



## **Tournament Rules**

1. Eligible species for competition purposes is king mackerel (*Scomberomorus Cavalla*).
2. Any rule changes or additions at the captain's meeting will take precedence over these printed rules.
3. This is a captain's choice tournament. It is up to the captain of each boat to determine if he/she and crew will compete on the designated tournament days.
4. Tournament officials will monitor VHF 72 during competition hours. VHF 16 is an international distress frequency and should be used for emergency calls and Coast Guard assistance.
5. A captain may enter one boat in the Carolina Kingfish Classic and it must be the sole boat fished for the duration of the tournament. Replacement boats may not be entered for any reason after 8:00 pm on Thursday August 15<sup>th</sup>.
6. A boat entry can only win one primary prize. The entrant does remain eligible to win bonus prizes with the same fish or additional fish. Bonus prizes consist of single engine outboard bonus, lady angler bonus, youth angler bonus, and special weight bonus prizes.
7. Sponsors, tournament director, and employees of Charleston Harbor Resort and Marina are eligible to win primary and bonus prizes just like any other angler.
8. Carolina Kingfish Classic is limited to motor boats only.
9. By signing the entry form, all captains, anglers and occupants of their boat hereby agree to all rules and regulations and consent that tournament officials may use without payment or restriction, any photographs, video or interviews in which he or she may appear for any purpose whatsoever, including but not limited to resale, advertising and promotional material.
10. The tournament committee reserves the right to refuse an entry into the tournament.
11. The tournament director and tournament committee, at their discretion, can enforce the rules or make decisions on any other circumstances that may arise during the course of the event. The tournament director and/or the tournament committee's decisions are final.
12. Violation of the tournament rules will subject the boat and angler to disqualification from the entire tournament without refund.

## **Tournament Days & Times**

13. Tournament fishing days are Friday and Saturday. If Friday and Saturday are deemed unfishable, then Sunday will be a designated tournament day.
14. Competition hours start at 6:30 a.m. on designated fishing days. King Mackerel fishing lines may not be in the water before 6:30 a.m. Boats must be checked-in Friday by 5:00 p.m. and Saturday by 4:00 p.m. If Sunday is a designated tournament day, then Saturday's competition hours will be followed.
15. If Small Craft Advisories are posted on local NOAA Weather Radio by 6:00 a.m., then that day will not be a tournament fishing day. The safety of the participating vessel is ultimately the responsibility of the captain.
16. One day of fishing constitutes a tournament.
17. If the tournament committee cancels the tournament then 90% of entry fees and 90% of Calcutta / Tournament within Tournament fees will be returned to the boat captain.

## **Fishing**

18. All anglers must have a valid South Carolina saltwater fishing license. All boats must comply with South Carolina State and Federal Laws.
19. King Mackerel are not allowed to be on-board at the start of a tournament fishing day. Tournament officials may inspect any boat participating in the Carolina Kingfish Classic prior to the start of each fishing day.
20. Boats entering the ocean on tournament days must do so from South Carolina navigable waters.
21. No more than six king mackerel fishing lines can be fished from the boat any one time. All fish must be caught on a rod and reel. Wire lines are prohibited. Downriggers, outriggers and kites will be allowed as fishing line carriers only. No electric reels except for kite rods & downriggers.
22. Anglers may pass the rod to another angler anytime while fighting a fish.
23. Junior and/or Lady Anglers must be registered and aboard the boat to qualify for Junior and/or Lady Angler bonuses but do not have to be the angler of the fish. It is the responsibility of the boat captain or crew to notify the tournament committee upon weigh-in if the junior and/or lady angler was not present during that day of fishing.
24. A junior angler is considered 15 years or younger on the date of the captains meeting.
25. Two or more boats congregating during competition hours will be disqualified from the tournament. Congregation is defined as two or more boats touching and/or passing objects to another boat. Approval is not required for life threatening emergencies.
26. Drones may not be used during competition hours.

## **Check-In & Weigh-In**

27. Each registered boat will receive a tournament entry number and shall display their number upon check-in and at the weigh-in station.
28. Weigh station will open at 1:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday.
29. Entrants weighing a fish after 3:00 p.m. on a competition day must visually check-in by displaying their tournament entry number to the tournament committee member located on the corner of A Dock and A Extension, which is the south west corner of Charleston Harbor Marina. Boats must be off plane and not wake the marina by the time they pass Red Buoy #34 which is located 250 yards south of Charleston Harbor Marina. Boats that do not check in by 5:00PM Friday and 4:00PM Saturday will not be eligible to weigh their fish.
30. The crew is responsible for unloading and presenting their fish for weighing. Crews should have their fish ready for unloading as there is a 1 minute unload time limit. The crew members are responsible for taking their fish and boat number to the weigh station.
31. Fish must be fresh, not frozen, fit for human consumption, not mutilated, nor its weight altered in any manner. Hook and gaff marks are acceptable. It is the sole responsibility of the crew to remove all hooks, lures, and leaders prior to presenting the fish for weigh-in.
32. If a fish is determined ineligible after being weighed, then any fish weighed by that entrant during the entire tournament will be disqualified.
33. In the event of a tie, the winner will be determined by the earliest weigh-in date and time.
34. The winning fish and all fish weighed become the property of the tournament.
35. All fish must be brought to Charleston Harbor Marina, by the registered boat, under its own power. Fish cannot be transported over land or by another boat.
36. Polygraph tests will be administered at the sole discretion of the tournament committee. Refusal by any participant or occupant of a registered boat will result in disqualification. All decisions of the polygraph examiner are final.
37. Only a registered boat's captain may protest any fish weighed in the tournament. All protests must be delivered in writing to the tournament director on the day of the protested catch no later than thirty minutes (30) after the last fish weighed. All decisions of the tournament officials regarding protests are final. There is a \$750.00 cash charge for registering a protest. If the protest is validated, the \$750.00 will be returned.