

CALUSA BLUEWAY FISHING TOURNAMENT RULES

NOV. 2, 2013

1. **RULES.** All rules are subject to change up to the time of tournament and will be clarified at the Captain's Meeting the night before the Event Date. All decisions concerning interpretation of the rules are entirely up to the Tournament Officials and are final and not subject for appeal.

2. **PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY.** All competitors must be 18 years of age or older or be accompanied by a parent or guardian. A guardian who is not registered in the event and accompanying a minor may not fish. Minors must also have the signature of his or her parent or legal guardian on the entry form.

3. **PRE-REGISTRATION AND CAPTAINS MEETING.** Each contestant may pre-register and pay prior to the event. Registration will be open through the Captain's Meeting the night before the Event Date. Attendance at the Captain's Meeting is **MANDATORY** for all contestants. If a contestant is unable to attend the Captain's Meeting they must prearrange eligibility with the Tournament Officials prior to being allowed to participate. Uniform measuring devices and unique token will be distributed at the Captain's Meeting. Fishing begins at first safe light on the day of the tournament.

4. **SAFETY.** Each contestant must possess a Coast Guard Approved Type III personal flotation device and whistle and follow all U.S. Coast Guard regulations. If an angler is not going to complete the tournament and return to check-in, he/she must notify Tournament Officials.

5. **CHECK IN.** Check-in will begin at 1:30 p.m. at the official tournament site. All competitors must be in the check-in line with their cameras and measuring devices by 3 p.m. to be eligible for prizes and points. At the check-in, anglers will be submitting their camera for review and filling out a score card. The post-tournament ceremonies will begin at 3:30 p.m.

6. **SPORTSMANSHIP.** All contestants are required to follow high standards of sportsmanship, courtesy, and conservation. The use of mobile communication devices such as cellular telephones, marine radios, walkie-talkies, CBs, pagers or any electronic device to communicate fishing information or contact with anyone, including family members, during tournament hours is strictly prohibited, except in Case of Emergency. Emergency calls may be made and then a tournament official should be contacted. No alcoholic beverages or use of illegal drugs is allowed. Any use of drugs, participation in criminal activities, or other conduct reflecting unfavorably upon our efforts to promote safety, sportsmanship, fair competition, and/or compliance with tournament rules are grounds for immediate disqualification and return of any prizes awarded. Unacceptable behavior will result in expulsion from all future events. Disqualification or misconduct in any other fishing tournament within 36 months prior to the tournament date is grounds for an application not being accepted or returned. The Tournament Officials may refuse any tournament application, or deny a previous application by returning the entry fee or balance of fees to the Angler.

7. **LEGAL FISHING METHODS.** All fish *must* be caught on hook and line. Live, frozen bait and all artificial lures will be allowed. Only standard conventional, spin, or fly tackle may be used. Foul hooked or snagged fish will not be eligible. All competitors must fish out of a non-motorized paddlecraft that is recognizable as a paddlecraft and is identified by the manufacturer as such (ie: kayak, canoe, Stand-Up Paddleboard or SUP). All paddlecraft must carry a paddle and use this as a primary form of conveyance. Pedals, push poles, and stake off poles are legal means of conveyance, but kayak must have double-bladed paddle on board. No motors, electric or otherwise, will be allowed. A pedal-propulsion system is acceptable.

8. **SCORING.** The objective is to photograph the longest "slam" consisting of one (1) redfish, one (1) snook, and one (1) sea trout per angler. Fish measurement will be rounded **DOWN** to the nearest half inch and fish must be photographed against the official Calusa Blueway Kayak Fishing Tournament measuring stick and token with whole fish clearly visible on the competitor's kayak. **The first photo on the camera must be of your rigged boat at put-in at launch with measuring device and scoring marker (token) visible.** Fish must be photographed in or on the boat, on the provided measuring device, clearly showing the length of the fish with the scoring marker visible. More than one photo of a fish may be taken to ensure a usable photo. Length is determined from the forward-most point of the fish to the pinched top of the tail. Fish may be of any length. Any fish measuring longer than the measuring device will receive the length of the measuring device as its official score. In the event of a tie, the entry checked in earliest will be declared the winner. The judging committee will review the photos to verify reported results and determine place winners. The Tournament Officials are responsible for the final call in all matters.

9. **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY.** Participants may only use digital cameras for recording scoring fish. Entrants must bring the storage chip from their camera to check-in; they are also encouraged to bring the download cable for their camera as a backup method of retrieval. The following media formats can be handled without a cable at check-in. CompactFlash Type 1 CompactFlash Type 2, SD Card, miniSD, MultiMediaCard, RS-MMC, Memory Stick, Memory Stick PRO, Memory Stick Duo, Memory Stick PRO Duo, SmartMedia, xD. Media cards will be returned to participant after pictures are removed off it. Anglers are not advised to share cameras or memory devices.

10. **TANDEM/SHARING.** It is permissible for more than one entrant to share the same paddle vessel. Each paddler must be a registered participant and is scored separately. Fish may **NEVER** be shared among entrants. If more than one person is in a tandem both must be registered anglers – use of an extra person strictly as a paddler/motor is forbidden.

Good luck fishing the Great Calusa Blueway!