.

Following are examples of unacceptable behavior by competitors in Redfish Madness events that will be cause for disqualification:

- Heated public disagreements with Redfish Madness tournament directors or staff, other competitors, fans, and volunteers before, during or after an event.
- Public attacks through media, including social media, upon the integrity of Redfish Madness, rules, staff or officials.
- Public comments that an angler knows, or should reasonably know, will harm the reputation of Redfish Madness, Redfish Madness directors or its sponsors.
- Displays of anger and displeasure for reasons related to fishing competition where members of the public, including other anglers, spectators or the media, are present.
- Publicly questioning or criticizing a tournament official or official decision, ruling or penalty except through the proper channels which are outlined in the Rules and Regulations.
- Abuse (physical, verbal, threatening or slanderous) of tournament officials, volunteers, fellow competitors, or others connected with a Redfish Madness event.
- Offensive or slanderous comments with racial, cultural or sexual overtones regarding event officials, event personnel or fellow anglers.
- Intentionally interfering with a fellow angler’s ability to compete.

Any disqualification, suspension or other disciplinary action imposed by any tournament or fishing organization may result in disqualification from Redfish Madness competition and rejection of an application for participation in a Redfish Madness tournament or membership.

Evidence of chemical substance addiction or abuse, conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon Redfish Madness efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship and compliance with tournament rules shall be grounds for rejecting any application for participation and for disqualification.
Any act deemed by the Tournament Director that gives a team or angler an unfair advantage not specifically covered under this set of rules shall be grounds for disqualification. Any violation by an angler deemed intentional or preconceived by the Tournament Director to gain an unfair advantage would be grounds for permanent disqualification. Any deliberate burning of flats, shorelines or ponds with the intent to locate or bump up fish (searching for fish while on plane) during the 14-day practice period or during the tournament is prohibited and will result in disqualification from the current and future Redfish Madness events.

Launch procedures will be discussed at the captains meeting prior to each event.

Any questions Contact: Mike Mattice 910-459-0229
Rule will be posted at Redfishmadness.com