



# **Ancient City Game Fish Association (ACGFA) Fishing Rules**

(Effective March 1, 2024)

P.O. BOX 2001, ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA 32085-2001

**DIVISION I – TOURNAMENT RULES:** The following rules apply to ACGFA member Year-end and Angler-of-the-Month tournaments, which start on December 1st and ends on November 30th each year. ACGFA sponsored tournaments, which are open to non-members, are covered by rules that apply to those tournaments only.

## **SECTION A – GENERAL:**

**(A-1)** These are “ACGFA members only” tournaments. Entrants must be an ACGFA member in good standing.

**(A-2)** All fish must be caught by rod and reel and must be in accordance with local fishing methods.

**(A-3)** Any fish caught in violation of Federal, State and/or county laws or regulations is ineligible for any tournament sponsored by this Association. This includes length, bag and possession limits, and requirements for a State of Florida Saltwater Fishing License.

**(A-4)** Fish must be caught in the “local” fishing waters and weighed at an approved weigh-in location (see Section D below) in order to count. “Local” fishing waters generally mean the waters from Jacksonville-Mayport inlet to Daytona-Ponce Inlet. You may use any inlet in that area or fish any shore or pier. Inshore waters are the Intercoastal from St. Johns County lines North to South. Offshore waters are without North or South boundaries.

**(A-5)** Fish caught while a ACGFA member’s boat or the ACGFA member is chartered or is commercially fishing are not eligible for any awards.

1. Chartered Boat: Defined as a vessel that is operated for hire for which payment made for the privilege of fishing. This does not preclude the sharing of expenses with your crew or business associates. This does not preclude a Member from fishing on a chartered fishing boat.
2. Chartered Member: Defined as one who is paid for the operation of the vessel while fishing. This does not preclude a Member from paying a captain to operate/maintain the vessel.
3. Commercially Fishing: Defined as a vessel that is commercially harvesting fish for sale, i.e., the captain or the vessel has the required Saltwater Products License and applicable Restricted Species Endorsements and fishing for fish to sell commercially.

**SECTION B – BOARD SPECIES AND MINIMUM WEIGHTS:** Minimum Weights are established in order to reduce the number of fish killed and weighed-in solely to receive points. Any conflict with Federal, State and/or county regulations those regulations will apply. Fish entered that do not meet the minimum

weight will not count. Minimum weights apply to the Men and Women categories only. They do not apply to the Junior or Small-fry categories. Unless stated otherwise, the minimum weights apply to all ACGFA members' only tournaments. Species and minimum weights of fish that may be weighed-in for the ACGFA year-end and angler-of-the-month tournaments are listed below:

<b>B-1 OFFSHORE</b>	<b>MIN WT</b>		<b>MIN WT</b>		<b>MIN WT</b>
AFRICAN POMPARO	(NONE)	GROUPER (BLACK OR GAG)	(NONE)	SWORDFISH	(NONE)
AMBERJACK	(15 LB)	GROUPER (OTHER)	(NONE)	TRIGGERFISH	(2 LBS)
BLACK SEA BASS	(1 LB)	RED SNAPPER	(NONE)	TRIPLE TAIL	(2 LBS)
COBIA	(NONE)	PORGY	(2 LBS)	TUNA	(NONE)
DOLPHIN	(NONE)	SNAPPER (OTHER)	(1 LB)	WAHOO	(NONE)
KING MACKEREL	(NONE)	SPANISH MACKEREL	(2 LBS)		

<b>(B-2) INSHORE</b>	<b>MIN WT</b>		<b>MIN WT</b>		<b>MIN WT</b>
BLUEFISH	(2 LBS)	POMPANO	(2 LBS)	SHEEPSHEAD	(2 LBS)
BLACK DRUM (>15LBS)	(15 LBS)	POMPEY DRUM (<15 LBS)	(2 LBS)	TROUT	(2 LBS)
FLOUNDER	(2 LBS)	REDFISH	(3 LBS)	TRIPLE TAIL	(2 LBS)
MANGROVE SNAPPER	(1LB)	SNOOK	(2 LBS)	WHITING	(NONE)

### SECTION C – RELEASED FISH:

**(C-1)** To qualify as a “Released” fish, the angler must bring the fish to the boat, i.e., leader in hand. The fish must not be boated, gaffed, or otherwise damaged. Measuring length and girth, or actions taken to identify the species is permitted.

