

## ENTERING YOUR CATCH

Virtually every day of the year the WPBFC has a fishing contest underway. That means that each time you go fishing you can potentially catch a contest winning fish. But as the old saying goes, "You can't win if you don't enter". For fish to be eligible for great trophies and tackle prizes, club members simply have to submit their entry on an official WPBFC catch affidavit, which must be fully completed and returned to the Fishing Club (or postmarked) within 14 days of the catch. It is permissible to fax (or email scanned) entries to the club (561) 832-2137. Incomplete affidavits will not be processed. Anglers do not have to kill their catch for entry in fishing club contests. Caught, weighed and released fish are eligible, providing they were witnessed and weighed on an official club certified hand scale, or if you don't have a certified hand scale, you can weigh your catch at any weigh station that has a certified scale. Entering fish is that simple. Your catch does not have to be a trophy to win an award. Contact the club if you have any additional questions about entering fish.

### JUNIOR ANGLERS (AGES 10-18)

WPBFC Junior Anglers are sub-divided into two (2) age groups: Juniors (ages 10-14) and Young Adults (ages 15-18). High point fish categories are featured in the Summer and Winter Fishing Contests for each age group. The top six point scoring fish (3 in inshore/near shore species, 3 in offshore/reef species division) caught by junior and young adult members will receive awards in each contest. Scoring is based upon the club's standardized Winter Fishing Contest point chart (see back of affidavit). A minimum score of 201 points is required for placement. Release species such as tarpon and sailfish are not eligible for high point entries. However, all junior/young adult angler catches should be entered and will be considered when determining the 'Junior Angler of the Year' Award. All juniors/young adults must catch their fish totally unassisted.

### PEE WEE ANGLERS (KIDS THRU AGE 9)

Family participation is the foundation of the WPBFC. In fact, many adult members have made their kids members of the club as of their date of birth. Pee Wee members are kids less than 10 years of age. The club encourages these kids to become active anglers and provides incentives to keep them excited about their fishing accomplishments. Pee Wee anglers should enter any fish they catch regardless of size or species. Entries must be submitted on an official catch affidavit. Each Pee Wee will receive an award (presented annually at the November Awards, BBQ & Auction) for their catch. Each Pee Wee will receive only one award regardless of number of fish entered during the angling year.

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## GENERAL ANGLING COMPETITION RULES

1. Each entry must be in accord with sporting customs and ethics. Entries must also be in accord with the club Tackle Specifications and Definitions (see below). The WPBFC Angling Committee has the authority to accept or reject any entry.
2. All WPBFC members in good standing are eligible.
3. The official Summer and Winter Fishing Contest area includes all inland and coastal waters of the state of Florida (any location within 25 miles from the State of Florida with Key West being the southern most shoreline). The Bahamas and the Dry Tortugas are excluded.

4. Angler unaided, regardless of age (except for Pee Wee anglers), must set the hook and fight and bring the fish to leader or gaff. No other person may touch the rod, reel or line.
5. Fish injured between hook up and landing is ineligible.
6. Shooting/harpooning/lancing/hand lining the fish is not allowed.
7. Broken rod disqualifies the entry.
8. Gaff must not exceed 8-foot overall length. Line on flying gaff is limited to 30 feet. Gaffs on drift boats, bridges, piers and other similar structures are not limited.
9. Power driven, ratchet handle, or two-hand reels are prohibited.
10. Intentional foul hooking or fish hooked on more than one line is ineligible for entry.
11. Entire double line and leader must leave the rod tip during the fight to qualify the entry.
12. Rod must not rest upon any object and be intentionally used for leverage during the playing of a fish, except rod butt may be ethically placed in a fighting chair or waist belt gimbal.
13. All catches must be witnessed and must be entered on an Official WPBFC Catch Affidavit. Witness' name or signature must appear on Affidavit. Club certified hand scales may be used but all weighing(s) must be witnessed. When using an official weigh station the weighmaster should conduct the weighing and sign the Affidavit. For release awards, the release is considered official when the swivel or leader material reaches the rod tip or the leader is in hand.
14. Any affidavit not completely filled out will not be considered for entry. Concerns or questions about specific entries should be directed to the club angling committee in writing.
15. The maximum number of awards a club member can win in each separate contest is two (2), not including special awards (i.e. ultra-light, release, grand champion). In case of ties, point values and/or date of catch will be used to determine the winner. Each fish may be entered in only the category specified on the affidavit.
16. Pee Wee anglers will receive one award annually for any fish entered on any tackle. One award per Pee Wee only, regardless of the number of entries.
17. Junior anglers will compete for high point fish awards in both the Summer and Winter Fishing Contests. For contest purposes Junior anglers are sub-divided into two (2) categories, Juniors (ages 10-14) and Young Adults (ages 15-18). To be eligible, all Juniors/Young Adults must catch their fish totally unassisted. Junior/Young Adult entries will be given a point value using the Club's standardized Winter Fishing Contest point chart.
18. Kids who turn 10 years old during the course of either contest have the option of entering as a Pee Wee

