

Atlanta Saltwater Sportsman's Club

Nearshore Division Tournament Rules Addendum

Version 06.17.2026

Article I. Scope

(a) For tournaments where Nearshore Division rules will be an option, the current tournament rules will apply with the addition of this addendum and the most current approved Nearshore Division points matrix. In any case that there is a conflict between the current tournament rules and this addendum, this addendum will take precedence. The approved Nearshore Division Tournament Rules shall be the most current version on the ASWSC website.

Article II. Tournament Format

(a) Nearshore Division Tournaments are to be held within nearshore waters out to the state boundaries unless modified by the tournament director. Examples of modifications include extending boundaries further offshore, extending boundaries to a designated contour line, or limiting boat launching to a specific county or counties. Scoring is only allowed for fish caught within the designated boundaries of the tournament. Boundaries will be documented on the tip sheet by the tournament director. All captains that enter a boat in a Nearshore Tournament must be a club member with their dues paid. Crew members are encouraged but are not required to be club members.

(b) Nearshore Division tournaments may be held as a standalone tournament or in conjunction with Offshore Division tournaments, but each division requires a designated tournament director as well as a three-boat minimum participation to be counted as an official club tournament. Boats may not fish a tournament in both division tournaments under both sets of rules. Prior to the end of the captain's meeting, the captain of each boat must declare which division they will participate in for the tournament.

Article III. Scoring

(a) Nearshore Division tournament scoring will be per the Nearshore Division Points Matrix.

(b) Nearshore Division tournaments shall be in a "catch and release" format, with the harvest of legal fish allowed. The length of the fish shall be determined by total length with the tail squeezed and the nose flush with the measuring device, unless the fish is regulated by fork length, in which case fork length will be used.

(c) Only species listed on the Nearshore Division Tournament Points Matrix will be counted in the team's score.

(d) The harvest season for the fish to be judged does not need to be open.

(e) Fish must be either a minimum length of 12 inches or the minimum legal harvest length if the season were open, whichever is less. Any exceptions will be noted on the Nearshore Division Points Matrix.

(f) The Nearshore Division Points Matrix will be the most current matrix available on the ASWSC Website.

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- (g) Changes to the Nearshore Division Tournament Rules or Nearshore Points Matrix shall require review by the Rules Committee and approval by the Executive Committee.
- (h) Points from a maximum of 4 fish per category per team will be counted at each weigh-in.
- (i) Only one photograph per fish may be submitted (maximum of 4 per species group).
- (j) All photographs and entries will be reviewed by the tournament director(s).
- (k) The captain and crew of each vessel must be available to assist the tournament director as needed to identify each picture with species and length, if requested.
- (l) If a picture has been submitted for scoring, it cannot be replaced (for a higher scoring fish) during the same scoring period. Back-up pictures are advised but may not be turned in with the other pictures unless requested by the tournament director.
- (m) Tie Breakers:**
- (i) In the event of a tie, the highest individual daily boat score shall be used as a tiebreaker.
 - (ii) In the event there is still a tie, the winner will be the tying boat with the longest fish measured during the tournament.
 - (iii) In the event there is still a tie, the winner will be the boat with the largest cumulative total length of all fish caught during the tournament.

Article IV. Measurement Process

(a) Measuring Devices

- (i) No homemade measuring devices will be allowed. Devices must meet the following requirements:
 1. The measuring device must have clearly visible minimum increments of ¼ inch and a vertical stop for the nose of the fish.
 2. The measuring device must be brought to the captain's meeting and must be approved by the tournament director.
 3. Fish caught that are longer than the measuring device will be counted at the longest measurement marking on the device.

(b) Unique Daily Identifier

- (i) For each day of competitive fishing, the tournament director will issue a unique identifier to each team. This identifier will be a number or a combination of letters and numbers.
- (ii) The initial identifier will be provided at the Captain's Meeting with instructions from the tournament director on how to obtain additional identifiers for subsequent days.
- (iii) Each team must display the unique identifier in the submitted picture with their fish to be judged.

