

2020 Saltwater Angler Pro Redfish Series

RULES AND REGULATIONS

All rules stated below will remain in effect for the 2020 Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC. All decisions made by the tournament director and/or tournament officials will be final in all matters. The tournament director and/or the tournament officials can make a change when the safety of a contestant is in question or by a unanimous decision by the tournament committee.

Any changes to the rules will be posted on the website www.saltwateranglerseries.com and communicated to the tournament members in the pre-tournament meeting before the tournament.

Warnings, penalties and disqualifications will be determined by the tournament officials. A signature on one set of rules and regulations is applicable for the Saltwater Angler Redfish Series events and may be used as an acknowledgement for such.

RULES

Each participant ("contestant") must read and acknowledge the following rules and indicate so by signing an entry form. A "team" shall consist of two contestants.

- 1) **Applicable Laws:** Federal, State and Local laws shall be obeyed by contestants at all times. Contestants choosing to fish outside of Texas waters shall adhere to the local and state laws of the venue in which the contestant is fishing, including purchasing and possessing a valid fishing license for that state effective for the dates of competition. Violation of any federal, state and/or local laws shall result in the disqualification of the individual and his team from the Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC event.
- 2) **Tournament Eligibility:** Contestants under 18 years old must fish with their legal guardian as their teammate, or another adult approved by the minor's legal guardian. The Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC reserves the right to refuse participation in any event to any individual and/or team at the discretion of the tournament director.
- 3) **Alcoholic Beverages and Illegal Drugs:** Consumption of any alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs during tournament hours is prohibited and will result in disqualification. Alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs may not be in the possession of any team member or on board a participating boat during the hours of tournament competition.
- 4) **Sportsmanship:** Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC participants are expected to follow the highest standards of sportsmanship, courtesy and ethics. Unsportsmanlike and unethical conduct will result in disqualification. Please refer to the Texas Boating Safety Rules.
- 5) **Permitted Tournament Fishing Waters:** Contestants may fish in any inshore / offshore *public* water accessible by boat. "Inshore / offshore" for this series is defined as the navigable, tide consumable coastal waters, bays, rivers, and wetlands, extending to the inside / outside of the passes to The Gulf of Mexico.

Private Waters

SARS anglers or guest on their boat may not participate in any of the following to navigate, fish, practice, or compete.

i. Lift, unlock, or pass through gates, chains, booms or other canal or river objects (not including lock systems between public waters) normally closed and used to restrict boat traffic in what is known, or should be known, to be private waters and not open to all anglers equally. **Additionally, anglers may not cause any navigable waterway to be obstructed which would or could prevent entry by any and all other anglers.**

ii. Any water without obvious vessel restricting objects could still be private and anglers must leave and not return during practice or any days of tournament competition if asked to leave by a person or persons that own the property or are designated in writing as authorized to manage the property. Returning to the same waters after being asked to leave, even if by alternate routes, during practice or the event will result in disqualification.

iii. Anglers may not navigate nor fish any waters where a membership, lease, or agreement is required to be paid unless that membership is made available to SARS officials and all SARS anglers equally for the period beginning June 22, 2020 of the year of the SARS event and continuing through the completion of the event.

iv. Anglers are not permitted to cast/fish within 100 yards of a competitor's boat (not separated by land or jetties but in same body of water) which is anchored (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a power-pole, talon, line attached to a weight, or other device used for keeping a vessel in place and/or tethered and stationary and has the trolling motor in the stowed position. If the boat does not have a trolling motor, the definition of "anchored" still applies to stationary boats held in place by the manner herein described.

No fishing is allowed within **200 yards of any ferry landing.**

- Contestants shall not fish in any area which has been "closed" by a governmental agency.
- Wade fishing is **NOT** allowed.
- Participants are not allowed to fish within 100 yards (300 feet) of another anchored boat, *unless* they are invited in by that team. An anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by an anchor, a weight, push pole, Power-Pole, or other "anchoring" mechanism with the trolling motor in the up position. If a team invites another team into the inviting team's 100-yard area, any tournament participant is also allowed within the waived area. The anchored boat in an area **first** has the right to 100-yard radius of the area. If the boat does not have a trolling motor the definition of anchored still applies.

6) Permitted Fishing Methods: All tournament fish shall be taken by rod, reel, and Artificial tackle, only. Contestants shall not "harass" fish, to include such antics as "burning" or corralling of schools with a boat. Prior to and during the tournament, contestants shall not "cork" or otherwise mark fish or schools of fish for identification for the purposes of locating fish during tournament hours. **Wade-fishing is NOT allowed.**

7) Weigh-in times for all divisions will be between 2:00 PM and 5:00 PM. Contestants who are not at the official checkpoint area at the appointed time will be penalized at the rate of one-half (1/2) pound, per minute, which will be deducted from the team's total day's weight. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will be disqualified from entry. Teams who are not able to check in due to equipment failure or other unforeseen circumstances are responsible for contacting the tournament director before the official check-in is over in order to determine an acceptable solution. **Ron Henne Jr. (361)438-7572.** *At the Tournament Directors discretion flights may be put into place with larger than anticipated fields (50 or more Teams).*

After a Team has weighed in their fish, that team is to trailer their boat to make room for the other teams that have not yet arrived.