or Junior angler. The date and age listed on the first entry received by the club will determine the individual's classification.

19. Entries must be postmarked, faxed, emailed or hand delivered within 14 days of catch, except at the conclusion of competition (Summer & Winter contests, Beinecke, Nora, Schneider, etc.) when entries must be received by the day following the end of the applicable competition.
20. All local, state and federal rules and regulations apply (i.e. tuna permits, tarpon tags, snook stamp).

#### TACKLE SPECIFICATIONS & DEFINITIONS

All fishing line must be non-metallic. Line strength shall be based upon manufacturer's stated test (breaking strength) except for record applications, where line shall be electronically tested in accordance with the club policy (see criteria for making all-time club record entries).

In the Club's Summer & Winter Contests and the All-Time Club Records, there are four (4) different tackle categories offered to provide both variety and challenge. The four main categories are Fly, Spin, Plug and General. Within each category are separate divisions for varying line tests. **The Fly, Spin, & Plug categories are considered casting divisions and only artificial lures can be used. Lures must be cast and retrieved (not trolled) in an ethical manner (no dead-sticking lures allowed). Use of after market fish scents or other attractants is prohibited on any artificial lure or fly.** Casting division definitions are:

**FLY** (12 lb. & 20 lb. Tippet only) – One-handed rod, reel, line and fly must be designed specifically for fly casting. Non-metallic leader must be attached to terminal end of fly line. Non-metallic class tippet, 15 inch minimum, 20 lb. test maximum, must connect leader to shock tippet and/or fly. Any test/material shock tippet (can be wire), 12 inch maximum including knots, may be used between class tippet and fly. Flies must remain "pure" & cannot be sweetened with oils, scents or natural baits.

**SPIN** (4 lb. & 8 lb. Test only) – Fixed spool reel, one handed rod, must be specifically designed for spin fishing. Double line and leader, including eighteen (18) inches of shock tippet (which may be of any material), shall not exceed the length of the rod. Artificial lures only.

**PLUG** (10 lb. & 16 lb. Test only) – Level wind revolving spool reel, one handed rod, must be specifically designed for plug cast fishing. Double line and leader, including eighteen (18) inches of shock tippet (which may be of any material), shall not exceed the length of the rod. Artificial lures only.

The final tackle division is the General category, which covers fishing with live or dead bait, trolling artificials (not cast and retrieved), and lures tipped with natural bait. The General division is defined as:

**GENERAL** (4 lb., 8 lb., 12 lb., 20 lb., 30 lb., 50 lb. and Unlimited up to 130 lb test – not all line classes are represented in each angling program). Manual revolving spool or standard spin reel, rod, non-metallic line, double line/leader, lure, hook and bait shall conform to International Game Fish Association specifications. Remember, the type of tackle you are fishing (spin outfit, plug outfit, etc.) and the style of fishing, determines the category in which the fish is eligible. Some examples are:

1. If you caught a bass while trolling a crank bait using a spinning rod with 10 lb. test line you would enter that fish in the 12 lb. General division. The fish is not eligible in Spin division because the lure was not

cast and retrieved, and because the line test is too high. The Spin category is only for 4 lb. and 8 lb. test.

