

Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association's Spring Tournament Rules

1. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY.** Participation is open to anyone 18 years of age or older. Minors are eligible to participate with a parent or legal guardian signature on the release form. A completed entry form, waiver, and entry fee must be received no later than the published entry date. All participants represent that they are physically and mentally competent and fit and able to participate. By entering, all participants agree to assume all risks of personal injury, death, and damage to or loss of property and further agree to indemnify and hold GCKFA, its officers, members, agents, and sponsors harmless from and against any and all claims, liabilities, and causes of action resulting directly or indirectly from participation.

2. **PRE-REGISTRATION AND CAPTAINS MEETING.** The registration fee for this event is \$60. An early registration fee of \$50 is offered to all entries received prior to the early registration deadline of midnight, two weeks from the captains meeting (May 20, 2016). All online entries are subject to online transaction fees. New for 2016 – All paid tournament participants will automatically become GCKFA members. The new GCKFA member year will run from tournament date to tournament date each year. GCKFA members will be able to participate in several “members only” events throughout the year. If the contestant is unable to attend the event a refund can be requested if received by the tournament committee 15 days prior to the tournament date. Attendance at the Captain's Meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contestants. If a contestant is unable to attend the Captain's Meeting, they must pre-arrange eligibility with the tournament committee of the Gulf Coast Kayak Fishing Association prior to being allowed to participate. Note: due to a limited number of captain bags, distribution will be based on paid registration dates and the number of captain's bags available. The price of an entry fee includes a tournament t-shirt, and will be pre-ordered so early registration is key to ensuring participants receive the t-shirt at the captains meeting. T-shirts are distributed in chronological order of entries received and the GCKFA does not warrant that every entrant will receive a tournament T-shirt. (For the Schedule of events reference Attachment, A)

3. **SAFETY.** Safe boating must be observed at all times. During competition each contestant is required to comply with US Coast Guard and State regulations.

- All vessels are required to have onboard a wearable USCG-approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person. The PFDs must be of the appropriate size for the intended wearer, be in serviceable condition, and within easy access.
- All vessels are required to carry an efficient sound-producing device, such as a referee's whistle.
- Vessels less than 16 feet in length are required to carry at least 3 visual distress signals approved for nighttime use when on coastal waters from sunset to sunrise. Vessels 16 feet or longer must carry at least 3 daytime and three nighttime visual distress signals (or 3 combination daytime/nighttime signals) at all times when on coastal waters.
- Watercraft under oars (such as a canoe or kayak) may display the lights prescribed for sailboats (less than 7 meters), but if not, must have ready at hand an electric torch or lighting lantern (flashlight) showing a white light to be displayed in sufficient time to prevent collision.

If you find yourself in an emergency situation please call 911. We discourage anglers from launching a vessel prior to sunrise. If you plan to launch your vessel before sunrise or low visibility situations, no line shall be in the water before the designated time. (For the Schedule of events reference Attachment, A)

4. **WEIGH IN.** The weigh in station will be operational between the hours of 3:00 PM and 5:00 PM on the day of the tournament. Any fishermen in line at the weigh-in station at the 5 p.m. cutoff time on will be allowed to weigh in their catch. If an angler arrives after the 5:00 PM deadline, the catch will not qualify. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Official time will be kept by the Tournament Director at the weigh-in stations. Anglers are strongly urged not to wait until the last minute to submit their catch for weigh-in. All competitors must check in with legal fish (Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission Regulations) to be eligible for fishing prizes. All fish submitted for weigh-in must be fresh and caught the tournament day during the designated times. The weigh masters will make decisions on accepting fish for weigh-in, their decision is final. Any attempt to enter fraudulent catch, tamper with catch, or to hamper or threaten any official of the tournament will result in immediate angler disqualification. Only authorized persons will be allowed in the stations. Fish will be weighed in the order in which they are checked in. You may wish to provide ice and a cooler to keep your fish fresh. All weighed fish will be notched to indicate the fish has been processed at the weigh in station. The largest fish will be determined by weight. In the event of a tie, the first fish entered will be considered the winner, and the other will be dropped to the next position.

5. **COMMUNICATIONS.** The use of mobile communications (cell, FM, VHF) is allowed and encouraged. A common frequency will be assigned for the use of the tournament staff and participants to enhance safety and will be announced at the Captain's Meeting. Due to the lack of radio devices, the primary mode of mobile communications will be cell phones.

6. **SPORTSMANSHIP.** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. Any use of drugs, participation in criminal activities, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon our efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and/or compliance with tournament rules are grounds for immediate disqualification and return of any prizes awarded.

7. **PERMITTED FISHING METHODS.** All fish must be caught via hook and line. The selection of baits is up to the discretion of the participant. All fish must be caught from the kayak. No wade fishing or shore fishing is permitted unless the kayak is tethered to the angler. For the purpose of eligibility of this tournament no angler is allowed to launch a vessel prior to the designated launch time, and no lines in the water prior to the designated fishing time.

