

Texas Lady Anglers Summer Madness Tournament Rules

Please note that some changes have been made for the 2009 tournament. Read carefully the instructions on photographing, allowable fish sizes, mouth open penalty and acceptable measuring devices (no more coolers!)

This is an elimination tournament and will be conducted through a bracket system and submission of digital photographs **online** at the Texas Lady Anglers message board.

1. Federal, State and Local Laws; Eligibility; and Sportsmanship

All contestants are required to follow all applicable Federal, State and Local regulations and laws. Any violation of such rules or Texas Lady Anglers rules may result in disqualification from the tournament and / or future Texas Lady Anglers events. Participants must have a valid Texas fishing license and saltwater stamp on person. Safe boating will be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to carry all safety equipment meeting federal and local regulations. All anglers entered in any Texas Lady Anglers event must be a Texas Lady Anglers member in good standing. Texas Lady Anglers has the right to accept or deny any entry into the event. Any tournament official or tournament sponsor entering the tournament in compliance with tournament rules is eligible for any and all prizes. 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 disqualification and potential banishment from Texas Lady Anglers.

2. Permitted Fishing Locations and Methods

Contestants may fish anywhere on gulf coast waters, except areas designated as "off limits" or "no fishing" by local, state, federal officials. Private launch sites are permitted. Contestants may fish by any means: boat, kayak, wade, pier, or surf. Live bait, dead bait or artificial may be used.

3. Tournament Entry Fees & Registration Dates

The entry fee to the tournament is \$30. The entry fee is non-refundable and is not subject to transfer. Registration will remain open until April 13th. Payment must be received by April 13th. The tournament will begin on April 15th. Prize payouts are based on 28 anglers. If more than 28 anglers register, additional categories will be added or adjustments will be made to the prize money payout.

4. Angler Match-ups

Once registration has closed, each angler will be drawn **at random** for placement into the tournament bracket. **This is an elimination tournament.** No substitutions are allowed. Since the tournament is organized by groups of 8, open spots which would complete a full 8 bracket will be left open and an angler randomly matched with an open spot will receive automatic advancement to the next round.

Open spot example:

A full tournament is 32 but 28 anglers register. Full bracket match-ups (pairings) require groups of 8 or 16. 4 blanks are thrown into the hat with the 28 names. Names are drawn at random and paired up randomly. It is luck of the draw if an angler's name is paired up with a blank. There is no one fishing against that angler for round 1 and that angler will be given a "pass" meaning automatic advancement to round 2. All blanks will be eliminated by round 2.

5. Accepted fish

Redfish (Red Drum), Speckled Trout and Flounder are the only three species legal for this tournament. Fish **may be undersized** with the assumption that since this is a photograph tournament, non-legal fish are then released. The tournament will **not** accept oversized redfish.

6. Scoring

Each round, the contestants will submit photographs meeting tournament requirements of Redfish, Speckled Trout and Flounder. The combined length of these fish will be totaled by a tournament official to achieve the angler's score. Anglers are encouraged to "upgrade" during the tournament period. If the first fish submitted is a 16" trout and the angler catches a 22" trout a week later, the angler should submit the 22" trout photo for the extra 6 inches. The exception is at 11:59pm on the last day of the round. If an angler catches a bigger fish after the round is over, it will not count. All points reset to zero at the beginning of the next round.

7. Photograph submissions (this is key to this tournament, please read carefully)

Fish on coolers for measurements will **not** be accepted. They are inaccurate and very hard to read in photos. A measuring device with no less than ¼ inch increments is requested. Red or gold measuring devices are very hard to read in photographs, please try to avoid them. The most accurate and easiest to read is the Check-it-stick which is silver with black markings. White with black markings can also be read easily. Check it sticks can be purchased at Wal-Mart, Academy and most tackle shops. We are considering making the Check it stick a tournament standard next year for this tournament.

At the beginning of each round, TLA will designate an item to be included in the photographs which will function to assure that the catch was made during the time period of the tournament round. This item must be included in ALL photographs of the respective round for the photograph to be accepted. Announcement of the item will be made at the beginning of each round on the TLA message board.

The photograph **MUST** be taken with your fish lying flat on the measuring device with its mouth closed (redfish can have open mouth) and with the nose pressed against the “0” inch line. If you are using a device without a “nose bar” then please make sure it is obvious that the nose is on or even past “0”. **A 1” penalty will be subtracted from the length of trout and flounder submitted with mouth open even if the mouth appears to be open less than that.** The full length of the fish must be viewable in the entire photograph along with the item noted above. It is acceptable and encouraged to pinch the tail or swing the tail down to achieve the longest length possible but the mouth must remain closed and on “0”. Please attempt to assure that the measuring device is easily readable in the photographs.

All **full size** photos must be submitted by email to photos@texasladyanglers.com within 72 hours of the fish being caught. Do not size photographs down if at all possible. The tournament record keeper will retrieve photos from the email then resize and post them on the message board under each angler pairing once the size measurement has been officially documented.

The **participant** must retain all original photographs (not resized) for review upon request by the Tournament Committee. The tournament record keeper will resize and post the pictures on the message board.

The tournament committee reserves the right to make adjustments and conservatively estimate the length of questionable catches.

8. Tournament Rounds

Each round will last for a one month period. The round ends at 11:59pm and the new round begins at 12:01am.

April 15 – May 14 round 1	32 anglers
May 15 – June 14 round 2	16 anglers
June 15 – July 14 round 3	8 anglers
July 15 – Aug 14 round 4	4 anglers
August 15 – Sept 14 round	2 anglers (winner is decided Sept 14th)

It is possible to start the tournament with 24 or 48 anglers which will bring it down to a **final three**.

The cut will be determined by the angler with the most points.

Point accumulation example:

Angler #1 -

18 inch Red Drum + 22 inch Speckled Trout + 13 inch Flounder = 53 Points

Angler #2 -

27 inch Red Drum + 25 inch Speckled Trout + no Flounder = 52 Points

Angler #1 wins on points and advances to the next round.

9. Tie Breakers

Tie Breaker #1 = Longest Redfish; #2 = Longest Trout; #3 = Longest Flounder; #4 = Coin Flip
If both anglers in a match up do not submit fish, they automatically progress to Tie Breaker #4.

10. Protests

All protests must be submitted vial email to photos@texasladyanglers.com or in writing to the tournament director. There is no fee to protest. The protest must be issued within 72 hours of the ruling in question. The decision of the tournament committee will be final. Any tournament participant can file a protest on behalf of any other tournament participant including themselves.

11. Spirit of Sportsmanship Rulings

Not all rules and loop-holes can possibly be addressed. However, the spirit of these rules is intended to promote good sportsmanship. The tournament committee has the right to invoke the “Spirit of Sportsmanship Rule” and make rulings to foster the spirit of good and fair sportsmanship.

The Tournament Director is Kaylin (Winther) Barlow aka MsAddicted on the message board.

Please feel free to post on the message board or send a private message or email MsAddicted@yahoo.com with questions. There will be examples of good and not-so-good photographs posted on the board prior to the tournament.

Good luck and happy fishing!!!!