(c) Photograph and Submission Requirements

- (i) **Device:** Any device capable of a picture quality of 1 megapixel or better may be used.
- (ii) Participants must be able to transfer the pictures electronically via text message or by a club-approved photo capture mobile application.
- (iii) All entries must be submitted to the tournament director on or prior to the designated virtual weigh-in deadline.

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- **(iv)** The tournament director will announce the photo transfer method via the tournament tip sheet. A clear photo alongside an approved fish measuring device must be submitted for each fish.
- **(v)** The photo must show the measurement device with the mouth at the front (0 measurement), the measurement markers clearly visible at the tail, and the unique team identifier clearly visible. For fish measured at fork length the fork of the tail must not be compressed, for fish measured as total length the tail can be compressed.
- **(vi)** If, per the matrix, the photograph of the fish is allowed to be taken with the fish remaining in the water, the unique team identifier must be displayed above the fish so that both the identifier and the fish are clearly visible.
- **(vii)** The participating team is entirely responsible for picture quality.

Article V. Club Records

(a) Club record catches shall be based on length and maintained separately from the Offshore/Traditional club records. All species eligible on the Nearshore Points Matrix shall be eligible for club records.

(b) Club records for species that are prohibited from being removed from the water shall be maintained based on a visual length estimate. The captain is responsible for providing a photograph that includes the fish alongside an object with a verifiable length; the object (or access to the object) must be provided to the Tournament Director if requested. All such records shall be clearly marked as “Estimated Length” in the club record logs to distinguish them from standard tournament-measured records.

Article VI. Tournament Fishing Times

(a) Tournament fishing times will be announced during the Captain's Meeting. Unless specified otherwise, fishing for the first day of a tournament will commence after the Captain's Meeting and continue until the first virtual weigh-in time. Those fish will apply to Day 1 of the tournament. Fish caught after the virtual weigh-in time may be applied to the next day's score if there is a virtual weigh-in scheduled for the following calendar day.

Article VII. Recording of Scores

(a) All Captain's Reports (also known as weigh-in sheets) must be completed by the captain or their representative and sent to the Tournament Director via the same method used for picture submission at each weigh-in. The Tournament Director will submit these sheets (or accurate copies) to the designated club official responsible for maintaining tournament records. Captain's Reports must conform to the current official format specified by the Tournament Committee.

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Article VIII. Boat of the Year, Angler of the Year

(a) There shall be separate Offshore Division and Nearshore Division categories for Boat of the Year (BOY) and Angler of the Year (AOY). Points earned by boats and anglers participating in a tournament under the Nearshore Division rules will apply solely to the Nearshore Division category of the BOY and AOY awards. Points earned under the Offshore Division tournament rules will apply solely to the Offshore Division BOY and AOY awards.

(b) Nearshore Division Boat of the Year

- **(i)** Nearshore Boat of the Year points shall be awarded separately but will follow the same algorithm used by the Offshore Division as detailed below:
 1. The scoring method will be 20/15/10/5/3 points for first through fifth place finishes in tournaments.
 2. In the event of a BOY tie, the same algorithm used by the Offshore Division to break ties will be applied.

(c) Nearshore Division Angler of the Year

- **(i)** Competition is open to paid members who are in good standing prior to any tournament during which they wish to participate in the Angler of the Year competition. There will be three angler divisions: Juniors (ages 15 and under as of January 1 of the tournament year), Ladies, and Men's.
- **(ii)** The competition begins on the first ASWSC tournament of the year and ends on the last.
- **(iii)** All species on the Nearshore Division Points Matrix will be recognized.
- **(iv)** Total points awarded to an angler throughout the year will be tallied. The anglers with the highest total points in each of the three angler divisions will be awarded Angler of the Year.
- **(v)** To be eligible for recognition in the Nearshore Division Angler of the Year awards program, any catches must be made during an official Nearshore Division club tournament and logged by the tournament director or designee on the official Nearshore Division weigh-in sheet. E
- **(vi)** In the event of a tie for Angler of the Year, the angler with the longest fish wins the tiebreaker. If still tied, the next longest fish will break the tie, continuing in this manner until the tie is broken.