

Texas Lady Anglers 2007 Redfish Shootout Series Rules

Interpretation of these rules will be left exclusively to Texas Lady Anglers / Redfish Nation officials. Decisions of the tournament directors are final in all matters and are not subject to appeal.

1. Federal, State and Local Laws

All contestants are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and laws. Any violation of such rules or TLA / Redfish Nation rules may result in a fine of up to \$500 from TLA / Redfish Nation, disqualification from the tournament day, the entire tournament or from all TLA / Redfish Nation events. All fines will be donated to the FishAmerica Foundation, a TLA / Redfish Nation conservation partner.

2. Eligibility

All anglers entered in any TLA / Redfish Nation event must be a Redfish Nation member in good standing. All events are team events. Any angler 17 years of age or younger may fish with a parent or other adult but must provide written parental consent at registration. Both team members must fish from the same boat. No one other than paid contestants or TLA / Redfish Nation officials are permitted in a competitor's boat during tournament hours.

3. Alternates

Alternates are allowed in the Redfish Shootout Series and are limited to one substitute throughout the series. The points will remain with the team captain in the event of a "team breakup." If a team that had a substitute angler wins the series, then the entry will go to the team members that fished 2 out of the 3 tournaments. An explanation detailing the event of the substitution, name of the substitute angler, and reason needs to be submitted to the tournament directors prior or on the night of the captain's meeting for the event requiring the substitution.

4. Alcoholic Beverages and Drugs

Any angler or contestant consuming or carrying alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription) on board a contestant's boat during official practice or tournament hours will be disqualified.

5. Sportsmanship

All contestants are required to practice courtesy, safety and follow local and state game laws. Anyone displaying poor sportsmanship or violating game laws will be subject to a fine or disqualification.

6. Permitted Fishing Locations

Contestants may fish anywhere on tournament waters accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, federal officials or TLA / Redfish Nation personnel, or within 50 yards of a competitor's boat which was anchored first (an anchored boat is a boat held in a stable position by a line attached to a weight, push pole, power pole, etc. with the trolling motor in the up position). If the boat does not have a trolling motor the definition of "anchored" still applies. Fishing is not allowed within 200 yards of the tournament site. Fishing within 100 yards of a boat that is chumming with live or dead bait is NOT allowed. A team may not chum with live or dead bait within ten (10) days prior to competition in or near areas planned

to fish during competition. Teams may not fish near areas they know have been chummed within 10 days prior to competition.

7. Off Limits and Pre-Tournament Practice

There is no off limits or official practice period for TLA / Redfish Nation Series events.

Tournament anglers may share information with each other up to but not during the competition. No communication pertaining to fishing is allowed via cell phone, VHF radio, pager or any electronic device during competition.

8. Contestants Must Remain in Boat

All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Contestants must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament directors. In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of returning to the official check-in: (1) by both partners remaining in their boat and being towed by water (a commercial licensed tow company may be utilized, or another team may tow a fellow competitor,) (2) by one or both anglers entering the boat of another tournament contestant (fishing by all competitors involved in the rescue must cease at this time). Anglers are responsible for colored tie wrap or suitable material for marking and distinguishing their catch. Under these two conditions the contestant's catches may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Contestants who elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point in time of the tournament day. Any contestant returning to the check-in point will be eligible to restart and resume competition only under the supervision of the tournament director or his designated tournament official. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director or official to request a restart. Failure to render assistance when requested in an emergency situation is cause for immediate disqualification. Teams receiving assistance must communicate to the tournament official, the boat number(s) of the assisting boat and the assisted boat at time commencing aid.

9. Official Checkpoints

There will be only one official checkpoint for boat check in the morning and one official checkpoint for check-in in the afternoon. All tournament boats must be inspected by tournament officials at official tournament site before blast-off (times and locations will be announced at pre-tournament meeting). Any team arriving after blast off has started will have their boat inspected and then go to the back of the line. Failure to go through boat check and checkout in the morning will result in disqualification. All fishing must cease upon check-in. Teams that experience equipment failures may have them repaired and check out late for an event. However, it is the team's responsibility to find and notify the tournament director or tournament official in order to check out.

10. Polygraphs

Each contestant agrees to submit, by her signature on the official tournament entry form, to a polygraph examination and abide by its conclusion.

11. Insurance

Current liability insurance is required for each team contestant utilizing her boat in the TLA / Redfish Nation events. Proof of insurance (copy) must be submitted in advance or provided at registration. Insurance must be valid for anglers and boat on tournament days.