**(C-2)** “Released” fish count for In-Club Tournaments (if specified by rules), “Angler-of-the-Month” points (see H-4) and the “Conservation Award” (see Section L). Species of fish that count for the “Release” category are: BLUE MARLIN - WHITE MARLIN - SAILFISH - SWORDFISH - TARPON

### SECTION D – WEIGH-IN:

**(D-1)** Fish may be weighed at a local bait & tackle shop or business. All fish must meet state and federal regulation. The shops below have been requested to witness the weight, verify that fish meet length and possession regulations and not to weigh any fish not meeting the regulations. Known locations are:

<b>Avid Angler</b> , Ponce De Leon Blvd	<b>Genung’s</b> , 291 Cubbedge Rd
<b>Oldest City Bait &amp; Tackle</b> , 1949 A1A South	<b>Bait Shack</b> at Vilano Boat Ramp
<b>Mike’s Place</b> , Euclid Ave, North Beach	<b>Devil’s Elbow Fishing Camp</b> , A1A South, Crescent Beach
<b>St. Augustine Paddle Sports</b> , 233 S.R. 16, Ste A	<b>Bob’s Bait &amp; Tackle</b> . Intersection of US 1 & SR 206

Also, *Conch House Marina*, *Camachee Cove Weigh Scale* or a bait & tackle shop or business at Jacksonville-Mayport Inlet to Daytona-Ponce Inlet locations; providing a witness who is not the angler or a member of the boat crew is available to witness and sign the Fish Entry Form (or suitable document).

**(D-2)** Weigh-in stations at tournaments located in St. Augustine (or where St. Augustine is the check-out point and the weigh-in station is not located in St. Augustine, i.e., the Jacksonville Kingfish Tournament) are acceptable. See (E-4) below.

**(D-3)** Weighing fish that cannot be weighed during business hours, i.e. after the bait shop/businesses are closed: Fish must be weighed at a local bait & tackle shop or business. Conch House Marina, Camachee Cove Weigh Scale may be used; providing a witness who is not the angler or a member of the boat crew is available to witness and sign the Fish Entry Form (or suitable document)(See **D-1** above). Otherwise fish should be iced and weighed the next day. Most bait shops open at 6:00 am and close at 5:00 pm.

## **SECTION E – ENTRY FORMS:**

**(E-1)** Each angler is required to complete a ACGFA Official Fish Entry Form, obtain a signature of the person observing the weight or the release and submit it on the official web-site ([www.acgfa.com](http://www.acgfa.com)). The angler is responsible for the cards' preparation and submittal. All Fish Entry Forms must be submitted no later than five (5) calendar days after the fish is caught unless the fish is caught on the last day of the month it must be submitted by midnight in order to count for club points.

**(E-2)** If an ACGFA Official Fish Entry Form is not available, a substitute document is acceptable as long as the information required on the Fish Entry Form is available. Fish Entry Forms or documents received without appropriate entries in the "Fish Species", "Weight", "Angler's Name", "Date Caught", "Location of Scales", "Date & Time of Weigh-In" or "Witness" blanks will be disqualified. Enter the boat name and circle "Yes" or "No" if the boat captain is or is not an ACGFA Member. If the fish is not caught from a boat, please enter: shore, beach, pier, dock, etc. If there is no entry or "no name" (unless that is the actual name of the boat) in the "Boat Name" blank no points will be awarded for Boat-of-the-Year.

**(E-3)** Releases of Tarpon and Billfish must be submitted on the official web-site ([www.acgfa.com](http://www.acgfa.com)) or reported using the ACGFA Official Fish Entry Form. Enter "Release" in the "Weight" block of the card. The estimated weight and length or other information may also be entered.