2. If you're fishing with an 8 lb. class spinning rod outfit and tip a jig with a piece of shrimp, you have automatically changed from Spin to General because you are no longer using a purely artificial lure. Pre-packaged scented baits like D.O.A. and Berkley Gulp! are currently considered artificial lures and are legal in both the Spin and Plug divisions as long as the lures are cast and retrieved in an ethical manner (no trolling or dead sticking).
3. If you are throwing a plug type lure on an 8 lb. class spinning rod, you are fishing the Spin division. Likewise, if you are fishing a jig on a 16 lb. plug outfit, you are fishing the Plug division. The tackle, not the lure determines the category in all casting divisions (Spin, Plug, Fly).

### WINTER FISHING CONTEST

The club's Winter Fishing Competition is based on total accumulated points. The point system is based on the club's standardized species and tackle category chart, which appears on the reverse of the official club affidavit. A member catching and releasing any eligible fish will be awarded 200 points. Fish that officially weighed on a club certified scale and exceed the base weight shown on the standardized Winter Contest Species Chart will earn additional points using the High Point Fish calculation (see example below).

It is to each angler's advantage to enter as many different species of fish as possible and to catch these fish on a wide variety of tackle divisions. Only one fish per tackle division will be scored. For example, once a 200-point or higher jack is entered in Spin 8, no more points will be awarded to that angler for jack entries in the Spin 8 division.

When entering your catch, it will only be considered for the line class/tippet categories you indicate on the affidavit. The club does not automatically "bump up" any entries. Multiple catches of the same species and tackle classification can be entered on one affidavit. For example, if you caught and released two bonefish on fly 12, you could enter both fish on one affidavit by writing fly 12/20 on the line class blank and indicate 2 releases in the release blank.

The maximum number of awards any member can win in the Winter Contest is two. The overall Winter Contest Grand Champion is only allowed to win the overall award once during any three consecutive years. There are six different award categories in the Winter Contest. They are as follows:

- 1) TACKLE CONTEST – First place awards will be offered to the angler who scores the most points in each of the four tackle divisions (spin, plug, fly & general). Any fish released in accordance with general angling rules scores 200 points. The key to winning the tackle contest is to simply target as many different species of eligible fish as possible using specific tackle.
  - 1st Place Fly (minimum of 6 species and 1500 points)
  - 1st Place Spin (minimum of 10 species and 2500 points)
  - 1st Place Plug (minimum of 10 species and 2500 points)
  - 1st Place General (minimum 10 species and 2500 points)
- 2) HIGH POINT FISH – Six (6) awards (3 Inshore/Nearshore Species, 3 Offshore/Reef Species) will be presented to the anglers who catch the highest point scoring fish regardless of tackle. Points are

calculated based on the weight of the fish. To calculate points for the High Point Fish competition divide 200 by the fishes' base weight figure on the species and tackle category chart (see reverse of affidavit). This will give you your fishes' point per pound figure. Simply multiply this figure by the fishes' actual weight to calculate the total point value.

EXAMPLE: A 20-pound snook caught on 12 lb. general tackle. Divide 200 by the fish's base weight of 8, this will give the point per pound value. The final step is to multiply the point per pound figure by the weight of the fish. This gives the snook's total point value.

$$\begin{aligned} &200 \text{ (point constant)} \div 8 \text{ (base weight for snook on 12 lb GEN)} \\ &= 25 \text{ (points per pound)} \times 20 \text{ lbs (actual weight of fish)} \\ &= 500 \text{ points} \end{aligned}$$

Each High Point Fish award winner (3 in offshore/reel species division, 3 in inshore/nearshore species division) will receive fishing tackle and a commemorative award.

