



HANG EM' HIGH

KINGFISH INVITATIONAL

2023 RULES

Captains Meeting, Tuesday October 31, 2023, Hilton Head Island
Captains Meeting is Mandatory, at least one team representative must attend.

This is a 2 day Big Fish Tournament. Teams can weigh one fish each day, we will drop your small fish. The team with the heaviest fish wins. If the situation arises and only one day is fished, that one day constitutes a tournament. The Tournament will pay the top 4 places.

1. **Tournament Fish Days:** Friday, November 3, 2023 and Saturday, November 4, 2023.
Wednesday, November 1, 2023 and Thursday, November 2, 2023 are possible weather days if needed. Teams must be prepared to fish any of these 4 days.
2. **Fishing Time:** No Checkout. Lines in the water at 7AM. (No bait fishing with rod and reel prior to lines in.)
Check-In: Friday, November 3, 2023. Teams must be visually checked in no later than TBD.
The designated check-in location will be announced at the Captain's meeting.
Second Day Check-In: Saturday, November 4, 2023
Scale will open at 3:30pm each fish day.
3. **Boundaries:** Inlet boundaries are St. Simons Island, GA to Little River, SC.
Fishing boundaries are as follows:
South Boundary Line: 31:05:00. Teams are not allowed to fish south of this line.
North Boundary Line: Draw a straight line through the following coordinates; Coordinate One, 33:50:00 78:30:00 Coordinate Two, 33:10:00 77:45:00. Teams are not allowed to fish across this line.
Teams must not travel, or fish outside of the boundaries during competition fish days. Teams are not permitted to enter or leave from inlets outside of the inlet boundaries during competition hours.
4. All fish must be caught on a rod and reel during competition hours. No hand lines or electric reels will be allowed. Downriggers will be permitted as fishing line carriers only.
5. A King Mackerel must weigh a minimum of 20 lbs. to be eligible to weigh. No mutilated fish will be weighed. The Weigh Master has full discretion to determine if a fish is mutilated. No intentional altering of the fish weight will be tolerated.
6. Teams can weigh one fish each day.
7. In the case of a tie, the team that checks in first will break the tie.
8. Land fall is not permitted during competition hours. No boat or team member shall touch a dock, ramp, land or item affixed there during competition hours except to weigh a fish at the Tournament dock weigh-in. Special consideration can be made for a medical emergency.
9. Fish must be brought to the weigh-in by the boat it was caught on, no transporting fish over land is allowed. Your boat must return to the weigh-in dock under its own power.

10. Boats are not allowed to come together. NOTHING shall be passed to/from a boat whether floated, thrown or shot from a cannon. This includes bait pens/tanks.
11. Assistance may be rendered in the case of a medical emergency, inform a committee boat prior to assisting.
12. **Mechanical Emergency:** We do not want to leave a boat stranded if possible. If a team has a tool, filter or part that may keep a boat from losing all power, that team can assist without being disqualified, however the boat that receives assistance will be disqualified for that days fishing. Inform a committee boat prior to assisting.
13. **During Competition Hours:** Members of a Tournament team can only obtain fishing related information from other Tournament teams. The objective of this rule is to prevent a Tournament team from intentionally networking with a Non-Tournament angler during competition hours.
14. All registered boats, participants, crew members, and possible guests on your boat during competition days must comply with South Carolina State regulations, as well as Federal regulations, including but not limited to fishing license, permits, boat registration, safety equipment and adequate liability insurance.
15. Teams are subject to boat inspections prior to departure and/or upon return from fish day.
16. Each Captain is solely responsible for the safety of his or her vessel and crew at all times. Captain's are required to heed any weather warnings or dangerous weather conditions as safety is paramount. It is up to each Captain to decide whether his or her vessel is sea worthy for the conditions of any given fish day during the Tournament.
17. By entering the Tournament all captains, anglers and occupants of their boats voluntarily consent to submit to a polygraph examination as deemed necessary by Tournament officials. All decisions of the polygraph examiner will be final. Any captain, angler or occupant of a registered boat who refuses to take a polygraph or provides untruthful answers, as determined by the examiner, will be disqualified from the respective Tournament without further notice. Such a disqualification will eliminate payment or provision of any prize money, awards and/or refund of entrance fees. The vessel owner, Captain or authorized crew must sign the Polygraph Acknowledgement Waiver as a part of their registration form.
18. The Rules Committee has the sole right to interpret the rules, implement his or her discretion at any time during the Tournament as it may apply to the rules or any other circumstance that should arise during the course of the event, and address issues not covered in the rules. All decisions made by the Rules Committee are final.
19. Any protest must be submitted to the Weigh Master in writing within 30 minutes after the closing of the weigh-in station on the day the possible offense occurred. Only a Captain registered in the Tournament may file a protest. A five hundred-dollar (\$500) fee must accompany each protest. The decisions of the Rules Committee are binding and final regarding any protest.
20. The Tournament Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry into the tournament.
21. A team/boat violating any of these Tournament Rules, or any team/boat containing a participant violating any of these Tournament Rules is subject to disqualification from the Tournament.
22. **WITHDRAWAL FROM THE TOURNAMENT:** No fees will be refunded unless a replacement boat with fully paid entry fees is registered before the start of the Tournament. Any fees due will be refunded 14 days after the Tournament and following collection and clearing of all funds paid.
23. Registration must include a Captain and Co-Captain. One of the 2 must be on the boat during the Tournament fish days.
24. Small Craft Advisory cancels fish day.