8) Polygraphs: By signature on the official tournament entry form, each contestant agrees to submit to a polygraph test and be bound by its interpreted results and conclusions. Any team, person, or contestant in each event shall be subject to a polygraph examination and will not receive any award until the test has been administered and determined to be non-deceptive. Polygraph tests may be issued at the discretion of the tournament director/committee for any reason, and each contestant hereby acknowledges and consents to the examination. The results and interpretations of the polygraph are final, and each contestant hereby knowingly, intelligently and voluntarily waives any review of said test result, including any judicial process seeking to overturn, amend or otherwise negate the finding of the test administrator. There will be (3) polygraphs given per event.

9) Insurance and Liability: It is the responsibility of the boat owner to carry \$100,000 liability insurance covering the vessel. The Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC will not issue liability coverage for its events. All tournament participants are required to sign a waiver absolving all tournament officials, officers, participants, sponsors and co-sponsors from any responsibility for damage or personal injury sustained as a result of the contestant's participation in the tournament or its related activities, and the contestant's signature on this form shall constitute an alternate release in the instance the member fails to sign the official DECLARATION, WAIVER, RELEASE, AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT.

10) Pre-Tournament Captain's Meeting: Late Tournament Registration for the Saltwater Angler Series will be on Wednesday evening before the tournament date between 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. A Mandatory "Captains" pre-tournament meeting will be held following registration at 7:00 PM. At least one member of each team shall attend the Pre-Tournament meeting. Participants may be excused from the Wednesday night meeting if arrangements are made with the Saltwater Angler Series. Participants must have written or email documentation from the Saltwater Angler Series office and present it upon registration if the participant is excused from the Wednesday meeting. If a contestant fails to attend the registration and pre-tournament meeting without written permission from the Saltwater Angler office, a one (1) pound, per fish, per day penalty, will be assessed against the team's fish at weigh-in.

11) Communication: No communication via multi-media methods, social networking, cell phone, e-tablet, laptop, radio, pager or any other device will be allowed from outside sources or tournament participants during tournament hours that will give a team or contestant any advantage from data or information regarding fishing the event. Purchasing of information and/or hiring of services from local experts or guides will not be permitted within 7 days prior to the competition. Face-to-face information shared between teams during tournament hours may not be used to give either team an advantage over other teams. If a team has an emergency, a mechanical problem, or needs immediate assistance, teams may contact local authorities, emergency services, the Coast Guard or the Tournament Director Ron Henne Jr. (361)438-7572. Teams must notify the tournament director immediately if these circumstances exist. ** in other words, don't be calling your buddies to find out if they are catching, and where.*

12) Entry Fees, Tournament Registration and Identification: The entry fee for the event is **\$750.00** per, two-person Redfish "Boat" team. **\$200.00** Big Fish pot for the Pro Division day 1, day 2 100% Payout to the team with the largest slot redfish for that day. The entry fee is non-refundable. Teams must have 100% of the tournament's entry fee paid in full 10 days prior to the event date. A late fee of **\$100.00 per team** will be assessed to teams who pay after the deadline (7) days before event. All entry fees and deposits are non-refundable and are in consideration for holding a team's spot and calculation of projected winnings for tournament officials. We will not do Deposits.

13) Boat, Motor and Horsepower Regulations: All boats shall be a minimum of 15 feet in length and be equipped with a minimum of 25 hp motor. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, each boat must have a properly aerated live-well, which is one that is reasonably likely to sustain the life of three REDFISH under the circumstances. The Tournament Director shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is adequate. Live-wells will be inspected upon checkout on the morning of the tournament. ALL BOATS MUST BE EQUIPPED WITH AN OPERABLE IGNITION KILL SWITCH. The kill switch 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. Any fuel tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks, or Coast Guard approved fuel cells. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

14) Launch: At registration a member from each team will pull from a container their launch #. Day 1 will launch low # to high #, Day 2 the field will launch in reverse order. *This is very important.

15) Safety: Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to properly wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is engaged, Kayak Anglers are to wear this device at all times while on the water. 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/committee. A 4-hour period shall constitute a day of fishing. It is the competitor's responsibility to communicate with the Tournament Director if cancellation of the event is suspected. Cancellations will be communicated via VHF radios on a channel decided at the Pre-Tournament Meeting. If conditions are not safe on the tournament day, the Saltwater Angler Redfish Series LLC reserves the right to reschedule the tournament on the following day (Saturday or Sunday). If conditions are not favorable.

