

Volusia Sheriff's Saltwater Showdown 2026

Updated 9/25/25

ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY FEE

This charity tournament is open to all anglers from boat or shore. The entry fee for the Volusia Sheriff Saltwater Showdown Inshore Fishing Tournament will be \$100 per boat (4 anglers), prior to February 28, 2026. Registration increase March 1, 2026, to \$200 per boat (4 anglers) A \$50.00 entry fee for each angler over the 4-person boat limit will apply. Individual shore/kayak Angler entry fee will be \$50 prior to February 28, 2026 and \$75 on March 1, 2026.

REGISTRATION

Only officially registered Boats and Anglers can compete in the tournament. Registration and payment of all entry fees must occur by April 17, 2026. Entry fees are non-refundable.

GUIDE BOATS

Any captain can enter a chartered boat, regardless of where based, by registering and paying the entry fee.

FINAL REGISTRATION & CAPTAINS/ANGLERS MEETING

The final registration and Captains / Anglers meeting will be held on Friday, April 17, 2026, at the Brannon Center, Riverside Park, New Smyrna Beach at 6:00 p.m. A representative from each boat entered in the tournament MUST attend this meeting. At this time, rules governing the tournament will be explained and any questions answered. First 75 Captains/Boats will receive a Captains Bucket

FISHING RULES

The tournament will be fished consistent with and enforced pursuant to the laws of this state. Any violation of Florida State Statute will result in disqualification for that angler and / or the vessel the angler is fishing from. It will be the responsibility of the angler to review Florida State Statutes and FWC Rules & Regulations. All vessels shall be equipped with the minimum Coast Guard safety requirements for that vessel.

SPORTSMANSHIP

All participants will exercise good sportsmanship whether at the dock, under way or fishing. Violators will be subject to disqualification without refund.

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FISHING HOURS

The Tournament will start on Saturday, April 18, 2026, at 7:00 a.m. No anglers will be allowed to fish prior to the start time. There will be no check in time prior to the start of fishing. Anglers are allowed to catch bait with cast nets 1 hour prior to the start but are not allowed to use hook and line to catch bait prior to the start. Lines out at 3:00 p.m. All anglers must be in weigh-in line by 4:30 p.m. or the fish will not be recorded as a tournament catch. The tournament awards presentation will begin once the Weigh-In Committee has determined correct places.

BOUNDARIES

Boundaries are limited to the waterways of Volusia County only.

TACKLE AND EQUIPMENT

Artificial lures, live bait, dead bait or any combination is permitted in the tournament. All fish must be caught on a rod, reel and line. No electric reels of any kind are permitted. Snatching with multiple hooks, gigging and / or using multiple hooks (Treble Hooks) with any natural bait is prohibited. Treble hooks are permitted for lures only.

REQUIREMENT FOR ELIGIBLE FISH

Eligible fish must be caught fresh within the stated boundaries the day of the tournament. Fish must be of legal state length to be considered in this tournament.

Redfish: Photo with event measuring stick must be sent to the weigh master. A maximum of 2 photos per angler. In the event of a tie the earliest photo submitted will be declared the winner. In an effort to preserve our precious natural resource, this tournament promotes "catch and release" of Redfish. The angler must check in with the Weigh Master prior to 4:30pm and receive a weigh slip to confirm receipt of his submitted photo.

Trout: 1 fish per angler will be allowed for weigh in.

Sheepshead: 1 fish per angler will be allowed for weigh in.

The weighmaster reserves the right to hold and examine internally and externally any fish weighed in as a tournament catch to determine if the fish is eligible for an award. Any fish that has an unnatural material in or on it will be disqualified.

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WEIGH-IN

Fish considered for awards must be weighed in at the official weigh-in station at the Brannon Center, Riverside Park, New Smyrna Beach. The Halifax Sports Fishing Club will independently oversee and conduct all weigh-in and measuring operations. Fish will be measured with the tail pinched on the measuring board. Fish weights will be measured to the 100th of a pound. Weigh-in officially begins at 1:00 p.m. Anglers with fish to be weighed must check-in at the official weigh-in station no later than 4:30 p.m. Only tournament boats towing a distressed vessel are eligible to weigh fish after weigh-in time. The distressed vessel must notify the committee of location at the time trouble occurs, and notification must be prior to 3:00 p.m.

