

Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club

Tournament Rules Version #05.21.2026

OVERVIEW

All Atlanta Salt Water Sportsman's Club tournaments will begin with a Captains Meeting at a time and place to be announced on the tournament tip sheet. The Captains Meeting is open to all members of the ASWSC and their crew participating in the tournament. During the Captains Meeting, the tournament rules, tournament fishing times, safety procedures, fishing and weather reports will be outlined and discussed. Tournament fishing times will be announced no later than the Captains Meeting; in no case, shall tournament fishing take place prior to the end of the Captains Meeting. The tournament functions will conclude with an awards presentation on the final tournament day.

To qualify as a tournament, a minimum of 3 member boats must have submitted tournament applications, paid appropriate tournament fees, and participate in the tournament. If the minimum requirement is not met for a scheduled tournament, the tournament shall be downgraded to a club-sanctioned Event. Participants in a downgraded tournament shall not earn points towards the Boat of the Year program.

If a tournament is downgraded due to lack of participation/sign-ups, the Tournament Committee will decide what portion of tournament fees will be refunded to those participating and to those canceling. Based on the timing of the downgrade and the status of monies committed by the club, the Tournament Committee may elect to provide product or services, such as t-shirts or meals, instead of refunding that portion of tournament fees.

Club tournaments may not be associated or affiliated with money tournaments. Members are not prohibited from being simultaneously entered in a club tournament and a money tournament; however, a club competition which shares any equipment, facilities, administration, or personnel with a money tournament shall be considered an Event and not an official club tournament. Member boats and anglers in such an event would not be eligible for any tournament-related points or competitions/awards, such as Boat of the Year or Angler of the Year.

Note: In these Tournament Rules, terms such as "weigh-in" and "closing of the scales" refer to the tournament scoring process, which does not always involve actually weighing fish.

TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION

To participate in an Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club tournament, the registered captain must be a club member and actively participate in the tournament on the boat or fishing team as registered.

Corporate members or members employed by a boat retailer or manufacturer may use a boat representing that boat retailer or manufacturer.

Fish caught aboard or with the aid of a paid Charter Boat, guides and/ or with other paid professional assistance are not eligible in a club tournament.

SAFETY

Each boat is required to log in their safe return and catch at the end of each day's fishing. Log-in can be in person, by radio or messenger, but the Tournament Director or designated Tournament Committee Representative must be notified each day.

Each participating boat must meet all Federal, State and Local safety regulations. For safety reasons all boats must be equipped with an operating marine VHS radio and monitor the assigned tournament VHS Channel.

In the event of inclement weather or other condition which the Tournament Committee determines would be hazardous to the safety of those participating in the tournament, the Tournament Committee can cancel, modify or reschedule the time for the tournament.

During active tournaments, the Tournament Director is required to suspend offshore tournament fishing in the event of a Marine Weather Warning issued by NOAA. If tournament fishing is suspended, the Tournament Director will notify all participating captains prior to the allowed tournament fishing time for the impacted day(s). It is the responsibility of each captain to be available for communications from the Tournament Director during the tournament. At the Tournament Director's discretion, and depending on the severity of the weather conditions, tournament fishing may still be allowed inshore or nearshore (including during offshore tournaments).

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CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Each boat captain is responsible for submitting catch information to tournament officials via the designated method at the designated times. Weigh-in times will be announced during the Captains Meeting. The information reported will be used to determine boat and individual awards. During each weigh-in, a paper record shall be kept of each boat's daily catch. The record must include the name of the boat, the date, the anglers, species, sub-species, and weight of each fish. Each captain is responsible for verifying that the scoring information submitted for his/her boat is accurate; the captain (or designated representative) must sign the paper record confirming that the information is correct. No catch information may be submitted after the announced Closing of the Scales on the final day of the tournament. Closing of the Scales may be extended for individual boats as outlined in rules section titled Tournament Fishing Times. The catch data may be transcribed to a digital resource or computer, but the daily paper catch records must be retained by the Tournament Director and forwarded to the Tournament Committee as outlined in the TOURNAMENT RECORDS section of these Tournament Rules.

TOURNAMENT FISHING TIMES

Tournament fishing times and schedules will be announced during the Captains Meeting. In the event a boat is involved in an emergency and because of the situation would miss the Closing of the Scales, the Tournament Director in charge of the tournament will make the final decision as to the Closing of the Scales for that individual boat. Marine radio VHF (on the designated channel) or cell phone contact with the Tournament Director directly or through other members must be established and a request with reason made by the captain for an extension of the Closing of the Scale for his boat.