**(E-4)** Fish caught during tournaments located in St. Augustine (see D-2 above) will count provided it is submitted on the official web-site ([www.acgfa.com](http://www.acgfa.com)) "Location of Scales" or "Tournament" block so indicate. The angler is responsible for the cards' preparation and submittal. The five-day rule in (E-1) above applies. NOTE: Exceptions to this rule will be announced by the Tournament Chairman.

**SECTION F – PROTESTS:** All protests should be submitted to the Tournament Chairman in writing. The Tournament Chairman and his/her Committee will consider the protest and issue a decision in writing to the member who submitted the protest. The decision of the Tournament Committee is final.

## **DIVISION II: TOURNAMENT CATEGORIES:**

### **SECTION G – GENERAL**

**(G-1)** There are six (6) separate categories of ACGFA member tournaments. The intention of these tournaments is to recognize ACGFA members for their angling achievements during the tournament year. Points or catches are accumulated from December 1st thru November 30<sup>th</sup>. Year-end awards will be presented at the annual membership party which is held in January of each year. Angler-of-the-Month Awards will be presented at monthly membership meetings.

**\*(G-2)** Association Members under the age of 8 years at the start of the fishing year (December 1<sup>st</sup>) will fish as "Small-Fry" and members 8 to 15 years at the start of the fishing year will fish as "Juniors". Members 16 and under the age of 19 at the start of the fishing year will be considered "Men" or "Women" for the tournaments. If an angler has a birthday which changes their category, he or she will continue to fish in the category he or she started in for the remainder of the fishing year (thru November 30<sup>th</sup>).

**(G-3)** Fish caught before or after a regulation closes/opens or restricts a species will count for year-end awards.

## SECTION H – ANGLER OF THE MONTH:

**(H-1)** The “Angler-of-the-Month” will be awarded to one person (unless a tie) regardless of the category of the angler, i.e., Men, Women, Junior, or Small-Fry. All species listed in Sections B & C are eligible.

**(H-2)** Entries must be submitted in accordance with Section E above.

## SECTION H – ANGLER OF THE MONTH (Cont.):

**(H-3)** Points will be awarded for each fish weighed in the following categories:

1st Place (Angler’s Category) on Year-End Board	25 POINTS
2nd Place (Angler’s Category) on Year-End Board	20 POINTS
3rd Place (Angler’s Category) on Year-End Board	15 POINTS
4th Place (Angler’s Category) on Year-End Board	10 POINTS
5th Place + (Angler’s Category) on Year-End Board	5 POINTS

<b>(H-4)</b> Each species of Billfish and Tarpon Released (based on earliest date of entry (post-mark date))	1st place	25 POINTS
	2nd place	20 POINTS
	3rd place	15 POINTS
	4th place	10 POINTS
	5th place +	5 POINTS

**(H-5)** In case of a tie, the angler with the most “Bonus” points will be declared the winner. If there is still a tie, the angler who accumulated their points first based on the earliest date of web-site submittal or entry (post-mark date) will win. If there is still a tie, then co-winners will be awarded “Angler-of-the Month”.

**SECTION I – YEAR-END BOARD:** Awards will be presented to each Men, Women, Junior, and Small-fry anglers who catches the 1st and 2nd Place in each species category. All species listed in Section B are eligible.

## SECTION J – ANGLERS-OF-THE-YEAR (OFFSHORE AND INSHORE):

**(J-1)** These are point’s awards. There will be four (4) “Inshore Anglers-of-the-Year” awards and four (4) “Offshore Anglers-of-the-Year” awards presented to the Men, Women, Junior, and Small-Fry Anglers who accumulate the most points in each category for the year. In addition, any bonus points for “Angler-of-the-Month” (see H-6 above), In-club Tournament Winners (see Section M) or “New Club Record” (see Section N below) will be added. NOTE: It is conceivable that the same angler could win both awards.