TYPES OF AWARDS

Cash and prizes will be awarded to the First, Second and Third place winners for each species.

Overall winner will be determined based on the combined weight of the trout and sheepshead and photo-release of a red fish. Length of Red Fish will not be a determining factor, however to win overall you need to weigh a trout and sheepshead and photo-release a redfish. In the absence of one angler catching all three species the overall winner will be determined by the two weights combined of the Sheepshead and Trout or the single largest weighed fish one angler does not weigh a sheepshead and trout.

Awards and prizes will be awarded to First Place in Lady Angler in each species.
Awards and prizes will be awarded to First Place in Junior Angler in each species.

The angler must be present at the awards presentation to receive their award. Exceptions due to hardship will be made at the discretion of the tournament management. If an exception is granted, it will be the sole responsibility of the winner to arrange for pick-up of all merchandise awards at their own expense within 30 days after the awards presentation.

****If a Junior or Lady Angler weigh/catch the largest fish they have the opportunity to win Junior/Lady Angler prize as well as the open category.****

Cash Payout as Followed

Overall, Winner \$1,000.00

Redfish

1st Place \$500.00, 2nd Place \$250.00, 3rd Place \$100.00

Sheepshead \$500.00, 2nd Place \$250.00, 3rd Place \$100.00

Trout \$500.00, 2nd Place \$250.00, 3rd Place \$100.00

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WEATHER CONDITIONS

The tournament committee has the right to cancel the days fishing at the call of the 5:30 a.m. forecast. It will be the responsibility of the angler to communicate with the tournament committee about tournament cancellations. Tournament management reserves the right to terminate the day's fishing because of unsafe conditions. If the unsafe conditions are the result of inclement weather, tournament management will notify all registered anglers of the rescheduled date. However, the tournament shall be considered complete if more than half the allotted time to fish has elapsed.

COMMUNICATIONS

The official tournament channel is 68. All boats should be equipped with a VHF radio, cell phone or both. The tournament cell phone number will be posted in advance on the tournament website and e-mailed to all entrants providing a valid e-mail address. If for any reason VHF channel 68 is off the air, communications will move to VHF channel 62 temporarily.

TIES

In case of a tie, the following will be considered: Fish weight and length, and time of check in of catch. The tournament committee will review such ties and their decision is final.

DISQUALIFICATION

Any angler or boat may be disqualified at any time, at the discretion of tournament management, for any violation of applicable laws, tournament rules or safety.

PROTEST

Protests must be presented in writing to the tournament director at the weigh-in station on the day of the alleged infraction, within 30 minutes after the closing of the weigh-in station. A \$100 cash deposit, refundable if the protest is upheld, must accompany protests. Tournament management will make all decisions, and their decision is final. If the protest is not upheld, then such deposit will be forfeited to the tournament.

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AMENDMENTS

The statement and rules contained herein may be amended by additional verbal instruction, electronic message and/or printed material distributed by tournament management. All tournament decisions are final.

LIABILITY RELEASE

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND HAVE ALL ANGLERS SIGN. YOU MUST SUBMIT THE OFFICIAL WAIVER FORM TO BE REGISTERED IN THE TOURNAMENT.

All participants in the titled tournament enter at their own risk and agree to hold harmless the Volusia Sheriff's Office Charity Committee Inc. Sheriff's Office of Volusia, Sheriff Michael J. Chitwood, the Volusia County Sheriff, The Volusia Sheriff's Office, City of New Smyrna Beach and Halifax Sport Fishing Club and any of their officials, committee members, or persons connected directly or indirectly with the fishing tournament. Furthermore, these parties are exempt from any liability suffered to any participant, entrant, sports fisherman, captains, their guests or companions, vessel, or equipment, which may occur during the course of the tournament. Furthermore, I agree to abide by all local, state, and federal fishing and boating laws and regulations while participating in the tournament. Also, I understand that I may be photographed during the tournament, and I consent to the use of those photographs for the purposes of tournament promotion. I understand and agree with the above paragraphs and agree to abide by the tournament rules.

Every angler must sign the Volusia Sheriff's Saltwater Showdown release of liability. This form must be emailed or faxed in by March 28, 2025 to 386-254-1521 or emailed to vcsocc@volusiasheriff.gov