For tournaments with non-consecutive weigh-in days, tournament fishing shall begin no sooner than 12 noon on the non-weigh-in day prior to each weigh-in day (**example:** a tournament has a captains meeting on Monday evening and weigh-ins on Wednesday and Friday. Fishing for the Wednesday weigh-in begins at 12 noon on Tuesday and fishing for the Friday weigh-in begins at 12 noon on Thursday.) 12 noon is a "lines in" time; boats are not prohibited from traveling toward fishing destinations or catching bait prior to noon.

Fish may be held overnight if legally caught during allowed tournament fishing times and in compliance with all other Tournament Rules. Note that there is no restriction prohibiting boats from making landfall in order to hold catches overnight. Captains should take note that skipping a weigh-in can only hurt your final score.

Fish may not be 'selectively' weighed in and held over. Once a boat reports to a weigh-in, all fish caught up until that weigh-in become ineligible to score at future weigh-ins.

TOURNAMENT SCORING & AWARDS

Tournament champion winners will be determined by a Species Point Matrix system. With the exception of release species, the four (4) largest fish in each species (or aggregate of a species) are eligible to be weighed in on each tournament day.

Except for aggregate / release tournaments, the species points for each fish will be added up and the tournament winners will be determined by the boat with the most points. In the event there is a tie, the highest individual daily weigh-in score shall be used as a tie breaker. In the event there is still a tie, the winner of the tie will be the tying boat with the heaviest fish weighed in during the tournament. If the tie is still not resolved by the highest daily score or the heaviest fish, the tying boat with the highest total weight of all fish caught during the tournament shall place higher than the other tying boat.

All scoring days during a tournament must count toward the final score for each boat. No scores may be dropped (no "Best Of" tournament formats).

In addition to tournament champion, awards may be given for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th place finishes, based on total points.

In order to place in a tournament, a boat must score points (i.e. catch at least one eligible fish). Boats which do not score any points do not place and are not eligible for Boat of the Year points.

With the exception of release species, to qualify for the Tournament Champion or the Species Award, the catch must be weighed in on the club designated scale. No estimates will be accepted.

To be eligible for tournament scoring or club records, fish must be caught via rod/reel, handline, spearfishing, or gigging in accordance with current Federal and State fishing regulations. One or more of these methods may be disallowed at any given tournament; the tournament director will advise captains of any exceptions in advance of the tournament. Submitting fish for scoring which are caught by snagging, cast-nets, seine nets, or traps is not permitted during any club tournaments or events. Fish caught with hoop nets or landing nets are ineligible except when used to land fish brought in with hook and line. Fish found floating or entangled in fishing gear or nets are ineligible. Fish that jump into the boat are not eligible for scoring, unless the fish jumped in while already hooked via an allowable method.

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To qualify as a release, the leader must be touched. The length of the leader may be no longer than 25 feet. In the event no separate leader is used, the line must be touched within 25 feet of the rear-most hook.

Any fish caught in violation of any State or Federal Laws (closed season or minimum size requirement) will be disqualified from disqualified for that species in violation of State or Federal species.

If a fish submitted for scoring cannot be positively identified at the weigh-in, photographs and measurements must be taken and reviewed by as many participating tournament captains as possible. In order for the fish to score, a majority of the captains actively participating in the tournament -as of the weigh-in in question- must agree that the fish is eligible.

Points system rules will not apply to aggregate catch and release tournaments, i.e. The annual sailfish tournament, or tournaments designed to target a specific fish, i.e. king mackerel tournaments. In the event of a tie in an aggregate release tournament, the first fish caught will be used as the tie breaker.

APPEALS

In case of a dispute or claim that tournament rules were not followed by one or more participants or by the Tournament Director, a captain should first attempt to resolve the issue with the Tournament Director. If the issue is not resolved, the captain may make an appeal to the Executive Committee via email to the designated club email address (available on the official club website, www.aswsc.org). The appeal must be made within 72 hours following the closing of the final weigh-in and should include all evidence supporting the appeal claim. The Executive Committee will consider the appeal and issue a decision within 2 weeks from the date of the appeal. A decision to overturn/change tournament standings, club records, or competition results would require a majority decision by the Executive Committee with at least 3 assenting votes. Otherwise, the original tournament standings will be upheld by default.

SUBSTITUTIONS

Substitute Boat: If a boat owner/captain is fishing a vessel other than his own/designated competition boat, the name (if any) and details about the vessel being used during the tournament must be submitted on the tournament application for safety reasons; however, for tournament standings and competitions, the captain is still competing under his own boat or team name, even if the vessel actually used for fishing has a different name. It is permissible to fish as captain on another member's boat; however, competition credit/points are awarded to the registered captain and his boat/team name, regardless of which boat is used for fishing. Competition credits are awarded based on the registered captain, not the boat.