**(J-2)** Eligible Species for all angler categories are listed in Section B. Points will be awarded for each species as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> Place = 25 Points      2<sup>nd</sup> Place = 20 Points      3<sup>rd</sup> Place = 15 Points      4<sup>th</sup> Place = 10 Points      5<sup>th</sup> Place + = 5 Points

**(J-3)** If there is a tie with number of Angler-of-the-Year points, the tie-breaker will be the angler with the most 1st place fish on the board. If there is still a tie, the angler who accumulated their points first, based on the earliest date of web-site submittal or entry (post-mark date) will win. If there is still a tie, co-winners of “Anglers-of-the-Year” will be awarded.

**(J-4)** Fish are not required to be caught on an ACGFA Club Member’s boat. They may be caught on any boat, pier, dock, or shore as long as the requirements of Para (A-4) above are met.

## **SECTION K – BOATS-OF-THE-YEAR (OFFSHORE AND INSHORE):**

**(K-1)** These are awards based on points. There will be two (2) “Boat-of-the-Year” awards; one for “inshore” species and one for “offshore” species. Boat points will be based off of the accumulated fish points through the year. Whatever points are awarded for fish will go towards your boat. NOTE: It is conceivable that the same boat could win both awards

**(K-2)** The boat must be designated by the registered owner to an ACGFA Member in order to be eligible for a “Boat-of-the-Year” award, i.e., the ACGFA Member is not required to own the boat. The boat must have a boat name in order to track the boat-of-the-year points. The designated boat name must be on the fish entry card or the web-site entry in order to count for boat-of-the-year points. The boat cannot have more than one “captain”. If the angler is not an ACGFA member, no points are awarded.

**(K-3)** All fish must meet the minimum weight requirements. Points will be awarded for each species as follows: 1st Place = 25 Points 2nd Place = 20 Points 3rd Place = 15 Points 4th Place = 10 Points 5th Place + = 5 Points

**(K-4)** Eligible Species:

OFFSHORE BOAT-OF- THE-YEAR: All Offshore Species in (B-1)

INSHORE BOAT-OF- THE-YEAR: All Inshore Species in (B-2) above except “**Pompano**”.

**(K-5)** If there is a tie in points (either or both categories), the boat that wins the most in-club offshore tournaments or the Angler who wins the most inshore tournaments will win. If there is still a tie, the boat with the most first place fish on the board will win. If there is still a tie, co-winners (either or both categories) of “Boat-of the-Year” will be awarded.

**SECTION L – CONSERVATION AWARD** for the most released fish (see Section C). The top angler, regardless of category, (Male, Female, Junior, or Small-fry) with the most “releases” will receive the “Conservation Award”. In case of tied number of releases, the angler who accumulated their releases first based on the earliest date of web-site submittal or entry (post-mark date) will win. An award will be made to each angler that releases billfish and/or tarpon.

**SECTION M – OTHER IN-CLUB TOURNAMENTS:** Other in-club tournaments may have specific rules & a copy of the rules should be made available to all participants. Rules should include if it is an angler or boat tournament, location(s) of weigh-in, species, minimum weights, scoring, fishing period, prize structure, and fee (if any). The 1st place winner(s) will earn 25 bonus points. If an angler tournament, the points will be added to Angler-of-the-Year points. If a boat tournament, the boat must have a name in order to receive the points that will be added to Boat-of-the-Year points. These bonus points will be added to either the “Inshore” or “Offshore” category based on type of tournament.

Note: All ACGFA In-Club Tournaments that award cash prizes will have mandatory weigh-in location(s) listed in the rules and no fish will count for that tournament if not weighed at one of those locations.

**SECTION N - NEW CLUB RECORDS:** Club records will be maintained on fish weighed in accordance with past and current length and possession regulations. When a length or method of measurement is changed by regulation that makes an existing record unbeatable, the record will be closed and a new record established that meets the new regulation. An angler that breaks an ACGFA Club Record is awarded 25 Bonus Points. These bonus points will also count for Angler-of-the-Year Awards based on the category of the species. They do not count for Boat-of-the-Year Awards. Anglers breaking a club record will be acknowledged for their accomplishment. To qualify for a club record, you must submit a picture of the fish and a signed statement by the witness verifying the measurement and weight of the fish along with the Fish Entry Form.