12. Mandatory On-Site Registration

All contestants must attend registration, which will be held at a location to be announced for each venue. Registration will begin at 5:00 p.m. and end at 6:30 p.m. the day before competition begins. Contestants who do not attend the registration will be subject to forfeiting their spot in the tournament.

13. Mandatory Captain's Meeting

All contestants must attend the pre-tournament Captain's meeting at the announced time and location for each venue. Being late for the Captain's meeting may result in a \$50 late fee that will be donated to the FishAmerica Foundation.

14. Tournament Entry Fees

Entry fee for each TLA / Redfish Nation Series event is \$300 per team. The field is open but may be limited at any time if deemed necessary by tournament officials. Teams competing in the TLA / Redfish Nation Series will have priority entry status for future events.

At the time of registration, a "captain" must be designated as a contact person for the season. This is the person who will receive all confirmation and official notices.

15. Boats, Motors and Horsepower Regulations

All boats must be a minimum of 15 feet 6 inches in length. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment. In addition, it must have a functional bilge pump and live well space, properly aerated to adequately maintain alive a limit catch of redfish by both contestants. The Tournament Directors shall have the sole responsibility for determining whether aeration and capacity is proper and adequate. For the safety of all contestants, all boats must be equipped with some type of operable ignition kill switch. This ignition kill 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. A small electric trolling motor may be used for slow maneuvering. All bladder tanks and any other type of auxiliary gas tanks that are not installed by the boat manufacturer are prohibited. Fuel may be carried only in factory installed (built-in) fuel tanks. Any additional fuel used during the tournament day must be purchased from a retail facility open to the public.

16. Safety

Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, vest-type or suspender-style U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal floatation device anytime the combustion engine is on.

17. Team Numbers and Flights

Team numbers will be drawn by each team at the mandatory registration the day before each tournament begins. It is the contestants' responsibility to know their flight number, official time and check-in time.

18. Bait and Tackle

Only artificial lures may be used with the exceptions of liquid bait attractants or pork strips. No live or dead bait. No trolling with the main engine. Only one rod at a time may be used per contestant. A cast must be fully retrieved before another rod is picked up. Fly-fishing and conventional tackle are allowed. All redfish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Trolling as a method of fishing is prohibited. Foul hooked fish shall not be weighed during competition. A foul hooked fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth, and it must be released.

19. Live Fish

Every effort must be made to keep redfish alive. An eight (8) ounce or .50 pound penalty will be deducted from the contestants' total weight for each dead redfish presented for weigh-in. No mutilated or iced fish shall be accepted. No angler may manipulate the weight or length of any redfish with the intent of gaining an advantage over other tournament competitors during the tournament or any time six months prior to the event.

20. Late Penalty

Contestants who are not at the official check-in area at the designated time will be penalized one (1) pound per minute from the total weight including any weight. Any contestant more than fifteen (15) minutes late will not receive credit for the day's weight.

21. Scoring

Tournament standings shall be determined by the aggregate weight measured in pounds and 100ths of a pound of each team's catch during the tournament. Only redfish/red drum will be weighed, the limit shall be two (2) fish per team, unless otherwise specified. Contestants will at no time have in their live well more than the tournament limit of fish. TLA / Redfish Nation officials will designate the official tournament slot limit prior to the event. That slot limit will be in accordance with all local, state and federal regulations. Any fish outside of the slot limit as designated by TLA / Redfish Nation officials will not be weighed. Redfish must not be placed on a stringer at any time during the tournament.

22. Tournament Format

All events are one-day events. The team with the highest cumulative weight after one day will be the winner. In the event of a tie, the weigh in time will be the tie breaker.

23. Protests

All protests must be submitted in writing, along with a refundable \$100 deposit to administer a polygraph exam, within 15 minutes of final weigh-in. The decision of the tournament directors and tournament officials will be final. The protester also agrees to submit to a polygraph exam. If the protest is upheld, the \$100 deposit will be refunded. Any infractions discovered after the event is over may be acted upon by TLA / Redfish Nation officials.

24. On the Water Communication

A VHF radio is required for all tournament vessels. The VHF may be mounted or portable. The use of cell phones, radios or any other electronic communication will be prohibited to tournament anglers during the hours of competition for the purpose of discussing fishing to anyone.

25. Media Coverage

Contestants entered in any TLA / Redfish Nation events must make their boat and fishing areas available to photographers, cameramen and camera boats during the entirety of the tournament. All anglers are required to sign a release at registration to be eligible for the tournament.