Substitute Captain: If a captain becomes unable to actively compete on board the registered boat, a new captain must be appointed prior to tournament fishing. Note that the new captain must be a current club member and that all standings and competition points will be awarded to the new captain's boat/team, even when the original captain's boat is used during the tournament. Exceptions: 1) If the original captain is also the boat owner and the new captain is a member of the original captain's household membership, then standings/points may be awarded to the original captain's team/boat (or to the new captain's boat/team, at the discretion of the new captain); 2) If the new captain is a co-owner with the original captain of the registered boat used for fishing at the tournament, then standings/points may be awarded to the original captain's team/boat (or to a different team of the new captain, at the discretion of the new captain). To qualify as a co-owner, the boat must be listed on the registered captain's current year membership application.

If either a boat or captain substitution occurs after a tournament application has been submitted, a new application must be submitted which contains the updated information and is signed by the registered captain.

CLUB SPECIES RECORDS

To be eligible for recognition as a new club record, the catch must be made during a club tournament or club-sanctioned event. Club records based on weight (Offshore) must be weighed on an approved scale, witnessed, and a photo taken. Nearshore club records shall be maintained separately from the Offshore/Traditional club records and shall be based on length rather than weight. All species on the Offshore/Traditional Points Matrix are eligible for recognition as Offshore records. All species on the Nearshore matrix are eligible for recognition as Nearshore records."

TOURNAMENT RECORDS

At the end of each tournament, the Tournament Director will submit to the designated person on the Tournament Committee copies of all Captain's Reports, calculations as to tournament awards, and any club records achieved.

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Annual BOAT of the YEAR Competition

A Boat of the Year award will be presented at the end of the year. The award will be based on the total number of tournament points issued during the tournament year for 1st through 5th place finishes.

Boat of the Year Award

1st Place	20 points
2nd Place	15 points
3rd Place	10 points
4th Place	5 points
5th Place	3 points

Boat of the Year competition points earned during club competitions shall accrue to the captains registered for each vessel at the tournament, in the name of each captain's boat/team, even if a different boat is used during the tournament. The registered captain must be on board and actively participate in the tournament; if the registered captain is not able to attend, a different captain must be registered and a new application submitted prior to tournament fishing. If a registered captain owns more than one boat, the points will be awarded to the boat/team registered on the tournament application. A participating captain must register his own boat or team and may not allocate or donate his points to another boat/team. (See also the SUBSTITUTIONS section of these Tournament Rules).

If a tie for Boat of the Year exists at the end of the year, the tying boat with the highest points total at an individual tournament during the tournament year shall be the winner. If a tie still exists, then the tying boat which had the most 1st Place finishes during the tournament year wins. If a tie still exists, then the tying boat with the most 1st and 2nd Place finishes combined wins.

JUNIOR ANGLER

A junior angler is defined as any angler 15 years of age or younger as of January 1st of the Tournament Year.

TOURNAMENT RULE CHANGES

Proposed changes to the tournament rules will be presented to the Rules Committee for review and recommendations prior to approval by the Executive Committee.

OFFSHORE ANGLER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

Competition is available to paid members in good standing. There will be three angler divisions: Juniors, Ladies, and Men's. This competition begins on the first day of the first ASWSC tournament of the year and ends on the last day of the last tournament of the year.

To be eligible for recognition in the Angler of the Year awards program, the catch must be made during a club tournament. Anglers must be paid members PRIOR to fishing the tournament in which catches are made and points earned; only points earned after becoming a paid member are eligible for Angler of the Year scoring. All Angler of the Year catches must be made during official club tournaments and earn points toward the tournament scores; other catches which are not part of the actual scoring are not eligible, except as noted for species-specific tournaments.

All points scored by club members at official club tournaments in accordance with the official Offshore Points Matrix are eligible. During species-specific tournaments, only the target species will be eligible. Each fish caught during a species-specific tournament by an eligible member angler shall be awarded 100 points, regardless of species. Official ASWSC tournament rules, state and federal regulations must be followed. The Tournament Committee Chairman will be responsible for the competition administration. It is the angler's responsibility to ensure that catches and angler information are correctly recorded on the Captains Reports.

Points scored by each angler throughout the tournament year are tallied. The angler with the highest score within each of the three divisions will be awarded Angler of the Year. In the event of tie, the tying angler with the highest individual tournament score during the year shall be the winner. If there is still a tie, the tying angler with the larger total of his/her two highest tournament scores shall be the winner. If there is still a tie, the tie shall be broken by the larger total of highest three tournament scores and so on, until the tie is broken. In the case of an unresolvable tie using this method, the winner shall be the tying angler who weighed in the heaviest fish during the tournament year.