3) RELEASE CHAMPION AWARDS – Awarded to the angler scoring the most release points regardless of tackle in the following divisions:

- Most Sailfish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Blue Marlin Releases – commemorative award
- Most White Marlin Releases – commemorative award
- Most Swordfish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Bonefish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Tarpon Releases – commemorative award (minimum size for tarpon release entries is 36 inches)

NOTE: Winners will be those who score the most catch and release points based upon the following point scales ~ Sailfish, Swordfish, Blue & White Marlin: 100 pts. live bait, 300 pts. dead bait, 500 pts. artificial lure, 1000 pts. on fly. Bonefish & Tarpon: 100 pts. live or dead bait, 300 pts. artificial lure, 500 pts. on fly. Remember, only fish caught in Florida can be entered. If necessary ties will be broken by each anglers total number of release points divided by the total number of fish caught and released.

4) OVERALL WINTER CONTEST CHAMPION – One award presented to the angler accumulating the most points using at least three of the of the four tackle classes (Spin, Plug, Fly or General).

- Winner receives assortment of Penn fishing tackle, plus a personalized commemorative award.

5) JUNIOR HIGH POINT FISH AWARDS – same as adult high point fish awards but applies to anglers age 10–18 years old only. For contest purposes Junior anglers are sub-divided into two (2) categories, Juniors (ages 10–14) and Young Adults (ages 15–18). Six awards will be presented in each sub-division, to the junior/young adult who catch the highest point scoring fish (3 Inshore/Nearshore Species, 3 Offshore/Reef Species) regardless of tackle. Catches must be made totally unassisted.

6) PEE WEE AWARDS (contest runs annually Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>) – Pee Wee anglers will receive one award annually for any fish entered on any tackle. One award per Pee Wee only, regardless of the number of

entries.

### SUMMER FISHING CONTEST

1. All regulations and specifications contained in the WPBFC general angling competition rules apply with the following exceptions:
2. For the inshore and offshore awards, the heaviest eligible fish caught on the specified tackle will be judged the winner. For the release awards, the winner will be that person scoring the highest number of release points regardless of tackle used. The Inshore and Offshore Champions will be those anglers with the highest number of winning fish in each respective category. However, this must include at least two winning fish in at least two of the three casting divisions (artificial lures only, Fly, Spin or Plug). The afoot awards will be awarded to those anglers who have an outstanding catch without the use of a boat in any way. Please make a notation on the affidavit in the location block that the catch was made afoot.
3. The designation of a fish as either inshore or offshore is not meant to be restrictive. An eligible fish may be entered regardless of catch location within the contest boundaries.

#### OFFSHORE AWARDS

SPECIES	FLY 20	SPIN 8	PLUG 16	12 GEN	20 GEN	UNL GEN
African Pompano	•	•	•	•	•	•
Barracuda	•	•	•	•	•	•
Cobia	•	•	•	•	•	
Dolphin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Grouper	•	•	•	•	•	•
Jack Crevalle	•	•	•	•	•	•
King Mackerel	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tuna, Blackfin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tuna, Yellowfin	•	•	•	•	•	•
Tunny, Little	•	•	•	•	•	•
Wahoo	•	•	•	•	•	•

\* All offshore entries must be a minimum of 10 lbs. to be eligible.

#### INSHORE AWARDS

SPECIES	FLY 20	SPIN 8	PLUG 16	12 GEN	20 GEN	UNL GEN
Largemouth Bass	•	•	•	•	•	•
Peacock Bass	•	•	•	•	•	•
Bluefish	•	•	•	•	•	n/a
Drum, Red	•	•	•	•	•	•
Ladyfish	•	•	•	•	n/a	n/a
Mackerel, Spanish	•	•	•	•	•	n/a

Permit	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snapper	•	•	•	•	•	•
Snook	•	•	•	•	•	•
Spotted Sea Trout	•	•	•	•	n/a	n/a

(n/a means tackle category is not open for contest entries)

\* All inshore entries must be a minimum of 3 lbs. to be eligible.

#### RELEASE AWARDS

Awarded to the angler scoring the most release points regardless of tackle in the following divisions:

- Most Sailfish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Blue Marlin Releases – commemorative award
- Most White Marlin Releases – commemorative award
- Most Swordfish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Bonefish Releases – commemorative award
- Most Tarpon Releases – commemorative award (minimum size for tarpon release entries is 36 inches)

NOTE: Winners will be those who score the most catch and release points based upon the following point scales ~ Sailfish, Swordfish, Blue & White Marlin: 100 pts. live bait, 300 pts. dead bait, 500 pts. artificial lure, 1000 pts. on fly. Bonefish & Tarpon: 100 pts. live or dead bait, 300 pts. artificial lure, 500 pts. on fly. Remember, only fish caught in Florida can be entered. If necessary ties will be broken by each anglers total number of release points divided by the total number of fish caught and released.

#### SPECIAL AWARDS

- **Grand Champion Inshore and Offshore** – Two separate awards presented to the anglers who enter the most winning fish in the Inshore and Offshore divisions. However, this must include at least two (2) winning fish in two of the three casting divisions (artificial lures only; fly, spin, plug). If necessary ties will be determined by calculating the total point value of each anglers winning fish using the standardized Winter Contest Point Chart.
- **Best Catch Afoot** – Awarded to the two anglers who make the best catches while fishing on foot (without the aid of a boat) as determined by the Angling Committee.
- **Ultra-Light Tackle Awards** – Presented to each angler catching the heaviest largemouth bass, snook, jack crevalle, sea trout and red drum (redfish) using 4 lb test line or lighter with artificial lures during the Summer Fishing Competition. A minimum weight of 4 lbs. is required for entry.

#### JUNIOR HIGH POINT FISH AWARDS

Applies to anglers age 10–18 years old only. For contest purposes Junior anglers are sub-divided into two (2) categories, Juniors (ages 10–14) and Young Adults (ages 15–18). Six awards will be presented in each sub-division, to the junior/young adult who catch the highest point scoring fish (3 Inshore/Nearshore Species, 3 Offshore/Reef Species) regardless of tackle. Catches must be made totally unassisted.

#### PEE WEE AWARDS (contest runs annually Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> – Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>)

Pee Wee anglers will receive one award annually for any fish entered on any tackle. One award per Pee Wee only, regardless of the number of entries.

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## Criteria For Making an All – Time Club Record

1. Catch must be witnessed by at least one other person and their name or signature must appear on club catch affidavit.
2. Fish may be weighed on a land based scale or portable hand scale which has been certified within the last year by the club or an approved agency (I.G.F.A., etc.). Certified hand scales can be used for club record entries providing the weighing is conducted on land (wading on flats & grounding of boats permitted), the catch and weighing is witnessed, and the scale used is re-certified by the WPBFC within 14 days of the catch. The weigh-in must be witnessed and weighmaster's name or signature must appear on affidavit.
3. A 30 foot (or greater) sample of line including all double line and leader must be submitted completely intact for entry in Spin, Plug and General divisions. Fly fishing division entries must include entire leader, class tippet, shock tippet and fly completely intact. When wet testing line a 10% overage of the manufacturers stated line test will be allowed.
4. If submitted line over-tests beyond the allowed 10% overage, the entry can be considered for the next highest tackle category only.
5. Pending club record tarpon entries (if fish is retained) must be accompanied by a copy of the anglers tarpon tag permit to be eligible.
6. The angler entering fish is solely responsible for properly and completely filling out official club catch affidavit with required names or signatures. Record entries must be submitted on an official WPBFC affidavit within 14 days of the catch.
7. Only fish caught by WPBFC members in good standing in the inland and coastal waters of the State of Florida (any location within 25 nautical miles from the shoreline of the State of Florida with Key West being the southern most shoreline will be eligible for club records). The Bahamas and Dry Tortugas are excluded.
8. Any fish submitted to the I.G.F.A. which is subsequently certified as a new world record will be considered for a club record by the WPBFC upon receipt of official notification.
9. To set a new all-time club record, the angler's catch must surpass, not tie, the existing record weight.
10. Fish submitted for a pending club record must be a minimum of two (2) pounds to be eligible for entry.
11. Final acceptance of any club record is the sole discretion of the WPBFC Angling Committee and Board of Directors.