

## **Red Fish Jackpot**

### **HISTORIC ST MARYS FISHING CLASSIC RULES**

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 in order to ensure the safety, welfare of the anglers, and/or the public and preserve the integrity of the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic. Any rule changes will immediately supersede all previously published copies of rules. It is your responsibility to read and understand the rules and how you, are affected by not complying with the following 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.

1. **ENTRY FEES AND PAYMENTS:** An Entry Fee of \$100 per boat is required to fish the event. There will be a big fish pot that will cost \$20 if you wish to participate. This will be a winner take all event unless entries exceed 10.
2. **REGISTRATION AND CAPTAIN'S MEETING:** Captains Meeting to be held June 6, 2025 at Seagle's Saloon, St. Marys . Registration will be from 5:00 PM until 8:00 PM local time the day before the event at the captain's meeting, or registration is available on the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic web site. All teams are expected to attend the Captain's Meeting, but it is not mandatory. In addition, you must contact the Tournament Director if you are unable to attend the Captain's Meeting. Teams agree that it is their own responsibility to find out what was discussed at the Captain's Meeting.
3. **FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS:** All competitors are expected to obey all applicable federal, state and local regulations and laws. Violation of such rules may result in your disqualification from the tournament. Repeated or flagrant violations will result in said competitors being banned from future participation in Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic tournaments.
4. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Competitors in the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic tournaments are expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, safety and conservation. Any infraction of these fundamental sporting principles may be deemed cause for disqualification. Any act of a competitor, which reflects unfavorably upon the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic 's effort to promote fisheries conservation, clean waters, and courtesy, shall be reason 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.
5. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY:** Participation in the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic tournament is and open to the general public. Any person under the age of 18 must have written consent from a

parent or legal guardian. The Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic reserves the right to refuse participation in any or all events to any individual or team at the discretion of the Tournament Director.

6. SAFETY: Safe boating will be observed at all times. Tournament days may be shortened or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions. The decision to shorten or to cancel will be left totally to the discretion of the Tournament Director. A 4-hour period shall constitute a day of fishing.

7. ALCOHOL AND DRUGS: The consuming or transporting of any alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription or OTC drugs) during official tournament hours, on any tournament angler's boat is prohibited, and angler or anglers will be disqualified from this and possibly all future tournaments.

8. BOAT AND MOTOR: Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment.

9. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS: All Redfish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Artificial lures, live, and dead bait may be used during competition. Only one fishing rod may be used at a time per angler.

10. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS: Competitors may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible to the public by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by private ownership or local, state and federal officials.

11. INFORMATION: Tournament competitors may share information with each other up to and after competition hours.

12. COMPETITORS MUST REMAIN IN THE BOAT: All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing water. Failure to render assistance, when requested in an emergency is cause for immediate disqualification.

13. OFFICIAL CHECKPOINTS: There will be two official checkpoints in the afternoon. There will be no lines in the water until 6:00 AM on Saturday June 7, 2025. All boats must inside the check-in point (green marker in St. Marys Harbor) by 4:00 PM Saturday, June 1. You will be allowed to trailer your boat to Howard Gilman Park and must be in the official weigh in line by 4:00 pm.

14. LATE PENALTY: Competitors who are not at the official check-in area at the time will be disqualified.

15. TEAMS: The tournament is a team event, but if an angler chooses to fish alone, he will be required to weigh in 4 fish. A team consists of two (2) anglers, one of which must be designated as the captain.

16. SCORING: Tournament winner shall be determined by the total weight. Only Redfish/Red Drum will be weighed and the limit shall be 4 fish per team. The prevailing rules as set forth by the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic along with federal, state and local statutes and regulations bind all competitors. Tournament official length for Redfish will be according to the STATE LAWS of Georgia. All Redfish will be measured with a pinched tail with mouth closed. Any fish that appears to have been penned, mangled, mashed, mauled or otherwise altered will not be weighed at the discretion of the tournament director.

17. TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT: Artificial lures may be used, and “live bait” or “prepared bait” will be permitted. Only ONE casting, spin casting, spinning rod and reel or fly rod (10-foot maximum length from butt of handle to rod tip) may be used at any one time per angler. Be prepared to show your current fishing license, at registration, from the state in which the tournament is being held.

18. LIVE FISH: Every effort must be made to keep redfish alive. An 8-ounce penalty will be deducted from the weight for one dead redfish presented for weigh-in. A 2-pound penalty will be assessed for 2 or more dead fish. No mutilated or iced fish shall be accepted. Any alteration of length or weight of redfish is prohibited and team will be banished from any future tournaments.

29. TIES: 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 as the winner.

20. POLYGRAPH: Each competitor who fishes the Historic St Mary's Fishing Classic event 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.

21. PROTEST AND REPORTING PROCEDURE: All protests must be submitted in writing to the Tournament Director or designated tournament official. The Tournament Director's decision on the protest will be final. Each competitor agrees to report any rule violation to the Tournament Director immediately upon discovery of the violation.