16) Tackle and Equipment: Only artificial lures may be used. No live bait, dead bait or prepared bait will be permitted. Only one rod and reel may be used at any one time per angler in the Boat.

17) Fish: This new format will consist of a (5) fish limit over 2-days of fishing. No more than (3) slot redfish can be weighed on day 1. Balance of overall bag weighed on day 2. Ex. If team a weigh in 2 fish day 1, they can weigh 3 in on day 2. A Boat Teams tournament weight will consist of a combined (5) red drum ("redfish"), measuring no less than 20 inches and no more than 28 inches in Texas, 20 inches and no more than 27 inches in Louisiana in length, each over a 2-day period. Cumulatively, in no instance may a team possess an amount of redfish over the team's limit. Live fish may be culled; teams must keep (retain) dead fish, these will account towards your bag limit. Contestants are responsible for keeping their REDFISH alive. Any dead fish tendered for weight will be assessed an **eight-ounce penalty per fish**. No altered, mutilated or iced fish will be accepted. REDFISH will be inspected for alterations in size, length and weight. Any altered fish shall result in the disqualification of the team weighing the altered fish and may result in a perpetual ban from the Saltwater Angler Series and future events.

There will be NO CULLING at the weigh-in.

All fish must be within the TPWD regulations, and LDWF regulations.

18) Scoring: Tournament standings, auxiliary awards and final winners shall be determined by the total weight of each team's catch during the tournament consisting of five (5) redfish, measured in pounds and 100ths of a pound over a 2-day period. Only redfish at least 20 inches in length, but less than or equal to 28 inches in length may be weighed-in, and the size we are going to use for

Louisiana will be 20" to 27". All redfish must be brought to the weigh station in a live weigh-in tournament bag provided by the Saltwater Angler Series. Fish may not be brought to weigh-in on a stringer or in a basket. Redfish shall be weighed with the equipment provided by the Saltwater Angler Series. Winner will collect 200 points, 2nd place 199 points, 3rd place 198 points and so on. Those that zero for the event will receive 40 points less than the last team that weighed in fish. Ex. Last team to weigh a fish finished in 33rd place would receive 167 points, a team that zeroed for that same event would receive 127 points. Points will be used for Team of the Year prizes.

*The Top 10 teams in Points minus the teams that are automatically in the "1-Day" No Fee Championship due to fishing all (6) Pro Series events will receive an invitation into the 1-Day No Fee event.

*Redfish World Series Points will be rewarded according to their rules and regulations. At this time, you earn points with a top (10) ten finish. All Teams will accrue points for each event according to their respective finish for each event.

19) Ties: If two or more teams have identical weight in the tournament, it will be considered a tie. In the event of a tie, the prize money from the consecutive places will be combined and split between the teams. For example, if two teams tie for fourth place, the amounts designated to fourth place AND fifth place will be combined, divided by two, then distributed to the teams, equally.

20) Protest Procedure: All protests must be submitted in writing, along with a \$250 cash deposit. Protests must be submitted to the tournament director no later than 15 minutes following the weigh-in of the last fish. All decisions will be made by the tournament director and rules committee and are final. If the protest is upheld, the cash deposit will be returned to the person submitting the protest. The protester agrees that by filing a protest, he may be subject to a polygraph test.

21) Permission to be filmed for Television: All participants agree to be filmed, photographed, taped, interviewed, quoted or otherwise revealed, without compensation, by the Saltwater Angler Series or its assigns. This includes but is not limited to the official photographers, writers, hosts, or sponsors of this event under the conditions authorized by the Saltwater Angler Series organizers. Each contestant, by his signature affixed on entry form, hereby gives the Saltwater Angler Series, and it assigns, the right to use (without compensation) the contestant's name, picture, likeness, quotes, and biographical information, whether audio or visual, before, during and after the period of an individual or team participation in an event.

22) Teams & Alternates: A team consists of 2 persons. You will not be able to fish alone. (1) Alternate will be allowed for the 2020 Season not to be used for the Championship. This alternate is to be used for extenuating circumstances only: serious and exceptional factors outside your control (Work, Health, Family) Points will be earned once using this alternate. We have reached out to all tournament directors to avoid any overlapping of events, if another event changes their dates and overlays our event, your team must make a decision to fish either / or. An Alternate cannot be used in this scenario to earn any points if your team is wanting to split up to fish both events.

23) In 2020 a Team may not have more than that day's limit in their livewell. For example, the livewell must be accurate when the big motor is started. You must decide before the big motor is started which fish are to be weighed. You cannot drive around with more than that day's weigh-in limit.