8. **NO MOTORS.** The use of a boat or motorized water vehicle to transport your boat on the water is prohibited. All craft must be powered by human-effort –only; no motorization /engines or sails are allowed. Canoes and paddle vessels other than kayaks are permitted. Consideration will be given to special needs, disabled, or handicap participants who apply for a waiver prior to the event.

9. **FISHING LOCATIONS.** The fishing area will be Anglers choice within an East and West boundary, there is no north or south boundary at this time. (For the Schedule of events & boundaries reference Attachment A)

10. **OTHER.** During competition contestants may not obtain or receive assistance including but not limited to following a non-competitor's boat, the placing of markers by a non-competitor, being towed or riding motorized vessels, or receiving electronic, voice, or data communications from non-competitors. All USCG and FWC regulations are in effect at all times.

11. **SCORING.** Fish must be compliant with Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWCC) regulations to count. In the event of a tie the entry checked in earliest will be declared the winner. The tournament director is responsible for the final call in all matters. All fish must be caught using hook and line method on the day of the tournament during the designated tournament fishing times. (See Attachment B for Florida's basic saltwater regulations.)

12. **TANDEM/SHARING.** It is permissible for more than 1 entrant to share the same paddle vessel. However each paddler / fisher must be a registered participant.

13. **PROTEST.** All protests must be made in writing and delivered to a tournament official within 30 minutes of the check-in time. The tournament director is the final authority in all considerations.

14. **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.

15. **RULE CHANGES.** Rules interpretation is exclusively left to the Tournament Director. The decisions of the Tournament Director are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

16. **PRIZES –** Finalized Prize categories and awards will be covered at the captains meeting.

Positions 1st – 3rd place

- Offshore Slam (Combined weight of largest King Mackerel and Spanish Mackerel)
- Inshore Slam (Combined weight of largest Red Drum, Speckled Trout and Flounder)
- King Mackerel
- Spanish Mackerel
- Pelagic (Cobia, Dolphin, Tripletail, Wahoo or Tuna, excluding Bonita)
- Red Snapper (if Open Season)
- Red Drum
- Speckled Trout
- Flounder

- Mystery weight (Speckled Trout) 1st place only
- Leopard Red (Red drum with the most spots) 1st place only

17. CASH CALCUTTA – New for 2016 GCKFA will host Cash Calcutta's in each of four categories. Entry fee is \$10 per category. GCKFA will pay out 100% of the collected Calcutta fees in each category. Anglers may enter and win more than one category but anglers can only win one level in each. For example, two large King Mackerels submitted by the same angler will not win two Calcutta prizes. Depending on the number of participants, the cash prizes will be paid out follows:

- **40 or fewer entrants, 1st Place payout only.**
- **More than 40 entrants, 1st through 3rd Place payouts 50%, 30%, 20% respectively**
- **The four Calcutta categories are Red Drum, Flounder, King Mackerel and Red Snapper**

Important Note: We are limiting each angler to one tournament category win / prize. In the event that an angler places in more than one fishing category the prize of the highest value will be awarded. The tournament committee will adjust the leader board accordingly, to award the other prizes to other anglers. For example, if an angler weighs in both the top Redfish and the top Flounder, he will be given the first-place prize for only one of the categories but not both. At that point he will be excluded from other category prizes. If the values of the prizes are of equal value the tournament committee will make the decision as to what category will be adjusted. The leader board will be adjusted to award the other first place prize to what was technically the second largest fish. This situation particularly applies to the Inshore Slam prize which could cause the committee to possibly adjust all three of the other prize categories. This one prize limit does not apply to door prizes or special sponsor prizes such as mystery weight, redfish spots or reverse raffle.

Ultimately, all anglers should weigh in all fish caught. Even a small fish (one that does not initially place in the top three) could yield a prize through either adjustments in leaders or through a raffle. This limitation is designed to spread the prizes to the largest distribution of anglers. In the event we do not have a Grand Prize winner from an "Inshore Slam", we are planning to raffle off the grand prize. Each Angler that weighs in a legal fish, one per tournament species category will receive a ticket for that category. If an "Inshore Slam" is not obtained the maximum number of tickets an Angler can obtain would be four. The number of tickets equates to the additional chances to win the raffle. At the end of the weigh-in a single ticket will be drawn, and the winner will be announced.

Any Category prize not awarded will be used for other prizes or awarded through some other method at the sole discretion of the Tournament Organizers.

Attachment A:

On line Registration Closes June 3rd , 2016

Tournament Schedule of Events, Locations and Tide Predictions:

When: Tournament date is Saturday, June 4th 2016

Where: Shoreline Park South, Gulf Breeze, Florida

Early Registration Ends: TBD

Captain's Meeting: Friday, June 3rd 2016 at 6:00 PM

Captains Meeting Location: Red Fish, Blue Fish Restaurant, 5 Via De Luna Dr, Pensacola Beach, FL 32561

Kayaks on the Water: To be announced at Captains Meeting

Fishing Start: To be announced at Captains Meeting

Weigh-in: 3:00-5:00 PM on June 4th 2016

Fishing Area: Mid Bay Bridge Destin (East) to Fort Morgan, AL (West).
No North or Southern boundaries.

Weather Predictions: