

2009 Xtreme Redfish Artificial Only Rules

- 1. XTREME REDFISH SERIES:** Tournament rules are included herein with special notations. It is each participant's responsibility to read all items before entering. Xtreme Redfish Series rules will apply in all events unless superseded by federal, state or local laws. If participation meets the requirements for Tournament Catch and Release permits all anglers must abide by all the conditions of the permit issued for that event. Interpretation of the rules will be left exclusively to the Tournament Director. Tournament Directors decisions will be final without appeal and are not reviewable by any court of law.
- 2. MEMBERSHIP:** The nonrefundable membership fee is \$35 per person per year. Only paid members may participate in Xtreme Redfish Series tournaments. Anyone fishing with a non-current membership will be disqualified.
- 3. INSURANCE:** All boats used in Xtreme Redfish Series tournaments must have a mandatory minimum of \$100,000.00 liability insurance. This is the user's/owner's responsibility.
- 4. PARTICIPATION/ELIGIBILITY:** Participation is open only to current members of the Xtreme Redfish Series. Any person age 16 or under must be a team partner with a parent or a person age 18 or older. Persons under 18 must have the signature of his/her parent or legal guardian on the tournament entry form. All participants must have in their possession a valid fishing license and are required to follow all applicable federal, state, and local regulations and laws. Any violation of such regulations and laws may result in disqualification from the tournament. Xtreme reserves the right to refuse membership or participation in any events to any team of individual at the discretion of the tournament director.
- 5. CLASSIC QUALIFICATION/ PARTNER SUBSTITUTION:** All teams must fish three (3) tournaments in any combination to qualify for the 2009 Redfish Classic. A team may have as many partners as needed, but all partners must pay membership fees. All points' credit shall stay with the team captain for the entire season. For an alternate to fish the Classic, they must have fished at least one tournament with your team during the regular season.
- 6. DIVISIONAL POINTS CHAMPIONS/TEAM OF THE YEAR:** Xtreme Redfish Series will calculate your best 3 tournaments fished in each division to determine the divisional points champion per division. The point champions in both divisions will fish against each other at the Redfish Classic. The highest placing Divisional Points Champion will be crowned Team of the Year. The 2009 Team of the Year will receive a Power Pole Shallow Water Anchoring System and free entries into a division of their choice for the 2010 season.
- 7. TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES:** \$350.00 with \$20.00 going to the Big Redfish pot, and \$30.00 going to the Classic fund and the remaining \$300.00 will go to the cash pot. The payout will be 85% of the cash pot. The tournament will pay back 1 spot for every 7 teams entered. Teams that pay for a tournament and do not fish the tournament will not receive points for that tournament, but will receive credit for that tournament towards the Classic. CLASSIC entry fee will be \$350.00 per boat; \$40.00 will go to the Big Redfish pot for the Classic. Big Redfish pot for the Classic will payback 1st and 2nd big fish each day.
- 8. PRE-REGISTRATION/CAPTAINS MEETING:** There will be a captains meeting the Friday before the event. Registration will begin a 6:00pm and the meeting will start at 7:00pm. Every team shall have at least one person present. If a team can't make the meeting due to emergency reasons they must contact the Tournament Director prior to the event. That team will be responsible for the information given at the meeting.
- 9. SCORING SYSTEM:** Each team's weight will be measured in pounds and hundredths of ounces. The highest weight will be 1st Place and receive 200 Points for the event. Each descending weight will receive (1) point less than the previous team. All teams that do not weigh fish will receive (5) points less than the last team that weighs fish. If a team is disqualified for any reason they will receive (0) points for that tournament, but will receive credit for fishing the tournament. In case of a team breakup the points will remain with the captain, no exceptions. Ties will be determined by team's largest fish. In the case of ties
- 10. FISH LIMITS & PENALTY:** Only Redfish/Red Drum are accepted species. Size limits will comply with prevailing regulations, total length 18" to 27" with pinched tail. "Total length" means the length of a fish as measured from the most forward point of the head to the hindmost point of the tail on a flat rule. It is advisable that each team check their measuring device with the tournament director's device. The legal limit is one fish per angler. Teams possessing more than the tournament limit will have their catch for that day disqualified. Fish presented for weigh-in that fail to measure to prescribed length limits will not be counted in team weight for the tournament. Each team's catch must be presented in separate weigh-in bags. No person shall harvest in or from the waters of the State of Florida at any time, or unnecessarily destroy any redfish of total length less than 18 inches, nor greater than 27 inches. Any fish that appears to have been panned, mangled, mauled, or altered in any way will not be weighed at the discretion of the Weigh Master. Redfish shall not be placed on a stringer of any kind. An eight (8) ounce penalty will be deducted from the weight for one dead fish. A two (2) pound penalty will be assessed for 2 dead fish. No mutilated or iced fish will be accepted. Dead redfish cannot be culled (must be weighed in) and will count as the daily bag limit for that angler.
- 11. SAFETY:** Safe boating must be observed at all times. Each contestant is required to wear a fastened, U.S. Coast Guard approved, personal flotation device anytime the combustion engine is in operation from boat check until weigh-in. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device that must be securely attached to the driver's body whenever the combustion engine is in operation. At the discretion of the tournament director, tournament days may be shortened, postponed or canceled due to unsafe weather or water conditions.
- 12. PERMITTED FISHING METHODS:** All fish must be caught alive in a conventional sporting manner. Foul hooked fish are prohibited and should not be presented at weigh-in. A foul hooked fish is defined as a fish that does not have at least one hook in its mouth. Anglers may not weigh in fish that have been confined or caged in an area prior to the tournament. Artificial lures only may be used during competition. Pork trailers or scents may be added and used. Only one fishing rod per contestant may be used at a time. A cast must be completely retrieved before picking up another rod. No spot holding and hole sitting allowed. No wading or trolling permitted.
- 13. PERMITTED FISHING LOCATIONS:** Teams may fish anywhere in tournament waters available to the public and accessible by boat, except areas designated as "off limits," "no boats," "no motors" or "no fishing" by local, state or federal officials. All angling must be conducted from the boat. At no time may a contestant leave the boat to land a fish or to make the boat more accessible to fishing waters. Teams must leave and return to the official checkpoint by boat. The boat must remain in the tournament waters during the tournament day. No tournament boat may be loaded on the trailer before the weigh-in except with the permission of the tournament director. No fishing within 50 yards of a boat that is anchored, power-poled or push poled in position with the trolling motor in the up position. If a competitors boat doesn't have a trolling motor but is still anchored the 50 yard rule still applies. Fishing within 100 yards of another boat that is chumming with live, dead or ground chum is prohibited. If an angler approached within the 100 yards and is chumming it is your responsibility to stop fishing and relocate. During tournament hours, contestants may not obtain or receive assistance from noncompetitors, follow a noncompetitor's boat or participate in the practice of "hole sitting" or the placing of markers by anyone.

14. **PRACTICE/OFF LIMITS/COMMUNICATIONS:** There will be no official practice period or off-limits period prior to the tournament. The use of mobile communication devices, including, but not limited to, cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, etc., during tournament hours is strictly prohibited except in an emergency (severe weather, etc.). A VHF radio is mandatory for all vessels. The VHF may be mounted or portable. Communication on the water between anglers by non-electric means is acceptable. When in doubt call the tournament director.

15. **TOURNAMENT HOURS:** Safe light until 3:00pm, this may be adjusted by tournament director. Each team will be assigned a boat number at sign-up the morning of each tournament. At check-in, all teams must return their boat chip prior to their designated return time. Teams who are not at the official check-in area at the appointed time will be DISQUALIFIED.

16. **EMERGENCY OR BREAK DOWN:** In the event of equipment failure or emergency, there will be only two permitted methods of team members returning to the official check-in:

1. *Both team members remaining in their boat and being towed by water.*

2. *Both team members entering the boat of another tournament contestant to return the catch to the official check-in site. The rescue boat must have ample livewell space to transport all four redfish according to state law (18gallons) per 2 redfish or both teams will be subject to disqualification. There will be no additional fishing from the rescue boat. Both teams will be subject to a polygraph test.*

Under these two conditions the teams catch may be counted without a penalty (except for late penalties, dead fish penalties, or other penalties pertaining to other tournament rules). Teams that elect to return to the official check-in by any other means than cited above will forfeit their day's catch to that point 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. It is the sole responsibility of contestants to locate the tournament director or official to request a restart.

17. **BOAT & HORSEPOWER REGULATIONS:** All boats must be a minimum of 15 feet in length. Each boat must have all required U.S. Coast Guard safety equipment on board. All boats used in the tournament must contain recirculating or aerated live wells that are at least 2.4 cubic feet or 18 gallons in capacity. All boats must be equipped with an emergency ignition shut-off device. . Fuel may be carried only in factory installed fuel tanks. All bladder tanks or other types of auxiliary gas tanks that are not factory installed by the manufacturer are prohibited. If participating boat was not equipped with factory installed fuel tanks , then participant may use up to two (2) of the standard US Coast Guard approved portable tanks mounted at the stern in designated areas by the motor. Any additional fuel purchased on tournament day must be at a retail facility open to the public. If refueling, competitors may not leave their boat for any reason. Outboard motor will not exceed the horsepower capacity set forth on the Maximum Capacity placard installed by the manufacturer. Any falsifying information or altering the numbers on the motor or rating plate will result in disqualification and any future participation

18. **SPORTSMANSHIP:** Each team is expected to follow high standards of sportsmanship, safety, courtesy, and conservation. Any infraction of these principles set forth may be cause for disqualification. Teams competing in Xtreme Redfish events need to be aware of recreational boaters and fisherman that are not participating and act with exceptional courtesy. The use, possession or consumption of any alcoholic beverages or drugs (other than prescription) during tournament fishing hours will not be tolerated and shall be cause for disqualification from current and future Xtreme Redfish Series events. Any conviction of a felony or other crimes involving moral turpitude or other conduct reflecting negatively upon Xtreme Fishing Series or its sponsors shall be grounds for rejecting application for participation or disqualification. Any team or team member that has ever been suspended or disqualified from other competitive tournament events or fishing organizations for any reason will be prohibited to compete in the Xtreme Redfish Series. Any act or violation that gives an angler or team an unfair advantage not specifically covered by this rule set shall be grounds for disqualification. All decisions by the tournament director will be final on any issues that may arise.

19. **POLYGRAPH TEST & PROTEST:** The administration and interpretation of the polygraph test shall solely be the responsibility of the tournament director, tournament officials and the individual who administers such polygraph test and at their discretion select the place and time at which such polygraph test shall be administered. Should a team member fail to be available for the polygraph test, or fail the polygraph test their team will be disqualified from that event and forfeit all entry fees winnings and points from that event. The results of the polygraph are final and are not subject to review by any court of law. All protests must be submitted in writing on an Xtreme Redfish Series protest form, along with a \$200 cash deposit, within fifteen (15) minutes of the last contestant weighing-in to the tournament director or tournament official. The protestor also agrees that if there is a question of verifying the charge of a protest that he or she also may be subject to take a polygraph. If the tournament director, tournament committee or polygraph, upholds the protest, the protested team will forfeit all tournament fees and will not be eligible for any cash or equipment prizes. The cash deposit shall be returned to the contestant submitting the protest. Any statements about the Xtreme Redfish Series or competitors otherwise made to anglers, writers, or other entities not on the tour could result in legal liabilities resulting from charges of defamation or slander.